Incoming!

Jonathan Wood of the Raptor Project entices his artic gyrfalcon “Tundra” with some tethered meat to fly back to him during the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival Jan. 21-26 at BCC in Titusville. Wood and many more presenters attracted thousands to the event making it another successful year.

By Susan Walden

The rich history of North Brevard’s black community comes alive in a play at the Emma Parrish Theater Feb. 13-14.

Thanks to numerous interviews over the years administered by historian Roz Foster, “Footprints – a Black Anthology” by Mary Purdy will finally come to fruition and give people a flavor of what it was like to live in Merritt Island, Titusville and Mims in the past 100 years.

“It’s a tribute to those common people who worked hard every day and shaped the community,” said Foster.

“My interest began when I was working in the LaGrange cemetery and saw a few prominent names of black families. I went to the (old) newspapers but couldn’t find information on the black community back then.”

She knew she had to go out into the community and get the information firsthand. With pen, paper and recorder, she began interviewing people in the black community in the mid-1990s knowing that if the history wasn’t written down and weaved into the annals of the area, it would be lost. After attending an historic preservation course through the state, a class she refers to as a “godsend,” Foster put her education to use with the most important item she extracted from the course – after gathering the history don’t just sit it on a shelf.

Foster spoke with about 35 people, some of whom now have passed away, as they recounted their life and their relative’s lives.

“I was at Cuyler Park in Mims every Thursday afternoon for people to come by and talk. I had a lot of wonderful interviews with people who worked in the citrus and turpentine industries. They talked about work and traditions, their old-time medicinal practices, education, their neighborhoods, formation of their churches and church traditions, their very spiritual life and strong faith in God, even where they were baptized.”

Through her recordings and writings, Purdy, a local playwright, sifted through it all and pulled out a common thread to sew a play together.

“The most common topic was education. It was very important for the black community to be educated.

Not to give too much away, but the play highlights a few prominent families such as the Warrens, Campbells, Moores and a well-loved man and his mule named Dennis Sawyer and Maude, who among other things took people across the river on his boat.

The Campbells, who settled in North Merritt Island, started the Clifton Schoolhouse.

The Warrens also had a schoolhouse and both families were connected. The Campbells came to the area in the 1870s as freed slaves and acquired 180 acres of

See PLAY, Page 2
Wuesthoff hosts Wall Street Journal columnist, author at annual gala event

Wuesthoff Health System Foundation will host Wall Street Journal columnist and author, Jeffrey Zaslow, as keynote speaker for the healthcare systems seventh annual gala event Feb. 21 at BCC Melbourne campus.

The opening reception begins in the King Center Rotunda with appetizers, drinks and entertainment. The main event follows in BCC’s gymnasium. Following the theme, “Feel the Beat,” the gala will be an up-tempo evening of New York-style entertainment, dancing and gourmet food.

The evening’s highlight will be the keynote address by internationally-known speaker, Jeffrey Zaslow, a Wall Street Journal columnist and co-author of the international best seller, “The Last Lecture” is known as a journalist who focuses on life transitions, and has historically attracted wide media interest for his column, Moving On. “The Last Lecture,” a book based on a lecture of a Carnegie Mellon professor, Dr. Randy Pausch, has now been translated in 27 languages with more than 2.3 million copies sold in the U.S. alone.

After attending the lecture of Dr. Pausch, Zaslow wrote his next column on the professors ‘last lecture’ presentation which sparked a phenomenon of interest eventually leading to tens of millions of people viewing the lecture on the internet and television. Pausch, who knew he was dying of pancreatic cancer, gave the inspirational lecture knowing it would be his last. In the end, the professors ‘last lecture’ and Wall Street Journal column lead him and Zaslow to collaborate to write the book before Pausch’s death.

In 2008, Zaslow received the Distinguished Column Writing Award from the News York Newspaper Publishers Association. His columns have also appeared in TIME Magazine, and USA Weekend.

Zaslow’s many television appearances include The Tonight Show, Oprah, Larry King Live, 60 Minutes, The Today Show, and Good Morning America.

