

Parrish Cancer Center is well-positioned in the region with resources, capabilities

By Ken Datzman

TITUSVILLE — The number of cancer survivors in the United States continues to go up.

A new report by the American Cancer Society, in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute, estimates there are more than 16.9 million cancer survivors in America, and that number will grow to more than 22.1 million by 2030.

The report, “Cancer Treatment and Survivorship Statistics — 2019,” was published June 11 in “CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians,” a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society.

The report says even though the rates of new cancer cases are decreasing in men and staying about the same in women, the number of survivors is growing.

For example, it wasn't long ago that only about five-in-100 people were expected to be alive five years after a diagnosis with an advanced form of lung cancer.

Today, up to four times more lung cancer patients live that long. One reason some cancer patients are surviving longer is because immunotherapy advances continue to evolve in the field. The development of powerful immunotherapies is reshaping cancer treatment for many patients and their providers.

“Decades ago, the drugs we used to treat cancer patients were considered to be somewhat blunt in their effect. They affected rapidly growing cancer cells in our body, but they were not very specific for one cancer or another,” said Dr. Stephen Yandel, a board-certified medical oncologist and hematologist at Parrish Cancer Center, which is operated by OMNI Healthcare.

“Now, in regard to immunotherapies and genetic therapies, we are really targeting the treatment to the very specific cancer that the patient has. And even with the more specific details of that cancer — from one patient to the next — we are able to take into account comorbidities and other illnesses for patients in regard to best selection. So we've become much more focused on the cancer based on what science has taught us in the very recent past about targeted agents.”

Parrish Medical Center and Melbourne-based OMNI Healthcare partnered to open Parrish Cancer Center about two years ago, in an 8,782-square-foot standalone facility. The program is accredited by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer.

“This is a very high national standard to meet and we continue to maintain our Commission on Cancer accreditation,” said Parrish Cancer Center's Marsha Richardson, director, cancer program.

As members of a CoC-accredited program, the team treats cancer in its various forms through the integrated care of surgeons, medical and radiation oncologists, diagnostic radiologists, pathologists, and other cancer specialists.

“One service that helps set our program apart is we have two nationally certified cancer patient navigators,” said Richardson, a certified navigator herself as is Shannon Luker.

Parrish navigators are certified in chemotherapy and biotherapy through the Oncology Nursing Society. The certification must be renewed every four years.



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Parrish Cancer Center in Titusville, operated by OMNI Healthcare, opened about two years ago. The Commission on Cancer-accredited program offers full services, including specialized immunotherapy treatment for various cancers, such as ovarian cancer. Parrish Cancer Center is looking to offer clinical trials perhaps as early as late next year. Clinical trials are essential for advancing cancer prevention, detection, and treatment. From left, the team includes: Shannon Luker, certified care navigator; Marsha Richardson, director, cancer program and certified care navigator; Dr. Stephen Yandel, board-certified medical oncologist and hematologist; and Dr. Patricia Deisler, board-certified medical oncologist.

Navigators help patients find their way through the complex health-care system. “I assist the physicians. I assist the patients. I assist the families. I am able to go to the patient's home to follow up if needed. I meet the patient in whatever setting the patient needs to be met. As a navigator, I have helped get insurance paperwork completed for patients in a timely fashion, and much more,” said Luker.

“There are some cancer patients who have nobody, and Shannon is their somebody,” said Dr. Patricia Deisler, a board-certified medical oncologist at Parrish Cancer Center.

“Shannon is a huge asset to our team,” added Richardson.

Please see Parrish Cancer Center, page 23

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Viera promotes Miller, Rey, Duda, Carter and Esposito to new leadership positions with longtime company

VIERA — The Viera Co. has announced the promotion of Scott Miller to senior vice president of sales and community development; Eva Rey to director of community management amenities and communications; Tyler Duda to land development manager; Jason Carter to land development construction manager; and Karen Esposito to residential and commercial sales specialist.

● Miller began his career with The Viera Co. as a community manager in 1994. As vice president of sales and community management, Miller was instrumental in developing and directing Viera's residential property sales program and community design.

In his new role, Miller will direct, prospect, and negotiate commercial transactions with third parties as the broker for Viera Commercial Properties in addition to developing and managing builder programs for new residential communities in Viera. He will actively lead the conceptual planning of both commercial and residential areas in Viera.

● Rey joined The Viera Co. in 2015 as the director of community management. She brought her extensive knowledge in public administration and invaluable experience as town hall executive director for Lakewood Ranch, a large master-planned community in the Sarasota/Bradenton area, to the master-planned community of Viera.

Rey manages the relationships between The Viera Co. and the community, guides positive interactions between business organizations and the media, and enhances resident knowledge and satisfaction through her education initiatives. As director of community management, amenities and communications, Rey will continue to perform her current community management and communications duties on behalf of The Viera Co. as well

as manage Viera's amenities, including direction and oversight for the Duran Golf Club.

● Duda started as a summer family employee in 2010 at A. Duda & Sons Inc., and has been with The Viera Co. for four years as a land development superintendent. He has used his civil engineering degree from The University of Central Florida to support the land development activities of Viera. As land development manager, Duda will help manage infrastructure design and permitting efforts, including new subdivisions, community amenities, third party utility providers, and the platting/subdivision process.

● Carter has been with The Viera Co. for more than four years as a land development superintendent and has extensive prior knowledge in the construction industry. Carter, who started as an equipment operator and has worked his way up the ranks into supervisory roles, exemplifies the values of persistence, dedication, and teamwork. In his new position, he will be the primary driver of productivity by site development contractors and

third-party utility providers. He will also be the principal problem solver for the engineers, contractors, and other stakeholders to resolve any issues that arise in the field.

● Esposito joined The Viera Co. in 2015 as an administrative assistant and was later promoted to project coordinator. She has worked with sales, land development, and the Plan Review Committee. As residential and commercial sales specialist, she will work with Miller as the lead contact for commercial and residential transactions, perform market research, and oversee web presence for Viera Commercial Properties.

● About The Viera Co.

The Viera Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of A. Duda & Sons Inc., manages commercial and residential development of Duda's non-agricultural property and is the developer of the master-planned community of Viera.

The company's integrated real-estate operations include Viera Builders, Viera Commercial Properties, and the Duran Golf Club. For more information on Viera, visit www.viera.com.

Area firm Richard's Paint names Justin Richard its regional sales manager

Richard's Paint Mfg. Co. Inc. in Rockledge has announced the appointment of Justin Richard to the position of regional sales manager. Eric Richard, president of Richard's Paint, made the announcement Aug. 23. He said Justin Richard's promotion will serve to support the strategic sales plans and growth of the company.

Justin Richard began his career with Richard's Paint in 2004. His early years were spent learning the ins and outs of the warehouse and manufacturing side of the business. In 2006, he was promoted to inside sales with the company's Retail Division, building on his knowledge of the product and developing his sales abilities. In 2007 he was promoted to the position of dealer sales representative and throughout the last 12 years has relocated, with his family, to Warner Robins, Ga.; Houston, Texas; and Melbourne. With each move he has grown the existing territories and built lasting relationships, "proving his dedication to his trade and to the company."

As regional sales manager, Justin Richard will oversee sales in Florida, Texas, and the Caribbean. "We wish Justin great success in his new position with Richard's Paint," said Eric Richard.



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UCF: The evolution of an 'office park' to a campus with plenty of vitality

By Jeff Kunerth
UCF Forum columnist
University of Central Florida

True confession: Back when I was a reporter with the "Orlando Sentinel," I once wrote a story that characterized UCF as having all the charm of an office park. I described campus architecture that stressed utility instead of style. Lots of square brick buildings that all looked alike.

I quoted a student to make my point: "If you were to peel all the labels off the buildings, you wouldn't be able to tell this is an institution of higher learning."

That was UCF in 2000, with an enrollment half of what it is today. UCF at that time was still a nose-to-the-grindstone school for students who were working, commuting and spending more time off-campus than on. There wasn't much to do on campus besides search for a parking spot and attend classes.

Well, there aren't many office parks that have a 45,000-seat stadium that shakes when students get bouncy. Office parks don't have a wide, grassy mall where students string up hammocks, toss Frisbees and tailgate.

They don't have an arena that hosts concerts, speeches and sports, or a campus town of restaurants, bars, bookstores and (most importantly) a place where you can send back the stuff you really don't need from Amazon.

I have yet to see an office park that declares itself Orlando's Hometown Team.

And that's the biggest difference between the UCF I

described nearly 20 years ago and the one that exists today: UCF is embraced by the city, instead of separate from it.

In 2000, it looked to me like there was little direct connection with the city and the city seemed to have little interest in UCF. The campus was about 15 miles from downtown Orlando on the fringes of the metropolitan area. It was remote in distance and perception.

The football team played in what then was called the Citrus Bowl (today's Camping World Stadium) downtown. It was too big, too far from campus for students and drew too few Orlando residents to its games.

The transformation of UCF from office park to college campus began with the decision in 2007 to build a football stadium on-site and surround it with places to go and things to see. A winning Knights team not only filled the stadium, but gave all of Orlando something to identify with and cheer. It brought the university and the city closer together.

The downtown campus — which looks something like a hotel complex — continues that. The city and the univer-

sity today are more conjoined than ever. Part of the mission of the downtown campus is community involvement, bringing students and residents together. That's a big change from the days when UCF was distant and isolated from the city.

These days, I see UCF on bumper stickers, license plates, house flags, T-shirts and ball caps everywhere, not just on campus and not just students and alumni. I've also seen a change on campus — not only in a variety of architecture, but in a student body that reflects the demographic diversity of the city itself. I like that the classes I teach include not only hometown students, but those from China, Brazil, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Miami, Jacksonville and New York.

Every day for the past five years when I walk to my office I see what I missed in 2000 — a beauty and vitality that transcends brown brick.

Jeff Kunerth is a faculty member in UCF's Nicholson School of Communication and Media. He can be reached at Jeff.Kunerth@UCF.edu.

Florida National Cemetery Veterans Day ceremony set for Nov. 11 in Bushnell

The Florida National Cemetery Joint Veterans Support Committee (JVSC) will sponsor the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 11, at Florida National Cemetery.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Chaplain Linda Pugsley will be the keynote speaker. Steve Jerve of WFLA TV News Channel 8 in Tampa will be the master of ceremonies. There will be patriotic music prior to, and during the ceremony.

There will be a rifle salute by Sumter County Correctional Institute Honor Guard and a presentation of colors by the Arena Wranglers of the Blue Moon Ranch from Wildwood, and flags from various military organizations.

Guests are invited to arrive early and enjoy the patriotic and inspirational musical prelude which will begin shortly before the ceremony. Those attending are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit upon since seating is limited.

The Joint Veterans Support Committee and the Florida National Cemetery extend an invitation to all veterans' organizations and the public to take this opportunity to remember and honor those men and women who have passed, those who are currently serving and those who have served, that has given so much to protect our great nation.

