Experience in North Brevard helps propel Holly Carver at Team LBR

By Ken Datzman

TITUSVILLE — Over the last decade, women have made big strides in the commercial real-estate profession as the field has become more diverse. Studies have shown that barriers are now coming down, and mentorship is leading the way for more women to enter the industry at various levels.

While women have been well-represented on the residential side of the industry for years, the commercial segment has been dominated by men. Today, women are building successful careers and finding opportunity in commercial real estate.

It requires a lot tenacity to build a base of customers. Networking, prospecting, and relationship-building skills are important to developing a long-term career in commercial real estate.

Locally, one of the rising newcomers in the industry is Holly Carver of Lightle Beckner Robison Inc. The full-service commercial real-estate company in Melbourne is also known as “Team LBR.”

She is one of a small — but growing — number of women in Brevard County who work in commercial real estate sales and have overcome challenges to entry. Carver previously worked in a government position that was tied to economic development and commercial real estate.

“I’m strong and I’m determined,” said Carver, during an interview at the Sherwood Golf Club.

When Carver was 12 weeks old, she contracted deadly spinal meningitis at a day-care facility and was taken to Jess Parrish Hospital in Titusville, known today as Parrish Medical Center. She was not expected to live through the night.

“Dr. Efran Jamir, who today is a retired pediatrician, was an intern at the hospital then. He told my parents there was an experimental treatment they would try. It saved my life. That’s all I know.”

Carver is a sales and leasing associate at Team LBR, and the firm’s North Brevard specialist. Titusville is a market she not only knows from a resident’s point of view, but also from an insider’s point of view from her recent position working for Brevard County Commissioner Robin Fisher in Titusville.

“My whole thread — everything about me — leads back to North Brevard, even though my parents didn’t move there from East Orlando until 1989,” she said. “But my great aunt and my great uncle lived in North Brevard. So, we have deep roots in Titusville.”

Since joining Team LBR, Carver has landed some of the most prized commercial real-estate listings in that part of the county in the last nine months. Her listings include the 100-acre, 18-hole Sherwood Golf Club, which is for sale for $1.2 million.

In 2009, the property almost went into foreclosure. Andy Ali, a Titusville resident, stepped up to purchase it as an investment. “He’s improved all the greens and the fairways. Renovated the banquet hall. Invested in new tee boxes, and much more. He’s turned the property around. Andy committed five years to the project and stayed much longer. He’s now ready to move on to other investments and has put the Sherwood Golf Club up for sale,” said Carver, who earned her bachelor’s degree in business management and supervision from Daytona State College.

The property has drawn interest from investors as far away as Brazil and Canada. The club has a strong contingent of golfers from Canada who play the course during their winter months here.

“The golf season is upon us. Andy is excited about the new season,” said Carver, who lived in that golf-club neighborhood until recently and was president of the Sherwood Area Home Owners Association for one year, 2015–2016.

“It’s a great community to raise kids. We have seen a lot of young families move into the area. Many of the homes are turning over to engineers and professionals who work in the space industry.”

The Sherwood Golf Club is being marketed on major real-estate websites. “There is a lot of reach. That’s how we have attracted international interest in the

Holly Carver is a sales and leasing associate with Lightle Beckner Robison Inc., a full-service commercial real-estate company in Melbourne. She is the firm’s North Brevard specialist. Carver, a resident of that area, previously served as the chief legislative aide to Brevard County Commissioner Robin Fisher and was involved in community redevelopment and commercial real estate in general in that market. She is at the 100-acre, 18-hole Sherwood Golf Club in Titusville. Carver is the listing agent for the property, which is owned by area resident Andy Ali. It’s for sale for $1.2 million. He’s made improvements through the years, including to the greens and the fairways and renovated the banquet hall.
Strong family ties improve employment opportunities for people with childhood-onset disabilities, study says

By Michelle Klampe
Oregon State University
News & Communication

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Family and close friends play an integral role in helping people with childhood-onset disabilities attain quality employment as adults, a new study from Oregon State University has found.

“Having a disability from childhood has wide-ranging impacts on early childhood development, schooling, socialization and more,” said David Baldridge, an associate professor of management in the OSU College of Business and one of the study’s authors. “If your social network is already more limited because of your disability, your strong family ties become even more important.”

The findings underscore the value of social supports for people with disabilities to assist them in building those networks and, when they are employed, navigating the workplace in an effort to secure more hours or access jobs that require more advanced skills, Baldridge said.

The study was published recently in the international journal “Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.” The co-authors are Alison M. Konrad of the University of Western Ontario; Mark E. Moore of East Carolina University; and Yang Yang of Rowan University.

People with disabilities make up roughly 15 percent of the world’s population but as a group they have received little attention from management scholars. Much of the existing research on employment for people with disabilities focuses on employment status, with less attention paid to employment quality, Baldridge said.

Those with childhood-onset disabilities—meaning they were born with a disability or acquired one as a minor—are among the most marginalized populations when it comes to employment. They are often unemployed or underemployed in jobs that do not provide adequate hours for financial self-sufficiency or fulfillment because their skills and abilities are underutilized.

“You can’t just look at whether they are working or not,” Baldridge said. “Are they using all of their skills to the best of their ability?”

The researchers’ goal with the new study was to better understand how social capital may be linked to improved employment opportunities for people with childhood-onset disabilities. Social capital is the value of employees’ social networks, which are comprised of people that employees know, and includes strong ties to family and friends and value created by interactions with people in their social networks.

