Florida Air Academy’s middle–school program shapes lives

By Ken Datzman

Middle school is a pivotal time in a student’s learning. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grades create the pathway to college and eventually to the work force.

Clearly, college readiness begins in the middle years of education.

“Middle school is such an important time for students. How they learn and perform in the classroom really sets the tone for their future,” said Florida Air Academy’s Lisa Gray, the middle–school director and assistant principal.

Students who aren’t on track for college and career readiness by eighth grade are unlikely to attain that level of readiness by high–school graduation, according to “The Forgotten Middle,” a research report by ACT Inc.

The findings suggest the level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a bigger impact on whether they are ready for college and career by the time they graduate than “any single factor” examined, including courses taken, grades earned in high school, and demographic characteristics such as gender, race, and household income.

The report lays out the specific knowledge and skills in English, mathematics, reading, and science that students must attain by the end of the eighth grade to be on target for college and career success.

Middle schools do not have the visibility of high schools but are nonetheless crucial in fostering the long–term success of students.

Locally, Florida Air Academy is widely known for its upper–level college–preparatory curriculum. But the private Melbourne institution also caters to middle–school students on the same campus, providing them with unique opportunities to excel in the classroom and on the athletic fields.

“A lot of people in the community know about our high school, but they are not familiar with our middle school,” said Gray, who is a two–time graduate of the Florida Institute of Technology in

Melbourne.

The middle–school program has really evolved. Around 2011, we began the process of creating the middle school’s own identity because the middle–schoolers are their own group of

Please see Florida Air Academy, page 19
Helping Seniors Improving Healthcare

Brevard Physicians Network and Medical Practitioners for Affordable Care are working to enhance your medicare experience.

Providing better coordination of services between care providers

Keeping the freedom of choice – the patient chooses their physicians

Enhancing access to care (extended hours where possible)

Encouraging seniors to become involved in their healthcare

Improving accessibility at convenient locations

Visit us at One Senior Place

Find a Physician & learn more at www.brevardphysiciansnetwork.com or www.MPACACO.org

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
THE AFFILIATION OF

DAVID W. RIDER JR., AAMS
Vice President, Investments
david.rider@raymondjames.com

with
OUR VIERA OFFICE

RAYMOND JAMES®

5445 Village Dr. // Viera, FL 32940
O 321.638.0541 // F 866.522.9580
raymondjames.com/davidrider


Militano Construction

Residential 779-9797
Commercial

www.MilitanoConstruction.com
NRT’s Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate in Florida acquires fourth Brevard brokerage in six months

SARASOTA — Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate LLC, the largest residential real-estate brokerage in Florida with more than 50 offices and 4,900 sales associates, has announced the acquisition of the assets of Coldwell Banker Cocoa Beach Realty’s two offices in Cocoa Beach.

The two offices will now operate as Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker Cocoa Beach Realty’s third office in Titusville will continue to operate as an independently owned franchisee of the Coldwell Banker brand.

“We continue to expand our operations in Brevard County by seeking opportunities to grow our sales force with local sales associates who know the market inside and out,” said Clark Toole, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate LLC in Florida. “These talented associates are already familiar with and leveraging the Coldwell Banker brand name, and I know they will be a great fit for our business.”

Under the leadership of Robert Kellar Jr., Coldwell Banker Cocoa Beach Realty has operated as a Coldwell Banker affiliate since 2005.

“Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate has built a considerable presence in central and southern Brevard County, and their marketing tools, technology and expanded Internet presence will be a great benefit to our Cocoa Beach associates,” said Kellar.

This deal follows Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate’s three recent acquisitions in Brevard County.

In July, the company acquired the assets of Hartung Real Estate, which followed the acquisitions of Pruitt Real Estate and ERA Showcase Properties & Investments in April.

In March, Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate entered three Florida counties, Flagler, Volusia and Osceola, with the acquisition of the assets of the Luxury Team of Florida Real Estate Group, based in Palm Coast.

Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate LLC now provides real-estate services in 20 Florida counties.

Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate serves the communities of Central Florida, Palm Beach, Southeast Florida, Southwest Florida and Tampa Bay. Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate is a subsidiary of NRT LLC, the nation’s largest residential real-estate brokerage company.

NRT operates the company-owned brokerage operations of Realogy Holdings Corp. (NYSE: RLGY). Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate also is a member of the Coldwell Banker global franchise network, which includes 3,100 offices with more than 83,000 sales associates spanning more than 50 countries. Every day, Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate properties are exposed to “16 million buyers on more than 575 high-traffic websites.”

For more information or to view local listings, visit FloridaMoves.com. To learn more about a career in real estate with Coldwell Banker, visit JoinCBToday.com.

Alliance Title to present second ‘Breakfast and Learn’ short-sale series on Nov. 14

Locally owned and operated Alliance Title will host its second “Breakfast and Learn: Short-Sale Refresher” series at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14, at its office in Melbourne. The address is 10 S. Harbor City Blvd.

The program will be conducted by industry professionals Cyndy Little and Jennifer Michels.

New agents and veterans alike will benefit from this review of the basic information needed for a successful short-sale transaction. In addition, these experienced short-sale specialists will give insider tips, personalized workbooks, and a homemade breakfast — all within the scope of a one-hour class at the Harbor City Boulevard location.

Mike Spragins, a partner at Alliance Title, said, “We have offered six other topics for our ‘Breakfast and Learn Series,’ and while they are all very popular, this class is the one people keep asking for.” The class is free of charge to local real-estate professionals. Reservations are required. Send an e-mail message to debbie@alliancetitlefl.com or call 409-9442.

Private classes may be arranged for large groups at your location or Alliance Title’s.

Separately, Alliance Title will present “Title 101” with Liz Cassella at 9 a.m. on Dec. 12.

To learn more about Alliance Title, visit www.AllianceTitleFL.com, follow Alliance Title Florida on Facebook, and AllianceTitle10 on Twitter.
‘Trash talk’ — too many people on campus fail to pick up after themselves

By Rich Sloane
UCF Forum columnist

As they say in the sports world, I’m “talking trash.”
Here are some statistics with which you can easily win a bar bet. UCF generates 2,342 tons of solid waste annually that is sent to the landfill. On average, each of us generates about 4.5 pounds of solid waste per day.
And perhaps most importantly, people hold a piece of trash 12 paces — before they litter.

