

The Brevard Museum of History and Science is one of county's gems

By Ken Datzman

COCOA — As Florida celebrates its 500th anniversary in 2013 and its Spanish-Colonial heritage, as well as the many different cultures that have shaped the state, it is the perfect time to embrace a local facility whose rich artifacts tell unique, compelling stories of the region and beyond.

The 14,750-square-foot Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science is one of the county's cultural gems, with thousands of artifacts and collections including the "Windover Archaeological Exhibit," which has attracted interest from The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science is an underutilized community asset, says longtime museum lover Nancy Rader.

She is on a mission to revitalize its interest and uplift its presence in the region among residents of all ages, especially young people who have the opportunity to learn about Florida's history in a fun way.

The facility, which has a number of hands-on interactive activities, provides enrichment, enlightenment and entertainment, all inexpensively.

"We are trying to get the word out in the community that the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science is a fun place to visit with so much to see," said Rader, executive director of the private not-for-profit institution.

"It's especially a treasure trove for children. We have more than 3,000 artifacts in the building. The community needs to embrace what we have here. We have multiple events going on all the time. We even designed a 'Haunted Museum' for Halloween. It attracted a lot of interest. We're planning to do it again in October."

The complex is situated on a 22-acre parcel that features trails and covered picnic areas. Its 19.5-acre nature preserve encompasses three Florida ecosystems. The pleasant surroundings are great for walking and exercising.

"I used to bring my daughter to this museum when she was 3 years old," said Rader. "She was home-schooled. So this was 'our museum.' I live about three blocks away. I've always loved this museum."

Rader said when she was a youngster her father took her to visit all types of museums.

"He was a history buff. Through that experience, I really came to enjoy the wonderment of museums," said Rader, who is one of three paid employees on staff as museums in general face financial challenges in the shadow of the economic recovery.

To help raise funds for the organization, the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science's Board of Trustees will host an appraisal gala and clinic on Friday, May 31, and on Saturday, June 1.

The program will feature national antiques and collectibles expert



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Nancy Rader is in her first year as executive director of the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science in Cocoa, near BCC. She previously was the educational director, having joined the organization in 2005. Rader said she is working to raise the visibility of the museum and is reaching out to the business community for support. The museum will host a two-part fund-raiser, an appraisal gala and clinic, on May 31 and June 1. The event will feature celebrated author Harry Rinker, who specializes in providing appraisals. He authored what is considered America's leading price guide to objects made after 1920.

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Gov. Scott presents Shine Awards to 10 district teachers at cabinet meeting, including Melbourne High's Schack

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott showed his appreciation for Florida's teachers and applauded their commitment to improving the state's education system by presenting the Governor's Shine Award to 10 District Teachers of the Year for 2013–2014.

"The Governor's Shine Award is a way that we can recognize Florida teachers for the hard work that they do every day to ensure that our students are prepared to move on to a college or career," said Scott.

"I believe future generations of Floridians should have access to a high-quality education and Florida's commitment to our teachers plays a critical role in preparing the workforce of tomorrow. I am pleased that our 2013–2014 District Teachers of the Year could join us as we celebrate their commitment to student achievement."

The 2013–2014 District Teachers of the Year winners invited to the meeting came from Brevard, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, Sumter and Volusia counties.

The participating 2013–2014 District Teachers of the Year are:

- Jason Schack, Brevard County, Melbourne High School. Schack has been teaching for nine years and currently teaches physical education. "My teaching style is based around the ability to build relationships," said Schack. "It is not about a certain subject or test, it's about everyday needs of our students. Without these needs being met we will always fall short of maximizing their potential in and out of the classroom."

- Jody Houston, Indian River County, Fellsmere Elementary. Houston has been teaching speech-language pathology for 24 years and currently teaches grades K–5 at Fellsmere Elementary. She brings "humor, creativity, and high expectations" that inspire students to believe they can achieve anything. "I know how fortunate I am to have the privilege of teaching these children every day," said Houston. "I learn a great deal from them too."

- Noris Aguayo, Lake County, Groveland Elementary School. Aguayo has been teaching for five years and currently teaches third-graders at Groveland Elementary. She attributes her success in the classroom to

fostering an environment where students fully participate in their learning. "I encourage my students to use a lot of repetition, gestures and participate in peer-teaching opportunities," said Aguayo. "My learning style encourages and engages them."

- Timothy Jones, Marion County, Howard Middle School. Jones has been teaching for seven years and currently teaches Ancient Civilizations and Civics to sixth and seventh-graders at Howard Middle School. Jones creates opportunities for his students to connect their education with the world outside the classroom. "Demonstrating the relevance and connections that the course content has within the students own life ignites a curiosity that lends itself to a deep understanding of the topic," he said.

- Dorina Sackman, Orange County, Westridge Middle School. Sackman has been teaching English language learners for 14 years and currently teaches eighth grade at Westridge Middle School. She brings "patience, love, acceptance and humor" to her classroom and her students thrive in this supportive environment. "In my classroom we incorporate unique and energetic instructional activities that promote positive student interaction and collaboration," said Sackman.

- Stephanie Middleton, Osceola County, Professional and Technical High School. Middleton has been teaching for 12 years and currently teaches ninth graders Social Studies at Professional and Technical High School. By using technology and hands-on activities in the classroom, Middleton keeps her students inspired and challenged. "My students are inspired because they know I love them and that I am passionate about what I do," she said. "I will do anything I can to help them be successful."

- Virginia Watkins, Polk County, Purcell Elementary School. Watkins has been teaching for 35 years and currently teaches fourth-graders at Purcell Elementary School. She brings a "special energy to her classroom" including the use of dance, rap songs, and rhymes to motivate her students. "I sometimes dress in costume when I read to them to get them into character and use a

variety of voices. I think that because I love what I do the kids love learning," said Watkins.

- Adam Sherman, Seminole County, Lake Brantley High School. Sherman has been teaching for five years and is currently teaching 11th- and 12th-grade students Intensive Language Arts and Leadership. His passion for teaching inspires his students to succeed beyond their dreams. According to his students, "Mr. Sherman is real and makes us ready for life and thanks to him I can say I know what road I am taking when my time comes to a bigger and brighter future."

- Melynda Shea, Sumter County, Bushnell Elementary. Shea has been teaching for nine years and currently teaches Science to fifth-graders at Bushnell Elementary. Shea creates a culture for learning where abstract ideas come to life through real-world investigations. "It is my hope that through giving my students a strong foundation in science education, they will look forward to future science classes and pursue a career in the field," said Shea.

- Emily Edwards, Volusia County, Starke Elementary School. Edwards has been teaching for four years and currently teaches fourth-graders at Starke Elementary School. Her goal is to make the journey of learning and growing as fun, interesting, and worthwhile as possible. "Learning is viewed and treated as an experience in my room; one that could challenge us, make us laugh, push us to grow and ultimately pull us toward our greatest selves."

Each of Florida's 67 school districts selects a Teacher of the Year who is then considered for statewide recognition. The Florida Teacher of the Year is chosen from more than 180,000 public-school teachers throughout the state by a selection committee representing teachers, principals, parents and the business community.

Florida ranks first in the nation for teacher quality (according to the National Center on Teacher Quality), first in the nation in advanced placement participation, and first in the Southern Region for graduation rate and degrees awarded by the Florida College System. For more details, visit www.FLDOE.org.



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Foreign policy can be only as good as public's understanding of world affairs

By David Houghton
UCF Forum columnist

Poll after poll shows that most Americans are woefully ignorant about foreign policy and the rest of the world.

In a 2006 Roper poll, only 37 percent of young Americans could place Iraq on a map — just three years after we invaded that country. An astonishing 88 percent couldn't place Afghanistan, four years into that war that is still ongoing.

