City bars and restaurants to serve alcohol until 2 a.m.

New ordinance accepted for one-year trial period

By Jessica Creagan
jcreagan@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — Restaurants and bars within Vero Beach city limits have been approved to continue alcohol sales until 2 a.m. after a vote by the Vero Beach City Council last week. According to Vero Beach City Manager Jim O’Connor, Vero Beach restaurants and bars can now be open with the ability to serve alcoholic drinks for one hour later than anywhere else in Indian River County.

During the May 20 meeting, council members voted 5-0 to change a city ordinance limiting restaurants and bars to selling alcohol until 1 a.m., making the new cut off time 2 a.m. until June 15, 2015 when the ordinance will be reviewed with comments from the local police department.

One of the reasons the issue was brought forward was the input from local business owners requesting a change because they found the time limit caused patrons to leave and take their business elsewhere.

City staff and representatives of the Vero Beach Police Department did not give reasons for concern for the one hour extension, but some members of the council expressed hesitation before ultimately voting for the one-year “trial period.”

At first, Councilman Craig Fletcher said he could not support the hour extension, because he felt it would just enable people to become further involved.

See ALCOHOL, page 4

Energy-crisis funding available for seniors

By Jessica Creagan
jcreagan@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The Senior Resource Association of Indian River County has just made available emergency funding for eligible local seniors facing an energy-related crisis.

The nonprofit organization regularly applies for and receives the federal grant through the Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly program and is looking for applicants for the “cooling” season, said Christie Johnson, community affairs coordinator for the Senior Resource Association.

The funding is provided to the Senior Resource Association for a one-year span and is to be distributed throughout the summer for the “cooling” season and the winter for the “heating” season, Ms. Johnson said.

Sheldon Klegel, vice president and director of programs for the Senior Resource Association, said this year’s grant award is about $39,000 and is expected to be enough to help 145 households, which is approximately 250 people.

“This is a crisis fund, not a rent, utility or medical fund, it is only for one time energy need,” Ms. Johnson said.

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Compute
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a different result than when you click once, and you aren't sure which is which, then start off with a single click first. That's important, because double-clicking will often open a new window or launch a program or typically do something more drastic than a single click.

In fact, the results of double-clicking will often cover the icon you were working with.

The single click has its place. When you click once, you should notice that your target object (whatever it is that you just clicked) will often turn blue (or whatever color your computer is set at). This change in color indicates to you that this particular icon is now highlighted or “selected.” In other words, when you single click an icon and it turns a different color, you have focused the computer's attention at that particular object.

Then, once something is selected, the computer knows that whatever you ask it to do next should be done to the object that's highlighted.

What kind of things can you do to a selected object? You can copy it by pressing the control (ctrl) key and the “c” key on the keyboard simultaneously. You could press the “Enter” key (which gives you the same results as if you double-clicked). You could also delete the item or rename it if you clicked on the name. There are lots of uses for the single click; the important thing to remember is that's how you make sure the computer is “looking” at the same thing you are.

As for the double-click, when you double-click an icon, it's absolutely essential that the mouse be kept completely still for both clicks. If you are trying to double-click an icon that is in close proximity to a folder icon and you double-click while the mouse is still moving, you run the risk of dragging the target icon and dropping it into the folder and moving it to another location on the computer. That can be a real puzzle to figure out where the icon went—it just disappears!

Many people who have trouble double-clicking hold the mouse with their wrist suspended in the air and a death-grip on the mouse. You don't have to grip it that tightly; just let it sit on the mouse pad. Rest the heel of your hand on the mouse pad and just push the mouse around with your fingertips. Once you loosen your grip, you'll find that the mouse will stay put.

If you still have problems with the pointer wandering around when you are trying to click, you may want to consider a trackpad like those found on laptops. A trackpad is like a mouse but instead of pressing it around on a mouse pad, you drag your fingertip across the surface of the pad and the pointer moves accordingly. Unlike a mouse, where the buttons go along for the ride, the buttons of a trackpad are built into the non-moving base. So, when you click on a trackpad, keep your fingers off the pad and click the button. That usually ends the “wandering clicker syndrome.”

Sean McCarthy fixes computers. He can be reached at (888) 752-9049 or help@ComputeThisOnline.com.

Seniors
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something to pay ongoing through the year. There is a limit to the assistance per person,” Mr. Kleger said.

A crisis household is defined as a household without electricity, or with a past-due or shut-off notice for utility services, a press release said.

Program applicants must be legal U.S. and Indian River County residents and at least one household member must be 60 years of age or older.

The gross annual household income may not exceed $17,505 for one person, $23,505 for two people, or $4,060 for each additional person in the household, a press release said.

Proof of disconnect or final shut-off notice from the household energy provider must also be shown with the application, Mr. Kleger said. “We try to pace it so that we have enough funds for both seasons. Once word gets out in the community, the energy companies sometimes tell users who have gotten behind to come to us,” Mr. Kleger said.

“We try to pace it so that we have enough funds for both seasons. Once word gets out in the community, the energy companies sometimes tell users who have gotten behind to come to us.”

Sheldon Kleger
Senior Resource Association

“Definitely use up all the money,” he said.

For an appointment or more information about the program and documentation required to qualify, call the Senior Resource Association at (772) 569-0760. For more information about other programs or activities by the Senior Resource Association, visit www.seniorresourceassociation.org.
Foster families needed on the Treasure Coast

By Jessica Creagan jcreagan@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — “Home” is one of those words that bring to the surface different memories, images, and even emotions for different people, but some common feelings that “home” gives most people is comfort and security.

For some children, that comfort and security of home isn’t possible due to severe issues in the household, and they are removed from their homes, but instead of finding a temporary shelter in their own town, they are taken to a different part of the state.

Bob McPartlan, community development administrator for the Department of Children and Families in Circuit 19, which covers Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee counties, said the region is in desperate need of more foster homes for local children.

There are only about 90 foster homes in the four-county area and recently some children in need of housing were sent all the way to Jacksonville because there were no places for them locally, Mr. McPartlan said.

“There was no alternative. We had to take them away from not only their home, their parents, but their school and their friends,” he said.

Mr. McPartlan couldn’t provide the specific number of children that are currently housed in the area, or how many have been sent out-of-area, but encouraged Treasure Coast residents to think about opening their homes and hearts to the children in order to keep them closer to their schools, friends and family.

Whenever possible, DCF looks to take a child out of their dangerous home and place them with a relative or local friend, provided they can pass a background check and their home is safe for the child, Mr. McPartlan said.