Using data from Statistics Canada, a national sampling of Canadians that includes information on employment, family size, close friends and disability, the researchers analyzed relationships between family size, numbers of close friends, employment hours worked, skill utilization and disability, including severity and type of disability. They found that those with larger families also tended to have more close friends. Those with strong ties to family and friends had access to more hours of paid employment. Severity and type of disability were not significant factors with regard to hours worked or use of skills.

The researchers also found that men with childhood-onset disabilities who also had children were more likely to have more work hours and be in jobs that best utilized their skills, though that effect was not present for women in the study.

Overall, the findings raise concerns that people with childhood-onset disabilities who have few family members or close friends may have difficulty overcoming barriers to adequate employment, Baldridge said.

“For people with childhood-onset disabilities, these strong family ties are more important,” he said. “It’s also critical for families to understand that part of their role is to help the person with disabilities to expand their network beyond the family.”

Teaching children with childhood-onset disabilities how to develop social capital also could help them build the strong network of friends and family that can help them in the workplace, he said. That kind of network is becoming more and more valuable for everyone as the world changes, and as workplaces change, they may bring with them more opportunities for people with disabilities, he said.

“It’s getting harder and harder to train people for a specific job these days, but if you can listen, understand, write, and
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text stated that all classes were canceled for the rest of the week. On Thursday, there was still some sense of normality; my kids went to school, I did some work at the office, and kept a watchful eye on Irma’s projected path.

Then another notice, this time from the Seminole County Public School System: Classes were canceled for that Friday. By now, resignation. Like it or not, Irma was coming.

I have visited and spoken with most emergency managers in Central Florida. I know we are in very good hands. I know that Florida is one the best emergency—management systems in the country. But I was hearing all the talk in the media about the strength, size and unprecedented nature of this storm.

I should have been level headed and I tried my best. In all honesty, I was afraid and wondered what I should do. Pack up and head north? Stay? Go to a shelter? Even with my expertise, these were decisions that were not meant to be taken lightly.

By Saturday, my family and I decided to stay. We had all the supplies we could get, window shutters were up in the house, and the forecast suggested the hurricane eye was moving east away from us. Things were looking good and spirits were lifted. Now the waiting for the storm began.

As I continued to monitor the path of Irma, bad news trickled in. The storm was moving west, expected to ride up the gulf coast of Florida, directly impacting Tampa. My heart sank as I know that the eastern side of hurricanes always pack the strongest winds and rain. Resignation, again. Did I make the right choice? Did I put my family in harm’s way?

Glued to weather reports I was hoping for a change in Irma’s trajectory. Saturday night brought even worse projections, the eye of Irma shifted more east, and the possibility of a direct strike was upon us. It was the beginning of one of the longest nights of my life.

Saturday evening, emergency alerts started to arrive: “Tornado warning, seek shelter immediately!” We all packed into the safety of the bathroom and waited for the warning to expire. No luck, as the night progressed we received six additional tornado warnings.

Time stood still that night.

The wind started to blow, rain began to pour and we were bracing for the worst of it at 2 a.m. I did my best to comfort the kids. We played games and kept an eye on the news. As reports of power outages began to trickle in, flashlights were nearby and we waited for our power to go out. Luckily for us, it never did.

Around 2:30 a.m., the eye approach our area, the winds kept blowing, gusts shook the house to its core, and in the darkness of night it was hard to tell what was going on. By 4:30 a.m., I couldn’t stay awake. For an hour or so, sheer tiredness allowed me to sleep. But it was short lived. The howling of the winds woke me up and I was just hoping for it to stop. Please just stop, Irma. Move on, please!

Daylight finally arrived and I peeked through the window to get a glimpse of the damage. I could see a section of the back fence was down and several roof shingles on the ground. In all, I felt a sense of relief that the worst of the storm had passed and that we were going to be OK. Resignation turned into relief. Good call on staying put. We made it!

As neighbors started to come out to assess the damage, there was a strong sense of community. Everyone asked if others were OK, how they could help, etc. By far, we dodged a bullet; things could have been a lot worse, and it was for many others around the state, Georgia, South Carolina, and those in Anguilla, Antigua, Barbuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, St. Martin, St. Barts, St. Kitts and Nevis, Turks and Caicos, and the Virgin Islands.

I am grateful to all emergency personnel, media and governmental officials for their hard work to keep us informed and safe.

As I reflect on the experience, I cannot be certain that I would stay if a hurricane like Irma comes our way again.

But one thing that was reinforced for sure is that preparation is the best tool to get ready and recover from a storm.

Should I stay or should I go next time? Hopefully I won’t have to find out soon. My fingers are crossed.

Fernando I. Rivera is an associate professor in UCF’s Department of Sociology. He can be reached at Fernando.Rivera@UCF.edu.
‘Hi. I need to report suspected abuse.’
Dana Delaney Loyd
aka Theresa Smith
to Florida Abuse Hotline
at 11:12 a.m., April 29, 2015

‘Loyalty is everything to me!!!’
Brevard County Sheriff Robert Wayne Ivey
(321) 271–6029
to Dana Delaney Loyd
at 5:19 p.m., April 29, 2015

4/26/2016
Jihosoft Android Manager
Content: against people who are nice to your face and [bleep] you behind your back. Does not help when your [bleep] suckers jail command staff at jail are telling people to be at the meetings tomorrow and Friday to stop you from any more ass raping you are doing to them

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-11-19 16:36:35
Content: I have never lied to any deputy. If I don't know an answer I get it. But now, since I'm blowing you, I'm on your side...