In 2003, 53 percent of Americans believed Saddam Hussein was personally involved in 9/11, according to a "CBS/New York Times" poll, and according to "Newsweek" — which administered an official citizenship test in 2011 to "natural born" citizens — an astonishing 73 percent of Americans could not identify Communism as America's main concern during the Cold War. And perhaps most surprisingly, according to a 2011 Marist poll, nearly 25 percent of Americans don't know that the United States declared its independence from England.

Public ignorance has potentially very grave consequences for American foreign policy.

Should we be invading places that many Americans cannot even pinpoint on a map? Should we be allowing our presidents to wage foreign wars without our knowledge?

In 1964, the issue of Vietnam was hardly mentioned during the presidential election campaign, except that Lyndon Johnson claimed he would never send "American boys" over to Vietnam. But the following year — and largely in secrecy — the Johnson administration began a slow-motion escalation of the war. It would ultimately cost 58,000 Americans, and probably millions of Vietnamese, their lives.

In the 1980s the Reagan administration waged a secret war against the government of Nicaragua, hidden from Congress and the American people. And we may need only look at recent drone attacks in Yemen, Pakistan and Afghanistan to surmise that the same thing is happening again now. In one unexplained attack in 2011, which has never been completely explained, a U.S. drone in Yemen attacked and killed a U.S.-born teenager, Abdulrahman Anwar Al-Aulaqi, who had not been accused of anything but his father was the inciter of hatred against Americans via the internet.

Some advocate an elitist approach to American foreign policy. The 18th century British Member of Parliament Edmund Burke articulated this approach to political leadership, arguing that elected officials must employ their own judgment and experience to determine what policy is best for the country.

Some question whether our leaders know best. Hardly anybody was clamoring for war with Iraq until President George W. Bush made weapons of mass destruction a justification for it. In the subsequent war, 4,000 Americans and probably well over 100,000 Iraqis lost their lives.

In a democracy, elected officials are supposed to be the delegates of the people. And here lies the significance of popular ignorance of American foreign policy: it makes a delegate-style approach harder, since an electorate that doesn't inform itself about the issues cannot possibly hope to guide what leaders do, and cannot hope to prevent the kind of blunders with which some American foreign policy has been littered.

The answer, in a word, is education. This is why I teach American foreign policy.

As Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security advisor for President Carter, said: "We are a democracy. We can only have as good a foreign policy as the public's understanding of world affairs."

When it comes to the big things, ordinary Americans usually have it about right. They may not be highly informed about geography or history or strategy, but their support for key facets of American foreign policy has been fairly stable over time.

Survey trends show solid and stable support for U.S. international involvement and participation, for instance, and the general public usually offers mostly reasoned responses to foreign policy problems, at least after the fact. And when we take the time to inform ourselves about what is happening, we usually react logically to situations such as unsuccessful wars.

In Plato's "The Republic" — centuries later a model for many of the ideas of the radical Iranian cleric Ayatollah Khomeini — the Greek philosopher presented a stark, anti-democratic vision of the world in which only the "learned" and the knowledgeable were permitted to rule. The rest of us were assumed to live in the darkness of "the cave."

An uninformed mass public truly empowers the Platonists of American foreign policy — those such as diplomat George Kennan, political scientist Gabriel Almond and journalist Walter Lippmann, all of whom believed that top decision-makers should be left alone to make foreign policy as they see fit, without the checks and balances of "the herd."

But that kind of thinking brought us the Bay of Pigs. It brought us Watergate. It brought us Vietnam and Iraq, before public opinion turned against what policymakers were doing. And today they are waging wars without our knowledge for which our children may one day pay the price.

The less we know, the more we place American foreign policy in the hands of those who want to make foreign policy without troubling themselves with our input or burdening themselves with the terrible costs of war.

UCF Forum columnist David Houghton is an associate professor of political science at the University of Central Florida and can be reached at David.Houghton@ucf.edu.



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Liberty Bell Memorial Museum receives national award from Marine Foundation

Liberty Bell Memorial Museum of Melbourne has been named the recipient of the 2013 Col. John H. Magruder Award. The award is given to an individual or an organization for excellence in depicting Marine Corps history in exhibits or displays in a museum or similar setting.

The honor was presented at the recent Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Awards Ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va.

The curators and volunteers at the Liberty Bell Memorial Museum created exhibits with items from all of the wars to honor Marine Corps veterans and educate the public on Marine Corps history.

The award was presented by retired Marine Lt. Gen. Robert Blackman Jr., president and chief executive officer of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The event's keynote speaker was Gen. James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps.

Twenty awards were given to individuals who have contributed to advancing and preserving Marine Corps history. To view details on each of the awards, go to www.MarineHeritage.org/Awards.asp.

Harmony Farms to host the 'Buckaroo Ball' June 7 at the County Line Saloon

"Buckaroo Ball," an interactive country and western-themed fund-raising event to benefit Harmony Farms, will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, June 7, at the County Line Saloon in Melbourne.

More than 400 people are expected to attend the event, which will include live music, dancing, mechanical bull-riding competitions, local celebrity cowpokes, and more. Greg Pallone from "CFNews13" will be the master of ceremonies.

Event sponsors include Berman, Hopkins, Wright & LaHam, CPAs, Craig Technologies, Luke and Associates, and Zies, Widerman & Malek, PA.

Individual tickets are \$75 each and include admission, dinner buffet from Charlie & Jake's Bar-B-Que, entertainment, and beer and wine.

The "VIP Sponsor Appreciation Reception" will be held May 30. The event will be hosted by the chairman of Harmony Farms' board of directors, John Craig and his wife Carol.

More information about the Buckaroo Ball can be found on Facebook, or send an e-mail to buckarooballevnt@gmail.com, or call 209-0648.

Harmony Farms helps 60 riders a week with certified equine-assisted therapy for people of all ages living with disabilities. More than 40 individuals are on a waiting list because there are not enough horses to meet the local demand.

Referred by physicians or therapists, riders are children and adults coping with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, multiple sclerosis and stroke. Harmony Farms also works with military veterans trying to manage post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury with help from the Harmony Farms therapy horses.

The Duda Ranch, which donates the use of the Big Red Barn and nine acres on Stadium Parkway in Viera for the riding facility, is working with Harmony Farms to find them a larger home. Plans are to build a 20-stall barn and covered arena and add acreage in order to reduce the waiting list at the facility. For more information, visit www.HarmonyFarmsInc.com or call 631-9433.

Call for entries for Titusville Sea Turtle Festival

Children and students in kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to enter the third annual Titusville Sea Turtle Festival's Children's Art Competition. Entries should be no larger than 14-by-18 inches, in 2-D format, ready to hang. Organizers request one entry per student. The artwork will be on display June 14-15 at The Downtown Art Gallery in Titusville. An award reception will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 15. Titusville Mayor Jim Tulley will announce the winners at that time. Tape a 3" by 5" card to the back of each entry listing the child's name, age, grade and contact information — either the parent's name and phone number or their teacher or camp counselor's name and phone number. Mail or take the entries to The Downtown Gallery, 335 S. Washington Ave., in downtown Titusville. The ZIP is 32796. Call Heidi Thamert at 268-0122 for more information.

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December 20, 2012

Adrienne Roth, Publisher
Brevard Business News
4300 Fortune Place
West Melbourne, FL 32904

Dear Ms. Roth:

This firm represents All Points Logistics, LLC ("APL") and Phil Monkress, President and Chief Executive Officer of APL. Please direct any further communications to me.