Not only that, but if there are multiple siblings, the best thing to do is keep them all together, and unfortunately, there aren’t always foster homes that can handle sibling units, he said.

“It’s already a traumatic experience for a child. Another sad aspect is the children, even if they’re abused or neglected, they still love their parents. To separate them from their, even more traumatic. And if they have to go out of area, that makes visitation even harder,” Mr. McPartlan said.

He said his goal is always to reunite the child and parent, as long as the environment is healthy and not harmful to the child.

Foster homes can make a huge difference in a child’s life during their separation from their parents.

“You always hear about the bad in everything, but the overwhelming majority of people who foster do it because they have a love for children,” Mr. McPartlan said.

Some foster parents even take their role a step further and work to mentor the child’s parents and help them stay on track with a court-ordered program to get their child back, he said.

Agencies constantly have to recruit for new foster homes because homes may reach capacity for foster children, foster parents may have more biological children, or choose to adopt a foster child and have less space for another to come in, Mr. McPartlan said.

“I’d love for us to have more foster homes than we do foster children,” he said.

Prospective foster parent orientations by Camelot Community Care, the licensing agency for Circuit 19, are held the third Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Even if you’re not certain fostering is for you, bring a friend to an orientation to find out more of what the foster care system is all about, Mr. McPartlan said.

“It’s really important that we keep the conversation about this flowing,” he said.

Foster parents are expected to shelter and care for the child in their home, which includes taking them to the doctor if they are sick, staying involved in their schooling and seeing to their emotional needs.

See FOSTER, page 4

Foster Care month

Graphic by Cliff Partlow/staff photographer President Obama proclaimed May 2014 as National Foster Care Month. The proclamation recognized the nearly 400,000 children in foster care across the United States. “This month, and all year long, let us all recognize that each of us has a part to play in ensuring America’s foster children achieve their full potential. Together, we can reach the day where every child has a safe, loving and permanent home,” President Obama said in his proclamation.

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There is a stipend to help cover the child’s care, but if anyone thinks it’s an easy way to make a profit, they are sadly mistaken, Mr. McPartlan said.

Foster parents are required to complete 30 hours of training, background screenings, a home study and other checks before a child can be placed in the home.

About 6,000 child abuse reports are logged annually with DCF in the four-county area, Mr. McPartlan said. A former child abuse investigator, Mr. McPartlan is all too familiar with responding to a report of child abuse and having to find a new temporary home. Fortunately, that isn’t the case in most calls, he said.

“Only about five percent of those reports lead to children being removed from the home. About seven percent stay with their parents who do court-ordered services,” Mr. McPartlan said.

Another seven percent of the time, case workers and investigators identify a potential, low-risk problem and try to work with the family to ensure the issue doesn’t escalate, Mr. McPartlan said.

“I believe the best place for the child is with the parent as long as it’s safe,” he said.

But sometimes when it is not, having local loving foster homes is a wonderful thing for the children, he said.

Mr. McPartlan said he often acts as an ambassador for DCF to service, civic and church organizations interested in learning more about the foster care program.

For more information about orientation or foster parent licensing through Cameloit Community Care, call (772) 403-8176 Ext. 1030. To contact Mr. McPartlan, call (772) 409-2813.

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alcohol inebriated.

When Vice Mayor Jay Kramer proposed the council give a date certain for the ordinance to be tested and data collected by the police department on whether or not it was detrimental to Vero Beach and Vero Beach’s way of life, Councilman Fletter felt comfortable enough to change his vote.

Mayor Dick Winger said he doesn’t like laws where they are not needed and said he watched Prohibition fail, but ultimately decided to vote in favor of the change.

During public comment on the issue, Michael Jones, representing local restaurant and bar owners in Vero Beach, said business have been able to study their income and noticed that on average, 20 percent to 25 percent of their annual sales are made during midnight and 1 a.m.

Extending the time of alcohol sales would give those businesses a better chance to generate more revenue and potentially get them through a slow off-season, Mr. Jones said.

The number of people that leave Vero Beach businesses to go to other counties, such as St. Lucie, to continue their nightlife activities, hasn’t been quantified, but on-site staff can vouch for its regular occurrence, Mr. Jones said.

Councilwoman Pilar Turner said that customers likely wouldn’t leave at the cutoff time, they would be seeking a new place to party long before that, which is also keeping revenue away from local businesses.

She was in favor of the change, but cautioned business owners and staff to step up and make sure people don’t leave the place of business to drive away drunk.

Councilwoman Amelia Graves said she was in favor of the new cut-off time because of the financial benefit to the business owners and said the amount of alcohol consumed comes down to personal responsibility.

“I think if you’re going to make a poor choice, you’re going to make it at 1 a.m. or 2 a.m.,” Councilwoman Graves said.

Chief David Currey said most of the time issues that arise at local bars are handled in house, but the police department is always around to help, no matter the time.

“We are around 24 hours,” Chief Currey said.

For more information about upcoming city government meetings or to view agenda items, visit www.covb.org.
Police report

**Sebastian Police Department**
- Jennifer Lauren Archer, 29, 1275 32nd Ave., Southwest, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for organized fraud.
- Eva E. Castellanos, 19, 905 11th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of cocaine.
- Daylin Perez, 19, 1926 Eighth Ave. S.W., Vero Beach, was charged with tampering with or destroying evidence and a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.
- Kenneth Charles Harris, 51, 1777 Highland Ave., Melbourne, was charged with two counts of driving while white license suspended, habitual offender, trafficking in cocaine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell, possession of ecstasy and misdemeanor charges of driving while license suspended and being a habitual traffic offender.
- Matthew Russell Miller, 24, 150 Ninth Drive, Vero Beach, was charged with three counts of giving false information to a pawn broker, six counts of third-degree grand theft and four counts of dealing in stolen property.
- Stacy Nicole Morgan, 32, 125 S.W. Voltaire Terrace, Port St. Lucie, was charged with violation of probation.
- Cheryl Marie Willman, 41, 8001 Palomar St., Fort Pierce, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for driving under the influence, resisting arrest without violence and domestic battery by strangulation.
- Samuel Zamarripa, 28, 229 S. Willow St., Fellsmere, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for possession of cocaine.
- Pedro Solivan Santiago, 34, 1853 S. Loomis St. Chicago, Ill., was charged with uttering a forged instrument.
- Woodrow James Etheridge, 49, 1530 Third Court, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for possession of gunpowder.
- Debra Ann Grohol, 38, 1762 S.E. Jackson St., Stuart, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for child abuse.
- MaryEllen Jane Kirchen, 37, 8726 92nd Court, Vero Beach, was charged with felony petit theft.
- John Rayburn Kovac, 20, 90 N. Hickory St., Sebastian, was charged with driving while white license suspended with knowledge.
- Michael Elton Yates, 20, 90 N. Hickory St., Sebastian, was charged with two counts of burglary and a misdemeanor charge of trespass on property.