While UCF has one of the most attractive, well–maintained, user–friendly campuses in the nation, we have a litter problem. It’s not a question of the university’s Facilities Operations and Landscape and Natural Resources departments; they do a fantastic job of keeping the grounds and buildings in tip–top shape, inside and out. You’ll find the staff constantly cruising the campus with barrels and bags, picker–uppers and brooms, mops and all manner of implements, gathering wayward newsprint, candy wrappers, soda cans and on Monday mornings the occasional adult beverage container.

What we have here is a case of neglect. Too many people neglect to pick up after themselves. It always baffles me as to who would set down a banana peel on the ledge of the stairwell in a parking garage. I mean, I love bananas. I’m even told that in the 1960s some folks used to scrape the inside of the skin and smoke the residue. Only heard about it; didn’t inhale.

The campus newspaper is a great voice, but when it becomes blowing trash it’s just that, blowing trash.

And Styrofoam cups left half full of suspicious brown liquid? I mean, come on folks; either drink up or put up. Put up in the can, that is. And don’t get me started on gum. Did you ever notice the little black spots on the concrete throughout the campus, the remnants of chewing gum that lost its flavor on the deck instead of the bedpost overnight?

The fact that UCF is a smoke–free campus constitutes two steps in the right direction. First, because of the health issues inherent in smoking. Secondly, because cigarette butts were about to be classified as the 11th plague of the ancients before the upsurge in anti–smoking policies. As someone who once emptied his car ashtray on the ground in any convenient parking lot, today I speak with clarity on the matter of those who “ Bogart that butt,” having given up the vice some time ago.

All of this leads me to my grand plan for transforming the way we keep our house. That’s the term our student–athletes use when encouraging the crowd to get behind them at the game: “This is our house! C’mon now!”

Rich Sloane is director of community relations for the University of Central Florida’s College of Education and Human Performance. He can be reached at Rich.Sloane@ucf.edu.
Space Coast Energy Consortium announces new member Teknatool USA; is a leading developer of energy-efficient motors

CAPE CANAVERAL — Teknatool USA Inc. is the newest member of the Space Coast Energy Consortium (SCEC). The SCEC will work with Teknatool USA by connecting them with companies and institutions that aim on improving their use of energy in the region and across the state.

Teknatool USA has introduced an innovative product solution that “facilitates” the growing global demand for intelligent and energy-efficient motors.

The company has a traditional market background in DIY/woodworking but is working to become a global technology-solutions provider having developed a “next-generation” computerized green electric motor with its Digital Variable Reluctance (DVR) Motor Technology.

While standard motors are “energy hogs,” DVR intelligent motors and embedded systems can improve energy efficiency by up to 80 percent — and feed real-time data into the smart grid. This highly energy-efficient technology application can be incorporated into a wide range of machinery and equipment and can therefore revolutionize the market for variable speed electric motors.

Mike Aller, executive director of the SCEC, said, “We are excited to welcome Teknatool USA Inc. as a new member of the Space Coast Energy Consortium and engage them as an active participant in the energy ecosystem here in Florida. As a leading developer of energy-efficient and intelligent motors that can be used for numerous devices and machines, we look forward to working with them to create new opportunities for our community and for Florida.”

In 2011 the company established an independent U.S. operation and in 2012, demand and growth saw the company expand this operation into new facilities, with a 10,000-square-foot innovation and customer-care center in Florida. It is here where Teknatool, for the first time outside its Nova Machinery, has used the DVR Technology as the core element in external U.S companies’ applications.

“We work in a significant area where motor capability and intelligent functions can transform and revolutionize equipment,” said Roger Latimer, co-founder of Teknatool USA and the head of group research and development.

“As well as smart machine tools, we are working to introduce ‘package-drive’ motors, which will be variations of our current motors that can be used in more general applications. The market potential for these drives is large and Teknatool have explored ‘best fits’ in areas such as pumps, wind turbines, small electrical vehicles etc., paving the road for large energy savings for private households as well as in the framework of large-scale industrial projects.”

For more information on the company, visit http://www.teknatool.com or call (727) 953–3433.

The Space Coast Energy Consortium is a 501c(3) non-profit association of businesses and community leaders who are dedicated to driving energy-related economic development in the Space Coast and across the state of Florida. The Consortium is helping to build a new and sustainable foundation for Florida’s economic future. The website link is www.SpaceCoastEnergy.org.

The Space Coast Energy Consortium is a 501c(3) non-profit association of businesses and community leaders who are dedicated to driving energy-related economic development in the Space Coast and across the state of Florida. The Consortium is helping to build a new and sustainable foundation for Florida’s economic future. The website link is www.SpaceCoastEnergy.org.
As the county’s exclusive provider of non-emergency ambulance services, Coastal Health Systems of Brevard makes important connections every day for the citizens of our community. Since 1988, its staff of trained professionals has safely transported thousands of patients to and from their healthcare providers, playing a key role in Brevard’s medical transportation system.

Coastal Health Systems is a truly unique partnership. Operating under the governance of a Board of Directors representing every non-profit hospital system serving Brevard and with the oversight of the Board of County Commissioners, Coastal is able to respond to the needs and vision of the county’s healthcare and emergency services professionals alike.

Coastal makes connections for life – for residents of Brevard, with its community partners. For information, call 321.633.7050 or visit www.coastalhealth.org.
King Center to host special Veterans Day program; John Cleland master of ceremony

A special Veterans Day tribute program and exposition will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8, at The Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts on the Melbourne campus of Eastern Florida State College.

The event is open to the public. It will include an opening ceremony, exhibits, entertainment, free gourmet food, tastings, giveaways, prize drawings and backstage tours.

Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey will speak about his organization’s service to crime–proof homes and businesses in the region. There will be other informative and entertaining presentations as well.

The opening ceremony will feature the Melbourne Municipal Band and the Eau Gallie High JROTC Color Guard.

The opening event speakers will include Bill Welser, president of Space Coast Honor Flight. Welser retired from the U.S. Air Force as a lieutenant general.

Air Force Maj. Trish Hayden, of the 920 Rescue Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, will talk about evacuating critically wounded soldiers from the battlefields.

The master of ceremony will be retired Army Maj. Gen. John Cleland, who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam as a parachute infantry officer. His awards include three Combat Infantry Badges, a Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf cluster) and the Purple Heart.

Cleland, who is in the Army Infantry Hall of Fame, has been tapped by Gov. Rick Scott to lead the new Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, which recognizes community service in Florida.

Chaplains Norm Desrosier and Tom Unrath round out the presenters. Both of them retired from the Air Force holding the rank of lieutenant.

Admission, parking and courtesy door–to–door shuttle are free of charge. Veterans are asked to be seated in a special reserve section by 8:45 a.m.