Organizations with colors are invited to participate in the massing of colors at the beginning of the program. Veterans' organizations should plan to arrive by 9:30 a.m.

The Avenue of Flags consisting of some 400 flags will be on display along the roadways of the cemetery. These flags were donated to the cemetery by the next of kin of deceased veterans and were once draped over the caskets or cremation urns of veterans.

National Federation of Republican Women recognizes Brevard club for achievement

The Brevard Federated Republican Women won the national Diamond Award for Achievement during the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) 40th Biennial Convention held Sept. 27-29 in Indianapolis.

More than 400 awards were given to clubs which demonstrated excellence in several key areas.

The NFRW Achievement Awards program is designed to enhance teamwork among members of each club, said NFRW Achievement Awards Chairwoman Linda Smith of Kansas.

Using the Achievement Awards worksheet as a guide for planning club activities produces a well-balanced club program, she said. It establishes standards of performance for membership development, campaign activities, community relations, leadership development, programs and club functions.

"We are very pleased that one-third of our clubs, representing 40 states, earned an NFRW Achievement Award this biennium," Smith said. "It is the culmination of two years of diligent planning and hard work on the part of these club members, and we are proud to honor their efforts."

Founded in 1938, the National Federation of Republican Women is the largest and most influential Republican women's group in the nation, proudly representing the party that first made it possible for women to vote in the U.S.

The NFRW works to increase the effectiveness and relevance of women in the cause of good government. The mission remains to recruit and elect Republican candidates, promote the principles of the Republican Party, educate the public, and inform the media.

Karen Davis of Brevard Zoo to address the Business Women's Express Network

The Space Coast Business Women's Express Network, an affiliate of the American Business Women's Association, will host a luncheon at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club. The guest speaker will be Karen Davis, director of development at the Brevard Zoo. Her topic: "Seven Careers and Counting — Achieving Success and Joy Through Passion-Driven Choices." She is a former chief operating officer for Viera Realty Inc. Davis is a graduate of The American University and of Boston University School of Law. After graduating from law school, she joined the newly created National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and began a decade of involvement in the area of automobile safety, first as a practicing attorney and later as director of Consumer Affairs for that federal agency. Davis also worked 13 years for Long & Foster Realtors, at the time the largest privately owned real estate company in America. She served as vice president from 1994 to 2007, before moving to Florida. To register for the luncheon, email scwexpress@gmail.com.

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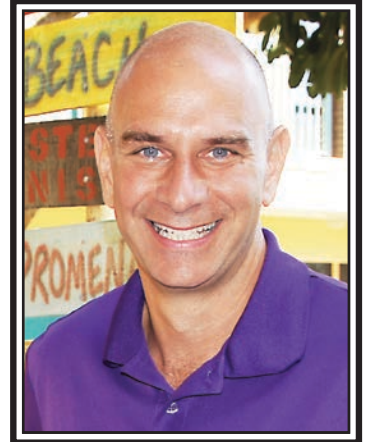
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Timothy Michaud

File photo

'Based upon my investigation as a criminal investigator with the Craven County Sheriff's Department there is probable cause to arrest Timothy Michaud for sexual assault on R(xxxx) Michaud.'

John Whitfield
May 7, 2010



Brevard County Sheriff's Office photo

'I need to report suspected abuse.'
Dana Delaney Loyd
aka Theresa Smith
to Florida Abuse Hotline
at 11:12 a.m., April 29, 2015



Brevard County Sheriff's Office photo

'Loyalty is everything to me!!!'
Sheriff Robert Wayne Ivey
to Dana Delaney Loyd
at 5:19 p.m., April 29, 2015

IS THE EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT A TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION?

BBN NOTE: John M. Stewart — a partner at Rossway Swan — is president the 107,000 member The Florida Bar.
BBN 3744 PAGE 5
To Be Continued ...

Veteran raises wall of her new home in city's first Female Veteran Habitat for Humanity of Brevard community

By Carey Gleason
carey@brevardhabitat.com
 Habitat for Humanity of Brevard County

COCOA — Habitat for Humanity of Brevard Inc. began building the second of its six planned Habitat homes in its first Female Veteran village Oct. 24.

Lisa, a Habitat homeowner and U.S. Navy veteran, is the second homeowner to join the community and is joined by local Home Depot associate volunteers to build her dream of a decent and affordable home.

"Female veterans in our community face significant economic challenges and are particularly vulnerable to housing cost burdens," said M. E. "Mary" Kelly, Habitat for Humanity of Brevard's executive director. "That's why we're especially thrilled about this community that will create an atmosphere of comradery and safety with our local women veterans. This wall raising ceremony is an important step, marking the beginning of a remarkable journey for our Habitat homeowner, Lisa."

According to a report by the National Housing

Conference, there are estimated over 67,000 veterans age 18 and older in Brevard County. Half of single veterans, including mothers, spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, making it more difficult to provide the most basic needs like food and paying bills all that more challenging.

A member of the U.S. Navy in 1989, Lisa was assigned to the USS Puget Sound during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. During her service tour, she sustained traumatic injuries which resulted in PTSD and received 100 percent disability pension.

Throughout many challenges, winding roads and family deaths, she never gave up. Because she didn't think she needed, qualified or deserved disability benefits, she had never thought to apply for Habitat for Humanity until recently.

Lisa said Habitat "is a new start in life for her." Adding, "Jesus is my corner stone; my home is the ending of His path for me."

The Home Depot Foundation is a national partner of Habitat for Humanity International and has invested more than \$19.2 million in Habitat's Repair Corps

program since 2011.

In addition to the donation to Habitat Brevard County's first all-women veteran community, The Home Depot's associate volunteer force, known as Team Depot, joined Habitat of Brevard County to build and celebrate the recent wall-raising.

In addition to the support of The Home Depot Foundation, Habitat Brevard County would not be able to complete this important work without the generosity of the City of Cocoa, Diamond Square Redevelopment Agency, Leonardo DRS, Northrop Grumman, Center State, Next Era Energy, Pen Fed Foundation, Guy and Delores Spearman and State Farm.

Why Female Veterans?

Nationwide, nearly 4 million veterans pay at least 30 percent of their income toward rent or mortgage, while more than 1.5 million pay at least 50 percent. Using half of your income to pay your rent or mortgage is an enormous strain on any budget. The veteran population in Brevard County age 18 or older is estimated at 67,084, or 15 percent, of the total population. Of the total Brevard veterans, 13,674, or 20.4 percent, are veterans with service-connected disabilities. Among them are 4,764 living below the poverty level, and 1,844 with both a disability and living below the poverty level.

Our female veteran population is in need as well as they are typically overlooked. According to a report by the National Housing Conference, nearly half of our veterans who are single and or single mothers spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. Our female veterans face significant economic and housing challenges and are particularly vulnerable to housing cost burdens. Likewise, our most recent veterans who served following 9/11 have returned to a slow-growing economy and rising housing costs. These economic factors have made the transition from military service to civilian life difficult for many of our veterans.

● About Habitat Brevard

Safe, decent and affordable housing is the centerpiece of all Habitat builds. Habitat offers limited income Veterans the opportunity to purchase affordable, secure and well-built homes with a zero-interest mortgage. Program requirements for qualifying applicants include 300 sweat equity hours and completion of homeowner preparatory classes.

Celebrating more than 35 years of building houses, building hope in Brevard County, Habitat for Humanity of Brevard is a nonprofit, non-denominational Christian housing ministry that has successfully constructed recycled and remodeled more than 450 homes. Dedicated to eradicating substandard housing by building simple, decent, affordable homes in partnership with low and very-low income families in need, Habitat for Humanity is a catalyst for individual and community transformation. Learn more at www.brevardhabitat.com.

● About The Home Depot Foundation

The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap and support communities impacted by natural disasters. Since 2011, the Foundation has invested more than \$315 million in veteran causes and improved more than 45,000 veteran homes and facilities in 4,300 cities. In 2018, the Foundation pledged an additional \$250 million to veteran causes taking the total commitment to half of a billion dollars by 2025.

To learn more about The Home Depot Foundation, visit HomeDepotFoundation.org and follow us on Twitter @HomeDepotFound and Facebook + Instagram@HomeDepotFoundation.

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FSU moves veterans film presentation off campus for first time to increase community engagement

By Amy Farnum-Patronis
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Florida State University

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State University's annual screening of a veteran-themed film in honor of Veterans Day will take place off campus for the first time in an effort to broaden community outreach.

The university will present "Above the Best," an immersive documentary-narrative feature film, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, at CMX Cinemas Fallschase. The event is open to the public, and admission is complimentary.

"Above the Best" is based on the best-selling book "South of Heaven" and tells the story of Apache pilot Dan Flores and his year of deployment to the most dangerous valley in Afghanistan.

"Florida State strives to showcase filmmakers who shine a light on our nation's veterans, and the university is eager to make these films as accessible as possible," said Paul Cohen, director of FSU's College of Motion Picture Arts Torchlight Cinematheque.

The event, which previously took place at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall, is in its ninth year of existence and was originally created to heighten awareness of veterans' issues among the campus and local community.

"We are thrilled to host this year's screening at Tallahassee's newest state-of-the-art theater, CMX Cinemas," Cohen said. "We are hoping the venue will attract veterans and film buffs from throughout the region."

"Above the Best" offers a stunning, immersive ride with an Apache gun ship pilot during his year in the fight within the Hindu Kush Mountains and the Korengal Valley. Through actual, aerial combat footage and corresponding video from soldiers on the ground, the film brings the audience into the cockpit and on the

ground at the same time like no other film in history.

The film is the fourth from co-directors David Salzberg and Christian Tureaud to be featured in Florida State's annual festival, and the university is recognized in the film's credits. "The commitment that FSU has for the active duty military and veteran community is second to none in America," Salzberg said.

Salzberg, along with special guests, will participate in a question-and-answer session with the audience following the screening.

The film's producer, Angelo Paletta, added: "We are honored to be part of the outstanding program that FSU provides through film and storytelling that helps show the country what service and real valor is all about."

Before the film is presented, Billy Dean, country music star and Quincy native, will sing the National Anthem.

"Florida State University has a campus-wide commitment to the success of its student-veterans, and the College of Motion Picture Arts Torchlight Cinematheque is proud to contribute to this culture of respect for the difficult work of American soldiers while continuing to bring the power of story to the Tallahassee community," said Reb Braddock, dean of the College of Motion Picture Arts.

This year's screening is being presented by the College of Motion Picture Arts Torchlight Cinematheque in association with the FSU Veterans Alliance.

Each of the event's first eight films has been nominated for numerous awards, including Academy Awards. The previous marquee films were "Hell and Back Again" (2011); "The Invisible War" (2012); "Which Way is the Front Line from Here? The Life and Time of Tim Hetherington" (2013), "Last Days in Vietnam" (2014), "The Hornet's Nest" (2015), "Citizen Soldier" (2016), "Apache Warrior" (2017) and "Memphis Belle" (2018).