**Vero Beach Police Department**
- Blake Allen Snyder, 21, 1850 40th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of marijuana. He was on probation for sale of a substance in lieu of a controlled substance.
- Joseph T. Cahill, 30, 156 46th Court, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for failure of a sex offender to update address with the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office.
- Lee Arthur Clark, 60, 4895 34th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with felony petit theft and a misdemeanor charge of shoplifting/retail theft.
- Chiquita Tawanna Cobb Edwards, 38, 746 Fourth Place S.W., Vero Beach, was charged with driving while white license suspended with knowledge.
- Kenneth Charles Harris, 51, 1777 Highland Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with driving while white license suspended, habitual offender.
- Adrian Alexander Lester, 26, 1955 Seventh Court S.W., Vero Beach, was charged with two counts of driving while white license suspended, habitual offender, trafficking in cocaine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell, possession of ecstasy and misdemeanor charges of driving while license suspended and being a habitual traffic offender.
- Daylin Perez, 19, 1926 Eighth Ave. S.W., Vero Beach, was charged with tampering with or destroying evidence and a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.
- John Rayburn Kovac, 20, 90 N. Hickory St., Sebastian, was charged with driving while white license suspended with knowledge.
- Margaret Neidecker, 57, 7865 90th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of morphine and misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence, possession of marijuana and two counts of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Bernard Leonard Thomas, 24, 736 19th Circle No. 15, Vero Beach, was charged with sale and trafficking of oxycodone, a federal charge of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Timothy Arthur Watts, 32, 266 Delaware Ave., Sebastian, was charged with felony burglary and grand theft.
- Terevia Maurice Ealy, 28, 8415 59th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with attempted murder, aggravated battery, trafficking in morphine and misdemeanor charges of obstructing justice, resisting arrest without violence and criminal contempt of court.
- Kevin William Jones, 44, 4055 41st Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for violation of probation.
- Marcus Anthony Bryan, 44, 2917 St. Marks Ave., Melbourne, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for cultivation of marijuana.
- Marlon Carlynton Clarke, 36, 1015 State St. St. Petersburg, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for possession of marijuana.
- Alicia Hope Powell, 27, 47903 Bear Road, Altona, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for grand theft.
- Angela Christine Halweg, 37, 8726 92nd Court, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for possession of marijuana.
- Josiah Timothy Frederick, 25, 63 N.E. 10th St. Apt. 6, Homestead, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for child abuse.
- Y lanick Lacroix, 31, 5540 Northwest 31st Ave., Miami, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for three counts of third-degree grand theft and four counts of dealing in stolen property.
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- Angela Christine Halweg, 37, 8726 92nd Court, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for possession of marijuana.
- Josiah Timothy Frederick, 25, 63 N.E. 10th St. Apt. 6, Homestead, was charged with possession of marijuana and two counts of misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Yanick Lacroix, 31, 5540 Northwest 31st Ave., Fort Lauderdale, was charged with driving while white license suspended, habitual offender.

**Indian River County Sheriff’s Office**
- Joseph T. Cahill, 30, 156 46th Court, Vero Beach, was charged with violated probation. He was on probation for possession of marijuana.
- Lee Arthur Clark, 60, 4895 34th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with felony petit theft and a misdemeanor charge of shoplifting/retail theft.
- Chiquita Tawanna Cobb Edwards, 38, 746 Fourth Place S.W., Vero Beach, was charged with driving while white license suspended with knowledge.
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- Pedro Solivan Santiago, 34, 1853 S. Loomis St. Chicago, Ill., was charged with uttering a forged instrument.
- Woodrow James Etheridge, 49, 1530 Third Court, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for tampering with a victim, victim or informant.
- Debra Ann Grohol, 38, 1762 S.E. Jackson St., Stuart, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for child abuse.
- MaryEllen Jane Kirchen, 37, 8726 92nd Court, Vero Beach, was charged with felony petit theft.
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- Michael Elton Yates, 20, 90 N. Hickory St., Sebastian, was charged with two counts of burglary and a misdemeanor charge of trespass on property.

**Florida Highway Patrol**
- Dewey Urel Armstrong, 43, 306 Lake View Blvd, Cocoa, was charged with violation of parole.
- Josiah Timothy Frederick, 25, 63 N.E. 10th St. Apt. 6, Homestead, was charged with possession of marijuana and two counts of misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Yanick Lacroix, 31, 5540 Northwest 31st Ave., Fort Lauderdale, was charged with driving white license suspended, habitual offender.
Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at newsfp@hometownnewsol.com
or call (772) 465-5504.

Commenters are asked to refrain from making slanderous statements. Statements of fact will be checked for accuracy.

Thieves at school?

My son just had his phone stolen from a local middle school during gym class. I shouldn’t bring his phone to school. His phone was stolen from the very bottom of his backpack. Someone had searched hard to find it. The school should do something about letting students participate in gym class. Explain what one day this year. Do you think there is a problem?

Get a clue

Someone “clueless” would like to respond to “Florida needs to raise the minimum wage.” Perhaps I am in error, but I thought that a minimum...lowest, skimpiest, with least value...wage is paid to those starting a new job. They are paid the lowest amount because they know the least about the work required. As they gain experience and increase their productivity their wages increase. Maybe I was wrong and I should have started my employees at the highest rate, and then paid them less as their skills increased.

As a “clueless” person, I have always found that by using extremes it was easier to understand the general affect a course of action may have. For example, if we raised the minimum wage to $1,000/hr. what would be the result? Using the worn out stereotype of a ‘hamburger flipper’, few would disagree the cost of a burger would rise. Higher cost implies lower demand, yielding fewer burger-flipping jobs. Now tackle the other extreme, make the wage $0.10/hr. The cost of burgers would decline, the demand would rise, and the number of jobs opening would be vastly increased. The obvious downside is that few would apply for the job.

So it becomes apparent that unless the job/wage function has a discontinuity in it—where at some level higher wages lowers costs, the higher the minimum wage the fewer entry-level (training) jobs we have available. Today it seems entry level jobs are accepted by workers when the demand exceeds the remuneration from welfare. The Labor Department cites unemployment for young people, those starting their working careers careening around 20 percent. Do we really need that for other folks who are not willing to work?