This program is being hosted by Bluewater Creative Group’s Backstage Pass “Boomer Bash and Senior Expo.” The sponsors include USAA, VISTA Innovative Hospice Care, Sonata at Melbourne and “Senior Life” newspaper. This program is supported by the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. For questions about the event, call 242–1235.

Hospice of Health First to host ‘Camp Bright Star’

Hospice of Health First will host “Camp Bright Star” from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, at Gleason Park on South Patrick Drive in Indian Harbour Beach. The children’s program integrates grief support into a “fun–filled day” with activities such as arts and crafts, outdoor games, entertainment and lunch. Children will have the opportunity to interact with other children who have had similar experiences and share their feelings with trained grief–support counselors. The camp is funded in part by a gift from Mary Bartok in memory of her son, Robert. The event fee is $5 per child. The program is for youngsters 5 to 12 years old. Call 733–7672 to register. Scholarships are available.
Learn More About Our Middle School - Grades 6-8

Small Class Sizes - Individualized Attention - 1:1 iPad Program

The Middle School years are a unique time in the life of children—a time when they begin to grow into young adults. This is not always an easy time for children or for parents.

At Florida Air Academy, we help young children grow intellectually, emotionally and ethically, so when they begin ninth grade, they do so with confidence, with the skills and passion for learning, and the certainty in knowing that they can contribute as thoughtful young adults.

Visit our campus in Melbourne and learn more about our Middle School program, which provides the individualized attention, structure, and learning tools that kids need to succeed in high school, in college... and in life!

www.FLAILR.com/MiddleSchool
FirstWave Financial’s Armstrong elected vice president of Estate Planning Council

SATELLITE BEACH — Certified Financial Planner Tim Armstrong, a wealth coach and retirement-plan specialist with FirstWave Financial, has been elected vice president of the 54-member Brevard County Estate Planning Council.

It is the only association of its kind in Brevard County for estate-planning professionals. The BCEPC provides a forum for education, networking and exchange of ideas between members.

Since 1983, it has advocated the dissemination of accurate information and fostered an atmosphere of collegial cooperation between all professional parties involved in the estate-planning process.

As vice president, Armstrong will serve a one-year term with responsibilities that include the recruitment of new members and the scheduling of professional speakers for the group’s bi-monthly meetings.

He previously held the office of treasurer for the professional organization.

“We are proud to see Tim elected to a position of significant responsibility with the BCEPC,” said Tom Kirk, the president and chief executive officer of FirstWave Financial. “He is an outstanding and highly talented member of the FirstWave Financial team. We know he will make a valuable contribution to the organization.”

Armstrong recently received the Accredited Investment Fiduciary designation from the Center for Fiduciary Studies. For more information about FirstWave Financial, call 773-7773 or visit www.FirstWaveFinancial.com.

Surfside Players to showcase the musical comedy ‘Nunsense II’ — to open Nov. 8

Surfside Players at Surfside Playhouse in Cocoa Beach will present the “heavenly” musical comedy “Nunsense II” Nov. 8–24. The show is directed by Joan Dunn. The musical director is Mario Davis and the choreographer Jeff Ferguson.

The storyline: Six weeks after their first “benefit concert,” the Little Sisters of Hoboken are back at Mt. Saint Helen’s School for a thank-you program for the supporters who got them through their crisis at the convent. But the performance is threatened by the cook Sister “Julia Child-of-God” landing in jail, and a pair of Franciscan monks arriving to reclaim Sister Mary Amnesia as one of their own.

“Nunsense II” will feature a country music performance/puppet show, an Elvis impersonator, a Madame Butterfly dance, a bingo game where everyone’s a winner, and delightful musical numbers including “The Padre Polka.” This show, approved for all ages, is presented by special arrangement with Tams-Witmark and replaces “Smokey Joe’s Café” in the season lineup.

Presentations are scheduled at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are $20 for adults, $18 for senior citizens and active military personnel and $15 for students. On opening night, Nov. 8, if you buy one ticket, you’ll get one free of charge.

For up-to-date information about the Playhouse season, visit www.SurfsidePlayers.com.
As United Way begins its 2013 Campaign, the organization rolls out new long-term strategy centering on education, income, and health in the community.

By Ken Datzman

COCOA — United Way of Brevard, whose support reaches across the county and is felt far and wide, is targeting a goal of $6.67 million as the organization begins its 2013 workplace-giving Campaign.

The kick-off dinner was recently hosted at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, under the new 90,000-square-foot Space Shuttle Atlantis exhibit.

Last year United Way ran Campaigns at some 400 area companies and organizations of all sizes, with more than 26,000 contributors taking part.

“Right now, we are trying to run Campaigns at most of those same businesses and organizations while looking to reach new ones,” said Rob Rains, United Way of Brevard president.

“It’s very important for us to forge relationships with new entities. We’re looking for organizations to give their employees an opportunity to participate in the Campaign. We have an open-choice Campaign, so people can channel their gift to the charity of their choice.”

The top 10 largest Campaigns in 2012 for United Way of Brevard were: Harris Corp., Publix Super Markets, Brevard Public Schools, Brevard County Sheriff’s Office, Health First Inc., Florida Tech, Rockwell Collins, Parrish Medical Center, Brevard Board of County Commissioners, and Lockheed Martin.

Jeff Kiel, president and publisher of “Florida Today,” is the 2013 United Way of Brevard Campaign chairman.

Local United Way Campaign contributions support more than 43 different community organizations, which operate more than 60 programs that help families and individuals in need.

Rains pointed out that in 2012, United Way of Brevard saw record donations made to its “Tocqueville Society” (individuals who contribute at least $10,000 annually). Forty individuals gifted $10,000 or more to United Way of Brevard, which was an all-time high. ‘Leadership giving’ ($500 or more) accounts for more than 45 percent of our Campaign total.

He is hoping the 2013 Campaign will be a success as United Way of Brevard strikes out in a new direction in the community and has honed a strategy designed around three components — education, income, and health.

Rains said every five years the local United Way board of directors undertakes a “priority process” evaluation of its mission. As a result, a decision was made in early 2012 to mobilize resources around the areas of education, income, and health.

“In the past, we have pretty much raised money through our Campaign and allotted it to agencies that are doing important work in the community,” he said.

“These safety-net agencies include domestic violence shelters and organizations that help children. We will continue to do that, but we are going to shift dollars and we are going to seek new dollars. We are going to try to bring new volunteers on board, too.”

Education, income, and health initiatives are pillars of most United Ways around the nation. These agencies are working to improve communities by strengthening those three building blocks.