It has recently come to Phil Monkress's attention that Brevard Business News ("BBN") published an article on September 12, 2011, (Vol. 29 N. 37 at page 11) concerning Phil Monkress as the keynote speaker for the then upcoming Florida Small Business Development Center 11th Annual Veterans Business conference. In this article, Mr. Monkress is inaccurately referred to as "a member of the U.S. Special Forces" and "a former U.S. Navy Seal." Mr. Monkress honorably served our country in the U.S. Navy but he was not, and has not represented himself to be, a member of the U.S. Special Forces or a U.S. Navy Seal. Thus, the article published by BBN contains false statements about Mr. Monkress. Further, this article remains published in your archives on your website at <http://www.brevardbusinessnews.com/ArchiveDocs/2011/2011-09-01/BBN-091211.pdf>.

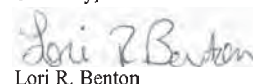
Immediately after learning about this article, on December 12, 2012, Phil Monkress contacted Sandy Pfrimmer, Operations Coordinator, Small Business Development Center at BCC, requesting assistance in the removal of this article from BBN's website. It is our understanding that Ms. Pfrimmer contacted you and requested the article be removed from the BBN website. It is further our understanding that you informed Ms. Pfrimmer that the article could not be removed.

Please consider this letter Mr. Phil Monkress's formal request to BBN to remove the above-described article from BBN's website. Alternatively, and if possible, please redact all the inaccurate statements about Mr. Monkress, i.e., that he was "a member of the U.S. Special Forces" and "a former U.S. Navy Seal." Mr. Monkress never authorized the publication of this article, was not aware of its existence or its false statements about him until this month, and he demands the immediate removal of the article or redaction of the false statements from BBN's website.

Adrienne Roth, Publisher
December 20, 2012
Page 2

If BBN does not remove the article or false statements from its website, and cease any publishing of the article or false statements, Mr. Monkress will consider all available legal options to protect his rights and reputation. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this correspondence.

Sincerely,


Lori R. Benton

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BCC to offer health-information technology degree in the fall; two-year program targets fast-growth field

Beginning this fall, Brevard Community College will offer a limited access associate in science degree in health-information technology. The application deadline is June 1.

This program is designed to prepare students to take the AHIMA national certification examination to become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) in as little as two years.

Additionally, those who are already working as medical-information coding and billing specialists can enroll in the program on a fast-track degree program.

In order to take advantage of the fast-track offering, the student must have graduated from an approved program within a minimum of three years prior to acceptance to the A.S./HIT program, or must hold a current AHIMA/AAPC certification, or must be currently employed in the field for at least three years.

Graduates of an approved program will be awarded 34 credit hours toward the A.S. degree.

Health-information technology professionals manage and administer computerized patient health-information systems and provide the diagnosis and procedure codes for health-care services provided to patients.

These professionals work in a multitude of settings throughout the health-care industry including hospitals, physician offices and clinics, long-term care facilities, insurance companies, government agencies and home-care providers.

Employment of health-information technicians is expected to increase by 21 percent until 2020, faster than the average for all occupations, as the demand for health services is projected to increase as the population ages.

An increased need for testing, treatment and procedures will result in additional claims processing for reimbursement from private and public insurers. Those interested should contact a health-science Adviser by calling 433-7575.

Gov. Rick Scott declares May 27-June 1 as Paralegals Week

Through the efforts of the Paralegal Association of Florida, Gov. Rick Scott has signed a proclamation naming May 27-June 1 as Paralegals Week. The proclamation acknowledges the support paralegals provide to attorneys in the provision of legal services, as well as their "integrity and competence, while striving for professional enhancement through education." Paralegals of Florida and the local affiliate, Brevard Paralegal Association, have "worked hard to support paralegals" by providing continuing legal education. The proclamation further recognizes that the assistance of paralegals reduces the cost of legal services and that paralegals are "highly educated, trained and experienced professionals" with expertise in various areas of law practice.



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Tire Kingdon (Suntree)
Julie's British Shoppe
902 Spa
Meg O'Malleys
Bert Schmidt
Ridgetop Manor
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Riverside Baptist Church
Golf USA
Cuticles of Indialantic
Don Soledad, Flamenco Guitarist
Tim Webber, The Coordinator Caterer
Mel High Culinary School /
Chef Mike Ferguson and Students
The Christian Culinarian / Chef Cathy

Participating Artists

Lisa Bailey for Peter Bailey
Diana Beacham
Harry Guthrie Phillips
Peggy Miller
Bob "Laff" Lafferandre
Gale Snively
David Scheimreif
Viola Knudsen
Suzanne Parisien Frank
Klammer Dave
Geraldine Deal
Charles Nalle
Xochitl Ross
Marsha Savage
Lori Pitten-Jenkins

Cancer patients and their families are our number one priority

Community meal-packaging event to bring residents together at BCC in Melbourne; to benefit area families

Residents in the region are combining efforts and organizing a community meal-packaging event for Sunday, June 2, at the Brevard Community College Gymnasium in Melbourne to benefit children and families locally.

Face of Change is partnering with and supporting local food charities, including the Children's Hunger Project, Second Harvest Food Bank, the United Way of Brevard and the Brevard Hunger Alliance, to help needy kids in Brevard County.

Alarming statistics show that two out of five kids in the county live in households that struggle to put food on the table; 43,000 Brevard school kids (45 percent received free and reduced price lunches this year (compared to 22 percent of U.S. school children overall) and only one in seven area kids received free summer meals last summer.

"We believe no child in Brevard should be hungry," said Bob Barnes of the Children's Hunger Project. "The need is real and, with our community's help, we have the

ability to make a difference."

The meal-packaging project came about when Brevard practitioner Dr. Ross Clevens of The Clevens Center for Facial Cosmetic Surgery traveled abroad on medical mission trips with a group from Outreach Africa International.

On these trips, while performing surgical procedures to correct cleft lips, burns and other areas of need, Dr. Clevens saw the great demand for nutritionally sound meals. It was as critical as the need for health care, he said.

The first Face of Change meal-packaging event was held in January 2011. The nutritionally complete United Nations standard meals were shipped to Tanzania, Africa, to aid starving women and children.

Since this first highly successful event, more than 400,000 meals have been packaged by Face of Change.

Last October, a record 750 volunteers joined Dr. Clevens, his staff and family to give their time

and help package nearly 105,000 meals for the hungriest children and families in Brevard County.

In addition, almost 1,000 pounds of food and other items were received and donated to the local Women's Center and The Children's Hunger Project. In one day, the community transformed almost 15,000 pounds of raw material (rice, pasta, soy protein, cheese, beans and vitamins that arrived from Iowa by a tractor-trailer truck) into individually packaged meals that Second Harvest Food Bank accepted in donation from Face of Change.

On June 2, the organization "hopes to exceed this number" and is "calling on the community to come together to help make a difference for the hungry in Brevard."

For more information on the event being held at BCC and to become involved, contact Jodie Hernandez. Her office number is 727-3223 or send an e-mail message to JodieH@DrClevents.com.

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Mother-daughter team Betsy and Dawn Dickson lead new Melbourne office of Benjamin F. Edwards & Co., a young, growing brokerage firm with heritage

By Ken Datzman

Starting a full-service brokerage firm from scratch in any type of economy is generally viewed as a bold venture in the world of entrepreneurship.

But it helps greatly if your last name is widely recognizable within the industry and the family heritage in the business is deep-rooted, encompassing multiple generations.

Then there are the family historical footnotes, like this one: On April 8, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Albert Gallatin Edwards, the great-great grandfather of Benjamin F. "Tad" Edwards IV, to assistant secretary of the Treasury for the Sub-Treasury Bank in St. Louis, Mo.

In May 2008, 143 years later, amid a wobbly economy, Tad Edwards founded the brokerage firm Benjamin F. Edwards & Co., in St. Louis and has never looked back.