That is the offer made to all Americans, most happily accede to this demand by the Social Security Administration. The SSA cites on their web site that people receive $352,000 over their working career. That is the offer made to all Americans, the SSA cites on their web site that people receive $352,000 over their working career. That is the offer made to all Americans, the SSA cites on their web site that people receive $352,000 over their working career. That is the offer made to all Americans, the SSA cites on their web site that people receive $352,000 over their working career.

Dear where does the money go:

I want to start a bank where you and your employer deposit 15 percent of your earnings during your forty, fifty, or more year working career. Sadly, you will be able to take any of the money out over that period. I will enjoy a nice salary and secure job over those years, however, when your retire you will only get back about two-thirds of the principal that you deposited with us. No interest will accrue, as we need that for other folks who are not willing to work.

Now we know where the money goes. Here is where it goes:

1. Sixty-two thousand well paid employees
2. Hundreds of massive buildings
3. $6,405,000 budget for the above
4. Many important trips to Las Vegas for conferences
5. $44,000,000,000 for SSI welfare payments.

We need a welfare system to help those in need, but don’t take retiree’s money for welfare. Pay welfare out of a transparent welfare fund.

Hopefully, this may provide more clarity to your question of where the money goes.
By Brittany Llorente
bllorente@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — Finding the right tool or equipment for the job can be hard. What is needed is an expert to help the selection process easier with a peace of mind in every purchase. Jordan Mower Inc./Goodknight Lawn Equipment has been in the business for more than 40 years.

With a selection of power tools from STIHL and Echo Power Equipment and mowers from Dixie Chopper, Gravely, Snapper, Skaggs and more, the shop is a dream location for those wanting to get the job done right.

If anyone knows about the invaluable help that power and lawn equipment can do, it is owner Jim Jordan. “I have been in this type of business my whole life,” Mr. Jordan said. “I grew up on a farm and working on outdoor equipment.”

From that experience, he knows firsthand what makes a customer happy and what it takes to build a relationship with his customers. “We sell equipment to commercial landscapers to homeowners,” Mr. Jordan said. “We sell top name brands. It all depends on the customers’ situation and needs.”

For mowers, the Snapper and Gravely lawnmowers are for homeowners and the higher end Gravely mowers, Skagg and Dixie Chopper mowers are for commercial users.

No matter the type needed though, the customer can rest easy knowing that the same friendly faces who sold them their lawnmower are also the place to turn to if any maintenance is needed. “One of the benefits of buying it here is our computer system. If you buy here, we keep track of your registration,” Mr. Jordan said. “If you purchase something here, we take care of all of the paper work. You don’t have to chase something here, we take care of all of the paperwork. You don’t have to keep track of the receipts. Factories are getting more and more particular on supplying the receipt to prove their date of purchase. We look you up and the original receipt comes up, making it simple and easy for the customers.”

As well as having someone to turn to, they also have all of their service in house and offer pick up services for the larger equipment.

The staff at the shop is also more than qualified to take care of the service needs of the equipment. Mr. Jordan takes pride in the fact that his staff is certified in the latest information and repair from all the factories. They are gold certified in STHIL, factory certified with Echo, factory certified with Gravely and master technician certified with Briggs & Stratton.

Mr. Jordan’s main focus is to make the experience of buying and keeping a mower as simple as it should be. Jordan Mower Inc./Goodknight Lawn Equipment is located at 1526 Old Dixie Highway, Vero Beach.

For more information, call (772) 646-4181 or visit www.jordanmower.net.

By Brittany Llorente
bllorente@hometownnewsol.com

Staff photo by Brittany Llorente

TREASURE COAST — For Frank Avilla, the faces on the Heart Gallery of Okeechobee & the Treasure Coast are more than just children who need a home…they are the faces of those who need someone to stand up for them.

Mr. Avilla, marketing specialist for Children’s Home Society, began placing faces of difficult to place children on the walls of the gallery in 2007. Since that time, he has witnessed the adoption of more than 60 children.

“It’s incredibly rewarding when I can stand in a courtroom and watch the judge bang the gavel as an adoption is finalized,” Mr. Avilla said. “We place the faces of hard to place children on the gallery. Children between the age of 7 and 17 who don’t have immediate family members who are willing to adopt them. It’s heartbreaking because everyone wants a place to call home and somebody to love them. We do our part to make that happen for these children.

The Heart Gallery makes stops at places with high traffic volume throughout the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee. The traveling exhibit offers details about each child and shows a little about their personality.

“What we try to do is provide a platform that shows the child with dignity,” Mr. Avilla said. “Some children love sports, some love animals, some love to dance or play outside…we try to capture that snippet of their personality so the public can see them in their comfort zone.”

Annually, the Florida Legislature designates the second Monday in May as “Child Welfare Professionals Recognition Day” to recognize professionals who dedicate their careers to helping children victimized by abuse or neglect.

At Children’s Home Society of Florida, the executive divisions of each of the divisions were asked to nominate an individual in their office that has gone the extra mile in helping children stay safe in our communities. Mr. Avilla was the nominee for the Treasure Coast division.

"People may see me as the face of the adoption program but it’s the dedicated and tireless caseworkers of the adoption program who are the blood, sweat and tears. I’m in awe of what they do to bring families together.”

Mr. Avilla selflessly gives credit to his colleagues at CHS for the success of the Heart Gallery, however, Sabrina Barnes, executive director of the Treasure Coast division points her finger at Mr. Avilla.

“What can I say about Frank?” Ms. Barnes said. “He is such a bundle of energy and so passionate about his work. He makes sure the Heart Gallery is constantly in view so the public can see the faces of our hardest to place children. He is their voice. Without his tireless efforts, some of these children would never find their permanent place with a loving family.”

The Heart Gallery is currently located at the School Board office in St. Lucie County. For more information about the gallery and other services provided by CHS, please visit www.chsfl.org.

Donation to feed residents most in need

For Hometown News

NewsFP@hometownnewsofl.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The Salvation Army of Indian River County will receive a $40,000 contribution to assist with its Mobile Canteen Feeding Program Wednesday. The grant - which is given to the nonprofit organization through the Walmart Foundation’s State Giving Program — will help provide meals to the homebound, disabled and at-risk residents in the Indian River County community three times a week.

“With this much-needed $40,000 Walmart State Giving Grant, our Mobile Canteen Feeding Program will be able to fund food, supplies and fuel for more than a year,” said John Corapi, director of development for the nonprofit. “This is the most money we have ever received from an individual foundation for this program, and we are truly blessed for Walmart’s support.