“Part of the board’s thinking with the new direction we’re taking,” said Rains, “is that with many United Ways across the country working on similar strategies built around education, income, and health, we can look at best practices and move faster up the learning curve.”

He added, “The second piece is we could reach out to large national foundations, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to secure additional funding to leverage our new strategies.”

Two priorities emerged as part of United Way of Brevard’s education, income, and health framework. They are hunger, “especially child hunger,” and “early grade reading proficiency.” The keenest focus will be on latter, he said.

“The reason we are putting the majority of our new energy on early grade reading proficiency is because it is the most critical element of the educational building blocks, in our view,” said Rains, a University of Florida graduate.

“From birth through third grade children are learning to read. From third grade on, they are reading to learn. If children are not on grade—level in the third- and fourth-grade timeframe, they are four times more likely to drop out of high school,” he added.

Each school day in America, about 7,000 students decide to drop out of high school — a total of 1.2 million annually, according to government statistics.

Rains said he is often asked why United Way is getting involved in a job that has been the domain of the education system in this country.

“There are 8,760 hours in a year. Children in kindergarten through third grade are in school 1,170 hours per year. That is 23 percent of their time. On average, these young children sleep 42 percent of the time. So 77 percent of their lives in those early years when they are awake is not spent in school. This includes nine to 10 weeks off in the summertime.”

He added that America’s educational system “was never meant for the school to be the sole source of learning. You are supposed to read and learn at home with your parents, grandparents, and siblings.”
Junior League of South Brevard to present annual “Festival of Trees’ at Viera Regional Community Center — family event kicks off holiday season in area

By Ken Datzman

Junior League of South Brevard Inc.’s annual “Festival of Trees” has long been one of the best values in holiday entertainment for the family. And for nearly three decades, the event has kicked off the season of joy in the community.

“It’s a wonderful way to start the holiday season because it brings people in the community together,” said Liz Moran—Young, director of the 2013 Festival of Trees, which raises money for the League’s community-service projects. “The Festival showcases fantastic trees of all sizes and décor, and much more,” she added.

Moran—Young, a personal trainer at Health First’s Pro—Health and Fitness Center in Viera, said the Festival “features two fun—filled days for families to enjoy.”

There will be a vendor marketplace for holiday shoppers, a children’s craft area, a selection of food including baked goods at “Gifts from the Kitchen,” entertainment, raffles, “and we have the best Santa. The kids can get their picture taken with Santa.”

The 29th edition is scheduled the weekend of Nov. 16—17 at Viera Regional Community Center, 2300 Judge Fran Jamieson Way. The Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Festival is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children and senior citizens. There is no charge for children younger than 4 years old. Tickets will be available for purchase at the event.

This is the second year Junior League of South Brevard’s main fund—raiser is being held at Viera Regional Community Center.

“Last year people were really excited about our new venue in Viera,” said Cindy Parr, president of the nonprofit Junior League of South Brevard and a senior accountant at Whittaker Cooper in Melbourne. “It was packed all day Saturday and Sunday. So we are looking for another strong turnout this year.”

The trees, decorated and donated by area designers, will be available for purchase by the public. “We’re anticipating 30 or more full—size Festival trees, roughly 75 tabletop items and some 40 wreaths,” said Dana Morgan, a retired psychologist who is vice president of the fund—raising council for Junior League of South Brevard.

“We also have a Featured Artists area this year, which is new to the event. It will include local professional floral designers, artists, and interior decorators. We got the idea from Link Johnsten (owner of Eau Gallie Florist), who has been a longtime supporter of the Festival. Most of the items will be available in the silent auction.”

This will be Johnsten’s 29th consecutive year of volunteering his talents for Festival of Trees.

The community can get behind Junior League of South Brevard events by way of sponsorships. They start at $150 (“Friend of the League”), said Morgan.

“In general, we are accepting sponsorships from businesses, organizations, and individuals. Sponsors will have signage and other promotional support at all of our events throughout the year. They will be listed on our website for the entire year as well. The naming—right to any League event of their choice is $10,000.”

To inquire about sponsorships, call Junior League of South Brevard at 610—8590 or send an e—mail message to DanaMorgan@cfl.rr.com.


The Junior League of South Brevard is an organization of “women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.” Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

“We have about 60 active members and 120 ‘sustaining’ members (those who have completed a minimum number of years of active community service),” said Morgan, whose organization is affiliated with the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc.

“In addition, the Junior League of South Brevard has 16 to 18 provisional members (new members who are in their first year of training). Overall, we have a diverse group of women. To become a member of Junior League, you must be 21 years of age and have an interest in serving the community.”

The Festival of Trees raises money for Junior League of South Brevard’s work in the community. Its current signature project is “Fueling Kids,” said Parr. “We kicked off that project last year.”

Fueling Kids reaches out to Brevard students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The League is working with two Title I schools — Sabal Elementary in Melbourne and Riviera Elementary in Palm Bay — providing nutritious snacks and leading physical activities for after—school participants.

“We teach them about nutrition and that physical activity can be fun,” said Parr. “For instance, Liz (Moran—Young) teaches the youngsters Zumba, which is a dance—fitness program.”
CASIS issues solicitation for remote sensing proposals; letters of intent by Nov. 21

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER — The Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS), the nonprofit organization managing research aboard the International Space Station (ISS) U.S. National Laboratory, has issued a solicitation for proposals in the field of remote sensing.

This solicitation seeks proposals focused on terrestrial benefit via Earth observations, atmospheric science, planetary science or remote sensing of space. CASIS aims to use existing hardware or to develop and deploy new sensors or instrumentation for remote sensing on the National Laboratory.

The National Laboratory provides a premier vantage point from which to conduct studies of Earth. Its specific location in low Earth orbit make this platform advantageous; it covers 90 percent of Earth’s population, and imagery captured from station has improved spatial resolution and variable lighting when compared with many traditional Earth observation platforms. The introduction of this improved platform has great implications for the field of remote sensing.

Remote sensing is a diverse and profitable field with top segments grossing into the billions. Major segments include weather forecasting, right–of–way investigations, intelligence gathering, public health and agriculture.

Industry experts indicate that the space station is well suited for use in right–of–way inspections, urban planning and forestry remote sensing applications, but it is not limited to these categories. Through access to the National Laboratory, CASIS provides a unique and affordable opportunity to advance the field of remote sensing and address unmet needs in many segments.

“This solicitation will not only result in additional uses for the National Lab but also bring innovation to the entire field of remote sensing,” said CASIS Director of Portfolio Management Warren Bates. “Utilizing the unique vantage of the ISS to observe and research Earth opens a new window of possibilities and breakthroughs to better understand our planet.”