The strategic rollout over the past five years has been impressive, led by Tad Edwards, the president, chief executive officer and chairman of the independent brokerage firm. He is the sixth generation of the family to be involved in the business.

Tad Edwards has been recruiting financial consultants and opening offices in targeted markets across the nation as the company positions itself to gain client trust, win business, and manage assets.

The firm was started with three people in St. Louis. Today, Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. has 31 branches in 17 states and more than 250 employees. The network has been expanding across the nation, including a newly opened office in Melbourne.

"We are excited about the opportunity," said Certified Financial Planner Betsy Dickson, the managing director of investments for the Melbourne office on South Harbor City Boulevard.

"This has been a while in the making. It's quite a production to do this. It takes months and months, and years sometimes, to open an office of this kind. We had to locate the right property, renovate it, and staff it. We opened Feb. 8."

Melbourne was the second office to open in Florida, following Panama City. Recently, Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. tapped the Destin market for its third Sunshine State location.

Betsy Dickson and her daughter Dawn Dickson, longtime local financial professionals, were handpicked by Tad Edwards to lead the development of the Space Coast market for the company.

"We are blazing our own trail," said Dawn Dickson, a financial consultant and associate vice president of investments. "When the firm was founded, we were watching its growth very closely."

In April 2009, Betsy Dickson flew to St. Louis to attend the funeral of Ben F. Edwards III, Tad Edwards' father. She and her daughter had worked for many years for the family run firm that Albert Gallatin Edwards and his son, Benjamin Frank Edwards, founded in the late 1800s.

While there in the "Show-Me" state, Tad Edwards invited Betsy Dickson to the firm's corporate office in downtown St. Louis. They talked about the new company.

"At the time, they had about 10 offices," said Betsy Dickson. "It has been a class operation from day one. We decided we wanted to be a part of that excitement. The company is expanding very methodically. They want to make sure they have the right people because there is a very specific culture within the firm."

The mother and daughter run the Dickson Wealth Management Team. Their roughly 2,500-square-foot office is housed on the fourth floor of the Riverside Building at 930 S. Harbor City Blvd.

The office, which has a riverfront view, was designed to accommodate future growth. "We have an option to expand on this floor," said Betsy Dickson. "Presently, we have offices for two more brokers."

Betsy Dickson has worked as a financial professional for the past 27 years. Dawn Dickson is just one year shy of that mark in the industry. "I started as a receptionist and worked my way up," said Dawn Dickson. "I became licensed in 1999 and began my own production team. When I started my family in 2003, I joined my mother and we formed a partnership, which has been great."

Betsy and Dawn Dickson are among a small number of mother-daughter financial-consultant teams around the nation, and believed to be the only such team in the region.

They have built a thriving practice by "putting the client first. You must respect the fact that the assets you manage are somebody's livelihood. It took them time



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Five-year-old Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. continues to expand its branch network in select markets around the nation, including Melbourne. The local team includes, from left: Michele Swope, financial associate; Dawn Dickson, financial consultant, associate vice president of investments; Betsy Dickson, financial consultant, managing director of investments; and Jo-Ann LaPan, senior registered financial associate.

and hard work to gain their assets. They are putting their confidence in you to make the right investment choices, to keep an eye on their money, and do everything you can to reduce their market risk," said Betsy Dickson.

As investment professionals, the Dicksons have worked during some of the most tumultuous times their industry has seen in the past 50 years. "We lived through the Oct. 19, 1987 market crash, the dot-com bubble burst in 2000, 9/11 in 2001, Enron and other corporate scandals that were swirling, and the U.S. housing market collapse in 2008," said Dawn Dickson.

These steep selloffs presented buying opportunities for long-term investors with nerves of steel. Recently, the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index posted record highs.

The Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. office team in Melbourne includes Jo-Ann LaPan, a senior registered financial associate, and Michele Swope, a financial associate.

"Jo-Ann has been in the business for 32 years," said Betsy Dickson. "She has been my assistant for 20 years. Jo-Ann is a very valuable part of the team as is Michelle. They are both very organized and fully embrace the service aspect and everything we stand for at the firm. It's about trust, integrity, and respect, the guiding principles that are engrained in our company heritage."

The Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. office in Melbourne showcases oil portraits of the five generations of family scions who led the company — Benjamin F. Edwards I, George L. Edwards, Albert Edwards, Presley Edwards, and Benjamin Edwards III.

"It's an incredible gallery of company leadership," said Betsy Dickson.

Real Capital Solutions invests here, owner of showcase Suntree Office Tower; hires area firm Lightle Beckner Robison to lease and manage the complex

By Ken Datzman

For the bold, long-term investor, bargain hunting in the commercial real-estate sector began four years ago.

And while the inventory has shrunk in many markets across the nation since then, there are still a few gems to be found — perhaps even trophy properties in some regions — but it takes considerable unwinding and patience on behalf of the investment company.

Louisville, Colo.-based Real Capital Solutions, a savvy, patient investor of workout and distressed real estate, has been scooping up bank-owned properties in multiple states, including Florida and the local market, typically at steep discounts.

"This year, we are looking to deploy \$335 million to acquire properties basically across the country," said Adam Abeln, acquisition specialist with 29-year-old Real Capital Solutions. "So we have been investing in Florida, California, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado."

Beyond that immediate horizon, Real Capital Solutions plans to invest another \$400 million in projects in 2014 and \$450 million the following year as the company grows its diversified portfolio of properties.

"We are looking at a couple of other opportunities — commercial facilities — right now in this market," said Abeln.

Under the direction of its founder and chief executive officer, Marcel Arsenault, Real Capital Solutions has a track record of purchasing distressed commercial properties and turning them around. The firm cherry-picks its projects and then typically aligns itself with leading leasing and management teams in the respective markets.

Abeln, whose office is in South Florida, said his company has been shopping in the Sunshine State for valued-priced properties since 2008. "Melbourne was one of the markets on our list, and we came across Mercedes Homes."

Real Capital Solutions is the new owner of what is now "Suntree Office Tower," at 6905 N. Wickham Road in Melbourne, formerly the Mercedes Homes Inc. corporate office building.

The luxurious five-story, 80,000-square-foot European-influenced complex was constructed during the real-estate boom at a cost of roughly \$18 million. Real Capital Solutions paid \$5.3 million for the building, which contains a 200-seat conference center. The deal closed on April 5, said Abeln, whose company's involvement in that acquisition spanned about two years.

When the housing market collapsed, many home-building companies soon found themselves in bankruptcy court. Mercedes Homes first filed for

Chapter 11 reorganization and then Chapter 7 liquidation. Abeln said his company worked with Mercedes Homes for months and held many meetings, discussing a range of involvement including helping them recapitalize their business.

"We also asked if they would be interested in selling the building. Our CEO, Marcel Arsenault, came here and toured the facility. 'Wow! What a nice building,' he said. But the deal we cut with them to buy the building never worked out. There were too many banks involved. We could not get the 10 or 11 banks to agree on the price that we felt comfortable with. So we decided not to proceed at that time."

Later, Real Capital Solutions purchased the structure when Mercedes Homes liquidated its assets. They retained local commercial-market specialist Lightle Beckner and Robison Inc. to lease and manage the showcase Class A office building. Company founder Brian Lightle and principal Robert "Rob" Beckner are working as a leasing and management team for the property.

"We are honored to be chosen to represent the Suntree Office Tower," said Lightle. "We think it's the finest building of its kind in all of East Central Florida. Our firm does most of the work in this area for CB Richard Ellis, and that connection is what brought all of us together. It's a great relationship involving all the parties."

The Suntree Office Tower is roughly 35 percent occupied. "From an office standpoint," said Beckner, "we are well-poised to be able to deliver tenant space. Office vacancies are tightening in the local market."