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-11-19 16:37:29
Content: I should have punched pikus and taken the charge

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-11-19 16:40:00
Content: The top 5, top 10 and top 15 list is another argument.

From: +13212716029
Date: 2014-11-19 16:42:27
Content: I couldn't care either way about the promotional gaps as I have always worked within the five. I am only trying to help them out but in time they will know that

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-11-19 16:49:12
Content: That's why I'm so mad!!! Everyone has come so far to turn back now...Chris walked away from it yesterday, I need to follow suit. This does not need to go to impasse. They have no leaders, and the ones that are claiming to be leaders are stupid. Why does no one see that?

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-11-19 16:50:36
Content: Fuck it. Good luck to everyone.

From: +13212716029
Date: 2014-11-19 16:51:41
Content: Now u know how I feel sometimes

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-11-19 17:00:43
Content: And just to be a bigger bitch, I'm pushing for everyone to go to Gary Lyons retirement party tomorrow nite and [bleep] their meeting. Chris and I are offering to be designated drivers. So [bleep] them.

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-11-22 12:41:58
Content: So, what are you going to take from me next year?

From: +13212716029
Date: 2014-11-22 12:42:59
Content: You heard about that huh?
Anthropologist’s work impacting people with cleft lip, palate; John Starbuck’s research is leading the way

By Zenaida Gonzalez Kotala
University of Central Florida
Office of Research & Commercialization

ORLANDO — UCF assistant professor John Starbuck thought studying anthropology might lead him to a career in a museum, but it’s done more than he could’ve imagined. His research and discoveries are having a big impact. His work is changing the lives of people with cleft lip with or without cleft palate, and his current research holds promise for helping some people with Down syndrome.

Growing up, Starbuck wasn’t interested in college. His mother worked minimum-wage jobs and his father wasn’t around. But school opened a door for him, allowing a glance at what the future could look like.

“I bought into the idea that an undergraduate education could take me somewhere different and ran with it,” Starbuck said. “I worked in a lot of restaurants in high school, and it was easy to see that those paths have limited opportunities.”

Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis offered him a spot at their campus through the McNair Scholars program and his higher education career took off.

While some may say anthropology is a career without modern applications, Starbuck’s work over the past 13 years demonstrates the power of the field to make a difference in today’s world.

As an undergraduate, Starbuck began studying facial reconstruction from a forensic context. Starbuck later went to graduate school at Penn State and became interested in Down syndrome, particularly how an extra copy of a chromosome 21 alters facial development and appearance.

His research interests led him to a postdoctoral position in a dental school looking at unilateral and bilateral cases of cleft lip with or without cleft palate. Traditionally, cleft lips and palates are repaired by a plastic surgeon when the child is young. But those children can later develop dental and breathing issues, requiring additional surgeries. Starbuck realized they were forgetting something: everything in the skull is related — a concept known to anthropologists as morphological integration.

“In the skull, there were different issues that weren’t addressed because plastic surgeons tend to focus on making the soft-tissues of the face look right, but children born with clefts may have impaired breathing abilities due to internal, deep bony obstructions that make them more susceptible to infections,” Starbuck said.

By looking at 3D cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) images of patient skulls, Starbuck and his plastic surgeon collaborators at the Indiana University School of Medicine discovered that extra bony material obstructing the nasal airways needed to be removed to improve nasal breathing. These findings were published in the Annals of Plastic Surgery. This research provides doctors with additional options when completing corrective surgery on patients with cleft lip and palate.

Starbuck’s recent research focus also has the potential to help children with Down Syndrome.

Working with geneticist Randall Roper at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis, mouse models were treated with EGCG, an extract from green tea, to see if skull shape and structure would improve.

There was a suspicion that EGCG might tone down over expression of a gene known as Dyrk1a, which plays a strong role in skull development and is triplicated in “Ts65Dn” Down syndrome mouse models. After the experiments, the mice showed corrected skull vaults suggesting a permanent change in the skull’s developmental trajectory that is directly attributable to early EGCG treatment.

The team published its findings in Human Molecular Genetics in 2016.

Now, Starbuck and Roper, along with collaborator Paul Territo at the Indiana University School of Medicine, want to explore EGCG’s impact more closely.

“The recent work has opened up the possibility that some anatomical changes and health issues associated with Down syndrome can be reduced or maybe even eliminated to improve health and quality of life for individuals with trisomy 21,” Starbuck said. “But we need to do more research on the skull and brain to be sure, and funding is absolutely necessary to carry out these experiments.”

The team has submitted proposals to several funding agencies including the National Institutes of Health and the Lejeune Foundation.

While the team awaits word on new funding, Starbuck and his students...
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Election reform is about more than fraud — entire system needs top-to-bottom review and strengthening

By Lee H. Hamilton

A dozen years ago, the preface to a report on federal election reform began with these words: “Polls indicate that many Americans lack confidence in the electoral system, but the political parties are so divided that serious electoral reform is unlikely without a strong bipartisan voice.”

I can find no part of that sentence that’s not still true. Americans still lack confidence in the electoral system. The political parties are still divided. Serious electoral reform remains unlikely. Perhaps the only change is that the commission issuing the report was co–chaired by a Democrat and a Republican — former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker — who genuinely tried to find a bipartisan approach to our election system’s problems.

Since then, we’ve careened into a pitched political battle on the issue.

At one level, I’m baffled by the lack of progress. I sat on that commission, and what seemed obvious to us then seems even more obvious today. Voting is the most basic step a representative democracy asks of us. We do three things when we vote: we select the officials we want running the government; we suggest the direction of government policy; and we reaffirm our belief and our stake in representative democracy. You can’t get more important than that. So why do we remain in an endless national standoff on how to fix our elections?