Studios of Cocoa Beach to showcase the work of John Cielukowski

John Cielukowski is the November Artist of the Month at the Studios of Cocoa Beach. His acrylic paintings feature vintage amusement park scenes, farm animals, domestic and feral felines and industrial landscapes.

"I focus on painting what interests and fascinates me. I also try to promote awareness of animal welfare issues with my feral cat and farm animal paintings," he said.

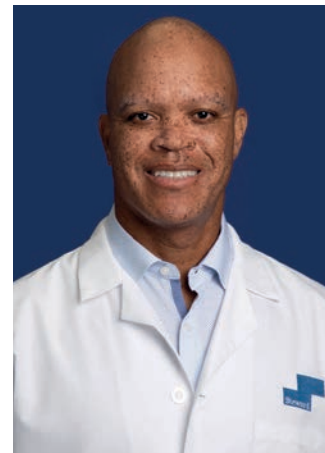
He donates his work to local organizations such as The Brevard Achievement Center, and The Space Coast Feline Network, as well as national organizations like Farm Sanctuary for their fundraising efforts.

Cielukowski received his bachelor's degree in fine arts from Montclair University in New Jersey. He also studied at the School of Visual Arts and The Art Students League in New York City. He is a founding member of the Studios of Cocoa Beach. Cielukowski is also an active member of the Central Brevard Art Association, where he is one of the directors of their "Art in Public Spaces" program.

A giclee print of his painting "Red Star Express" will be the prize in the Studios of Cocoa Beach's monthly giveaway. To enter this free drawing, visit the Studios of Cocoa Beach any day in November. It is located at 165 Minuteman Causeway in downtown Cocoa Beach. For more information about its exhibits, its artists and its workshop schedules, call (321) 613-3480 or visit www.studiosofcocoa beach.org.

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Kenneth Sands, MD



Anthony Lombardo, MD

Orthopedic Surgeons and Joint Pain Specialists Kenneth Sands, MD and Anthony Lombardo, MD joined Steward Medical Group on October 31.

Dr. Sands is Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery and specializes in minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery to relieve joint pain. His new location is 240 N. Wickham Rd., Suite 102, Melbourne, FL 32935.

Dr. Lombardo is Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine and has been specializing in Sports Medicine in Brevard County since 1989. His new location is 240 N. Wickham Rd., Suite 108, Melbourne, FL 32935.

To make an appointment at their new location please call 321-541-1777 or visit melbourneregional.org.


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JFK's 'Moonshot Mandate' to be explored by experts Nov. 6 at a symposium set for Florida Tech; free event

By Adam Lowenstein
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Florida Tech News Bureau

1961, John F. Kennedy challenged the nation to send men to the moon and return them safely. Two years later, on Nov. 16, 1963, he visited NASA's "new Merritt Island Launch area" to check on the progress of his bold mandate, speaking with James Webb and Wernher von Braun, touring launch facilities and viewing a submarine-launched missile.

Kennedy did not live to see that his mission was accomplished in July 1969.

Yet his recognition of the importance of exploration beyond Earth and his understanding of how doing so could unify a nation and supercharge technological discovery continues to thrive a half-century later.

But what is the historical and cultural significance of President Kennedy's vision? How have various agents, from universities to politics, shifted and shaped that vision to reflect our modern times? And what does the future hold, as commercial space companies rise and lunar and Martian colonization inch closer to reality?

A gathering of experts from across the country will tackle those questions and more at JFK's "Moonshot Mandate: Then, Now and Destiny," a free, half-day symposium Nov. 6 at Florida Tech's Gleason Performing Arts Center on the Melbourne campus.

Presented by Florida Tech, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and the Universities Space Research Association (USRA), the event will feature three panel discussions examining the past, present

and future of space exploration in the shadow of Apollo 11, and a special screening of the "Florida Today" Apollo 11 documentary, "People of Apollo."

Doors open at 7:30 a.m., with continental breakfast offered until the symposium begins with opening remarks at 8:30 a.m. Panel discussions start at 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. The event resumes at 1:30 p.m. with the documentary presentation and concludes for the day at 2:30 p.m.

Special guests include Apollo 15 astronaut and command module pilot Al Worden, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Executive Director Steven Rothstein and USRA President and CEO Jeffrey Isaacson.

Former CNN space correspondent John Zarrella will serve as master of ceremonies.

Panelists scheduled to participate are:

- Andrew Aldrin, director of Florida Tech's Aldrin Space Institute
- Saida Caballero-Nieves, assistant professor, Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences, Florida Tech
- Alyssa Carson, astrobiology student at Florida Tech and the youngest person to graduate from the Advanced Space Academy
- Suzanne "Suzy" Cunningham, strategy and integration manager for communication and public engagement, NASA Kennedy Space Center
- Scott Henderson, vice president, test and flight operations, Florida site director, Blue Origin
- Jeffrey Isaacson, president and CEO, USRA
- David Kring, principal scientist, Lunar and Planetary Institute at USRA
- Dwayne McCay, president, Florida Tech
- Shawn Quinn, director of engineering, NASA

Kennedy Space Center

- Steven Rothstein, executive director, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation
- Winston Scott, former shuttle astronaut, NASA
- Bob Sieck, former director of shuttle processing at Kennedy Space Center
- Cynthia Simmons, deputy director of planning and business management operations, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
- Lee Solid, retired senior executive, Rockwell Space Operations
- Al Worden, former Apollo astronaut, NASA

Following the panel discussions, guests are invited to view a presentation of People of Apollo, the special Apollo 11 50th anniversary documentary from Florida Today that looks at the Apollo program through the eyes of people who worked on the program. Tim Walters, who produced, wrote and edited the film, will offer a brief introduction prior to the screening.

Attendees are asked to RSVP by Nov. 1 by visiting www.floridatech.edu/apollo50th, where additional details, including an event agenda and bios on all panelists, are also available.

● About the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation
The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization founded in 1984 to provide financial support, staffing, and creative resources for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, a presidential library administered by the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Kennedy Presidential Library and the Kennedy Library Foundation seek to promote, through educational and community programs, a greater appreciation and understanding of American politics, history, and culture, the process of governing and the importance of public service. Visit www.jfklibrary.org/ for more information.

● About Universities Space Research Association
Founded in 1969, under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences at the request of the U.S. Government, the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) is a nonprofit corporation chartered to advance space-related science, technology and engineering.

USRA operates scientific institutes and facilities, and conducts other major research and educational programs, under federal funding. USRA engages the university community and employs in-house scientific leadership, innovative research and development, and project management expertise. More information about USRA is available at www.usra.edu/.

● About Florida Institute of Technology
Florida Tech was founded in 1958 at the dawn of the Space Race that would soon define the Atlantic coast of Florida and captivate the nation.

Now the premier private technological university in the Southeast, Florida Tech is a Tier 1 Best National University in U.S. News & World Report and one of just nine schools in Florida lauded by the Fiske Guide to Colleges. Florida Tech is ranked among the top 5 percent of 18,000 degree-granting institutions worldwide in the 2018-19 World University Rankings and has been named a Top College and Best Value University for 2019 by Forbes.

Florida Tech offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in aeronautics and aviation, engineering, computing and cybersecurity, business, science and mathematics, psychology, education and communication. Learn more about our relentless pursuit of greatness at www.fit.edu.

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'Lost in the weeds?' University of Florida guide sifts through the differences between non-native plant lists

By Kirsten Romaguera
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UF/IFAS Communications
University of Florida

GAINESVILLE — With subtropical to tropical climates, the entire state of Florida is a biodiverse haven where many native and non-native plant species thrive. But over the years, many non-native invasive varieties have been introduced throughout the state, whether intentionally or accidentally, that outcompete native plants for space and resources.

An abundance of information is available for interested Floridians to identify which plants are not recommended based on their potential negative impacts on native ecosystems. The information is so plentiful, in fact, that it can be difficult to determine which source is best.

This dilemma was the impetus behind "Lost in the Weeds?: A Comprehensive Guide to Florida's Many Non-Native Plant Lists," a new document available through the University of Florida/IFAS Extension's online collection, EDIS.

"The ultimate goal of the document was to clarify what each of these lists mean and do," said Deah Lieurance, author of the publication and an assistant Extension scientist with the UF/IFAS agronomy department. "It can be confusing for people to determine which list to use to find the information they are seeking."

The document focuses on five primary lists that Floridians can consult, although other lists are available.

"I think a lot of people in the state have an understanding about invasive species as a whole, but maybe more specifically on the animal side," Lieurance said. "When you narrow it down to plants, there's a little more confusion or there's not as much media coverage out there. Just because it's green and lush, doesn't mean it's good for the ecosystem."

While all five lists are based on scientific data that supports identifying plants' invasion risks, and there is some overlap among the lists, the document makes clear that only the state and federal lists are regulatory.

"There are penalties if you in any way transport any part of the plants that appear on the Federal Noxious Weed List," explained Lieurance, who is also affiliated with the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. "The two state lists, the Florida Noxious Weed List and the Florida Prohibited Aquatic Plant List, also legally prohibit movement within the state. There are two lists because they used to be handled by two different agencies, but the Florida

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services now controls both of those lists."

Lyn Gettys, the other author and associate professor of agronomy based at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, adds that the lists are not exhaustive, though.

"People should understand that government noxious/prohibited plant lists don't include all invasive species," Gettys said. "Also, inclusion on one of the other 'non-regulatory' lists doesn't necessarily mean you can't cultivate a particular plant but that it would be environmentally responsible to consider a native alternative instead."

Lieurance says the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's list, which is non-regulatory, is the most used in the state, largely because it is the most well-known. She is also the council's incoming chair and a member of the plant list committee.

But Lieurance suggests that users may find the UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas, which she coordinates, to be the most comprehensive source of information.

"The Assessment gives users the ability to filter information that fits their needs," Lieurance said. "It lets you see only north, central or south zones of the state, or look up, for example, what vines the University of Florida recommends for planting."

The Assessment is not regulatory, but all who are affiliated with UF — including Extension specialists and Master Gardeners — must adhere to its recommendations, Lieurance notes. It also features links to other helpful resources, such as the USDA Plants Database, a citizen data collection tool called "EDDMapS," the Atlas of Florida Plants and the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants.

"Through the UF/IFAS Extension and Master Gardener networks, we can reach a lot of people," Lieurance said. "Our efforts can make a difference in promoting the importance of doing what we can to protect native species."