For additional information about this request for proposal, visit www.iss–casis.org/Opportunities/Solicitations/RFPRemoteSensing.aspx.

Letters of intent must be submitted by Nov. 21, 2013, through the CASIS solicitations website page.

Vendors, donations needed for SCFN event

The Space Coast Feline Network will be host its annual Holiday Gala Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Radisson Resort Convention Center at the Port in Cape Canaveral, 8701 Astronaut Blvd. Proceeds will help fund the organization’s low–cost spay/neuter program for feral/community cats. This event “generally draws 75 to 100 people and is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to introduce his or her product or service to this area.” To participate as a vendor, contact Sandy at 759–5242 or e–mail SandyGmeow@aol.com. Single vendor tables are available for $25, or two for $40. The SCFN is also in need of silent–auction donations and door prizes, in “new or like–new condition.” Call Carol at 208–6694 or Mikey at 543–9347. The SCFN is also looking for someone to donate their time to provide holiday or dancing music at the event.
Junior League of Central and North Brevard marks 30 years in community; to focus its efforts on literacy

The nonprofit Junior League of Central and North Brevard is celebrating its 30th year grooming women to be community leaders. The JLCNB was originally established as a service league in 1965 and became part of the national Junior League organization in 1983. Over the past 30 years, the JLCNB members have donated “countless volunteer hours” to helping improve the community.

These efforts and fund-raisers have “positively impacted many worthy causes” in the area, including emergency-housing shelters, cultural–art experiences, drug–free events for teens, food donations to sharing centers, literacy programs and much more involvement.

The JLCNB has recently decided to “tackle the literacy challenge” facing many within the community, especially those considered to be at–risk youth, said Ashley Ryder, president of JLCNB.

“Tackling community impact, we have partnered with the Boys & Girls Club, and will be working hand–in–hand with their new facility scheduled to open this fall in Cocoa.”

She added, “The Junior League of Central and North Brevard is embracing an issue–based approach to voluntarism. This year’s focus will be on literacy, specifically as it relates to a problem commonly referred to as the ‘summer slide.’ When children are not encouraged to read during the summer months they slide backward in their reading skills.”

According to the National Summer Learning Association, it’s common for teachers to spend at least a month teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer.

The JLCNB is currently working to build a “summer–slide program” to tackle this issue, which will be offered through a local branch of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, said Ryder. “We’re confident that our partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs will make a positive impact on the children of Brevard.”

Ryder says the JLCNB has evolved over the past three decades to meet the changing needs of the community. “We are inspiring a movement to empower women in our community to promote voluntarism and be a catalyst for change.”

The JLCNB hosts fund–raisers in the fall and the spring each year to raise money for its designated community projects. Its projects and programs include:

- “Kids in the Kitchen.” This event, conducted in the spring, is designed to create public awareness and provide education to help families and youth fight childhood obesity. The program targets youth in the community and empowers them to make the right choices to live a healthy lifestyle.
- “A Passport to Beer and Cheer.” Set for March 8, this will be the fourth year for this fund–raiser. The “casino–themed” event features a selection of domestic beers paired with complementary foods, as well as casino–style gaming, live music, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.
- “Done in a Day.” These are volunteer opportunities the organization finds within the community that are “quick projects, done–in–a–day,” that provide direct and immediate impact to the community.

JLCNB has helped many area organizations over the years. Its most recent partnership is with The Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida. Other beneficiaries of JLCNB’s fund–raising efforts include the Central Brevard Sharing Mission, Office of the Public Guardian, Crosswinds Youth Services, Kiwanis Island Special Needs Group, Brevard Rescue Mission, The Haven, Connected by 25, and elementary schools.

For more information about the organization, contact Stacy Slaughter at 474–8289.

Florida Wildlife Hospital’s Fall Garage Sale Nov. 2

The Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary Inc. will host a Fall Garage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, at 2579 Long Sandy Circle on Merritt Island. To donate used merchandise items that are of high quality for the sale, call the Florida Wildlife Hospital at 254–8843. The garage sale supports the rehabilitation of native wildlife in Brevard County. For more information about the event, e–mail Sue Small, director, at Sue@FloridaWildlifeHospital.org.

Beyond Bling 2013...

Dinner & Dancing!

You are invited to a sparkling evening of dinner and dancing to benefit the Brevard Library Foundation

Saturday, November 2, 7:00 to 10:00 in the evening
Suntree Country Club  •  Melbourne, Florida

$75.00 per ticket  includes Dinner and 2 Beer or Wine Tickets
Enjoy Dancing Demonstration by Frank & Rochelle Lawandales
Music provided by “Undecided”

Participate in a chance to win an Antwerp Diamond provided by Jon’s Fine Jewelry
or $500 Gift Card or $250 Gift Card provided by Jon’s Fine Jewelry

Cocktail Attire  •  Cash Bar Available
RSVP with payment via PayPal at brevardlibraryfoundation.org
or call 321-633-1887 for more information
Catholic schools in Brevard to host Open House Nov. 11; campus tours, meet staff

Nine Brevard County Catholic schools will be hosting an Open House on Monday, Nov. 11, with campus tours and the opportunity to meet administrators, teachers and staff.

No reservations are required to attend the event. Admissions and financial assistance information will be provided to attendees. Brevard County Catholic Schools Open House provides the opportunity to learn about the many benefits of a Catholic education including curriculum, enrichment programs, extracurricular activities and athletics.

The Catholic schools in the county include eight elementary/middle schools and Melbourne Central Catholic High School. For more information about the schools, visit BrevardCatholicSchools.org.

Here is the Open House schedule for Monday, Nov. 11, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

- Melbourne Central Catholic High School, 100 E. Florida Ave. The phone number is 727–0793 or visit melbournecc.org.
- St. Joseph Catholic School, 5320 Babcock St. NE, Palm Bay. Call 723–8866 or visit st–joe–school.org.
- Ascension Catholic School, 2950 N. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne. Call 254–5495 or visit the website ascensioncatholicsch.org.
- Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School, 3060 N. Highway A1A, Indialantic. The phone number is 773–1630 or visit hnj.org/school.
- Our Savior Catholic School, 5301 N. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach. Call 783–2330 or go to oursaviourschool.org.
- Divine Mercy Catholic Academy, 1940 N. Courtenay Parkway, Merritt Island. Phone 452–0263 or visit www.dmccs.org.
- St. Mary’s Catholic School, 1152 S. Seminole Drive, Rockledge. Call 636–4208 or go to stmarys–school.org.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, 420 E. Fee Ave., Melbourne. Call 723–3631 or visit ollmelbourne.org.
- St. Teresa Catholic School, 207 Ojibway Ave., Titusville. Phone 267–1643 or visit stteresa–titusville.org.