No one should ever have to go hungry, and now we’re one step closer to making that happen. We are forever grateful to Walmart and the Indian River County community for their support.”
Honoring those who have served, fallen

One of the largest crowds ever gathered on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Monday to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice on battlefields around the world. Family members who have lost loved ones were recognized. There was a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary after the ceremony.

Above: Members of the Master’s Academy Fife and Drum Corps lead the color guards into Monday’s ceremony. Right: Page Howell, Vero Beach High School Band Director, conducts the band during the National Anthem.

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Veteran flies high for 92nd birthday

By Jessica Creagan
jcreagan@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — Armand Zarrella has seen many sights in his 92 years on earth, including views in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans during his service in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War, but now he has seen firsthand the beauty of his own home in Sebastian.

On March 24, just four days before his 92nd birthday, Mr. Zarrella began his birthday celebrations by taking a trip to Skydive Sebastian and jumping from a flying airplane with friends and family supporting him.

“I will be jumping tandem, you’ve got to be kidding if you think I’m going to jump alone,” Mr. Zarrella said before the jump.

“I’m jumping now at 92, and if I make it to 100, I’ll jump again, but not in the air,” he said laughingly.

“I keep doing it because that’s what I have left over I make a check out of Bible bookmarks, continuing on a special craft his late wife of 64 years, Rita, used to, but I still do,” Mr. Zarrella said.

“I still play golf too, but only nine holes,” he said.

Mr. Zarrella also keeps his mind and hands busy by creating crosses and hole spinners out of plastic soda bottles and sells them at the craft club events.

“After Mr. Zarrella’s jump, he gave Ian Brown, his tandem partner, a hug and thanked him for a great job.

Mr. Zarrella has made Sebastian his home for 19 years, and is originally from Massachusetts.

He was 20 years old when he first joined the military and needed his parent’s permission to sign up.

“It was for six years, and my father said, ‘do you know how long that is?’ I said, ‘I’m a member,’ Mr. Zarrella said.

Mr. Zarrella has made Sebastian his home for 19 years, and is originally from Massachusetts.

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Veteran

From page 10

the time,” Mr. Zarrella said. He was located in the Pacific Ocean during the Battle of Midway and remembers floating in the Pearl Harbor channel with the sunken USS Arizona on the starboard side of the ship.

“Mr. Zarrella knows exactly what he was doing when the Japanese surrendered in 1945. "I was washing my clothes when we got the news. The radioman was going crazy running up and down the deck saying the war was over," he said. On Dec. 31, 1946 after four and a half years of service, Mr. Zarrella was honorably discharged as a gunner’s mate first class with the U.S. Navy. He was called up again for the Korean War in 1950, but wasn’t asked to go back overseas.

He was able to relive his memories of his days as a soldier on a recent trip to Washington, D.C., with a group of veterans courtesy of Space Coast Honor Flight.

“We saw the buildings and the memorials. We even had a police escort driving in D.C. And when we got back to the airport, there were lots people there, clapping for us and thanking us for our service,” Mr. Zarrella said, his eyes growing bright with emotion.

“I saw the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery 64 years ago, and I saw it again on this trip. It is exactly the same as I remember it,” he said.

“Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are very pleased to be supporting the Salvation Army of Indian River County and are committed to helping those in need in the communities where we serve,” said Mark Rogers, store manager. "Through this grant, we are hopeful that even more residents in the Indian River area will receive a helping hand when most in need."

The contribution to the Salvation Army of Indian River County was made possible through the Walmart Foundation’s Florida State Giving Program. Through this program, the Walmart Foundation supports organizations that create opportunities so people can live better. The Walmart Foundation State Giving Program strives to award grants that have a long-lasting, positive impact on communities across the U.S.

In 2012, cash and in-kind donations from Walmart stores, Sam’s Clubs and the Walmart Foundation, including the Florida State Giving Program, totaled more than $53.6 million in Florida, including awards to local organizations such as the American Cancer Society Indian River Unit, Sarah’s Kitchen of the Treasure Coast and Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. In Florida, a team of local associates determines needs with in each state, reviews eligible grant applications and makes funding recommendations to the Walmart Foundation.

To be considered for support, prospective grantee organizations must submit applications through the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program’s online grant application. Eligible applicants must have a current 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in order to meet the program’s minimum funding criteria.

Additional information about the program’s funding guidelines and application process are available online at http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/state-giving.

Armand Zarrella sits patiently as Ian Brown, his certified tandem instructor, buckles him up for what Mr. Zarrella called ‘the most exhilarating thing I’ve ever done in my life’ Saturday at Skydive Sebastian.

Cliff Parlow
staff photographer
College program awards scholarships

For hometown news
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — Deserving middle and high school students from St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin, and Okeechobee counties earned a valuable incentive for future success. At a scholarship recognition ceremony held at Indian River State College, 40 students became the 2014 recipients of four-year tuition President’s Challenge/Take Stock in Children Scholarships. Recipients this year are all the first generation in their families to pursue a college degree.

The special award ceremony was held on Monday, May 12 at the McAlpin Fine Arts Center on the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. In addition to recognizing new recipients, IRSC recognized the accomplishments of 48 high school graduates and 42 IRSC graduates.

Since 1997, 875 President’s Challenge/Take Stock in Children scholarships have been awarded to students with the provision that they meet the challenges and graduate from high school.

The scholarship program is designed to motivate and assist students who show academic promise and who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend college. The scholarship recipients are matched with adult volunteer mentors from the community who provide guidance and encouragement. All the selected scholarship recipients sign a contract agreeing to maintain good grades, to stay out of trouble, to stay away from drugs and alcohol and to graduate from high school. Those who meet the challenge will receive a scholarship to attend IRSC for two years, followed by two years at IRSC or a Florida public college or university.

The President’s Challenge/Take Stock in Children Scholarship program is made possible through many program partners including: the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, the Governor’s Mentoring Initiative, the Indian River State College Foundation, the Indian River County School District, the Martin County School District, the Okeechobee County School District, the Okeechobee Educational Foundation, the St. Lucie County School District, the Take Stock in Children Foundation. Scholarship partners include: Edwin and Iris Arnowitt, Bank of America “Dream Makers,” the Lawton Chiles Memorial Endowment, Pete and Susanne Clemons, José and Mary Ann Conrado, the Deerbrook Charitable Trust, the Estate of Marjorie Routt, the Florida College System Foundation, the Helios Education Foundation, John’s Island Community Service League, Mallonee Family Foundation, Michael and Misty Minton, the Okeechobee Educational Foundation, the Robert “Bobby” Klein Memorial Endowment, the Sailfish Point Foundation, Wells Fargo, the Williamson Castle Company and the generous support of many local businesses, organizations and individuals.