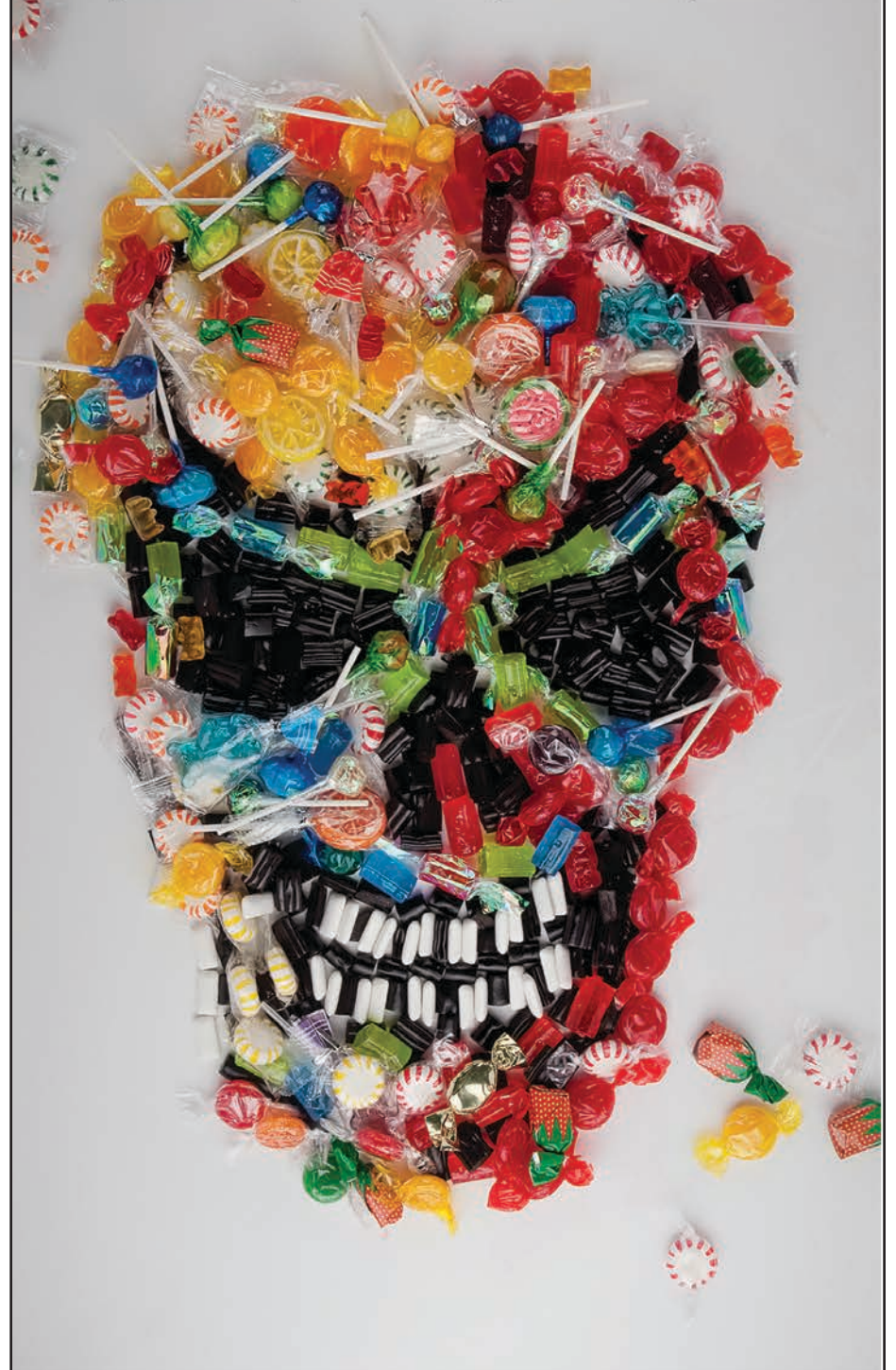
● About the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

The mission of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is to develop knowledge relevant to agricultural, human and natural resources and to make that knowledge available to sustain and enhance the quality of human life.

With more than a dozen research facilities, 67 county Extension offices, and award-winning students and faculty in the UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, UF/IFAS works to bring science-based solutions to the state's agricultural and natural resources industries, and all Florida residents. Visit the UF/IFAS website at ifas.ufl.edu and follow us on social media at @UF_IFAS.

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Businesses are honored with awards singling them out as Exceptional Employers of people with disabilities

By Melanie Etters
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 Agency for Persons with Disabilities

TALLAHASSEE — Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), Blind Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation recently recognized 12 businesses with an Exceptional Employer Award for hiring people with disabilities. These companies from across the state were recognized with plaques made by people with disabilities. The 14th annual celebration was held at Tallahassee City Hall as part of recognizing October as Disability Employment Awareness Month.

The Exceptional Employer Awards are presented to companies that have a strong commitment to employing and retaining people with unique abilities. Event sponsors were the City of Tallahassee, Able Trust, and RESPECT of Florida.

The 12 award-winning businesses are: Accuform Manufacturing; Aramark Dining; Services at Jacksonville University; Army and Air Force Exchange Service; Bob's Space Racers; Chartwells at the University of Miami; Cleveland Clinic Martin Health; The Home Depot; Florida Department of Revenue; Golden Corral; The Chocolate Spectrum; Wawa Inc.; and ZVRS of Clearwater.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said, "I want to ensure that Florida's educational system, economy, environment, and job market are welcoming to all, including those with unique abilities. We are proud that our state government works with businesses to support efforts to have an inclusive workforce. It is important for the public and private sectors to support citizens with unique abilities so they can achieve their dreams by going to work and remaining a vital part of their communities."

APD Director Barbara Palmer said, "We are so very excited to honor these deserving companies from across Florida for their commitment to employing a diverse workforce. These business leaders know that individuals with unique abilities are some of the most dependable employees within their organization. We are trying to spread the word that hiring a person with a disability makes good business sense."

"Employment is important to all Floridians," said Ken Lawson, executive director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. "We are pleased to recognize the businesses in our state that hire individuals with disabilities."

These businesses, much like the businesses in the Unique Abilities Partner Program, see the importance of employing all Floridians so they can continue to strengthen the workplace and their communities."

Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Allison Flanagan said, "It is a pleasure to honor and applaud the employers who are diversifying their workforce and looking beyond the disability."

Individuals with disabilities not only become an integral part of their business but also enhance the community and the spirit of an inclusive workforce."

"We are privileged to honor these exceptional employers in Florida for their strong commitment to hiring individuals with disabilities," said CareerSource Florida President and CEO Michelle Dennard. "These companies recognize that a diverse and inclusive talent pool is essential to ensuring Florida's businesses are strong and its workforce is competitive."

"We commend this year's Exceptional Employer winners for the work they are doing in providing opportunities for the disability community to earn — and, in turn, save for whatever the future may hold," said John Finch, Director of ABLE United.

Speakers at the event included Lively Technical College employee Jeremy Richard, Millennium Nail & Day Spa Trainee Torey Roberts, and Cayer Behavioral Group employee Connor Yeatts, who shared what having a job means to them.

Here is information on the 12 winning companies:

● **Accuform Manufacturing**

This medium-sized manufacturing business located in Brooksville has partnered with The Arc Nature Coast for more than 10 years to provide current jobs for 10 individuals with developmental disabilities. These people work four at a time on the production floor counting tags, sorting, then bagging them. Some individuals without disabilities find this task too tedious but not this group of dedicated workers. Individuals are there five days a week helping Accuform Manufacturing with their bottom line. In addition to this group of individuals, Accuform has employed another individual who went through Vocational Rehabilitation to land their job.

● **Aramark Dining Services at Jacksonville University**

This food service provider with multiple locations on the campus of Jacksonville University works closely with

Jacksonville's Pine Castle Employment program in matching people to jobs. Aramark has hired seven individuals with unique abilities. Three other employees went through the Vocational Rehabilitation program in securing their positions. Pine Castle Employment Director Tommy Holston, who nominated this organization, said, "We recognize this employer for seeing the long-term value that Floridians with disabilities contribute to the local workforce in Duval and surrounding counties. It is interesting to see how they apply the 'Can Do' philosophy, which focuses on what an individual is capable of doing instead of what their limitations are. For this, we are grateful."

● **Army and Air Force Exchange Service**

This retail and food facilities organization, serving on our military bases in Florida, does an excellent job hiring people with disabilities. Fifteen people who received Vocational Rehabilitation services were hired across the state. On MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, they employ 35 individuals with unique abilities. Of that number, three employees were hired through the Division of Blind Services and Lighthouse for the Blind and Low Vision. At the MacDill Air Force Base store, more than 13 percent of their employees have disabilities, which has increased from 2 percent in the past six years. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service works to accommodate its employees by allowing them flexible schedules so they may use public transportation or para-transit, plus natural supports to get to work.

● **Bob's Space Racers**

Bob's Space Racers is the company that creates games the world plays. This unique business in Volusia County has been in business for 50 years providing games and management services to the arcade and parks industry. This company originally created the popular Whack-A-Mole game. They have four long-standing employees with disabilities in their workforce. Two employees are disabled veterans, one individual has a hearing impairment, and another person has a developmental disability. This employer always treats its employees with dignity and kindness. The employees look forward to going to work every day, and the management and other coworkers include them in decision-making, and just the regular office fun. These are wonderful people and a wonderful company.

● **Chartwells at the University of Miami**

This food service provider has several locations on the campus of the University of Miami. Chartwells has an extremely long history of hiring people with special abilities. There are five individuals with unique abilities on the payroll. One person named Gene has been working there 24 years and another gentleman has been there 14 years. In addition, Chartwell's allows student to do on-the-job training to make them more marketable by learning how to work in the food service industry. This business goes above and beyond to meet the needs of its employees and students in training.

● **Cleveland Clinic Martin Health**

This health care organization has a long history of mentoring students through the Project Search model where students are enrolled in the year-long program. They attend classroom learning in the morning and then conduct on-the-job training in the afternoons. They are learning job skills in three hospital departments. At locations in Stuart and in Port St. Lucie, students have transitioned into jobs at the hospitals and into the community. From the Martin County location, 12 people with disabilities are working in the hospital, while 28 are employed in the local community. At the recently begun Project Search in Port St. Lucie, four individuals are working in the hospital, while two are in jobs in the community. The students have a dedicated mentor in each department allowing them the time to develop their skills at their own pace.

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Please see Exceptional Employer Awards, page 11

Exceptional Employer Awards

Continued from page 10

● The Home Depot

This statewide winner is committed to hiring lots of people with unique abilities. Over the past 10 years, 385 individuals have been successfully employed having gone through the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Hiring people with disabilities at The Home Depot goes back even farther, with some employees being on the job for 25 and 30 years. One customer of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Stephen Abend of Plantation, is looking forward to eventually retiring from the company with more than 12 years on the books. Another store that demonstrates its commitment to people with unique abilities is the Gulf to Bay Store in Clearwater. This store has five people on the payroll with unique abilities. They all feel they have a career with The Home Depot. The company ensures they feel valuable and invests the time to make these individuals achieve success. They provide extra time to learn their jobs and new tasks. They assist with training. The Home Depot has embraced diversity and set a great standard for other companies by showing everyone can work.