“We are proud to have Jeffrey Zaslow as our keynote speaker this year’s gala,” said Wuesthoff Foundation president, Dorothy Allen. “We are also excited to announce that this year’s gala will benefit Wuesthoff’s comprehensive cardiac programs and services. Recognized nationally for our heart and stroke services, every dollar we raise will help to sustain and grow those quality cardiac services.”

“And as always, we are thankful for the community support we receive each year for our gala event,” added Allen.

The Wuesthoff Gala is collaboration between Wuesthoff Foundation and the community to promote health education, and raise additional funds to continue to provide the highest quality care. The past two years were dedicated to raising awareness of early detection of breast cancer while also expanding breast cancer technology. This year’s gala will place awareness of early detection of breast cancer while also expanding breast cancer technology.

For more information on the event, contact Wuesthoff Health System Foundation at (321) 637-2606; individual tickets for the gala event can be purchased for $250 per person.

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Opinions

Help save our music education in schools

Let your voice be heard
Come to the town hall meeting
Feb. 23, 7 p.m. at the King Center, Melbourne.
Legislators will be there.

There is a terrible crisis unfolding in our schools.

Music.

With the recession and its cutbacks – possibly $70 million in Brevard’s schools alone – the Florida school systems are in danger of cutting vital programs and one of them is music.

We need your help in telling our legislators how important it is and what it means to the students. Have you ever gone to one of our school’s performances? If you haven’t you should. It’s free and you will be absolutely amazed how great these children are – even in elementary school. It’s thanks to the great music teachers we have in Brevard.

Education isn’t just reading, writing and arithmetic. The arts – visual and music – in concert with other school subjects augment students’ whole beings – from their education to their character.

Music is an instrument of learning that cannot be absent in the orchestra of education. It simply cannot. I’ve penned that phrase, now please use it to contact your legislators.

Brevard County is known throughout Florida for its excellent music programs. In fact, the county has more music demonstration schools than any other county. Brevard is leading the way with diligent teachers who work even nights and weekend teaching our children for free, by the way, how to play instruments and sing. It begins in the elementary schools where they are introduced to various instruments.

My sons have greatly benefited by music education. One is a professional musician now and the other is on the road to becoming one.

Music is vital to education. Here are a few statistics:

- It plays a huge part in developing children’s intellect. The arts are one of the six areas college boards recognize as essential for children to thrive in college.
- In a National Education Longitudinal Study in 1988, music students achieved more academic honors and awards than their non-music peers.
- Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate; the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence.
- Music student score higher on college entrance exams – on average, 53 points higher in verbal and 39 more in math.
- Music keeps children off drugs, the streets, alcohol and other deviant behavior.
- A study in Sweetwater, Calif., showed that middle and high school students in music and visual arts had much higher grade point averages than their counterparts.
- Ever heard of the Mozart Effect? It indicates a strong correlation between music education and spatial-temporal reasoning (putting things together) and higher math scores.
- Music is an economic plus in society; second only to the aerospace industry, it is the most lucrative national export.
- Music enriches communities because musicians have intellectual curiosity companies need to stay competitive.
- The arts generate an estimated $37 billion with a return of $3.4 billion in federal income tax.
- Students of lower socioeconomic status who took music lessons in middle and high school increase their math scores and other subjects by 40 percent.
- Schools with the highest academic achievement spend 20 to 30 percent of the day with emphasis on music.
- More music majors than any other group of grads go to medical school.
- Music teaches students commitment and responsibility, which are essential for becoming successful adults.

Unfortunately, those who don’t know the facts find music and visual arts an easy victim on the chopping block.

You can help – even if you don’t have a child or grandchild in school.

Create momentum. If not you, then who? Get a few friends together and create a music advocacy group.

Individually, through business or in a group, contact our legislators by calling, visiting, e-mailing or writing a letter today.