The answer, of course, is that in politically divided times, changes to elections are seen through partisan eyes.

This is disappointing, because right now there should be plenty of room for agreement. We face genuine challenges to our electoral system that even the most partisan of Democrats and Republicans could come together on: aging machines, long lines at the polls, cyber attacks by hostile entities, foreign interference, inadequately trained voting officials, voter lists that are not up to date ... It’s a long list.

But where the two sides fall apart is on the most basic of questions: how readily do we give access to the voting booth? I’ll lay my cards on the table. I believe in wider access. Creating a Congress and an overall government that are more representative of the American people rests on expanding the electorate and beating back the barriers to voting.

The more people who vote, the better the chance to strengthen the political center formed by moderates and pragmatists. The lower voter turnout becomes, the more sway held by the most ideologically intense voters, who reward the most polarizing candidates, and the more deep resentments are created among those citizens denied the right to vote.

This is not to dismiss concerns about voter fraud. We do need to make sure that the person arriving to vote at a polling site is the same one who’s named on the voter list. And we’re headed in that direction. The number of states requiring a voter ID has increased dramatically over the last couple of decades — today about 50 percent of American voters live in states that require a voter to produce an ID before casting his or her ballot.

Yet the ambivalence many of us feel about this is understandable. We want to ensure there’s no fraud, but at the same time we are aware that stringent ID requirements disenfranchise a lot of people who may have trouble acquiring an ID: they don’t have a driver’s license, passport, or birth certificate. So the requirements can be an effective way to block minority groups or others from voting. And there’s this political reality: many of those who call the loudest for restrictive ID laws are targeting groups that they think will vote against them.

Though we want to ensure that only those people eligible to vote are actually voting, we also want to ensure that all those who are eligible to vote find it convenient to do so. There’s a lot of work to be done on that front, at every level of government. The entire system needs top-to-bottom review and strengthening. And so far, I see no evidence that we as a nation are taking this need seriously.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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Florida Bar seeking applicants for appointments beginning Jan. 1; various openings on committees

The Florida Bar is seeking applicants for appointments to be filled in December.

- Florida Rural Legal Services: One attorney to serve a three–year term commencing Jan. 1 on its 20–member board of directors. Other appointing organizations are the NBA, Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter, ACLU, voluntary bar associations and various other eligible client and community organizations. The mission of Florida Rural Legal Services is to provide accessible legal assistance that empowers low–income and disadvantaged populations.

- Florida Realtor–Attorney Joint Committee: Five lawyers, one from each state appellate district, to serve two–year terms commencing Jan. 1. In addition, there is one at–large seat available. The Florida Bar president receives the recommendations of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section for consideration. The committee is composed of 11 lawyers appointed by The Florida Bar and 11 realtors appointed by the Florida Association of Realtors. The committee promotes cordial relations between realtors and attorneys and presents educational seminars.

- Eleventh Circuit Judicial Conference: One delegate to represent the Northern District of Florida to serve a four–year term commencing Jan. 1. The biennial conference consists of educational opportunities and meetings (by state) on matters of mutual concern. The Bar’s three delegates contribute to planning and organizing an event during the conference in every odd numbered year.

Individuals interested in applying for these vacancies may download the Application for Special Appointment or call Bar headquarters at (850) 561–5757, to obtain the form. Completed applications must be received by the Executive Director, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson St., Tallahassee, Fla., 32399–2300, or submitted via email to specialapptapp@floridabar.org. The deadline is Friday, Nov. 3. The Board of Governors will review all applications and may request telephone or personal interviews.

County’s third quarter report now available online

The third edition of “Brevard Delivers,” the county government’s quarterly report, is now available at www.brevardfl.gov/BrevardDelivers. Brevard Delivers covers upcoming projects, ones that are underway, and projects that have recently been completed. The publication, which is available in the second, third and fourth quarters in electronic form only, also features in–depth stories on major projects that the county is undertaking, including tax–funded restoration of the Indian River Lagoon. To subscribe and receive future editions, visit apps.brevardcounty.us/PublicInformationReleases, and be sure to click on Brevard Delivers under public information release categories.

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Florida Business Development Corporation (FBDC) is a private, non-profit Certified Development Company established in 1989 to administer the Small Business Association (SBA) 504 Loan Program.
Brevard Achievement Center event at King Center to feature Miami dance instructor Karen Peterson

Brevard Achievement Center’s VSA Florida–Brevard County art program will host its fifth annual Performing Arts Showcase at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19, on the main stage of the King Center for the Performing Arts in Melbourne.

Along with several visiting artists from the community, Karen Peterson of Karen Peterson and Dancers in Miami will teach and participate in the program.

The Showcase will feature nine classes of middle and high school Exceptional Student Education students and one BLAST class from Brevard Public Schools, as well as adults with disabilities from BAC’s Adult Day Training program. BPS classrooms come from Central, Johnson (two classes) and Southwest Middle Schools, as well as Eau Gallie, Rockledge and Viera high schools. All classes worked with a visiting artist from the Central Florida community for eight weeks to create and rehearse performances in dance, song, music or theatre. This year four classrooms also received instruction from Peterson. These four classes will participate in the Peterson–designed finale, then be joined by the remaining classrooms for a free–style performance.