Holiday Light Parade set for Dec. 7

The Health First Palm Bay Hospital Holiday Light Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. “Palm Bay pulls out all the stops on this one,” says Heidi Lapin, director of Palm Bay Parks and Recreation Department. “It’s great to see so many local businesses and groups come out and participate in the parade with really creative floats, and the school bands are always a big hit with the crowds. This is a really great family event and we invite everyone to come out and join the fun.” “Each year the parade grows bigger and better,” added Shawnta Price, recreation supervisor in charge of parade logistics. “We started getting inquiries about the parade right after the Independence Day celebration, and we started taking registrations in September, so there is a lot of interest in participating in this event.” To enter a float or marching group in the Health First Palm Bay Hospital Holiday Light Parade, download the registration forms and guidelines at www.PlayPalmBay.org.
UCF’s ‘Obojobo’ instructional network captures national recognition — one of three award winners

ORLANDO — An online University of Central Florida platform for designing, sharing and distributing instructional materials is one of three 2013 national award winners for educational innovation announced by the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies.

The homegrown e-learning system, called “Obojobo,” was created by UCF’s Center for Distributed Learning as a platform for the widespread sharing of online instructional components across the university. The system offers design support, templates, and other features to make creation and distribution of high-quality, reusable digital-learning tutorials convenient for faculty and staff.

Obojobo was recognized with the annual WCET Outstanding Work (WOW) Award, which is presented to colleges, universities and other organizations for exceptionally creative, technology-based solutions to a significant problem or need in higher education.

“Obojobo’s core design focuses on assessable content that is targeted, succinct, and, as a result, highly reusable,” said Ian Turgeon, a web-application developer in the center. “Our vision comes from the simple idea that thousands of instructors are teaching the same subject with the same content, and reinventing it every semester. By establishing a community of educators and giving them a platform to interact with this content, they could collaborate to build some truly fantastic things.”

Obojobo has allowed departments such as the John C. Hitt Library and Student Development and Enrollment Services to create and share learning resources that faculty anywhere on campus can incorporate into their courses.

The system also collects student performance data for detailed feedback on their learning and is the foundation of several self-paced, faculty-development programs.

“Innovation is in Obojobo’s DNA. The system’s collaborative nature allows all corners of the university to benefit from a good idea, allowing it to be shared instantly with everyone,” said Thomas Cavanagh, associate vice president in charge of UCF’s Center for Distributed Learning.

Since the implementation of the system in 2008, the number of users has increased to more than 64,500. The number of times that the UCF faculty members have shared online modules has increased by 60 percent each of the past two years, and the number of assessments completed by students has reached 300,000.

The Center for Distributed Learning has been approached by several higher-education institutions and associations wanting to adopt Obojobo and its modules.

“We are exploring venues and licensing options to be able to share and collaborate with other institutions who might be interested in co-developing additional Obojobo features,” said Francisca Yonekura, associate department head.

And just where did the name Obojobo come from? The palindrome speaks to the aesthetic qualities that

the center was looking for when it created the name.

“We struggled to come up with a name that captured our intentions. When we decided to abandon real words, we needed something that was identifiable in both auditory and visual formats,” said Turgeon.

The other winners for this year’s WOW Award are:

- University of North Carolina’s Online Proctoring Network, which standardizes and streamlines proctoring for instructors, students and proctors.
- Lane Community College’s OER Faculty Fellowship in Eugene, Ore., which provides support and opportunities for faculty to create and use open educational resources in their courses and save students money by reducing textbook requirements and increasing the number of textbook-free courses.

“There’s a robust level of innovation and creativity that schools are applying toward the overarching goals of quality and student success,” said Ben Zastrocky, chairman of the WOW Award committee and director of the Educational Technology Center at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

“While the three 2013 WOW projects are so diverse, they have one interesting common theme: utilizing technologies to increase efficiencies in the teaching and learning process so that faculty can focus on their No. 1 job — teaching, assessing student progress, engaging with students.”

The awardees will be recognized during WCET’s annual meeting of higher-education educators Nov. 13–15 in Denver.
Alpizar Law to present Thanksgiving turkey giveaway Nov. 23 at its office in Palm Bay

PALM BAY — Over the past few years, many families in Brevard County have faced challenges with a variety of hardships brought on by the recession, job loss and other issues.

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, the holiday season should be a time for giving, and this year the spirit of giving is filling the hearts of Alpizar Law LLC.

With a history of community service, the Alpizar Law family has announced it will be giving away 500 turkeys. This event is open to everyone in Brevard County and the surrounding cities.

“When I moved to Brevard County 35 years ago, I knew this place was special,” said O. John Alpizar, the founding attorney of the practice. “Now, having raised a family and dedicated my career to helping people in this community, I felt this was a wonderful expression of thanks to the place I’ve called home for more than three decades.”

At 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, Alpizar Law will be giving away free turkeys on a first-come first-served basis at its office, 1528 Palm Bay Road, NE, in Palm Bay.

The attorneys and staff at Alpizar Law “invite our friends, neighbors and community members to visit our office and pick up a free turkey — from our family to yours.” In order to extend this offer to as many people as possible, “we are limiting one turkey per household” on a first-come first-serve basis, while supplies last.

“Helping people for a living in their time of need after an accident always gives me a sense of joy and gratification, which is why I love what I do,” said attorney David Alpizar. “But there is no better way to show my thankfulness and support for our local community, during this time of year, than to come together and give back to people.”

The attorney team includes O. John Alpizar, David Alpizar and Andrew Pickett. They are personal injury trial attorneys. They devote time to helping injured victims and families who have lost loved ones because of someone else’s carelessness or negligence. Alpizar Law’s practice includes a focus on automobile and trucking collisions, wrongful death claims, motorcycle collisions, catastrophic injury claims and pedestrian/bicycle injuries.

For more information about the practice, call 676–2511 or visit www.AlpizarLaw.com.

AMIkids Space Coast Fall Fund-raiser at Viera

The Melbourne Center for Personal Growth, operated by AMIkids Space Coast, will host its 25th annual Fall Fund-raiser from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Viera Regional Community Center. Contact Nicole Barnes at 752–3200 for reservations or send an e-mail message to SpaceCoast–DCM@amikids.com. Over the years, more than 1,300 boys have participated in the program at the Melbourne Center for Personal Growth, and many have gone on to attend college and start careers in the community. Roughly 76 percent of the youngsters have had no further negative contact with the criminal-justice system, compared to the national average of 24 percent. The fund-raiser will support programs that make a difference in the community and in the lives of young people.
United Way of Brevard
Continued from page 10

But some parents lack good parenting skills, some work two jobs, and some are illiterate. United Way of Brevard wants to pull together community partners to help schools with this important mission of reading improvement.