Who to contact
Sen. Thad Altman
Call: (321) 752-3138 and (850) 487-5053
Address: Suite 1C, 400 South St., Melbourne, Fl 32901 and 6708 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne, Fl 32940 and 6767 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne, Fl 32940.

Rep. Steve Crisafulli
Call: (321) 449-5111 and (850) 488-4669.

Rep. Ralph Poppell
Call: (321) 383-5151, (772) 770-6708 and (850) 488-3006.
Address: Suite 1C, 400 South St., Titusville, FL 32780-7610, 1225 Main St., Sebastian, FL 32958-4165 and 222 The Capital, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32999-1300.

I urge you to please get involved. It will only take a few minutes of your time. If these legislators are bombarded with calls, e-mails and letters, it will greatly help.

Remember, music is an instrument of learning that cannot be absent in the orchestra of education.
Left, children get into a good story book at the Children's Learning Center Jan. 20 in Titusville with the help of Radio Disney. Below, they’re as good as the Rockettes right here in Titusville. It was an Evening at Club Starlight Jan. 22, a North Brevard Senior Center fund-raiser. The event was a sell-out. Featured are the Starlight Dancers. Who says there’s nothing to do in Titusville?

Upper left, the Rounders Bar and Grill celebrates their grand opening Jan. 24 with patrons and friends. Below left, The Does Drove #183 of Elks Lodge #2113 in Titusville perform a ritual Jan. 17 during the installation of their new president. Right, the crowds haven’t stopped coming since the grand opening of SPCA Thrift Shop’s new location on U.S. 1 in Titusville.
School Board needs input in superintendent search

The Brevard Public Schools’ Board has initiated a search for a new superintendent due to the retirement of Dr. Richard DiPatri, effective July 1.

To assist in this process, the board has retained the services of Ray and Associates, Inc., a search firm that specializes in assisting boards which are seeking superintendents.

The board is looking for input from constituents and staff of the school district to help identify characteristics the district finds important in the new superintendent. The information will be forwarded to the search firm and will become a part of the selection process.

Input may be given in the following ways. Community and staff members may meet with a consultant at one of the open forums held Feb. 12-13 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and in the evening from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Palm Bay High School auditorium (101 Pirate Lane, Melbourne), Area IV Office training rooms (800 Lane Ave., Titusville) and the Educational Services Facility (2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera) in the Board Room. Copies of a form called Qualities Desired in the New Superintendent will be available at each of these constituent meetings.

Interested persons can also visit the BPS Web site at www.brevardschools.org to find the Qualities Desired in the new superintendent form, which is available for input online through close of business on Feb. 13.

One of the consultants from Ray and Associates, Inc. will present an overview of the search process and criteria for the board’s consideration at the School Board meeting of Feb. 24.

Project Grad needs items

Donations are now being accepted for a huge rummage sale sponsored by Titusville High School Project Graduation ’09. The sale is in April in Titusville.

Those with unwanted or unused items to donate to the project, should contact Hillary Arena at 269-0085 or Matt Horner at 268-2820. Arrangements can be made for pickup of these items.

All proceeds from the sale benefit Titusville High School Project Graduation’09. Project Graduation is an all-night celebration of fun, food games and prizes to keep graduating seniors safe and drug and alcohol free.

For more information on volunteering or donating to Project Graduation, contact Matt Horner, chairman, at THSPG09@bellsouth.net or call (321) 268-2820. Information on upcoming events can be found at www.thspg09.schools.office-live.com.

Learn Florida history


The Platts were early settlers of Central Brevard County and drove cattle the length of the Brevard and beyond during the pre-1949 open-range cattle days. After the state passed a law that stock had to be fenced in, cattlemen began to acquire large amounts of ranchland. The 4000-acre Platt family ranch west of Melbourne is currently seeking annexation to the city.

Nancy will be interviewed in friendly conversation with Margaret Broussard, who is also a daughter of a Florida pioneer ranching family. Hear about horseback adventures, Melbourne’s history, the Silver Spurs Rodeo, Judge Platt and others as Nancy brings us stories of her cracker childhood in this special local history presentation. Historical photos will also be on display.