He added, "Our new report (covering Brevard County) shows occupancy is just shy of 80 percent, with Class A office-space inventory shrinking. Rates are starting to bounce a bit, too. Two or three years ago when the office-vacancy rate in the county was higher, landlords and tenants were in a full-negotiating mode. That is not the case today."

"Real Capital Solutions' timing bringing this office building to the market couldn't be better," said Lightle, whose firm partners with Tuttle-Armfield-Wagner Appraisals and Research to produce the quarterly "Brevard County Commercial Real Estate Report Market Overview." The comprehensive report tracks all sectors of the commercial market in the county, including office, retail, industrial, and multifamily occupancy.

Lightle said his firm has two leases in the works at Suntree Office Tower "as well as an expansion of a current tenant" there. Space is available starting around 1,500 square feet. "The space options are wide open. We'll work to meet the needs of the prospective tenant." The entire fifth floor of the facility, with 15,000 square feet, is available for lease, said Lightle.

Lease rates at Suntree Office Tower are \$15 per



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Real Capital Solutions recently closed on the purchase of the five-story, 80,000-square-foot Mercedes Homes corporate building, now known as the Suntree Office Tower. The address is 6905 N. Wickham Road in Melbourne. The company paid \$5.3 million for the Class A facility. Real Capital Solutions hired Lightle Beckner Robison Inc. to lease and manage the building. Adam Abeln, center, is acquisition specialist with Real Capital Solutions. Brian Lightle, right, is president and founder of LBR Inc. Rob Beckner is a principal in LBR Inc.

square foot plus \$6 for property expenses (includes building insurance, taxes, common-area maintenance, water, sewer, and janitorial services), which is a full-service rate. "We think that is a great value for the tenant in this market for Class A office space," said Beckner.

The spaces are fully furnished with desks and other office equipment. "That's a selling point when we show the space," said Lightle. "The furniture can be used by the tenants who lease the space in the building."

The large, furnished area off the main lobby rivals the décor of such star hotels as the Ritz Carlton and Four Seasons.

Tenants in the building can use the space. It's one of the amenities. "We will also allow outside groups to rent the space. It's quite an impressive setting," said Lightle, adding, "Our goal is to get the second, third, fourth, and fifth floors leased. Then we'll use that timeframe to determine the economic viability of the common area."

Junior Achievement teams up with Florida Tech to put on an Entrepreneurial Camp for students

Junior Achievement of the Space Coast and the Women's Business Center at Florida Institute of Technology will host a summer Entrepreneurial Camp from June 17 to 21. The campers will meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the WBC offices in Florida Tech Commons, on the Melbourne campus. The camp is open to middle-school and high-school students ages 13 to 18. The deadline to register is June 3.

Camp participants will learn business concepts and management skills in an engaging, fun and safe environment while interacting and networking with young entrepreneurs and leaders in the community.

The program will include the topics of business planning, advertising, leadership, goal-setting, marketing, graphic presentation, budgeting and time management.

Upon program completion students will be able to "recognize strategies of a successful entrepreneur, evaluate entrepreneurial ideas and demonstrate innovative business planning skills."

Additionally, the camp participants will be eligible to compete in the Be Entrepreneurial Business Plan Challenge held in December sponsored by Junior Achievement and the WBC at Florida Tech.

The camp fee of \$250 includes snacks and lunch. A few scholarships are available and should be requested upon application. Among the sponsors are Founder's Forum, Craig Technologies and IAP Worldwide Services.

The WBC is located at the corner of Babcock Street and University Boulevard. For more information, visit WBC.fit.edu/young-entrepreneurs.php. To register, visit

WBC@fit.edu, or call 674-7007.

The WBC at Florida Tech is partially funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and is an outreach of the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business.

The WBC provides women with opportunities, tools and connections to advance their global influence and success. The center offers "well-equipped facilities conveniently located at Florida Tech, teachers, mentors and volunteers with expertise and business knowledge, partnering with community organizations for broad outreach, and training

and resources that are onsite and online to accommodate busy schedules and provide easy access."

Junior Achievement of the Space Coast is an organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, it provides in-school and after-school programs for students that focus on three key content areas: work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Today, the program reaches more than 11,000 area students.

For more details, visit www.JASpaceCoast.org.

Golf Invitational Weekend to feature events that raise funds for education programs

VIERA - Tickets and sponsorships are available for the Brevard Schools Foundation 17th annual Golf Invitational Weekend presented by Heard Construction.

The weekend begins on June 2 with a reverse drawing for \$5,000 to be given away at the "Stroke of Luck" kick-off party taking place at a private estate on Merritt Island.

Tickets are \$100 each, which admits two people to the party and a chance to win \$5,000. Guests will enjoy music by The Treasure Coast Hot Club Band, food by Beef O'Brady's, a goofy-golf attire contest, Island Green golf challenge, golf cart races and more. Winner of the \$5,000 drawing need not be present to win; 350 tickets are for sale.

The fun continues on June 3 at Suntree Country Club in Melbourne for the four-player scramble. The tournament day includes a morning golf clinic, continental breakfast, formal luncheon in the Suntree Country Club dining room and golf contests and surprises.

The hole-in-one prize is a Mercedes C250 sedan from Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Audi of Melbourne. Corporate foursomes are available beginning at \$1,000, with other sponsorships starting at \$250.

Proceeds from the event will support educational enhancements sponsored by Brevard Schools Foundation for the benefit of Brevard Public Schools, including the Take Stock in Children program.

To purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorships, call the Brevard Schools Foundation at 633-1000, extension 756. A brochure is available at www.BrevardSchoolsFoundation.org.



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SBA finalizes rule adopting changes to program for women-owned small businesses; allows greater access

WASHINGTON — An interim final rule published in the Federal Register and effective immediately will amend regulations to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program.

It will allow for greater access to federal-contracting opportunities for women-owned businesses as a result of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 (NDAA) signed in January.

The interim final rule removes the anticipated award price of the contract thresholds for women-owned small businesses (WOSB) and economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses (EDWOSB) to allow them greater access to federal contracting opportunities without limitations to the size of the contract.

The rule can be accessed at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-07/html/2013-10841.htm and comments can be submitted on or before June 6 at www.regulations.gov, identified by the RIN number 3245-AG55.

As a result of the rule change, contracting officers will be able to set aside specific contracts for certified WOSBs and EDWOSBs at any dollar level which will help federal agencies achieve the existing statutory goal of five percent of federal contracting dollars being awarded to WOSBs.

The SBA said it is working on the changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulations. Before the rule change, the anticipated award price of the contract for women-owned and economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses could not exceed \$6.5 million for manufacturing contracts and \$4 million for all other

contracts.

"This rule amendment means greater opportunity for women-owned businesses to expand through government contracting," said SBA South Florida District Director Francisco "Pancho" Marrero.

"In addition to the rule change, the pace of financing women-owned businesses is also strong. In the South Florida District, 177 loans have been approved for women-owned businesses. These loans account for 19.3 percent of the 919 loans approved during the first half of the fiscal year. In fiscal year 2012, 278 loans were approved for women-owned businesses."

Every firm that wishes to participate in the WOSB program must meet the eligibility requirements and either self-certify or obtain third party certification. There are four approved third-party certifiers that perform eligibility examinations: El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Com-

merce, National Women Business Owners Corp., U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the Women's Business Enterprise National Council. Additional information and links about approved third-party certifiers are available at www.sba.gov/wosb.

To qualify as a WOSB, a firm must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more women, and primarily managed by one or more women. The women must be U.S. citizens and the firm must be considered small according to SBA size standards. To be deemed "economically disadvantaged," a firm's owners must meet specific financial requirements set forth in the program regulations.