“We can’t do it ourselves,” said Rains. “There are agencies and organizations that have been working in the field and we have to build their capacity. We want to work closely with our current partners including the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCAs, while reaching out to new partners like Rolling Readers of the Space Coast in order to expand our efforts in early grade reading proficiency.”

Voluntary Prekindergarten Education program providers and child-care providers as well as media partners and the community as a whole will play a role, too, he added.

Rolling Readers’ “Read–Aloud” program, with 200 volunteers, is active in roughly 300 classrooms in the region. But its mentoring program is only reaching 60 to 70 children. Rains said United Way’s goal is to help Rolling Readers grow its mentor program. “We want to help them recruit and build their capacity to 500 or 1,000 mentors in those early grades.”

He said research shows that three things impact early grade reading proficiency: mentoring, reading to your child just 10 to 15 minutes per day; summer reading–loss prevention programs; and family literacy.

There are about 200,000 third–graders in Florida, including 5,000 in Brevard County on an annual school–year basis. Of the statewide number, 56 percent of third–graders this year passed the reading portion of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, or FCAT. 44 percent of third–graders failed, scoring a Level 1 or 2 out of 5.

Brevard County performed better than the state average with 65 percent passing. Still, more than one-third of Brevard County students didn’t make the FCAT cut.

“It’s not the schools’ fault. It goes back to the family and the community as well. There are a lot of things involved in this issue,” said Rains. “We are about to roll out our strategies with pilot programs in the community as we work to build new partnerships. These are multiyear strategies. This is a key launch for United Way of Brevard.”

Junior League of South Brevard
Continued from page 11

In Fueling Kids, Parr said the League partners with the local Children’s Hunger Project, whose executive director is Bob Barnes. “We work closely with Bob and his group.”

Each spring, Junior League of South Brevard hosts “Kids in the Kitchen,” a one–day event that is free of charge and open to the public. It encourages young people and their parents to make good choices by providing cooking demonstrations and how to plant a garden, as well as giving tips on healthy snacking and exercising.

“We have hosted the ‘Kids in the Kitchen’ program locally for many years,” said Parr. “We typically have a celebrity chef who participates with us. The program is designed around nutrition and physical fitness. This is a League project for the community. We do not make money from it. The date and the location of the 2014 Kids in the Kitchen will be announced later.”

For 47 years, Junior League of South Brevard has been working to better the community through a range of outreach programs and projects.

Some of its past projects include: Serene Harbor and Tranquility Cove — which provides housing for victims of domestic violence and their children; The Haven for Children — a group home for children who have been removed from their homes because of neglect, abuse, or abandonment; Club Esteem — an organization in Melbourne that provides free after–school programming and summer activities to students; and Rachel’s Challenge — an anti–bullying program provided to local schools.

“We have been very active in the South Brevard Community. We’re proud of the work the League members have done over the decades. We’re hoping that this year’s Festival of Trees will be a big success because it provides us the financial platform to continue doing this type of work in the community,” said Parr.

S tart the holiday season right with our premier holiday event!

A marketplace for holiday shopping
Entertainment & Raffles to win
Wreaths & other décor for sale
Decorated trees of all sizes
A variety of food & drinks
Crafts & games for kids
Picture with Santa

Proceeds go to support our community projects
Kids in the Kitchen
& Fueling Kids

adult $8
Kids & seniors $4
under 4 - free!
Family packages available

Visit BrevardBusinessNews.com for Advertising Information
Six weeks after their first “benefit concert,” the Little Sisters of Hoboken are back at Mt. Saint Helen’s School for a Thank-You program for the supporters who got them through their crisis at the convent. But the performance is threatened by the cook Sister Julia, Child of God landing in jail, and a pair of Franciscan monks arriving to reclaim Sister Mary Amnesia as one of their own!

Book, Music and Lyrics by Dan Goggin

Directed by Joan Dunn
Musical Direction by Mario Davis
Choreography by Jeff Ferguson

November 8 – 24, 2013
Fridays/ Saturdays 8:00pm, Sundays 2:00pm
NOTE: Replaces Smokey Joe’s Cafe in the season lineup
Take Highway A1A to South Fifth Street, Cocoa Beach
Reserve tickets at (321) 783-3127 or www.surfsideplayers.com
Tickets $20 adults / $18 seniors, active military / $15 students
Opening Night is Buy One Get One Free!
Presented by special arrangement with Tams Witmark

TOOLs FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER
Keiser offers in-demand degrees in

BUSINESS
with concentrations in:
Accounting • International Business • Marketing
Human Resource Management • Finance
Associate, Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees vary by program and by campus.

KEISER UNIVERSITY
FORT MYERS
866.240.8235
KUMelbourne.com

BREVARD BUSINESS NEWS / 18
Call Adrienne Roth at 321-951-7777 for Advertising Information
NOVEMBER 4, 2013
Florida Air Academy
Continued from page 1

students on campus," she added.

Florida Air Academy's Joe Burley, the school's assistant athletic director who is a middle–school history teacher, says there is "a lot of positive reinforcement for student achievement at FAA. There are leadership awards, academic awards, National Junior Honor Society recognition, and other peer–attention programs."

These types of programs can be particularly powerful when applied to middle–school students, education experts say.

The middle–schoolers also have the opportunity to compete as members of both junior varsity and varsity sports teams at Florida Air Academy.

"Traditionally, what FFA offered is the opportunity for middle–school students to play on varsity sports teams if they have sufficient skill level," said Burley, an alumni of the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, where he competed in tennis.

"Currently, we have middle–school athletes who are on the varsity swim team, the cross–country team, and the volleyball team."

The school also will be offering young students the opportunity to take part in club sports, including archery.

Florida Air Academy has 40 students enrolled in grades six, seven, and eight. About two–thirds of them are day students from the local area, said Gray.

She says the class sizes are small in number. "Right now our largest class is 13 students. The students receive a lot of personal attention in the classroom, which is really nice. It creates a great learning environment."

Although there have been no large–scale experimental studies done for the middle and upper grades, there are numerous studies showing that small classes are correlated with student–achievement gains.