● Florida Department of Revenue

This state agency continues to step up its efforts to hire people with disabilities. The Department of Revenue is headquartered in our state capital. There are more than 100 individuals with disabilities employed by the Department that have been granted accommodations through the agency. The Department of Revenue has hired two people with visual disabilities through the Division of Blind Services. One individual works in General Tax Administration, while the second person works in Child Support Enforcement. DBS sent a Rehabilitation Engineer who did an assessment of the software being used by the Department of Revenue. Then the Engineer scripted the software to make it accessible for

individuals using a screen reader. This accommodation ensured there were no barriers for the person to be able to do the job. The newest Revenue employee glows about his supervisor who has been so understanding and flexible, saying she is really great to work with and open to hiring people with disabilities.

● Golden Corral

Across the state, Golden Corral Restaurants have hired 62 individuals with a variety of disabilities through Vocational Rehabilitation. We are highlighting the Golden Corral Restaurant in Inverness for its longstanding commitment to hiring and retaining employees with unique abilities. This restaurant has five people on their team. One individual has been working for more than 15 years at this location. These workers do a variety of duties including dishwashing, cleaning, customer service, maintaining the drink area, and manning the kitchen. The manager says these workers want to learn new things, and that they are reliable and dependable employees.

● The Chocolate Spectrum

The Chocolate Spectrum is a family owned and operated artisan chocolate company. This business was created by the owner, Valerie, in her kitchen in 2013 to help her son, Blake, who has autism. The company moved into a shop in Jupiter in 2016 and employs four individuals with autism. The café also provides on-the-job apprentice training and has 15 participating students. This company has received grants for providing training to those with disabilities. This successful business has expanded into two other locations. It also provides meaning and socialization for these people who may otherwise be unemployed.

● Wawa Inc.

As this business continues to expand in Florida, they are including people with disabilities in their workforce. Over the

past five years, Wawa has employed 54 individuals at their various stores. In the Tampa–St. Petersburg area, the stores there are committed to hiring and supporting individuals with unique abilities. Since 2017, managers have consistently recruited, hired, and trained Agency for Persons with Disabilities customers. One manager was instrumental in seven people being hired over the past two years.

Wawa is flexible in scheduling working hours. They allow Job Coaches to work alongside the employees to model desired behaviors. Wawa promotes independence and provides opportunities for people with disabilities to excel.

● ZVRS of Clearwater

ZVRS provides video relay services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. There are 25 individuals working at this company with a disability—which is almost everyone. The vast majority are deaf or hard of hearing. Over the past 10 years, they have hired 10 people through the Vocational Rehabilitation program. This location reached out to The Arc–Tampa Bay looking for someone to work in their warehouse doing a variety of tasks. The company allowed the Employment Specialist or Job Coach to assist this new employee. They allowed him extra time to master skills and a flexible work schedule due to transportation issues. ZVRS has shown compassion, patience, support, understanding, flexibility, and friendship to all of its employees.

● About Agency for Persons with Disabilities

APD supports people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, and work in their communities. The agency annually serves more than 55,000 Floridians with severe forms of autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, Phelan–McDermid syndrome, and Prader–Willi syndrome.

For more information, visit APDcares.org or call toll free 1-866-APD-CARES.

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MRAM Engineering Surplus & Appliance Parts is a technology treasure trove; approved e-scrap recycler — works with businesses, provides bins and pickup

By Ken Datzman

PALM BAY — Surplus comes in all shapes and sizes. And MRAM Engineering Surplus & Appliance Parts, with an estimated more than 15,000 items on its shelves and new inventory being processed weekly, is a technology treasure trove that sets itself apart in the area.

The store, situated on a 2.5-acre site at 3060 Dixie Highway, is a haven for engineers, technicians, tradesmen, inventors, do-it-yourselfers, hobbyists, and others who are attracted to an inventory of goods that resembles an engineering salvage yard.

The business is located just south of Glenn's Tire & Service on U.S. 1. The store is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

MRAM Engineering Surplus showcases a plethora of electronic, electro-mechanical, electro-optical, chemical, military, computer, and network equipment.

It also sells cables and adaptors, AC/DC motors, all types of tested power supplies and cases, resistors and capacitors, integrated circuits, power cords, HDMI cables, VGA cables, wire, even turntables, and heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning repair parts.

MRAM Engineering Surplus' slogan is "technology repurposed." Under one roof, there are many different items for sale, all for pennies on the dollar compared to the original price of yesteryear.

"In the last three or four years, a lot of engineers have moved to Brevard County to work for various companies, and many of them now know of MRAM. So that is a good thing," said businessowner John Sessa, who himself worked as an electrical engineer for many years locally, including for DRS Optronics and DBA Systems Inc.

He added, "We have a large selection of electronic equipment and components, and much more. We sell a lot of appliance parts. We've become a depot for the do-it-yourselfer and quite a few tradesmen that use us as their parts department."

His store recently received an ammeter, an instrument used to measure the current in a circuit. The ammeter had the name "Edison" marked on it. "We put it on eBay and it sold quickly," he said.

MRAM Engineering Surplus sees some unusual items come its way. Recently, a 1960s X-ray machine was dropped off at its store.

The veteran-owned family business remarkets various types of technology, either as a whole unit, as a subassembly, or as components.

You can find refurbished laptops at MRAM Engineering Surplus. "We upgrade the laptops with solid state drives. They are like new machines. They boot up incredibly faster than the machines with old mechanical drives," said Sessa.

In May 2013, Sessa purchased the business, which was then known as Astro Too. The legacy company had a 20-year history in South Brevard. Sessa renamed the business and has revived and expanded it.

"We are growing right along with Brevard County," he said. "Our store's visibility has been rising, and a lot of that has to do with the county's expanding technology base."

MRAM Engineering Surplus sells Arduino boards. Arduino is an open-source hardware and software company for the project and user community that designs and manufactures single-board microcontrollers and microcontroller kits for building digital devices.



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

John Sessa, an electrical engineer, is the owner of MRAM Engineering Surplus & Appliance Parts on Dixie Highway in Palm Bay. The business has thousands of low-cost items for sale and is a treasure trove for engineers, technicians, tradesmen, inventors, do-it-yourselfers, and hobbyists, among others. The company also sells Weather King sheds and buildings. His store is located just south of Glenn's Tire & Service. MRAM is registered with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as an electronics-scrap recycler of non-hazardous waste.

"A lot of young engineers like to use Arduino, which is a small processor board that is generic in nature, and you can do almost anything with it. And there is one called Raspberry Pi. It's a mini-computer, a processor. Both Arduino and Raspberry Pi are used in a lot of robotics," said Sessa.

When technology-oriented small businesses in the region close and there is inventory available, Sessa's company checks the goods to see how and if they would fit into his store's growing stable of products.

"The items we sell are either reclaimed or they are surplus. In some cases, if a firm goes out of business, we

might buy their inventory. We have a network of contacts we tap to build our inventory."

MRAM Engineering Surplus also stocks a lot of amateur radio, or "ham" radio, parts.

"We have a lot of connectors, wires and RF components, things the ham radio operators are looking for. The ham radio is always reliable when other systems are down or overloaded. You can always count on amateur radio to get your message through. An example was the recent hurricane in the Bahamas. Ham operators had constant communication with people there," he said.

Radio amateurs, often called "hams," enjoy radio

Please see MRAM Engineering Surplus & Appliance Parts, page 19

Junior League to showcase 35th 'Festival of Trees' in Viera — 'Cooking with Mrs. Claus' for kids; Vendor Marketplace; seeking donations of trees, wreaths

By Ken Datzman

Soon, it will begin to look a lot like Christmas in the community. And one service-driven organization will be leading the way creating a festive atmosphere with its classic holiday event that typically attracts more than 1,000 people from around the county.

Every year for more than three decades, a team of women from Junior League of South Brevard Inc. has put on a family event that residents now see as the kickoff of the holiday season in the region.

The Junior League of South Brevard's long-running flagship fundraiser "Festival of Trees" is considered by many the one event that opens the local holiday schedule of activities hosted by various community groups and organizations during November and December.

Attending Festival of Trees over the years has become a tradition for many families in the area, with Santa Claus always making a visit.

"I grew up going to Festival of Trees in Brevard County. I looked forward to it every year. This event is a staple in the community," said Koramarie Dieguez, the public relations chairwoman for Junior League of South Brevard.

"And this year is special, because as an organization we are marking the 35th anniversary of Festival of Trees," added Junior League of South Brevard's Savanna Robinson, co-chairwoman of the 2019 Festival of Trees.

Anna Kiriazes, the communications director for Junior League of South Brevard, says Festival of Trees "is one of my favorite events of the year. I feel like I get to show my crafty side. I love holiday decorating. In November, I start decorating my house for the holidays. And I keep the decorations up until Three Kings Day (a Christian feast day celebrated annually on Jan. 6)."

Dieguez, Robinson, and Kiriazes all work for L3Harris and are part of a Junior League of South Brevard committee that is organizing the 2019 Festival of Trees. "We never planned it that way for this event. It just happens to be that we all work for L3Harris," said Robinson.

Robinson is a procurement manager with the Melbourne-based global company. Dieguez is a subcontract manager working mainly with aviation customers of the Federal Aviation Administration. And Kiriazes is a quality engineer in the Space and Airborne Systems sector.

Being involved in Junior League of South Brevard is one way they give back to the community. Since its founding in 1901 by social worker Mary Harriman, Junior League has evolved into one of the largest and most effective women's volunteer organizations in America.

Since 1966, Junior League of South Brevard has worked to better the community through its service projects. And the organization raises money for its projects through events such as Festival of Trees. The event brings families together to enjoy a full day of holiday festivities, including a popular health-focused part of the program for kids called "Cooking with Mrs. Claus."

The Junior League of South Brevard will present its 35th Festival of Trees from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, at Viera Regional Park Community Center. The address is 2300 Judge Fran Jamieson Way. Tickets are \$5. Children age 2 and younger will be admitted free of charge. Tickets are sold at the event and online at www.JLSB.net/FOT.

Last year, an estimated 1,050 people attended Festival of Trees, said Robinson. "Our goal this year is to have 1,250 people. The event is scheduled before the hectic time



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Junior League of South Brevard's 35th annual Festival of Trees is set for Nov. 23 at the Viera Regional Park Community Center. Christmas trees and wreaths will be auctioned. There will be a full day of activities for children, including 'Cooking with Mrs. Claus,' a program that promotes healthy eating. From left, the Junior League of South Brevard team includes: Koramarie Dieguez, public relations chairwoman for Junior League of South Brevard; Savanna Robinson, co-chairwoman for Festival of Trees; and Anna Kiriazes, communications director, Junior League of South Brevard. They all work for L3Harris. They are at Junior League's office in Melbourne.

of the season when the holiday rush begins. We want people to embody that holiday spirit at Festival of Trees."

Dieguez says she has been busy publicizing Festival of Trees. "We're using various websites and platforms, and doing PR blasts to get the word out. There are lots of new residents in Brevard who are not familiar with Festival of Trees. Hopefully, we can reach some of them. The county is growing and more people are moving here. We want to introduce them to Festival of Trees."