The President’s Challenge/Take Stock in Children program is coordinated locally by the IRSC Foundation and is offered in cooperation with the Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie county school districts.

For more information, to donate scholarship funds or to volunteer as a mentor, contact the IRSC Foundation at (772) 462-4796 or visit www.irsc.edu.
Learning center offers canoeing trips

By Jessica Creagan
jcreagan@hometownnewsol.com

WABASSO — The trails at the Environmental Learning Center in Wabasso aren’t all made for walking. To navigate some of the trails, visitors will need to jump in a canoe and paddle around.

On the second and fourth Saturday of each month through August, guided canoe excursions through the Indian River Lagoon and around Wabasso Island will be available for guests that want a different sort of summer adventure, staff said.

Holly Dill, executive director of the Environmental Learning Center, said the canoe trips will have two guides accompanying guests and the guides will give plenty of instructions on how to get into a canoe and paddle around.

“You can be a complete beginner to canoeing or experienced. We welcome everyone,” Ms. Dill said.

The canoe trips are scheduled to begin at 8 a.m., an early start for a Saturday morning but the time is conducive to cooler temperatures, breezes and a greater potential for wildlife sightings, she said.

The excursion fee, which includes the canoe rental and gear, is $15 for adults and $7 for children. Environmental Learning Center members receive a $3 discount per person for their family.

“This is a great reason to go ahead and purchase the year membership,” Ms. Dill said.

For $40, members receive free admission to the 64-acre nature preserve at the Environmental Learning Center.

See CANOE, page 14

Out & about

FRIDAY, MAY 30

• Downtown Friday. 14th Avenue Historic Downtown Vero Beach. 6 p.m. Theme: 1980s Big Hair and Polyester. Live disco music. Featured charity: Treasure Coast Community Health. Free. For more information, visit www.mainstreetverobeach.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 30 – SATURDAY, MAY 31

• Riverside Theatre presents “The Comedy Zone,” Waxlax Stage, Riverside Theatre, Vero Beach. 7:30 p.m.; 9:30 p.m. Featuring live music and comedians Tim Kidd and J. Bliss. Cost: $16. For more information, visit www.riversidetheatre.com.

• A Thousand Cowboys: Summer musical about ‘gettin’ what you want and gettin’ out,” presented at the McAlpin Fine Arts Center on the main campus of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Friday, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are $15 each. For tickets, contact the box office at (800) 220-9915 or email boxoffice@irsc.edu.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

• Hurricane Expo at the Indian River mall: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the food court at the mall, 6200 20th Street, Vero Beach. Lots of hurricane preparedness tips, and information on protecting your family after a storm. This year will also feature a hurricane recipe cooking contest for prizes, at 1 p.m. (Entrants must sign in by 12:45 p.m. with their completed dish and the full recipe). For more information, call (772) 770-9404 or visit www.simon.com/mall/indian-river-mall.com.

• Treasure Coast Offshore Classic: For tickets, contact the box office at (800) 220-9915 or email boxoffice@irsc.edu.

See OUT, page 14

Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

People seem to be going out of their way to be nice to you, Aries. While you may suspect they have ulterior motives, their kindness really is nothing more than good will.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, approach your workload with an optimistic attitude this week. You can expect your efforts to produce positive results that don’t go unnoticed.

GEMINI - May 22/Jul 21

It is an uphill battle to focus on chores this week, Gemini. You would rather be out having fun, but putting off chores now will only lead to more work down the road.

CANCER - Jun 22/Aug 23

Cancer, although you are capable of keeping up appearances this week, you will be lost in your own thoughts. Personal issues prove to be a distraction.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, serve as a diplomat this week, placing yourself in the middle of conflict because you want to help. Keep a level head and don’t get swept into the argument.

See HOROSCOPES, page 15

EASY NEW PROCEDURE FOR GUM DISEASE

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**Canoe**

From page 13

Serve with indoor and outdoor exhibits; advance notice on all programs offered at the Environmental Learning Center. Invitations to member-only events; member’s rates on field excursions, education programs, and summer ecology camps for children; reciprocal membership benefits to nature centers within the Association of Nature Centers Administrators. $10 annual subscription to the Environmental Learning Center’s newsletter and a 10 percent discount in the Nature Nook gift shop.

For programs like the canoe excursions where the whole family would find enjoyable, members can see an instant savings by purchasing a membership, Ms. Dill said.

On the Environmental Learning Center’s property there are several small waterways that lead through mangrove “forests” and other kinds of vegetation and paddling through them is one of the fun habitats participants will be able to explore on the canoe excursion.

“At one point, the mangroves are on both sides and hanging overhead, it looks like a whole forest,” Ms. Dill said.

The guides will also escort the canoers out of the small waterways and into the open water of the Indian River Lagoon.

Besides seeing wonderful scenery, it is highly likely that guests will also be able to spot multiple bird and fish species, and sometimes the dolphins and manatees in the Indian River Lagoon have been known to make an appearance or two, Ms. Dill said.

During the entire program, the guides will be talking with guests and explaining about the history, environment, and ecology of the Indian River Lagoon, as well as how participants can positively impact the lagoon, a press release said.

Advanced reservations for the excursion are required.

The Environmental Learning Center has many programs and summer camps throughout the summer months for adults and children. A complete listing of events is available online.

The Environmental Learning Center is located at 255 Live Oak Drive, Vero Beach.

To make a reservation or for more information about programs and activities at the Environmental Learning Center, call (772) 588-5650 or visit www.discoverelc.org.

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**Out**

From page 13

New event, hosted by the Fighting Indians Face Off Club, as a benefit for the Vero Beach High School Boys Lacrosse team. Registration is $175 per boat (up to four anglers per boat), with cash prizes offered. Tournament will be held at the Fort Pierce City Marina. Captain’s dinner is Friday, May 30. For more information, visit www.tc6throughshore-classic.com.

• **Tropical Night Luau:** 37th annual benefit for Youth Guidance will be held 7-11 p.m. at a new venue: Grand Harbor Golf Club, 4985 Club Terrace, Vero Beach. Grab your grass skirts and leis and enjoy island cuisine, socializing with friends and dancing the night away at this yearly luau. The Gypsy Lane band is back by popular demand and steel drums, a cash bar and an auction will add excitement to this unforgettable evening. Tropical attire is encouraged for partygoers. Proceeds from the event will provide year-round mentoring and activity programming for the children in Youth Guidance. Tickets are $125 and include three drink tickets. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Youth Guidance office at (772) 770-5040 or visiting www.youthguidanceprogram.org.