“Karen believes that through dance we can better understand our common humanity by exploring and appreciating how it elevates the human spirit to move freely regardless of perceived or real barriers,” said VSAFL–BC’s Lee Sorensen. “This belief fits in well with our mission of promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities in community life and enriching the lives of everyone through the arts.”

Peterson has taught privately, at universities and schools worldwide, and is a member of the Company of Teaching Artists. She believes that through dance we can better understand our common humanity by exploring and appreciating how it elevates the human spirit to move freely regardless of perceived or real barriers. She also feels strongly that dance should be accessible to everyone.

Florian Jaminet is the former director of the National Institute of Dance in France and began his professional career in 1984 with the Royal Ballet School of England. In 1989, he founded the company Jaminet Dance. His troupe, Les Ballets du Monde, is a well–known international dance company.

Jaminet will teach classes and perform with his company to open the event on Oct. 19. He will be joined by several other artists to round out the Showcase.

Other visiting artists will include:

- Marty Eyster–Mercado is a dancer with 30 years’ experience, including as a ballerina with the Joffrey Ballet, the American Ballet Theatre and the Kirov School of Leningrad, Russia, among other notable companies. Eyster–Mercado is director of the Muscle Memory Dance Company.
- Nicole Warren has studied dance since the age of 5 and has a classical dance foundation of ballet, jazz, tap and pointe. In 2016, she co–founded the Chance 2 Dance Foundation, which includes the Chance 2 Dance Studio, a nonprofit organization that provides dance instruction to the disability community at free or reduced rates.
- Chris Kahl toured throughout Europe and was featured on the “BBC” several times before returning to Florida and writing “A Musical Journey Through Florida,” which highlights the state’s history through original music.
- Ed Eliason began playing drums in the fourth grade, continued through college and has now performed professionally for 50 years in a wide variety of genres. He became a teaching artist with Brevard Cultural Alliance in 2004 and the following year joined VSA Florida. Since then, he has taught more than 1,000 students traditional and world percussion.

BAC’s VSAFL–BC “thanks Jim and Michele LaHam, as well as their family and friends, for generously supporting the Performing Arts Showcase in memory of daughter, Noelle who passed away suddenly in January 2015. Because of Noelle’s passion for the arts and special bond with a relative who has Down syndrome, Showcase expenses have been defrayed since that time.”

Showcase admission is free of charge. The event is open to the public. Those that would like to raise funds for BACS VSAFL–BC’s other events can attend a Bunco Fiesta fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 3, at the agency’s Rockledge headquarters, 1845 Cogswell Street. The program begins at 6 p.m. with a chili dinner that includes beer and wine, then Bunco at 7 p.m. There will be a silent auction, a 50–50 raffle and prizes. Tickets are $25 per person in advance and $30 at the door.

To register for the event, visit bachrebrevard.com/events or call 537–4243. For more information about BAC and VSAFL–BC, visit BACBrevard.com.

Florida Wildlife Hospital’s ‘Hoot in the Park’ set

The Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary will host “Hoot in the Park” from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Wickham Park in Melbourne. The festivities will include a dog–lure course, live “ambassador” animals from Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary, pet photos with Santa and “great” holiday gift ideas. The lure course is “great for dogs and their owners,” said the hospital.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary. The event sponsors are Swift Paws, and the Florida Bat Conservancy. For more information on this community event, contact Tracy Frampton at 254–8843 or Tracy@FloridaWildlifeHospital.org.
MERRITT ISLAND — The Business Recognition Committee of the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce presented its Business Champion of the Year Awards to five area companies at its 29th annual Awards Ceremony Sept. 29 at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront.

The winners:
- Start-Up Business Champion: Ready. Set. Game;
- Small Business Champion (1–25 employees): A1A Optics;
- Medium Business Champion (26–100 employees): Fidelity Bank of Florida;
- Large Business Champion: Dale Sorensen Real Estate;
- Nonprofit Business Champion: Friends for Animals Sanctuary.

Nearly 200 Chamber partners, their families and friends “regaled” in the event’s theme, “Celebrating Success.” The emcee was Greg Pallone of “News 13.” The keynote speaker was Mark Bontrager, vice president of space operations for Space Florida.

All nominees for the awards were recognized. Representatives of the banquet’s major sponsors made presentations to the winners.

“It took a lot of hard work by several dedicated people to not only organize the awards ceremony, but to compile the nominations, evaluate the entries and make the difficult determination as to which companies would receive the honor of Business Champion of the Year,” said Joe Janson and Tom Vani, BRC co–chairmen. “In light of the outstanding organizations that were nominated, choosing only one per category was not easy for our judges; they were all winners.”


Jessica Carter to address ABWA Oceanside Chapter

The Oceanside Chapter of the American Business Women’s Association will host its Networking and Dinner Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club in Indian Harbour Beach. The featured speaker will be Jessica Carter, the best–selling author of “Ready, Set, Go Make a Video: 101 — YouTube Video Ideas for Your Business.” She is a “renowned” video marketing and business–coaching specialist. To make a reservation for the meeting, send an email message to reservation@ABWAOceanside.com.
By Ken Datzman

Brevard Family Partnership is set to introduce the third edition of its popular “Decades in Revue” fundraising series.

The event showcases a certain time in American history and wraps a theme around that period, including drinks and food that were popular then. Many of the attendees also wear themed attire of the era to the function.

The first benefit of the series was all-encompassing, and guests chose the particular decade they favored and dressed accordingly. “The first fundraiser celebrated the 10th anniversary of Brevard Family Partnership,” said Melissa Breckenridge, the public relations manager for the nonprofit organization.