The event is called Festival of Trees because it features Christmas trees and holiday wreaths of all sizes decorated and donated by area designers, organizations, individuals, and Junior League of South Brevard members. The trees and wreaths are available for purchase.

The public can also order festive poinsettias to decorate their home for the holiday season. There are different pot

sizes offered and they are available in red, white or pink.

The poinsettias come from the same grower that supplies Disney World in Orlando. To place an order, visit the event webpage, JLSB.net/FOT.

The Festival of Trees will include a Vendor Marketplace featuring a range of holiday gifts for sale, everything from chocolates to women's cosmetics. There will be a Bake Sale, too.

The trees and wreaths will be available for purchase via a silent auction. Junior League of South Brevard will have an online bidding site. "People can come to the event and spend an hour or two enjoying themselves. When they go home, they can continue bidding on a tree or wreath," said Robinson.

Please see 'Festival of Trees,' page 21

Scott Center to host Telehealth Forum on Nov. 12, range of topics to include insurance reimbursement

By Courtenay Porter
 cporter@fit.edu
 The Scott Center for Autism Treatment

Florida Tech and the Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center are partnering to deliver a daylong forum on telehealth, the increasingly important practice that uses technology to provide a wide range of health-care services including diagnosis, management and education.

The Florida Telehealth Forum is set for Tuesday, Nov. 12, at Florida Tech's Hartley Room. The event is designed to deliver insights and practical strategies for implementing telehealth services in a variety of settings.

The Forum is ideal for health-care professionals, administrators and students who want to learn more about how to develop or expand telehealth technologies to improve patient outcomes.

Professionals at the Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center (SETRC) will present the following topics: school-based telehealth programs; child and adolescent telehealth behavioral services; insurance reimbursement; return-on-

investment for your program; legal considerations; and successful grant writing strategies.

Based in Waycross, Ga., and serving a region comprised of Georgia, Florida, Alabama and South Carolina, SETRC provides insight and direction regarding the advancement of telehealth and encourages collaboration among existing telehealth networks and programs. Its role is meant to be complementary to the activities of telemedicine programs in the Southeast, such as the autism telehealth program at Florida Tech's Scott Center for Autism Treatment.

"SETRC and The Scott Center share a mission to foster the widespread application of educational and clinical support services through telehealth programs," said Boyd Mark, director of telehealth for The Scott Center for Autism Treatment.

The Scott Center's Telehealth Program provides consultation and services through remote technology such as video conferencing, mobile phones, and internet portals. Telehealth offers the same benefits of meeting with your provider in their office, only now you can do it from your own home.

"The Scott Center for Autism Treatment is honored to

participate in this event as part of our ongoing telehealth mission to provide autism treatment services to a wider audience nationwide," said Lisa Steelman, dean of Florida Tech's College of Psychology and Liberal Arts.

Continuing Education Credits are available for eligible Forum participants.

Tickets are \$49 for a full day and \$29 for a half day. Visit www.TheScottCenter.org to register and view the agenda.

● About The Scott Center for Autism Treatment

The Scott Center for Autism Treatment at Florida Tech pursues a three-fold mission of clinical service, research and training to improve the quality of life for children and families affected by autism. Parents and children from around the world come to the Scott Center for the most advanced autism treatment methods available. A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization, the Scott Center is an integrated component of Florida Tech's School of Psychology and Applied Behavior. The Scott Center is ranked among the best in the world for its research contributions to the field of behavior analysis. Visit www.thescottcenter.org for more information.

Serene Harbor thanks community for supporting Casino Night, event a big success, raised over \$67,000

By Beverly DeMeyer
 beverly.demeyer@sereneharbor.org
 Serene Harbor, Inc.

Greetings!

What a spectacular time we had at Casino Night! Many people and companies joined in to make this event a success. We are so very blessed to have such amazing support from our community. Together we raised over \$67,000! Thank you!

Our sponsors are truly the best, with many years of supporting Serene Harbor. Thank you.

Our speakers and emcees for the night — Mindy Levy from Lite Rock 99.3, Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey, Timmy Vee and Maribel Garcia — were amazing, informative, and kept us on track.

The message of community support from Sheriff Ivey and the impact domestic violence has in our community was helpful and appreciated. Maribel's story of tragedy to triumph gives other survivors the hope for a better future.

Thank you, Community Credit Union for sending six incredible team members to be our cashiers for the evening. They were great!

Thank you, S&S Jewelers Inc., for the stunning diamond bracelet that was raffled off. The winner was ecstatic!

Thank you, For the Love Cake Co. for the delicious dessert! I'm still hearing about it.

Thank you, to all of our Prize Package and Silent Auction donors. Your generosity truly took this event over the top!

Thank you, Davide Di Giorgio: The Unapologetic Speaker for the vacation voucher donations to our guests.

We could not have pulled off this event without event volunteers. Thank you, Nikki, Keith, Carolyn, Denise, Sarah, Sharon, Vicki, and event photographer Sheena Smith. You are absolutely amazing!

Congratulations to Kathy Casey for being the very deserving recipient of the third annual Dottie Gatti Philanthropic Legacy Award. We appreciate all you have done and continue to do for the survivors of domestic violence in Brevard County.

Lastly, thank you for taking the time to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness month and choosing to attend our event and lend your support. We are blessed to have spent the evening with such generous and committed people sharing in our mission to put an end to domestic violence. Each one of you have made a difference in the life of a domestic abuse survivor.

Antiques expert Rich De Rosa to conduct program

Palm Bay Public Library will host "Antiques Appraisal Day" at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14. The event will be led by antiques expert Rich De Rosa, who will offer free verbal evaluations of the current market worth of antique and vintage items of all kinds. The program is free of charge. For more information on this event, call the library at (321) 952-4519. The library's address is 1520 Port Malabar Blvd. NE.

Friends board to meet at Satellite Beach Library

Satellite Beach Public Library will host a Friends of the Library board meeting at 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 18. The library's address is 751 Jamaica Blvd. For more information on this meeting, call the library at (321) 779-4004.



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Community coalition looks to raise money for track replacement at school; fundraiser set for Nov. 16

By Michelle Mulak
 michellemulak23@gmail.com
 Good Vibrations Creative + Consulting

For many on the Space Coast, the onset of this season means pumpkins on the doorstep, cinnamon apple smells, and the long-awaited reopening of the windows.

For Brevard County students and families, fall means football games, homecoming dances, and settling into the new school year.

Competitive school sports are a special part of the middle and high school experience. What's more, these events also provide an opportunity for schools to generate income for sustaining athletic programs through ticket sales and concessions.

For the young track and field and cross-country athletes at Cocoa Beach Jr./Sr. High School however, this is an opportunity they're missing out on. The deteriorated condition of the school's track has prohibited the school from safely hosting on-site events for more than a decade. This means while other host schools in the

county are generating thousands of dollars in financial support for their programs, Cocoa Beach's parking lot remains empty.

A community coalition of parents, students, coaches, teachers, administrators, volunteers, and members of the local running community have set out to change all that.

Together, they've formed the Get On Track community initiative. Their goal? To raise upwards of \$450,000 for track replacement and upgrade projects. Get On Track has raised \$50,000 as of mid-September.

Now, in partnership with Cocoa Beach Kiwanis Club and the Cocoa Beach Country Club, Get On Track will host the inaugural Cocoa Beach Masquerade Ball.

The event is from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Cocoa Beach Country Club, 5000 Tom Warriner Blvd. The program will feature a fancy, dress-to-impress vibe, dinner, drinks, dancing, live music, games, live and silent auctions, and more.

The event is open to all adults 21 years and older. Individual tickets are \$75. A table that seats eight people is \$550.

"People love to get dressed up," said Linda Bunting,

the Get On Track volunteer who suggested the gala concept. "Giving people a reason to get all glitzy and glamorous and support their community seemed like a win-win!"

The goal was to think outside the box when it came to raising money for this project. Earlier this year, the group hosted a "Moonwalk-a-thon" in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Mission. The Masquerade Ball will be the team's second big event since kicking off fundraising efforts. Next spring, Get On Track will host the first multi-year Cocoa Beach High School reunion weekend.

"Our goal is to find ways to bring the people together for events celebrating the past, present and future of the community we love. We wanted to create something fun and memorable," said Marlene White, Get On Track's director. "Something with the potential to bring the local community together, and get them excited about our shared goal of building a new track for these kids."

For more information on this community effort, visit Cbhsetontrack.com; Instagram @RunCocoaBeach; Facebook @GetOnTrackCocoaBeach.



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Marine Bank & Trust of Vero Beach named among the top extraordinary banks in America for second year

Roger D. Hicks
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VERO BEACH — Marine Bank & Trust has announced that it was named among the top extraordinary banks in the United States for the second year in a row by The Institute for Extraordinary Banking.

Marine Bank was recognized with the Institute's Banky Award for its commitment to strong community banking. This recognition is given to the top community banks across the country for their contributions toward the success of their communities' small businesses and families.

The Extraordinary Banking Awards are a part of The Best Banks in America Super Conference hosted by The Institute for Extraordinary Banking in Minneapolis, and were presented on Sept. 17.

"At Marine Bank, we consider the term community bank to be an honor that we must earn every day," said President and CEO Bill Penney.

"Our entire team is focused on the success of our customers. Whether we're providing capital for a growing business, a mortgage for a first-time home buyer, a treasury-management solution for a homeowner association, or simply helping a customer navigate our latest banking technology — we want each customer experience to be a positive one. Being recognized with The Extraordinary Banking Award for our commitment to the success of our small businesses and local community confirms that we are doing the right thing."

Roxanne Emmerich, chairwoman and founder of The Institute for Extraordinary Banking, said during the awards ceremony: "Community banks are the backbone of America: They are what keeps a community thriving. When a community bank leaves a community, small businesses often struggle to stay, and jobs leave. Every robust community has a strong community bank that understands how to help that community thrive and grow."

Penney added, "I would like to thank The Institute for Extraordinary Banking for a second opportunity to review and take inventory of our achievements and for the recognition on the national stage."

● About the Banky Award

The Banky recognizes 20 banks for differentiating their brands in the following five categories: Banks Giving (Philanthropy), Above-and-Beyond Customer Service, Thought Leadership, Thank God It's Monday Internal Culture, and Money Smarts (Financial Literacy Education).

● About Marine Bank & Trust

Marine Bank, chartered in 1997, has \$273 million in assets with four full-service branches in Vero Beach, Sebastian and Melbourne. As the only community bank headquartered in Indian River County, its growth ties into the national trend of customers choosing to bank local. Marine Bank has earned the coveted 5-Star Superior rating from Bauer Financial, the nation's premier bank rating firm.

Marine Bank & Trust is an active community supporter providing over \$200,000 to more than 125 local nonprofit organizations in the market over the last five years. For more information on this institution, visit www.marinebank.bank.