• **KidZ Artshops, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Enjoy a guided gallery visit and related studio art activity with no registration required. Cost: Free for members, $5 for each non-member child. For more information, visit www.verobeachmuseum.org.

**JUNE 1 – JULY 31**

• **Turtle walks, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian, Fridays through Tuesday, from June 1 through July 31 at 9 p.m.** Learn about Florida’s sea turtles and maybe see a nesting loggerhead sea turtle on a ranger-led tour. Cost: Park entry fees apply. For more information, visit www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet/events.cfm.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 3**

• **Lowering Cholesterol: Get the Facts:** Free workshop. 6-7 p.m., Alternative Medicine Family Care Center, 3408 Aviation Blvd., Vero Beach. Class offers information that may help with high blood pressure, hormonal imbalances, high cholesterol, and more. RSVP required. For more information, call (772) 778-8877 or visit www.AMFFCinfo.

*Empowering Today’s Entrepreneurs Seminar*: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Indian River State College main campus, 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce. Designed for entrepreneurs and business owners who want to grow or start new businesses. Cost is $19, which includes morning refreshments and lunch. Presentations will focus on marketing, financial matters, disaster planning, business continuity and more. To register, call (888) 283-1177 or visit www.discoverelc.org.
**DINING & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Go Indians!**

Above: Vero Beach High School varsity cheerleaders Jenna Schepers, with megaphone and Olivia Darcangelo, fire up the crowd during Thursday’s evening’s game in the Citrus Bowl.

Left: Vero Beach defensive end Tyler Horstman (No. 11) breaks up a pass play by Dwyer quarterback Daniel Parr (No. 13) halfway through the second quarter.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

**Horoscopes**

From page 13

**VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**

Virgo, your ability to focus is very strong, but this week you cannot seem to get your mind to cooperate. You may have a million things to think about.

**LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23**

You are tempted to join the party this week, even though you know it is probably a better idea to decline. But the prospect of socializing and having a good time is too tempting.

**SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22**

Scorpio, you often feel uncomfortable when you have too many loose ends. It may take quite a while this week to wrap up all of your obligations before you can relax.

**SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21**

Sagittarius, the more you ponder the decisions you have to make, the more you struggle to determine a positive outcome. Give yourself some breathing room.

**CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20**

Career issues must be dealt with, Capricorn. You may have been running through various options, and if you have reached a decision, then go with your gut instincts.

**AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18**

Aquarius, although everyone around you seems to be stressing out, for some reason you are able to breeze through your days without a worry in the world.

**PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20**

Your intuition is telling you to proceed with caution, Pisces. Watch where you step, but don’t let caution take over your life.
Celebrate summer with safe boating

For Hometown News
NewsP@hometownnewsonl.com

TREASURE COAST — Nothing says the start of summer better than a sunny day and a boat ride with family and friends. To enjoy your day to the fullest, remember to be careful. Safe boating is in your hands.

Each year, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers respond to far too many tragic boating accidents. Unfortunately, they have been to 236 accidents so far this year, including 11 fatalities.

Earlier this month, two officers were called to an accident where two vessels collided, causing one of them to capsize, leaving three people stranded in the water. Fortunately, the people only suffered minor injuries and were able to swim to shore. Some are not that lucky. Out of last year’s 62 boating fatalities, 36 were due to drowning.

There are some basic things you can do to keep yourself safe and have a fun day on the water. First and foremost is to pay attention! Boat operators need to keep an eye on their surroundings, including weather, waves, wildlife and objects like waterway markers, docks and other boats.

The FWC reports that boat operators failing to pay attention remains the leading cause for boating accidents. FWC officers patrol our waterways to keep all boaters safe by checking that they have the appropriate gear and are operating safely. Ensure your encounters with FWC officers are positive ones by planning ahead and paying attention on the water.

For more information, visit MyFWC.com/Boating.

You can even search there for the Florida Boat Ramp Finder https://public.myfwc.com/LE/boattramp/public/default.aspx to help you find a great place to launch your boat.

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#2 Eggs Benedict (Full) ................................................................................................ $6.99
#3 Belgium Waffle, Short Stack or French Toast w/1 Egg, 2 Bacon or 1 Sausage .... $5.99

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

• "Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark" Anne Morton Theatre, Riverside Children’s Theatre, Vero Beach, show times and dates vary. Siblings discover a tree house full of books that transport them on adventures. Tickets are $5-$8 for students, $10-$16 for adults. For more information, visit www.riversidetheatre.com.

• Fabulous Film Finds: 3 p.m., first Thursday each month, at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian. Showing “Excalibur” by John Boorman, with Nigel Terry and Helen Mirren. For more information, call (772) 589-1355.

• Roseland Jam Session: 1:30-3:30 p.m., Roseland Community Center, 12973 Bay Street, Sebastian. Held every Thursday, featuring acoustic country and bluegrass music. For more information, call Jockie at (772) 913-2182.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

• First Friday Gallery Stroll: 5-8 p.m., Stroll through the Arts District, enjoy a variety of food from more than 20 restaurants, plus paintings, sculpture, and art from a growing collection of unique galleries. Free, public is welcome. For more information, call (772) 480-0491.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

• Blue Water Open: 21st annual event hosted by the Sebastian Exchange Club Foundation at Capt’n Butchers Waterfront Resort Seafood Grill & Bar, 1730 Indian River Drive, Sebastian. Proceeds benefit the prevention of child abuse and other local youth-oriented activities. Entry is $225 (optional big fish bonanza entry is $100). Cash prizes. For more information, call (772) 792-6960.