One comprehensive report, compiled for the U.S. Department of Education, analyzed the achievement levels in 2,561 schools around the nation. The only objective factor found to be "positively correlated with student performance" was smaller classes, not school size or any other variable that the researchers could identify.

Gray, who joined the Florida Air Academy faculty in 2000, said the middle–school program is designed around providing "enlightening opportunities" for students.

"It’s not very often you have the middle school and the high school on the same campus. Because of that synergy, the middle–school program offers the opportunity for students who are gifted in mathematics, for instance, to take Algebra II or other electives as eighth–graders at FAA. And students are taking advantage of those opportunities," she said.

That’s just one example of many opportunities middle–schoolers have at Florida Air Academy, she said. "They can also study a language if they choose to in the eighth grade or even the seventh grade. But most of the young students have decided they will wait until the eighth grade."

In addition to being the middle–school director, Gray teaches science. "I see every middle–schooler every day."

In the last decade, numerous reports have been published calling for reform in education. Each report has highlighted the importance of early experiences in science so that students develop problem–solving skills that empower them to participate in an increasingly scientific and technological world.

In addition to Gray, the Florida Air Academy middle–school teaching team includes Carol Karp, Stephanie Pinsky, and Burley, who for many years worked with adults and children with disabilities.

It takes a special breed to teach middle–school students, and Florida Air Academy has a "caring team of professionals. We try to make the students the best they can be," said Gray.

The middle–school program combines classroom learning with outside experiences. Once a year, for example, Florida Air Academy's middle–school students participate in an "extended educational field trip."

Their weeklong field trip last year was to Washington, D.C., which is unique among American cities. The students visited historic buildings and sites and learned about the nation’s capital, furthering their understanding of history, culture, and other areas.

The field trips are designed as a learning tool, generally “combining aspects of history, science, mathematics, and English,” said Gray. "They were given a writing assignment detailing the things they saw at each place they visited in D.C."

This year the students will be going to Charleston, S.C., which is also rich in history.

"Mr. Burley includes a lot about Charleston in his U.S. history classes," she said. "The kids will get to see some of the places he has talked about in the classroom."

The first decisive victory in the Revolutionary War was fought in Charleston at the Battle of Fort Sullivan. And the Ordinance of Secession was signed in Charleston to begin the unrest that led to the Civil War.

Florida Air Academy middle–school students will have a full week to discover Charleston’s remarkable history while learning more about their classmates during the trip.

"As a teacher, it’s invaluable to have the opportunity to see the students interact with their classmates and their teachers outside of a classroom setting," said Burley.

"The kids are always sharing stories on these trips. When you develop that level of rapport, it makes teaching and classroom management much easier. The students seem to realize that you are concerned and care about them outside of the classroom environment, and that really helps the educational process in general," he added.

Gray said it was “amazing to see the difference in the students between when they left Melbourne and when they returned from the field trip to Washington, D.C. You could see friendships formed that you would never have imagined.”

In addition to the out–of–state travel experiences, Florida Air Academy takes middle–school students on field trips in the region “at least once a month. They are getting out and seeing real–world things, which supplement what we’re teaching them in the classroom,” she said.

Florida Air Academy’s well–rounded middle–school program includes a growing and varied mix of athletic teams and sports participation. The school as a whole has a proud tradition of athletic achievement. The Falcons have won a number of state championships in basketball and baseball, as well as gold medals in track and field.

Two Florida Air Academy graduates competed at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London — Sasha Kaun in basketball for his home country of Russia and LeeVan Sands of the Bahamas in track. Sands won a bronze medal in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China.

Recently, Florida Air Academy became affiliated with the Space Coast Christian Athletic Association, which is a league consisting of nine middle schools, said Burley, who has coached Florida Air Academy’s varsity tennis team the past eight years.

Founded in 2000, the SCCAA has grown over the years to include private, parochial, public, and non–denomination schools which share the same virtues and values.

“The affiliation with the SCCAA will afford us the opportunity to participate this winter with a boys middle–school basketball team, our first–ever girls middle–school basketball team, and in the spring our first 7–on–7 flag football team, which has our young men very excited about the prospects of being football players in the spring,” said Burley.

“These programs present a great opportunity for the kids to develop their skills. We teach the basics. At this age, their energy level is very high. By taking part in sports, they are exercising and bonding with their peers.”

Burley coaches the boys middle–school basketball team and colleague Yolanda Glenn will be coaching Florida Air Academy’s girls basketball team at that level.

As a member of SCCAA, the middle–school basketball teams will play a 14–game schedule. The league also has a post–season tournament.

In the fall, Burley said Florida Air Academy “is hoping to have a co–ed middle school soccer team, which would be a first for us.” The middle–school sports program is poised to expand in the years ahead, he said.

“We are starting with three sports for the first year with the potential of expansion over the next couple of years," said Burley. “Our boys middle–school basketball team was very successful this year and we have a number of those eighth–graders returning next year. They are exited about having the opportunity to play a pretty substantial schedule for middle school and a tournament at the end of the season.”

Burley said Florida Air Academy “has been great in terms of support for middle–school athletics. The teachers, the students — everyone comes to the games and shows their support. It’s a really nice atmosphere.”

Middle–school students at Florida Air Academy are given every opportunity to thrive in an environment that fosters success and keeps them on track to high achievement.
THE
RYAN CASE
1873

Wednesdays & Fridays at 2 p.m.
October 2 through November 29
Live IN Theatre
An interactive murder mystery experience walking through the streets of Cocoa Village!
Directed by Dram Desk Nominee, Carlo D’Amore
“A particularly fine example... of outdoor Theater!”
THE NEW YORK TIMES
“Top Ten Events! It’s like CSI: NY in the 1870’s”
TIME OUT NY
“Brilliant”
NEW YORK MAGAZINE
“Wonderful work”
NY THEATER

Margaret Cross returns, with special guests, to bring you an ALL NEW patriotic sensation celebrating ALL Americans who have served!
TWO MATINEE PERFORMANCES ONLY
Friday, November 8 at 2 p.m. & Saturday, November 9 at 2 p.m.

Opening Soon
Oliver!

Music, Lyrics & Book by Lionel Bart

This season, share in one of Broadway’s most cherished musicals with a message of love and hope, bringing to life Charles Dickens’ classic story of “Oliver Twist”

PERFORMANCE DATES
Friday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 30 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 1 at 2 p.m.
Thursday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 7 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 8 at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices range from $18 to $32
300 Brevard Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32922 (321) 636-5050
Box Office Hours: Tues-Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Experience World Class Theatre in Your Community!
www.CocoaVillagePlayhouse.com