The event is free and open to the public. ADA assistance is available; allow five days advance notice. For more information, call 725-4115.

Event features sale, auction

Holy Spirit Council of Catholic Women holds its annual Rummage Sale and Silent Auction Feb. 20-21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church hall, 2309 Holder Road, Mims. Lunch will be available in the Tea Room from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with soup, sandwiches and hot dogs plus a bake sale for hungry bargain hunters. For further information, call Hazel at 268-0028 or Jenni at 269-4178.

Church welcomes those in need

Do you have a hurt, habit or hang-up? You are invited to the Central Community Church every Friday evening, 6:30-8 p.m. for Celebrate Recovery, a Bible-based recovery program.
Make your home, car safer for kids

Brevard County Agriculture and Extension Service and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences offers children car seat and childproofing homes classes this month.

Parents and caregivers can bring their children and their children’s safety seats to be checked for proper selection, installation and fit on Feb. 6 from 1-4 p.m. at the Palm Bay Extension office; on Feb. 19 from 1-4 p.m. at the Palm Bay Extension office; and on Feb. 27 from 1-4 p.m. at the Cocoa Extension Office.

There is no cost to attend; but an appointment should be scheduled. Car seats are available for those in need.

“The Childproof Home: A Guide to Preventing and Responding to Common Childhood Injuries” is Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cocoa Extension Office and on Feb. 12 from 1-4 p.m. at the Palm Bay Extension Office.

Attendees will learn the common causes of unintentional injuries to children in and around the home, and how to protect them from such dangers. The cost to attend is $5.

Register at http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu or (321) 633-1702.

Fire department checks blood pressure for free

If you haven’t had your blood pressure checked lately or you need to see those numbers regularly, the Titusville Fire and Emergency Services can help.

They offer free blood pressure checks every Sunday morning 10-11 a.m. at the following locations:

- Searstown Mall, center entrance.
- Publix Supermarket, 1923 Knox McRae Dr.
- Publix Supermarket, 3265 Garden St.
- Titusville Towers, 405 Indian River Ave.

The public can also have their blood pressure checked at any fire station from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., seven days a week. Stations can be found at:

- Station 10, 617 N. Singleton Ave.
- Station 11, 550 S. Washington Ave.
- Station 12, 2150 S. Park Ave.
- Station 13, 4175 Barna Ave.

For more information, call Division Chief Scott Gaenicke at 383-5708.

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Join us for a New Orleans Style Fat Tuesday feast.

Tuesday, February 24th
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

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Get your rebate

Brevard County Animal Services and Enforcement reminds companion animal owners to take advantage of the Spay/Neuter Rebate Program. This program assists Brevard County residents by contributing $25 toward the cost of having pets altered, in an effort to reduce the homeless animal population of the county.

Residents must complete an application and meet the criteria to be eligible for monetary assistance for sterilization of their pet dogs and/or cats through this rebate program.

The rebate applies to “owned” companion animals only. No more than four animals per year/per household can qualify for the rebate program. Pets must have current Brevard County animal license tags and current rabies vaccinations to be eligible for the program.

Rebate applications are available at North Animal Care and Adoption Center, 2605 Flade Rd., in Titusville and participating veterinary clinics.

For more information and complete details on this program, call 321-255-4346 or 321-617-7503.

Have a ball

The North Brevard Senior Center holds a Hearts & Roses Ball Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. It includes ballroom dancing to the sounds of the 1940s & '50s by “The Covenant Combo,” an 11-piece big-band orchestra. Door prizes.

Cost is $10 person and includes light hors d’oeuvres and setups. BYOB. For more information call (321) 631-0368.

Moms get some relief

MOPS understands that the years from infancy through kindergarten are foundational in a mother-child relationship and are filled with unique needs. MOPS exists to meet the needs of every mom.

MOPS is for moms to be, new moms, and all moms of children from infancy through kindergarten. Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Monday (Sept through May). Meeting fees are $5 (scholarships available).