For more information on the Women-Owned Federal Small Business Contract Program or to access the instructions, applications or database, visit www.SBA.gov/wosb.

Grutta of JAG Financial Services completes training for industry professionals

SATELLITE BEACH — JAG Financial Services recently announced that local Certified Financial Planner Joseph Grutta has completed extensive retirement income training offered through Personalized Brokerage Services' Retirement Income Symposium. The program is designed to provide financial professionals information and tools to help people prepare and feel confident about their retirement strategy.

Grutta joined a number of financial professionals from across the county for this training, which included in-depth coverage of retirement income planning strategies, resources and solutions. With today's challenging economy, "many people are feeling unsure about their future," Grutta said he decided to attend this training so that he can help people retire with the reassurance that they are on track with their retirement goals.

As a service for clients, Grutta is offering a complimentary retirement income analysis with no obligation. To schedule your analysis, contact JAG Financial Services at 777-8482.

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Health Management Associates and Florida Blue announce accountable-care arrangement to serve patients

Health Management Associates Inc. and Florida Blue — Florida's Blue Cross and Blue Shield Co. — have announced the formation of an accountable-care model to serve patients in Brevard County.

Health Management's physicians, as well as its two hospitals in the county (Wuesthoff Medical Center in Melbourne and Wuesthoff Medical Center in Rockledge), will be the provider cornerstones of this new partnership.

"This partnership with Florida Blue is designed to ensure that employers and individuals receive value through improved health and lower costs," said Alan Levine, senior vice president of Health Management and president of its Florida Group of 23 hospitals.

"According to the state of Florida, Wuesthoff Hospitals are the lowest cost hospitals in Brevard County. In our partnership with Florida Blue, we now seek to translate those lower costs to savings for employers and better value for consumers of health care. We are proud of the highly skilled doctors, hospitals and professionals in our network, and we welcome others who are committed to high-quality, affordable care, and to partnerships for the improvement of health."

"Health Management's operational expertise and its experience as a good partner with other Florida organizations makes this collaboration an ideal relationship for Florida Blue members," said Pat Geraghty, chairman and chief executive officer of Florida Blue. "Accountable-care models like this reduce the fragmentation of care and provide incentives to increase care coordination, to improve patient outcomes, and to lower cost."

The new relationship is a platform for expanded cooperation between Florida Blue and Health Management, including the potential to build a clinically integrated network among participating providers and expand insurance products offered in Brevard County, such as Medicare Advantage and self-funded and "narrow network" commercial insurance plans.

Florida Blue has roughly 4 million health-care members and serves 15.5 million people in 16 states through its affiliated companies. It is a not-for-profit, policyholder-owned, tax-paying mutual company. Headquartered in Jacksonville, it is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an

association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. For more information, visit www.floridablue.com.

Health Management, through its subsidiaries, operates 71 hospitals with some 11,100 licensed beds in non-urban communities located throughout the nation.

Wuesthoff Health System includes Wuesthoff Medical Center in Rockledge and Wuesthoff Medical Center in Melbourne. Both are full-service acute-care hospitals. In addition, it operates Wuesthoff Health Services, a network of affiliates providing hospice, home care, home medical equipment, skilled nursing care and assisted-living services. For more information, visit www.Wuesthoff.com.

Surfside Players seeks directors, choreographers and others for its upcoming season

Surfside Players in Cocoa Beach, now planning for its 55th season, is seeking directors, musical directors and choreographers for its musicals. The deadline has been extended to Friday, May 24. Contact Robin Pena at robattila@aol.com or 626-1343 (or Facebook message), to apply as a director. Specify which plays interest you. New directors, or directors whose last show at Surfside was at least three years ago, must submit a theatrical resume.

Also contact Pena to volunteer for any other production-staff position, including orchestra/band, costumes, scenery, lighting, props, artwork, publicity, etc. You can list your previous experience but a formal resume is not required.

Here are the shows for Surfside's 2013-2014 season:

- "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," Sept. 13-29 (auditions July 21-22).
- "Smokey Joe's Café," Nov. 8-24, 2013 (auditions Sept. 15-16).
- "To Kill a Mockingbird," Jan. 17-Feb. 2 (auditions Nov. 10-11).
- "Hello, Dolly!" Feb. 28-March 16 (auditions Jan. 5-6).
- "Shout! The Mod Musical," April 4-19 (auditions Feb. 16-17).

Plus "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," "Love Letters," and more.

Visit www.SurfsidePlayers.com or the Facebook group "Surfside Players."

RESEARCH STUDY FOR OVERACTIVE BLADDER

Ralph Zipper, M.D. | James Raders, M.D. | Jennifer Lang, PA-C.

The purpose of the research is to evaluate the effectiveness of investigational laser therapy in the treatment of overactive bladder in women.

Eligible participants must:

- be women over the age of 21
- meet the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) definition of overactive bladder and urinary frequency, have failed to respond to non-invasive treatments for the underlying disorder or have declined other treatment.

After the initial examination and procedure, participants agree to avoid unprotected sexual intercourse over a three-week period. Total estimated time commitment is five hours in a year. Participants also agree to complete questionnaires periodically for up to 12 months following procedure.



Research will be conducted at the Zipper Urogyn facility in Melbourne, Florida.

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Hospice of St. Francis project nears completion; area residents have opportunity to support inpatient-care center

The 15,000-square-foot, 12-bed inpatient-care center at Hospice of St. Francis in North Brevard County is nearing completion. The facility will meet the needs of Brevard patients with medical conditions requiring specialized end-of-life care.

"Our care center fulfills a dream we've had for years, to extend our hospice services to inpatient care," said Samuel Haddad, chairman of the Hospice of St. Francis Board of Directors. "For 35 years, hospice has cared for thousands of our Brevard neighbors at the end of their life and supported their families. Our inpatient-care center is a natural extension of this service."

Under the supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Galfo, Hospice of St. Francis medical director, the center will be equipped to care for patients with medical conditions that make it difficult, or impossible, for them to remain at home.

When a patient and their family are confronted with pain and symptoms that are difficult to control, "the care center will be equipped and staffed to manage the special needs of these patients, to provide them with comfort and dignity, and to serve their families as well," Dr. Galfo said.

Construction on the care center began in August 2012. Each patient room will feature a private screened porch. The facility will have a chapel, a counseling room, a room exclusively for the patient's family when visiting, and rooms for multiple other functions. The care center will be staffed, around the clock, by physicians and medical professionals who specialize in end-of-life care.

The full-time staff will be supported by a corps of volunteers that will help with things such as greeting

families, visiting patients, and providing administrative support.

"Brevard residents can be part of the new care center through financial contributions that will enable any of the center's patient suites or other rooms to be named for a specific person or organization," said Bruce Wolters, president and chief executive officer of Hospice of St. Francis.

"We believe that many people are seeking ways to do positive things in our county, and this is an important project to support. The entire care center building and each room within it can be named, with tributes placed, in memory of a contributor's loved one. Organizations that support our work on behalf of Brevard residents and their families can also participate."

He said all of the money raised through this program

will be used to help fund ongoing operations for "the vital daily work of caring for patients. A contribution to the Hospice of St. Francis inpatient care center is an exceptional way for a person or organization to do something important for the community. It will support compassionate, loving, and exceptional care and will uplift the lives, of patients and their families. The tributes to loved ones that will be read by everyone who comes within the care center's walls will touch and uplift lives for generations."

For information about the project and the opportunities to make donations, contact Pauline Taylor, vice president of business development, at 269-4240.

Hospice of St. Francis serves patients throughout Brevard County with offices in Titusville and Melbourne. For information on services and programs, visit www.HospiceofStFrancis.com.