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Floridians received over 330 million robocalls in September; Sen. Scott must act to stop the proliferation

By Stephen Rouzer (srouzer@nclc.org) and Margot Saunders (msaunders@nclc.org)
National Consumer Law Center

WASHINGTON — Yodel Technologies (Yodel) seeks to escape liability by petitioning the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for an exemption for making more than 77 million unwanted and illegal telemarketing “robot calls” calls using artificial intelligence and prerecorded voice messages.

Plagued by robocalls, Sen. Rick Scott, a majority member of the Senate Commerce Committee, which oversees the FCC, must go to bat for Florida consumers and insist the Commission act decisively to stop both unwanted and illegal robocalls and AI-enabled robot calls.

“If the FCC were to grant the petition in this case, the result would undoubtedly be an astonishing escalation in unwanted, unconsented-to telemarketing calls to the American public,” said Margot Saunders, senior counsel at the National Consumer Law Center. Saunders submitted comments to the FCC in opposition to Yodel’s petition on behalf of NCLC’s low-income clients and other consumer advocacy organizations.

Using its “soundboard” technology to mimic a consumer’s interaction with a live caller, Yodel “leverages Artificial Intelligence to surface the best responses at the appropriate time.” After Yodel’s technology was used to assist NorthStar Alarm Systems in making robot calls to sell home security systems, a federal district court in Oklahoma found Yodel and NorthStar liable for making these calls without the required consent from the called parties. Yodel is now petitioning the FCC for an exemption.

Yodel requests in its petition that any calls made with separate snippets of prerecorded voice, as distinguished from one continuous message with a prerecorded voice, should not be governed by the requirement for prior express consent for calls with a prerecorded voice under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

Yodel’s petition repeatedly maintains that the TCPA regulates only calls which are “entirely prerecorded.”

“As much as Yodel might wish it to be otherwise, the TCPA does not just regulate calls with one continuous prerecorded voice message, it regulates any telephone call which uses a prerecorded voice,” said Saunders. “Congress was quite clear in requiring that all calls with a prerecorded voice are only permitted with consent.”

The FCC has noted repeatedly that unwanted calls — including illegal and spoofed robocalls — are the top consumer complaint and its top consumer protection priority. Yet, if the FCC were to grant Yodel’s petition in this case, telemarketing calls made using soundboard technology would plague our landlines, further invading our privacy. “We strongly urge the FCC to deny Yodel’s requests,” said Saunders.

More information on NCLC’s extensive work on illegal robocalls is available at: <http://www.nclc.org/issues/robocalls-and-telemarketing.html>.

Since 1969, the nonprofit NCLC has worked for consumer justice and economic security for low-income and other disadvantaged people in the U.S. through its expertise in policy analysis and advocacy, publications, litigation, expert witness services, and training.

Join us Nov. 14–17 for our annual Consumer Rights Litigation Conference and on Nov. 15 as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary of consumer rights advocacy.

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MRAM Engineering Surplus & Appliance Parts

Continued from page 12

technology as a hobby. But it's also a service — a vital service that has saved lives when regular communication systems failed. There are more licensed operators now than ever before, according to the National Association of Amateur Radio. At the end of fiscal year 2018, there were 755,430 total ham licenses. That's 7,300 more than the previous year, based on Federal Communication Commission database statistics.

In addition to selling individual items, MRAM Engineering Surplus is a state-approved electronic-scrap recycler.

"Recycling is a big part of our business, and it continues to grow," said Sessa. "We take electronic equipment and break it down into its constituent parts. If it is reusable, we will put it in our store. But a lot of the stuff is obsolete."

He continued, "Oftentimes, companies have racks of equipment they need to clear out, such as electro-mechanical or electro-optical items. We take the merchandise and disassemble it. Power supplies are generally usable."

Sessa's business is registered with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as an electronics-scrap recycler of non-hazardous waste. This is the first level in the state's recycling system.

"We break the items down into categories and then move them upstream to an R2 certified recycler. The R2 recyclers have the big, expensive machines that chew up the items and separate them. So we sell all of our stuff to them."

The Responsible Recycling Standard, also known as R2, sets forth requirements relating to environmental, health, safety, and security aspects of electronics recycling,

which is a sizable industry in Florida. Recycling and reuse businesses in the Sunshine State employ more than 32,000 people, and generate an annual payroll of over \$765 million and \$4.4 billion in annual revenue, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Florida businesses dealing with more than 600 tons per year of any recovered material (paper, glass, plastic, metals/aluminum, textiles, or non-tire rubber) are required by law to apply for annual certification, and report their recovered materials.

MRAM Engineering Surplus offers free-of-charge electronic/technical scrap recycling bins on wheels to any e-scrap generator in the county. His company provides a mobile bin. When the bin is full, MRAM Engineering Surplus swaps it out with an empty bin. This is done on a scheduled basis or as requested by the customer.

"We use our labor to come and get the recycled products. We ask businesses to call us if they have things to be recycled." MRAM Engineering Surplus' phone number is (321) 727-9010.

Electro-technical scrap can be old laptops and personal computers, flat screens, unused or obsolete floppy discs and media, old lead batteries, rechargeable batteries, switches, PC boards, components, motors, and other items.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection developed a Recycling Recognition Program to encourage private businesses, institutions, schools, public organizations, and citizens to increase recycling in order to reach the state's recycling goal of "75 percent by 2020."

The department has an easy tool for organizations to track, compare, and report their recycling efforts. It's

called The Florida DEP Business Recycling Tracking Tool, or Re-TRAC. Through the website, which includes free registration, organizations can track different types of recycling efforts and produce reports on how those efforts are helping shrink their carbon footprint.

"We're trying to do everything we can to encourage businesses and organizations to recycle," said Sessa.

Several years ago, his company expanded its product line with Weather King buildings and sheds, which are built in Florida.

"We have standard models. The models can be customized. The customizing takes four to six weeks. They are built to Florida codes. They are registered with the state of Florida to meet wind loads and all code regulations. The Weather King storage sheds are popular with a lot of consumers and are very versatile in their use," said Sessa.

The Weather King products are handbuilt by Mennonite craftsmen, according to the Brookville company. The family owned and operated business was founded in 1963.

"We also sell Weather King buildings that feature front-porch entrances. They are well crafted. They look like a gingerbread house. We've sold a number of them that are used in different venues, including for weddings. They are used for the groom's quarters and the bride's quarters. Weather King makes a great product. We have repeat customers for the sheds and buildings."

As a small-business operator, Sessa said he is on track to close a good year at MRAM Engineering Surplus. "We're looking forward to 2020. With the county growing, more and more people are becoming aware of our store, especially entrepreneurs. We are a county of entrepreneurs."

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Rolling Readers gives new name to fall event, 'Literacy and Libations' set for Nov. 8 at The Grand Manor

Rolling Readers Space Coast Inc., a nonprofit that has been providing trained volunteers to read to and tutor elementary-aged children on the Space Coast since 1997, has taken another bold step toward establishing an annual fall event to raise funds to support children literacy in Brevard County.

"Literacy and Libations" is the latest iteration of an annual fall event that Rolling Readers Space Coast presented in the past four years, titled "Readers on The Red Carpet."

Literacy and Libations will be held from 6–10 p.m. on Nov. 8 at The Grand Manor, 1450 Sarno Road, in Melbourne.

"For the past four years, we have held an event recognizing literacy advocates. These are people who have invested time, talent and resources to make a difference in the lives of children in support of reading in the Space Coast area," said Jo Haight Sarling, president of the board of directors, Rolling Readers Space Coast.

"This year, we are honoring one literacy advocate — Commissioner Curt Smith, Brevard County Commission (District 4), and introducing our first Legacy Award. This award will be presented to one of the founders of Rolling Readers Space Coast — Joan Borders," said Sarling.

Michael Payne Sr., executive director, Rolling Readers Space Coast, said, "We are excited about the possibilities of this event. Who wouldn't like to participate in a fun event to help raise money for literacy support and education of our area children?"

He added, "Even though this will be a great event at a great location, make no mistake, our driving ambition is to give kids a chance at a happy productive life."

Literacy and Libations is open to the public. Only 200 tickets are available. The event will include dancing, hors d'oeuvres, buffet, desserts, a cash bar and a silent auction. Live music will be provided by one of the Space Coast's best jam bands, The Executive Shirts.

The event will be hosted by Spectrum 13 News Anchor Eric Levy. Tickets for the event are \$50 and are available at <https://www.rollingreadersspacecoast.org/liberacy-libations>.

PNC Bank, Makoto, Widerman and Malek, "Brevard Business News," Beach 98.5, AAUW, VacationsBecause and a host of other sponsors and private donors have made this event possible.

For more details about this event, contact Payne at (321) 254-9976 or Michael@rollingreadersspacecoast.com.

Titusville Area Chamber to host luncheon at Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant

The Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly Chamber Membership Luncheon from 12–1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant.

The keynote speaker will be Mike Knight, director of Brevard County's Environmental Endangered Lands Program. Knight will discuss the latest actions on the "Preservation of Brevard's Natural Landscape."

Also, the following Outstanding Young Adults will be recognized: Semaiah Kierstead, Astronaut High School; Jennifer Orraca-Gobaira, Space Coast Jr./Sr. High School; and Jack Ginn, Titusville High School.

This event is being sponsored by AT&T, Brevard Nature Alliance and Lightle Beckner Robison Inc.

For more information on this event, contact Sandy McHardy at mchardy@titusville.org or (321) 267-3036.

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'Festival of Trees'

Continued from page 13

Junior League of South Brevard's goal this year is to have 25 designer trees, 50 wreaths and 50 tabletop trees up for auction. That's an increased goal from last year. "We presently have about 14 designer trees and probably 10 wreaths and 10 tabletop trees. We are definitely looking for donations. We need the support of the community to help us reach our goal. You don't have to be a supercreative individual to decorate a tree. We walk them through the process," she said.

The decorated designer trees range from four- to nine-foot high. "I'm planning to decorate a big tree and a little tree, and perhaps help others with theirs," said Kiriazes.

"A lot of people think decorating a tree is intimidating," added Robinson. "Decorating is fun. Just pick a theme and go with it. And we're a resource." Robinson said she sometimes "gets her decorating inspiration walking into Hobby Lobby."

Businesses, organizations, and individuals interested in funding a decorated Christmas tree, holiday wreath, or tabletop tree for the event, take part in the Vendor Marketplace, or be a sponsor of Festival of Trees, can visit the event's dedicated website.

Junior League of South Brevard is also accepting donations for the raffles at Festival of Trees.

Festival of Trees includes children's pictures with Santa Claus and "Cooking with Mrs. Claus," a free children's event sponsored by Junior League of South Brevard's "Kids in the Kitchen" initiative that promotes healthy food choices and stresses the importance of exercise.

The Kids in the Kitchen event was created years ago by the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc., with the goal of engaging children in the preparation of healthy food. Today, Junior Leagues in more than 200 communi-

ties participate in the program.