Group activities are planned throughout the year, so don’t hesitate to call and join us at any time of the year. MOPS meets at Indian River City United Methodist Church located at 1355 Highway 50, Titusville, 32780.

For more information call Titusville MOPS Coordinator Linda Benson (321) 383-8293 or visit www.orgsites.com/fl/titusvillemops or MySpace page http://www.myspace.com/mopssoftville.

Humane Society holds event

“Bunco in the Village” benefiting the Central Brevard Humane Society and the Cocoa Main Street’s Derby Street Chapel restoration project is Feb. 13, from 6-9 p.m. at the Cocoa Civic Center located at 403 Delannoy Avenue in Cocoa Village.

Advanced tickets are $10 per person or $15 at the door the evening of the event (if available) and includes a Bunco game, refreshments, silent auction, and a 50/50 drawing. Many prizes will be awarded for the game and special door prize drawings will be announced throughout the event. Seating is limited.

Tickets can be purchased at the Central Brevard Humane Society (1020 Cox Road in Cocoa), their (3) Molly Mutt Thrift Shops located in downtown Melbourne, Merritt Island and Rockledge and the Cocoa Main Street Office in the Porcher House located in Cocoa Village.

For more information, contact the Central Brevard Humane Society at (321) 636-3343.
Scholarships accepted
The Jess Parrish Medical Foundation is accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in a medical/healthcare field. Scholarship amounts range from $500 to $1,500 and recipients will be announced in May.

Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who reside in the North Brevard County Hospital District (Fay Boulevard in Port St. John north to the Brevard/Volusia county line). Students must have a 3.0 grade point average or greater, based on a 4.0 scale. Students who have been awarded a JPMF scholarship in previous years may reapply, provided they are continuing in a medical/healthcare field and have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average.

High school students attending Astronaut High, Space Coast High and Titusville High may obtain an application from the Guidance Office at their school. Others may obtain an application by calling the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation at 321-269-4066. Submission deadline is April 3.

Library holds February events
Dance Lady, Cathy Johnson, teaches a Line Dance class on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Fee is $4 ($2 for seniors). Call her at 269-3082 to sign up for the class; Nintendo Wii: Monday & Wednesday 2-4 p.m.; 50 cents/game. Friday: Senior Bowling; Basic Computer Classes are available on Wednesday mornings. Call to register, space is limited; Jazzercise for Beginners: Tuesdays & Thursdays Feb. 17, 19, and 24. Jazzercise Personal Touch class size minimum is 3 and maximum is 10 students. Cost is $20 for four classes, paid at the first class by cash, check, Visa or MasterCard to instructor Monica Benninghoff. Customers will receive a 4-class pass for the Mims-Scottsmoor Public Library location. Call to register; Feb. 7 – 9 a.m. – noon Acrylic painting with Pat Urbano. Cost: $10 for materials. Call to register; Feb. 9 – 2-3:30 p.m. Master Gardener Clinic with Nora Drown; Feb. 13 – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friends of the Mims-Scottsmoor Library Romance Book and Bake Sale; Feb. 14 – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Friends of the Mims-Scottsmoor Library Romance Book and Bake Sale; Feb. 21 – 9 a.m. – noon Quilter’s Anonymous: meets monthly for some quilter’s camaraderie. Share ideas and techniques - bring your projects; Feb. 26 – 6:30-7:30 p.m. NASA: Final Countdown. Author Pat Duggins, senior news analyst for WMFE Public Radio in Orlando, discusses Florida’s impact on NASA and how Florida will be affected by NASA’s new goal of returning to the moon and going on to Mars.

Center holds chocolate event
Brevard Achievement Center, a private non-profit organization providing programs and services to individuals with disabilities, hosts its 4th annual Coffee & Chocolate fund-raiser Feb. 28 from 7-10 p.m. at the Cocoa Civic Center, 430 Delannoy Avenue, in beautiful Cocoa Village. Proceeds will provide programs and services for persons with disabilities in Brevard County.

Local businesses and restaurants will be providing samples of coffees, chocolates and desserts.