“We followed up with the ‘Fabulous 50s’ last year and now we’re set for the ‘Awesome 80s.’ We’re skipping around the decades. We’re excited to be featuring the 1980s. It was an interesting decade for music, for fashion, for movies and so forth.”

“If you think about movies from that era, “Top Gun,” “Dirty Dancing,” and “Scarface,” come to mind, to name just a few,” said Enie Windle, who is a member of the Decades in Revue committee.

What did girls and guys wear in the 1980s? “Eighties fashion for women included neon clothing and leg warmers,” said Deb Buza, a committee member who is with the Brevard Regional Hyperbaric Center and the Southern AeroMedical Institute, both in Melbourne.

“Women wore ribbons on their hair. And it was ‘big hair’ with a lot of color,” she added.

Clothing for men during that decade included acid-washed jeans, jean jackets, high-top shoes and T-shirts. On the dressier side for men, “Think ‘Miami Vice.’ That really captures the 1980s,” said Windle.

Long Island Iced Tea was one of the popular drinks in the 1980s. It typically is made with Tequila, vodka, triple sec, light rum, and a splash of cola.

The Walt Disney Co. opened Epcot Center in Orlando in 1982. Also in that year, Michael Jackson recorded “Thriller,” which went on to become the world’s best-selling album. According to “Billboard,” Thriller sold an estimated 66 million copies.

Later in the decade, in 1987, the Dow Jones Industrial Average broke 2,000 for the first time. The event happened Jan. 8. Then in October of that year came the so-called “crash,” when stocks lost 22 percent of their value in one day. “Black Monday” was Oct. 19.

Today, the Dow Jones is around 22,700, an all-time high. The other indices — Nasdaq and Standard & Poor’s 500 — are in record territory, too.

The Brevard Family Partnership third annual ‘Decades in Revue’ benefit is set for 6 p.m. on Oct. 21 at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place. In short time, the program has become one of the area’s most entertaining fundraisers, with leaders in the community performing on stage to raise money for BFP, the county’s lead child-welfare agency. From left, volunteer committee members are: Enie Windle, Deb Buza, Brevard Family Partnership’s public relations manager Melissa Breckenridge, and Malak Hammad.

Brevard Family Partnership’s third annual ‘Decades in Revue’ benefit is set for 6 p.m. on Oct. 21 at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place. In a short time, the program has become one of the area’s most entertaining fundraisers, with leaders in the community performing on stage to raise money for BFP, the county’s lead child-welfare agency. From left, volunteer committee members are: Enie Windle, Deb Buza, Brevard Family Partnership’s public relations manager Melissa Breckenridge, and Malak Hammad.

The performers will include Catherine Wright of United Healthcare, Dr. Joni Oglesby of the Florida Institute of Technology, Joshua Adams of Rock Paper Simple, members representing Roy Allen Elementary School, the Junior League of South Brevard, the Community Foundation for Brevard, and the Brevard County School Board. The latter team will include Dr. Desmond Blackburn, the superintendent of schools.

“The decades of the 1980s gives the performers a wide selection of music to choose from, and all the performers are coming to win this year,” said Breckenridge. “It’s going to be a lot of fun. People who have attended the last
One of the goals of the Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation, which was established in 2003, is to improve the general health of residents in the region, as it takes a preventive medicine approach.

The organization strives to do this mainly through its annual “Healthy Lifestyle Expo,” which is presented free of charge to the public. The event includes various health screenings, timely lectures on a range of topics, from fall prevention to diabetes to medical marijuana, and much more, all at one convenient location in the county and during the day.

There will be door prizes and giveaways and a complimentary breakfast.

“The focus of the Healthy Lifestyle Expo is the public,” said Dr. Ashish Udeshi, president of the Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation, whose nonprofit works to spread goodwill in the community and around the globe.

“At this year’s event, we will be presenting a lot of information as it relates to health and wellness. The program will include educational information from area providers and physicians, and various screenings will be available for the public. The Expo will also present the opportunity for the public to receive information about the different health–insurance plans, and to be better prepared for the upcoming enrollment period. We put on this event for the community, and through the years a lot of people have taken advantage of what we have to offer. It’s been a big success.”

The open–enrollment period runs Nov. 1 through Jan. 31. Last month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced that people with Medicare will have more choices and options for their coverage in 2018.

“The date of the 2017 Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation Expo ties in nicely with the new open enrollment period,” said Dr. Kantilal Bhalani, founder of the Titusville–based Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation. “There will be a lot of insurance agencies and representatives at the Expo. That’s always an important part of the program each year.”

The Healthy Lifestyle Expo will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place. The fall event typically draws more than 1,000 people.

“We’ve had great participation at this venue,” said Dr. Udeishi, who is board–certified in anesthesiology and pain management and practices at Florida Pain Institute.

“This year we have shifted the date of the Expo to a Friday, a weekday instead of a weekend. We think it will allow more people to attend the event. We’re also hoping that a lot of senior citizens will be able to come out for the Expo. Perhaps we will be able to provide transportation like we have done at some of our past events, working closely with Aging Matters in Brevard.”

The Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation presents the Expo in collaboration with Parrish Medical Center, Florida Pain Institute, Aging Matters in Brevard, and “Space Coast Daily.” There are opportunities for businesses and organizations to come aboard the Expo as sponsors. The sponsorships range from $1,000 (Healthy Living Lecture) to $25,000 (Grand Sponsor). Each sponsorship level offers various amenities and promotional opportunities.