Kids in the Kitchen is grounded in the belief that children and families empowered with the knowledge of how to feed and exercise their bodies will be less likely to become obese and subsequently less likely to suffer many associated risks, including diabetes and heart disease.

Locally, Kids in the Kitchen is held in the spring. "Kids in the Kitchen is part of Junior League's outreach efforts in the community," said Dieguez.

"The Cooking with Mrs. Claus sessions tie in with the Expo-style event we put on in the spring. Cooking with Mrs. Claus is a lot of fun for the kids and the families attending Festival of Trees."

To register your child for Cooking with Mrs. Claus, go to JBSL.net/kitk. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who has purchased a ticket to Festival of Trees.

Another Junior League of South Brevard community project is "Fueling Kids." This initiative also focuses on improving children's health through nutrition and physical activity. "Fueling Kids is a partnership with the Health First Foundation," said Dieguez.

Fueling Kids helps fund recess equipment for select Title 1 schools, and sponsors Field Day. Hundreds of youngsters are reached through this program, which also funds a healthy food pantry. There are other program components, too.

For information on contributing items to the food pantry for students to have on weekends, send an email message to FuelingKids@JLSB.net.

The third community initiative for Junior League of South Brevard is the "Girl POWER Symposium," designed for at-risk girls 14 to 18 years old. POWER stands for

Personal Growth, Opportunity, Wellness, Empowerment, and Responsibility.

The project was developed by members of the Junior League of South Brevard. They identified a need to provide access to tools that would help create a positive impact on the lives of girls through innovative workshops on self-esteem, nutrition, leadership, and mentoring, said Robinson.

"The whole concept of the Girl POWER Symposium is to teach girls how to better their lives moving forward, especially going from middle school to high school and on to college or entering the workforce. We have volunteer speakers who address the various topics. We're getting a lot of positive comments from people about this initiative," she said.

A Junior League of South Brevard steering committee was formed in 2018 to research opportunities, as well as create a partnership with the Leadership Brevard Class that year, to establish the first symposium in April 2018. The Girl POWER project was developed from that yearlong effort.

Junior League of South Brevard hosted a Girl POWER event on Feb. 2 of this year. The program focused on empowerment, career preparation, personal health, self-defense, and the internet and social media safety.

Another such symposium was held April 27 of this year. Information was provided on mental health and wellbeing, specifically addressing coping with stress and anxiety. The speakers also talked about self-esteem and goal-setting.

"Junior League of South Brevard is the kind of organization that makes you feel proud to be a member because of the work it does in the community. We all strive to make the community better through our projects," said Robinson.



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Parrish Cancer Center

Continued from page 1

As of Jan. 1, 2019, an estimated 1.9 million people 85 and older were cancer survivors, representing one-third of all the men and one-fourth of all women in this age group. They are the fastest-growing group of cancer survivors in the nation, according to the American Cancer Society.

These patients and many others are benefiting from cancer research and from new immunotherapy treatments, as well as early detection.

Since the Cancer Research Institute's first report in 2017, the immuno-oncology field has grown substantially, "exemplified by a 91 percent increase in the number of active agents in development, a 78 percent increase in active targets, and a 60 percent increase in companies and other organizations with an immuno-oncology pipeline."

The hope of "precision medicine" is that treatments will one day be tailored to the genetic changes in each person's cancer. Scientists see a future when genetic tests will help decide which treatments a patient's tumor is most likely to respond to, sparing the patient from receiving treatments that are not likely to help, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Immunotherapy is a form of cancer treatment that uses the power of the body's own immune system to prevent, control, and eliminate cancer. Immunotherapy comes in a variety of forms, including targeted antibodies, cancer vaccines, adoptive cell transfers, tumor-infecting viruses, checkpoint inhibitors, cytokines (small proteins that are important in cell signaling), and adjuvants (a pharmacological or immunological agent that modifies the effect of other agents).

Immunotherapy has led to remarkable results for some patients' cancers, eradicating difficult-to-treat tumors and, in some cases, causing complete remission of the disease.

"We're seeing results in certain cancers that are extraordinary," said Dr. Deisler. "We have immunotherapy treatment for a lot of cancers, including lung cancer. We're seeing incredible results in cancers that were thought to not even be curable, like ovarian cancer. The results from PARP inhibitors are phenomenal. We are using these methods of treatment at Parrish Cancer Center."

PARP inhibitors help damaged cells repair themselves, she said. It stands for "poly-ADP ribose polymerase." PARP inhibitors have transformed treatment for breast and ovarian cancers.

PARP inhibitors were approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2014 for the treatment of ovarian cancers containing BRCA mutations, rare genetic mutations that disable a DNA repair pathway in cancer cells.

The FDA also approved PARP inhibitors for breast cancer treatment in 2018. In their current use, physicians prescribe PARP inhibitors to disable a second DNA repair pathway, making it difficult for cancer cells to survive.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology estimates that immune checkpoint inhibitors could save "250,000 years of life" for U.S. patients with advanced lung cancer for whom a checkpoint inhibitor could be prescribed. Immune checkpoint inhibitors are medicines that "release the brakes" on the body's immune system, unleashing it to fight cancer.

This new understanding changes the way that scientists and clinicians think about PARP inhibitors and their applications, which previously have been focused on DNA repair pathways since the initial discoveries in 2005.

"We are now entering an era where we are finding out more and more about the genetics of a tumor," said Dr. Deisler, "and the information is not only benefiting the patients, but it is also benefiting practicing oncologists."

"The future of cancer medicine centers on genetics," added Dr. Yandel. "It's an exciting time, particularly for

any scientist in medicine. It's a fantastic time to be seeing the developments come out, and the beautiful science behind them, and the logic that decades of research has led to."

The American Society of Clinical Oncology recently released its "Clinical Cancer Advances 2019: ASCO's Annual Report on Progress Against Cancer." The report highlights important clinical research advances of the past year.

Five major studies offer significant steps forward, making this a "notable year" for advances in rare cancers. Two of the advances are:

- A new combination of targeted therapies for a rare, hard-to-treat form of thyroid cancer produced responses in more than two-thirds of patients.

- Sorafenib became the first treatment to improve progression-free survival for desmoid tumors, a rare type of sarcoma.

According to the American Society of Clinical Oncology, this progress in rare cancers can be attributed, in part, to ongoing efforts of several major initiatives sponsored and led by the National Institutes of Health, including The Cancer Genome Atlas, or TCGA. The systematic characterization of a broad range of tumors by TCGA has led to effective targeting of activated pathways.

The report also said "landmark" advances in molecular diagnostics continue, and new successes are being achieved with targeted therapies, including the introduction of medicines that delay the progression of breast and lung cancers.

Dr. Yandel said the new agents are "revolutionizing cancer medicine. They have lent a complexity to treatment that was not there before."

Dr. Yandel added, "We have put together a cancer center where discussions and information about these different types of treatments are available. Additionally, we have links to Parrish Medical Center, local physicians, radiation therapists, and all the other professionals who come together to make a cancer center. A cancer patient can come into Parrish Cancer Center and get their radiation therapy on one end of the building and their chemotherapy on the other end. All these cancer services are conveniently offered under one roof."

Dr. Deisler said Parrish Cancer Center is looking to become involved in clinical trials, perhaps as early as late next year.

"Right now, we do not have clinical trials at Parrish Cancer Center, but we are closely aligned and affiliated with the Mayo Clinic and with Halifax Medical Center. So through the Mayo Clinic our patients have access to a plethora of clinical trials."

Clinical trials are essential for advancing cancer prevention, detection, and treatment, she said.

New research from the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center reports that patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer enrolled in a clinical trial had a median survival rate that was nearly double that of those not enrolled, and patients enrolled in a clinical trial had an almost 50 percent lower risk of death.

Dr. Deisler also said Parrish Medical Center is ramping up its palliative care program. "We now know that if cancer patients get enrolled in palliative care early, they do better. Their quality of life improves and they survive longer. We work closely with Dr. Elizabeth Galfo (chief medical officer of Hospice of St. Francis)."

Palliative care is designed for people with serious and chronic illnesses, such as cancer, cardiac disease, and congestive heart failure.

Outpatient palliative care can improve the quality of life for people with advanced cancer. It can also improve

their length of life, according to a Tulane University study recently published in the "Annals of Behavioral Medicine."

Palliative care focuses on helping patients manage their symptoms and cope with their illness through monthly meetings with a team of physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and other health-care professionals with expertise in this area of care.

A team of Tulane University researchers sampled 2,092 patients with advanced cancers, most commonly lung and gastrointestinal cancers.

Findings showed that 56 percent of patients who were randomized to receive outpatient palliative care were alive after one year, as opposed to 42 percent who received typical care.

While new treatments are helping cancer survivors live longer, early detection is just as important.

"Screening for certain cancers is incredibly important. People should be informed and talk to their primary care physician regularly to make the screening decisions that are best for them," said Dr. Deisler.

The American Cancer Society screening guidelines for breast cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, and lung cancer are:

- Breast cancer. Women should have the choice to start yearly screening with a mammogram at age 40, if they wish to do so. All women at average risk of breast cancer should begin yearly screening with a mammogram at 45. At age 55, women can switch to a mammogram every two years, or can continue screening yearly. Women should talk to a health-care provider about their own personal risk for breast cancer and about any breast changes they notice.

- Cervical cancer. Women between the ages of 21 and 29 should have a Pap test every three years. Women between the ages of 30 and 65 should have a Pap test and an HPV test (called co-testing) every five years, or a Pap test alone every three years. Women over age 65 who have had regular screening tests with normal results should no longer be screened for cervical cancer.

- Colorectal cancer. Adults at average risk should begin regular colorectal screening at age 45, but those at high risk for colorectal cancer based on family or personal history or other factors may need to start screening before age 45, be screened more often, or get specific tests.

- Lung cancer. Screening is recommended for certain people at higher risk for lung cancer. If you are a current or former smoker ages 55 to 74 and in fairly good health, you might benefit from screening for lung cancer with a yearly low-dose CT scan. Talk to your health-care provider about your risk for lung cancer.

"Parrish Cancer Center has a robust program providing lots of services in the community," said Richardson. "We do mammograms all year long supporting patients who are uninsured. We make sure they have access to the right resources. All the support is through the navigator program. The Jess Parrish Medical Foundation helps support our mammogram initiative in the community. There is no charge for the mammogram if the patient qualifies for the assistance."

Parrish Cancer Center includes a network of physicians, nurses, navigators, and support from Parrish Medical Center and OMNI Healthcare, Hospice of St. Francis, and other entities all working to provide the multi-level care that cancer patients need. This effort includes specialized cancer treatments and specialized physicians.

"I believe a cancer center has been missing in our area, one that is fully aligned with the hospital settings and health plans in order to deliver this type of care to patients. And I believe Parrish Cancer Center is now able to fill that niche," said Dr. Yandel.



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