Palm Bay Hospital earns accreditation in CT modalities, areas of ultrasound services

Health First's Palm Bay Hospital has received accreditations from the American College of Radiology (ACR) in CT modalities and four areas of ultrasound. The hospital has earned three-year ACR accreditation in ultrasound services in the areas of general, gynecological, and first and second trimesters for obstetrical and vascular (including abdominal vascular, cerebrovascular and peripheral vascular) procedures.

Palm Bay Hospital also received accreditation for the GE 8-Slice Lightspeed CT Scanner and the Philips 64-Slice Brilliance CT Scanner.

The ACR awards accreditation for the achievement of "high practice standards" after a peer-review evaluation of a facility's practices. Image quality and procedure evaluations are conducted by board-certified radiologists and medical physicists who are experts in the field. The program also evaluates personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality-control procedures, and quality-assurance programs.

For more information on ultrasound services at Palm Bay Hospital, or to schedule an appointment, call 434-6100.



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Palm Bay Police Chief Muldoon honors employees for their acts of merit keeping the community safe

Palm Bay Police Chief Doug Muldoon and members of the department command staff recently recognized more than a dozen employees for "actions that went above and beyond their normal duties."

Muldoon presented awards for the Officer of the Year, Civilian of the Year, Meritorious Service, Life Saving and other acts of merit during the annual awards ceremony for achievements that occurred during the 2012 calendar year.

"I truly believe we have the best and brightest protecting and serving the citizens of Palm Bay," said Muldoon. "These officers and civilians dedicate themselves to making a positive difference each and every day and the result is a safer community and I am so proud of them and grateful for their efforts."

Among the award recipients was Josh Taylor, who was recognized as the 2012 Officer of the Year. Taylor has been with the department for 11 years and during his tenure he has received numerous commendations and letters of recognition for outstanding performance of his duties. Among them were several responses to critical incidents involving dangerous suspects and crime trends that were effectively managed to "successful conclusions yielding positive results for the safety of the citizens in the community."

One incident was an armed robbery at a local pharmacy that was in progress when Taylor arrived. In that incident, which occurred last November, the suspect held the pharmacist at gunpoint while he demanded money and drugs. As the suspect fled, he pointed the gun

at Taylor and attempted to fire as he fled the scene. In response, Taylor shot and wounded the suspect, who was later arrested for the crime. "Officer Taylor's actions that day no doubt saved lives," Muldoon said.

The Civilian of the Year award was presented to crime analyst Dawn Strickland, who was recognized for her "consistent and effective efforts" at helping detectives and patrol officers with research and information needed to help with investigations. "Dawn's efforts have gone a long way in helping make our city safer," Muldoon said. "She is a shining example of why this agency is so successful at not only solving crime but preventing it as well."

Officer James Bearden and Officer Shane Carroll were presented the Medal of Valor for their response to an investigation involving a heavily armed suspect who threatened to harm family members and any officers that responded to his home. During attempts to make the arrest the suspect fired shots at officers wounding Bearden. Cpl. Steve Hill and Officer Darin Morgan received the Distinguished Service Cross for their role in rendering aid to Bearden while the scene was still active.

The suspect was later taken into custody after a seven-hour standoff.

Officer Josh Taylor was also awarded the Medal of Valor for his response to the November armed robbery.

The awards and the recipients are as follows:

OFFICER OF THE YEAR: Josh Taylor.

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR: Dawn Strickland.

MEDAL OF VALOR: Officers Josh Taylor, James Bearden and Shane Carroll.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS: Cpl. Steve Hill and Officer Darin Morgan.

LIFE SAVING AWARD: Officers Wanda Mendez, Neal Valenti, Brian Knaple, Dustin Terkoski and Andres Nunez.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE: Officer Shane Carroll, Stephanie Fay, Mark Foskey, Officer Yousef Hafza, Officer Chris Jones, Sgt. Ron Lugo, Dana Packard and Sgt. Mike Pusatere.

CHIEF'S LEADERSHIP AWARD: Fran Self.

The awards dinner and ceremony was funded through donations from the community and through a donation from the Community Credit Union of Florida.

National Realty of Brevard Inc. recognizes top producers or April

Gale Bray of National Realty of Brevard Inc. has announced her company's top-producing associates for April. The Top Listers were: Binki Kaiser, of the Suntree office; Carolyn Martin, Indialantic; Sandy Rickabaugh, Palm Bay; and the team of Mike Hanley and Kelli Ryan, Melbourne. Top Sellers: Debbie Schmid, Suntree; Claire Slipchuk, Indialantic; Rickabaugh; and Hanley and Ryan. And the Top Producers: Raymond Craig, Suntree; Irene Calland, Indialantic; and Steve Scheller, Palm Bay.

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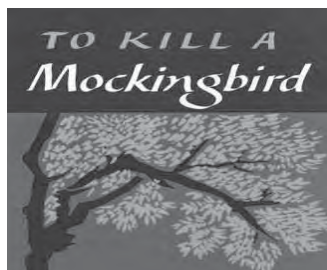
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Auditions: February 6-17
(5 female)
Published by Music Theatre Int'l

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'Hurricane Lay' to pay homage to the late Brevard County Emergency Management director Bob Lay

Brevard County will play a major role in this year's statewide "Hurricane Exercise," which will feature "Hurricane Lay" — a tropical cyclone event named in tribute to the late Brevard County Emergency Management Director Bob Lay.

Brevard County's Office of Emergency Management has coordinated with the state of Florida for its annual hurricane exercise and will go into full-scale activation from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, May 20, at the Emergency Operations Center in Rockledge.

As part of the exercise, local emergency managers will monitor the progress of "Hurricane Lay" and respond to simulated impacts, obstacles and challenges that would face the Space Coast.

Officials from various Brevard County government agencies, along with other area organizations, will respond to the Emergency Operations Center in Rockledge to participate in the drill and take appropriate actions that would be necessary in a real weather emergency.

The daylong exercise is used to strengthen existing partnerships, familiarize those with new or added responsibilities, and identify opportunities for improvement in planning, response and recovery efforts.

Lay, who died in January 2012 at the age of 69, served as director of Brevard County Emergency Operations for nearly 15 years and was known not only in Brevard County but also statewide and nationally as an emergency management expert. He led Brevard County through countless emergency situations

including hurricanes and wildfires.

"I expect 'Hurricane Lay' to be like its namesake: significant and strong, and change the lives of everyone it touches," said Kimberly Prosser, Brevard County Emergency Management director.

This hurricane exercise is not only the time for public and private sector agencies to coordinate, but residents should also use this time to prepare themselves, said Prosser. As hurricane season approaches, it's recommended residents stock up with various storm supplies that include fresh batteries, flashlights, food and water for 72 hours and a weather radio.

"I encourage every Brevard County resident to make a plan, get a kit and stay informed," Prosser said.

In addition to the full-scale EOC activation scheduled for May 20, there will also be a General Population Shelter Drill on May 17, a Pet-Friendly Shelter Drill on May 21, a Special Needs Shelter Drill on May 22, and a Point-of-Distribution drill on May 23.

Residents can stay informed by visiting www.EMBrevard.com, following @BrevardEOC on Twitter or via text messaging, or liking "Brevard County Emergency Management" on Facebook.

Hurricane season is June 1 through Nov. 30.

Locally made vaudeville movie to open annual independent film festival May 17

The ninth edition of the "15 Minutes of Fame Festival of Short Films" will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, in Palm Bay. The independent film festival will showcase works produced by emerging filmmakers from across the U.S., and around the world, including several from Florida.

At 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17, the festival will open with a free screening of the locally made movie, "Vaudeville Comedy, Then and Now." The feature was shot entirely in Palm Bay by area filmmakers Ray and Migdalia Etheridge, and features 17 actors from Brevard. The film's producer, Migdalia Etheridge, says that the film will be shown to the community free of charge as a "thank-you to everyone who participated in the movie, as well as to those who have attended our film festivals since we began in 2009."