Entertainment will be provided by Dueling Pianos of Orlando, and there will also be a silent auction. Tickets for the event are $30 and can be purchased by calling the Brevard Achievement Center at 321-632-8610, or on-line at www.bacbrevard.com.

Tickets will be available at the door the night of the event for $35.

Welcome Bernard B. Vinoski Jr., MD
Board Certified in Gastroenterology

Dr. Vinoski specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the digestive system, which may affect the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine (colon), rectum, liver, gallbladder or pancreas. His office uses an electronic medical record system for patient convenience and enhanced medical care.

His areas of special interest are:
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Hepatitis C Diagnosis and Treatment
- Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)
- Inflammatory Esophagitis — Crohn’s Disease & Ulcerative Colitis
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

Dr. Vinoski will speak at the PMC Heart and Health Village
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Dear Christian Allen,
My wife tells me that I need to go to a salon to have my hair cut. I have always just walked in a barber shop or wherever was open and convenient.

She says that a stylist will give me a different haircut than a barber. Is that true? Is she right about that?

Just trying to settle this once and for all.

Dear Hairy,
I must first give you some advice on whom is right. She is right, always right, never been wrong, no one person has ever in the history of being right been any more right than she is.

Whew! Repeat that to her for the next three weeks. In fact Barber’s and Stylist have to go through the exact same rigorous training in the art of haircutting. The only difference is the cosmetologist remain in school longer to learn about the other services given in a salon. Many new salons have barbers and stylist working side by side. You don’t always need a designer tag to look your best, but if quality is your concern then I would say absolutely you get what you pay for.

Taking another “Pole”,
Christian Allen

Got a beauty question? Ask Christian Allen!
Write him at christianallens@aol.com.

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Have you heard?
Red yeast rice lowers cholesterol

If you’ve been told your cholesterol levels are moderately high, then you may want to know about a natural supplement called Red Yeast Rice. The results from studies suggest it may reduce total cholesterol levels.

In a study reported in the February 1999 American Journal of Clinical Nutrition the participants who received the red yeast rice over a 12-week period had a significant reduction in total cholesterol, LDL (bad) cholesterol, and triglyceride (fatty substances that can accumulate in the bloodstream and damage the blood vessels) levels compared with those that had a placebo. HDL (good) cholesterol did not change in either group.

So what is red yeast rice? It is a red yeast that grows on a particular type of rice.

This yeast contains naturally-occurring substances called monacolins, which lower cholesterol by inhibiting cholesterol production in the liver in the same manner as prescription statin drugs according to Dr. David Heber, Director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition.

For anyone who wants to try Red Yeast Rice, it is available in capsule form at your local health food store. As always, talk to your doctor before taking natural supplements.

Happy Health!
DEATH NOTICES


FLEMING Brenda, 54, of Port St. John, died Jan. 28. Arrangements by Funeral Solutions in Cocoa.


HORN Langley, 53, of Titusville, died Jan. 31. Arrangements by Morris Funeral Home in Wayne County, WV.

HUMPHREY Kristian, 24, of Titusville, died Jan. 28. Arrangements by North Brevard Funeral Home in Titusville.


ROOT Mary Lou, 82, of Titusville, died Jan. 31. Arrangements by Funeral Solutions in Cocoa.

SANDERS Mamie Ruth, 94, of Mims, died Jan. 27. Arrangements by Lewis-Ray Mortuary, Titusville.

SHONTELL Thelma, 95, of Titusville, died Jan. 25. Arrangements by North Brevard Funeral Home in Titusville.


WEEKS James, 79, of Titusville, died Jan. 29. Arrangements by North Brevard Funeral Home in Titusville.

WOLF Ronald, 71, of Titusville, died Jan. 27. Arrangements by North Brevard Funeral Home in Titusville.

ZIEGLER Glenna, 61, of Titusville, died Jan. 23. Arrangements by North Brevard Funeral Home in Titusville.

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Information: Parrish Medical Center at 321-268-6110 or visit parrishmed.com/dayofdance