“We have a lot of different sponsorship opportunities for businesses to take part in the Expo,” said Naren Shah, executive director of the Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation and a volunteer business mentor at SCORE in Melbourne. “We are even offering table space for only $150. We are targeting the small–business market.”

“The Expo is a good platform for any business or organization that wants to target a sizable population with their products and services,” said Sue Tindall, the Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation’s administrative assistant who has been with the organization since its founding. “To learn more about being an Expo sponsor, contact Tindall at 735–6492 or 543–1495 (cell). The email address is info@DoctorsFoundation.org.

The event is expected to draw family members, senior citizens and caregivers to view exhibits, receive health information, screenings, and hear lectures. Attendees will have the chance to learn about everything from public agencies and non-profits to financial services, as well as housing, home care, health care, fitness, education, and many other vital services and products for families.

“The Expo is designed to be a showcase of products and services and information under one umbrella at a convenient venue in the area,” said Dr. Udeishi. “At the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place, we can accommodate a large audience for the health screenings, the lectures, and the other segments of the program.”

The health screenings will include blood pressure, osteoporosis, memory, vision, and other tests. Influenza shots will be administered by Walgreen’s Pharmacy (bring your insurance card).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics say the flu vaccine...
Clark sworn-in as a PSC Commissioner; worked for West Florida Electric for years

TALLAHASSEE — Gary Clark was recently sworn-in as a Commissioner on the Florida Public Service Commission by Judge Colby Peel, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida. Governor Rick Scott appointed Clark to the PSC in September to serve the remainder of a four-year term.

“I look forward to serving as Public Service Commissioner,” said Clark, who most recently was deputy secretary of land and recreation for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. “I gained valuable experience at DEP and West Florida Electric, and my appreciation of customers and utility operations will be a good foundation as I prepare to make decisions on the many challenging issues we face.”

At DEP, he oversaw 174 state parks and trails and the Division of State Lands. In this role, he also served as chair of both the Florida Acquisition and Restoration Council and the governing board of the Florida Communities Trust.

Clark spent the majority of his professional career at West Florida Electric, where he served as vice president of member services. During his tenure, he worked in many areas of the company and led its diversification efforts. He was also a member of the Association of Energy Engineers, where he earned the distinction of Certified Energy Manager.

Recognized for his leadership and community service, Clark has served in several capacities, including as a Washington County School Board member, Chipola College Board of Trustees, Washington County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

Clark is a graduate of Chipola College and the University of Phoenix and holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration. A lifelong resident of Washington County, he has owned and managed several small business operations in Northwest Florida.

The League of Women Voters to host ‘Timely Topics Luncheon’ in Melbourne

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast will host a “Timely Topics Luncheon” from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20, at the Indian River Colony Club on Freedom Drive in Melbourne. The topic will be “Second Chances: Felon Voting Restoration.” Florida is one of four states that have a lifetime ban on voting for residents with past felony convictions.

The panel discussion will be led by attorney Cecile Scoon, the Voting Rights Restoration Liaison for the League of Women Voters of Florida. Scoon is a civil rights lawyer in North Florida. Panelists will include Floridians with felony convictions, who have served their time and will give the audience different perspectives on why second chances are important for communities.

The luncheon fee is $22 for League members and $25 for guests. Advance ticket purchases are required. The reservation deadline is Oct. 15.

To register for the meeting, go to www.lwv-spacecoast.org/events/timely-topics, or contact Doreen Archer at 622-4071 or doreenarcher1@gmail.com.
Brevard Cultural Alliance announces officers and new board members

The Brevard Cultural Alliance has announced the organization’s 2017–2018 executive officers. They were installed at the organization’s recent annual meeting. Two new community leaders also joined the board of directors.

The BCA recently welcomed: chairwoman, Jill Reyes, RSM US, LLP; chairman-elect, Joe Mayer, Lockheed Martin; treasurer, Andrea Farmer, Cape Leisure Corp.; secretary, Andrew Weintraub, Health First Health Plans; past chairwoman, Karen Montas, Johnson & Montas, P.A.; legal counsel, Jack Kirschenbaum, Gray Robinson Attorneys at Law; and financial counsel, Kathleen Thomas–Beck, RSM US, LLP.

The new BCA board members are Jenora Duprey, Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, and Michael Peacock, Morgan & Morgan.

“We are pleased to have such a distinguished board serving for the 2017–2018 year. These individuals are true advocates of the arts and cultural community here in Brevard and I’m confident they will represent the organization well,” said BCA Executive Director Neil Levine.

The BCA is a professional organization representing the arts and cultural sector on the Space Coast. Its strategic focus is to “advance Brevard County as a cultural destination, enhance educational opportunities through engagement with the arts, and bolster the sustainability of the cultural community.” For more information on the organization, visit ArtsBrevard.org or follow BCA on Facebook (Arts Brevard) or Twitter (@ArtsBrevard).

Port sets community meeting Oct. 16 to overview Strategic Master Plan Draft

PORT CANAVERAL — The Canaveral Port Authority (CPA) has scheduled a meeting to roll out its Strategic Master Plan draft. The community session is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 16, in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room at the Port’s Maritime Center.

The consulting firm Bermello Ajamil & Partners, the preparer of the plan for the CPA, will provide an overview of the master plan draft. The Port staff will be on–hand for breakout sessions to answer questions on details of the plan.

“This strategic plan has been in development for nearly two years. It’s an important blueprint for the Port’s future that our community has helped guide with their input. The master plan, as required by Florida statute, is a 10-year look ahead for the Port as we continue to grow our future while supporting the foundations of our success,” said Diane Luensmann, the Port’s senior director government and strategic communications.