Director Ray Etheridge says that the film is a tribute to the men and women of the Vaudeville stage, and includes vintage film clips of performers who began in Vaudeville, such as Bob Hope, W.C. Fields and Buster Keaton. The movie will be shown at The Knowledge Exchange, 5151 Babcock St. in Palm Bay.

On Saturday, May 18, the film festival will be held at Palm Bay Dollar Movies, 160 Malabar Road. More than 40 films, from 2- to 15-minutes long, will be shown at the event. There will be five shows, at 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m. Every show will contain completely different movies. Admission is \$2 per show, paid at the door.

For further information, call 984-7789 or visit the festival's website at <http://May2013.webs.com>.

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Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science

Continued from page 1

Harry L. Rinker, a principal in Rinker Enterprises Inc. in Pennsylvania.

The "What's it Worth? Gala" is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. on May 31 at the Women's Community Club Inc. in Cocoa. The address is 5 Rosa L. Jones Drive, near the Cocoa Village traffic circle.

Tickets are \$50 per person and available at the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science. The deadline to purchase tickets is May 22. Call 632-1830 or visit www.BrevardMuseum.org. The e-mail address is BMHS@BrevardMuseum.org.

The event will include the keynote presentation by Rinker, a dinner catered by Renaissance, and a silent auction.

Rinker is a prolific antiques and collectibles writer. A graduate of Lehigh University, he serves as editor of the House of Collectibles' "Harry L. Rinker The Official Price Guide to Collectibles." The publication, now in its second edition, is America's leading price guide to objects made after 1920.

Rinker has appeared on such shows as "Oprah," "Collector Inspector," "Martha Stewart Living," and "The Wall Street Journal Report."

"We're excited to have him visit our community and our museum," said Rader.

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 1, the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science will host the "What it's Worth? Antique Appraisal Clinic" featuring appraisals by Rinker.

"The event will be like an Antiques Road Show," she said. People can bring their items to the museum and have them appraised. The fee is \$15 for one item and \$30 for three items. Appraisal times must be booked by May 22.

The museum is located at 2201 Michigan Ave., bordering the Brevard Community College campus and the city's original water supply, Clearlake. In fact, there are museum trails all the way to the BCC campus.

Rader has worked for the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science since 2005 and previously was the educational director. She is in her first year as executive director.

"As the executive director, I've been working to showcase more collections of the museum. We have a lot of things that are in boxes. We want to show more of our inventory."

Right now, the museum is "focusing on fashions including wedding dresses. We have a Victorian storeroom in the museum. We're showing some fashions that have been in storage. I don't think they've been showcased at the museum since the early 1990s," said Rader.

The private collections have been donated to the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science by area residents and Floridians who have a sense of history and preservation, including the late Albert and Grace Taylor.

The museum is celebrating four decades of gathering collections and bequests to build its displays.

The organization began with a group of local citizens, called "Friends of the Brevard Museum," who saw a need to preserve both artifacts and specimens of the Indian River area of the East Coast of Florida, said Rader.

"They started in 1969 at the library on Merritt Island.

The museum was launched with a modular facility that was provided by the school board. It arrived in 1973."

In 1978, a permanent facility was dedicated, with funding provided by the Albert and Grace Taylor Trust. Grace Taylor, an early Brevard resident interested in preserving the history and natural beauty of the area, left a bequest specifically for the development of a museum to accomplish this purpose. "She called it a community house," said Rader.

The museum also acquired the Taylors' extensive collection of antiques and historic artifacts. Grace Taylor meticulously documented the items since coming to the area in 1885, said Rader. The collection includes a large volume of books.

"Grace was quite a writer. She wrote letters to presidents and they replied."

The Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science has more than 500 of her books which are housed in the "Taylor Library." Some of them are first editions. "If she read anything about an author, she would paste it inside the book to provide the reader with additional details," said Rader.

Grace Taylor was born in Maine. "According to her genealogy, she was related to Daniel Webster and David Crockett. Her name was Grace Webster Crockett. She had a DAR (Daughters of the American Revolutionary) pin from the 1800s that had been passed down in the family. We have it on display here."

The Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science shows off a range of exhibits documenting various periods in Florida's history. They include Florida's American Indian Exhibit, Citrus Industry Exhibit, Florida Cracker Exhibit, Canaveral Lighthouse Exhibit, Natural Habitat Exhibit Hall, and the Pioneer Women's Exhibit.

A new project called the "Bygone Beasts of Florida," a massive undertaking that started in 2009 and is a work in progress, is sure to create a lot of excitement.

The main characters were donated from the private collection of Chris Jeremiah, a physician in Jacksonville who is now retired. He worked closely with his son John Jeremiah in making the donation. "They found us on the Internet," said Rader.

The mastodon remains, soon to be displayed at the Brevard Museum, were discovered in the Aucilla River in Tallahassee by Don Serbousek. It took three years to bring up all the pieces of "Priscilla," believed at first to be a female mastodon. It was a complicated project retrieving the skeleton. The skull was found last. It was completely intact except for one tusk, which was found nearby. The skeleton was later found to be male.

A University of Florida archeology team led by Kurt Auffenberg is currently assembling the mastodon bones. The work is being done at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

The Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science's most enduring exhibit is "Windover," which draws people not only from around the nation but also worldwide. Windover Pond, site of one of the "world's greatest archaeological finds," is near Titusville. Its yield is causing archeologists to revise some of the long-accepted theories of early man in North America.

"It's a fantastic exhibit," said Rader. "People come from all over the world to see it. Most of them have never heard of Brevard County, until they discover the Windover Exhibit."

Discovered in 1984 during a construction project in North Brevard, the shallow bog pond was the burial ground for more than 200 Native Americans who lived in the area at least 7,000 years ago, more than 2,000 years before the first pyramids were built in Egypt.

"The experts are still studying the DNA," said Rader.

The ancient pond's muck long ago turned to peat, preserving the bones, and to the archeologists' amazement, the brains of these ancient people.

"This year," she said, "a representative from the Native American section of the Smithsonian Institution came here to view the exhibit and take pictures. Could there be a Windover Exhibit at the Smithsonian? That would be neat."

May is National Museum Month. Cultural institutions around the nation are reaching out to communities to better engage them. There are at least 17,500 museums in the U.S., according to the American Alliance of Museums.

Museums tell important stories by collecting, preserving, researching, and interpreting objects, living specimens, and historical records. "They help communities better understand and appreciate cultural diversity," said Rader.

At the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science, visitors can handle fossils, specimens, and artifacts from the animals and cultures that lived in this area over thousands of years. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4.50 for children.

Americans view museums as one of the "most important resources" for educating our children and as one of the "most trustworthy sources" of objective information, according to surveys.

Last year about 4,000 people visited the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science.

"We would love to have more people come through our doors," said Rader. "We used to have a lot of school kids visit the museums, but with the economy being like it is, things have changed. Children are the lifeblood of a museum."

Museums around the country have experienced lean times since the economic storm of 2008. State grants dried up and funds for cultural entities have been sliced.

But for the first time in four years, more museums reported an annual increase in total revenues than reported a decrease, according to the 2012 "Condition of Museums and the Economy" survey conducted by American Alliance of Museums.

"Last year one of our founding members left us some money. It was the first time in a number of years we have actually breathed a sigh of relief. It was a godsend. We run a very tight operation. We have great volunteers and a great guild. They deserve recognition for their efforts," said Rader.

"As we move forward, fund-raising is going to be an integral part of what we do in the community. We want to involve more people. We have a great asset. We just need to draw more attention to it," said Rader.

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