GALLERIES

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For more information, call (772) 480-0491.
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Out
From page 16

visit bluewateropen.com.
• Free Community Enjoyment Day: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Leisure Square, 3705 16th Square, Vero Beach. Free open house with use of the gym, a life-guarded lap pool, volleyball, basketball, and open fields for casual soccer or kickball games, plus grassy shaded seating areas to relax with a picnic. For more information, call (772) 770-6500 or visit www.covb.org.
• Treasure Coast Lionfish Safari: Second annual tournament aimed at reducing the number of lionfish, an invasive species, in our coastal waters, and providing research information for local scientists. Captains and divers will work together to locate and capture the most, largest, and even smallest lionfish they can for cash prizes. Raffles will also be available. Mandatory captains meeting and safety instruction will be held at the Riverwalk Community Center, in Fort Pierce on June 6. All forms, registration and PayPal options are available at www.treasurecoastlionfishsafari.com.
• Keiser Carnival Open House: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Keiser University campus, 10330 S. U.S. 1, Port St. Lucie. Refreshments, games, music, prizes, more. For more information, call (888) 844-8404 or visit www.KUopenhouse.com.
• Free admission day: Environmental Learning Center, Wabasso, 9 a.m. Explore nature and learn about the local eco systems. Free. For more information, visit www.discoverelc.org.
• World Ocean Day Celebration: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit, 420 Seawave Drive, Fort Pierce. Enjoy learning stations, crafts, face painting, seining demonstrations in the Indian River Lagoon every hour on the hour from 11 a.m. through 2 p.m., and other activities centered around the Earth’s marine resources. Admission is $4 for adults, $3 for children age 4-17 and seniors age 55+. To participate in seining, wear protective footwear (water shoes or old sneakers). For more information, call (772) 465-3271.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
• Kashi Sunday Market: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kashi Ashram, 11155 Roseland Road, Sebastian. Local artists and crafters, jewelry, seasonal organic produce, gently used books, tarot readings, facials and bodywork, vintage items, handmade goat milk soaps and body products, hot cinnamon rolls, fresh juices and organic coffees. Freshly prepared brunch buffet $10. Free mini yoga classes, tours for children to see the goats and chickens, and Ashram tours. Live music. For more information, call Sunanda at (404) 308-8392.

MONDAY, JUNE 9 — THURSDAY, JUNE 12
• Environmental summer camp, Environmental Learning Center, Wabasso, 8:30 a.m. The “Little Wonders” nature experience is for campers entering pre-K or kindergarten and are at least 4 years old. Cost: $55 for Environmental Learning Center members, $60 for non-members. For more information, visit www.discoverelc.org.
• Environmental summer camp, Environmental Learning Center, Wabasso, 8:30 a.m. This “Week on the Water” program is for campers entering fourth and fifth grades. Cost: $200 for Environmental Learning Center members, $210 for non-members. For more information, visit www.discoverelc.org.
• Environmental summer camp, Environmental Learning Center, Wabasso, 8:30 a.m. This “Week on the Water” program is for campers entering sixth and seventh grades. Cost: $200 for Environmental Learning Center members. See OUT, page 18

New Summer Hours - Closed Sunday & Mondays

Thursday 11-4 Saturday 11-10
Wednesday 11-7 Prime Rib Special Surf & Turf
Thursday 11-4 Now Hosting your Special Events!
Friday 11-10 Fish and Chips & Vegetarian Dinner

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Hi everybody. One of the most important items for a successful garden or landscaping project is the soil that is used for planting. When you visit your local nursery, you will have a multitude of choices and varieties of soils from which to choose. You will find potting blends, top soil, soil with cow manure and soil with fertilizer already added, just to name a few. Where you plan on planting your plants will have a lot to do with which choice will be best for your needs.

If you plan on doing primarily container gardening, you will want to use a good quality potting mix. There are several brands on the market in a variety of price ranges but personally, I have had the best results with Miracle Gro potting mix. The product is a blend of soil, and moisture retaining amenities to make for an excellent product. There are, of course, other options such as Hypoxen, Jiffy, etc. All these companies make great products and often it is just a personal choice of what brand works best for you.

At the very least, look for a soil blend that is light in consistency and is not “dried, caked up look” after the soil is in the bag. Using an inferior potting soil can cause that “sopping wet in the bag. Using an inferior potting soil can cause that ‘dried, caked up look’ after the soil begins to dry out between watering cycles.

Unlike food products, soil manufacturers do not have to list their ingredients on the bag. If a particular bargain brand of soil does not mention what is in the bag, it is often wise to steer clear of that option. Many people like to make their own blend of potting mixes by stirring together different flavors of soil. For example, I like to mix Miracle Gro potting mix with another soil that contains cow manure. Simply use about a 3 to 1 ratio. Use 3 parts of the Miracle Gro to 1 part of the soil with cow manure. This creates an excellent mix for getting your new plants a good start when you plant them. With all the concerns of little or no rainfall, you can also add a couple scoops of plain old-fashioned peat moss to your mix. The peat will help the soil retain the moisture much longer thus reducing your watering requirements. I can still remember in the old days receiving a truckload of the pure Canadian peat shipped direct with the ice and snow still on the truck. Although hard to find then it used to be, some nurseries should still have it available.

Adding these extra ingredients can make your soil drain better, keep it from caking and also allow more nutrients to reach the roots of your plants.

If you are planting in containers, you can add some extra ingredients to add to the recipe. Perlite is a good choice of additives if you want your soil to “breathe.” This volcanic substance (which is actually glass) will help create air pockets in the soil to make it lighter and less likely to cake up. The substance also has good water retention properties. Perlite also has many other uses in our daily lives including being an ingredient in plasters, mortar and insulation.

Depending on what type of plants you plan on using in your garden, the Ph of your soil can be an important factor. For example, if you are planting Isoria or gardenia, you want your soil to be on the acidic side. You can add aluminum sulphate to the soil to increase the Ph. If you are planting a vegetable garden, you want a lower Ph and adding some lime will help to sweeten the soil and give you great tasting vegetables.

That’s all for this week and I hope you will join me again next week for more great gardening tips.

Joe Zelenak has more than 30 years experience in gardening and landscape. Send e-mails to hometowngarden@gmail.com or visit his Web site www.hometowngarden.com.
The effects of hurricane season on your local golf course

June 1 marks the beginning of a special season. No, not summer. Not golf season either. It officially marks the beginning of Hurricane Season.

Over the next several months we will be treated to meteorologists proclaiming that the sky is about to fall and the world is going to end. I understand that hurricanes are a serious threat and that of your family is worth far more than anything else in this world.

I hope that this season I don’t have to trade my driver and putter for a hammer and nails. I also wish that our insurance companies will be contact- ed, but everyone realizes that the course comes second to people’s homes.

Getting the course back up and running will be secondary to helping out those in need. A golf course considers itself to be part of the community and almost any course would lend a hand to its neighbors who need help with cleanup or damage.

James Stammer has been an avid golfer and golf enthusiast for nearly 40 years. He hosts the Thursday Night Golf Show on WSTU 1450-AM. Contact him at stammergolf@yahoo.com.

Golf Course
JAMES STAMMER

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