For the public’s convenience, the community meeting will also be live–streamed and available for on–demand viewing both on the Port’s website at PortCanaveral.com and the Port’s Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/PortCanaveral.

Details of the Strategic Master Plan community meeting are available at PortCanaveral.com/FYI.
Wuesthoff Medical Center–Rockledge welcomes a new chief nursing officer

ROCKLEDGE — Wuesthoff Health System recently welcomed Mary Sue Zinsmeister to its family of healthcare professionals. Zinsmeister now serves as the chief nursing officer at Wuesthoff Medical Center–Rockledge.

A graduate of East Carolina University, Zinsmeister holds a master of science in nursing degree and is currently working on her doctorate. During her distinguished career that spans more than 20 years, Zinsmeister has worked at hospitals in North Carolina, Nevada, Virginia and Texas. In her last position, she was national director of critical care at Tenet Healthcare Corp. in Dallas.

“I’m passionate about nursing and providing care. It’s always been something I’ve wanted to do,” said Zinsmeister. “This career has been extremely fulfilling. It’s not only given me the opportunity to make a difference for nurses, but to also make a positive difference for the communities in which I live.”

Zinsmeister’s interest in nursing dates back to her childhood and is rooted in her enthusiasm for service. “I’ve always enjoyed helping and caring for others, so this career option interested me when I was very young,” she said. Inclinations toward the profession also run in the family — her sister, too, is a nurse.

As chief nursing officer, Zinsmeister oversees the patient care services. She is ultimately responsible for the nursing care patients receive, and works to ensure the hospital complies with all regulations and standards of care.

Early in her career, Zinsmeister worked as a bedside nurse, caring for patients directly. She later moved into leadership, which she said broadened her opportunities to serve. “I appreciate being in a leadership role, because I’m able to shape the way health care is delivered to patients,” she said. “I can make a major difference that way.”

The main thing Zinsmeister anticipates in the health-care profession is a continued shifting of the landscape to meet the needs of 21st century patients. “That’s one of the challenges in health care today — it changes so rapidly. One thing we are sure of, it will change,” she said. “The main thing amid all this change is to make sure patients are getting the best care possible. That’s my goal.”

Yngwie Johann Malmsteen, a world-renowned guitarist from Stockholm, Sweden, will be coming to the King Center in Melbourne for the “World of Fire Tour.” His performance is set for 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12.

As a young boy, Malmsteen originally had “no interest in music,” but that all changed on Sept. 18, 1970, when he saw a TV special on the late Jimi Hendrix. The 7-year-old watched in awe as Hendrix blasted the audience with torrents of feedback and sacrificed his guitar in flames. The day Hendrix died, the guitar-playing Malmsteen was born. Malmsteen’s career has spanned more than 40 years with over 20 albums. Drawing influence from classical composers such as Bach, Paganini, and Vivaldi, Malmsteen is responsible for birthing the neo-classical genre to the world of rock.

Tickets for this concert may be purchased by visiting kingcenter.com or by calling 242–2219.
UF researchers win $7 million grant from government to improve how plants get nitrogen, reduce pollution

By Brad Buck
UF/IFAS Communications

GAINESVILLE — A team of researchers at the universities of Florida and Wisconsin–Madison will use a $7.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to pinpoint genes that could improve plants’ ability to access nitrogen, an essential nutrient for plant growth.

Enhancing plants’ nitrogen uptake could increase food security by promoting crop growth in poor soils and could reduce the need for nitrogen fertilizers, lowering costs for farmers and lessening environmental damage caused by runoff, said Matias Kirst, principal investigator and professor of plant genomics at the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

“This is a critical problem not just for agriculture, but society in general,” Kirst said. “We’re going to use this technology to minimize fertilizer runoff, contamination of waterways and carbon dioxide release in the atmosphere.”

Most plants can only obtain nitrogen from the soil, which offers a limited supply. Many crops depend on nitrogen fertilizers to survive and produce high yields.

But some plants, such as legumes, have a unique way of working around this problem, researchers said. They have evolved a fine-tuned partnership with root-dwelling bacteria that capture nitrogen from the atmosphere and change it into a form that the plant can absorb and use, a process known as nitrogen fixation.

Understanding the evolutionary origins of this partnership and identifying the genes responsible for nitrogen fixation could enable scientists to introduce these genes into other plants, Kirst said. Adding these genes to crops such as wheat, corn and rice could decrease the amount of nitrogen fertilizer they require and increase crop productivity.

“We hope to make an impact by improving yields and making agriculture more sustainable,” Kirst said.

Kirst will oversee the five-year project with four researchers from the Florida Museum of Natural History: UF distinguished professors and curators Pam Soltis and Doug Soltis, associate curator Rob Guralnick and research associate Ryan Folk. Agronomy professor Jean–Michel Ané and computational biologist Sushmita Roy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison are also on the investigative team.

PMC welcomes emergency department medical director Dr. Gregory Cuculino

TITUSVILLE — Dr. Gregory Cuculino, an emergency–room physician leader who was twice recognized as a “top doctor” while with a Philadelphia hospital system, is Parrish Medical Center’s new emergency department medical director. Dr. Cuculino comes to PMC from Crozer–Keystone Health System in Delaware County, Penn. He chaired the emergency departments of the system’s four hospitals, which are staffed by 50 emergency–medicine physicians and 20 advanced care practitioners who see more than 120,000 emergency–room patient visits annually.

Dr. Cuculino, who is board–certified in emergency medicine, is a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Room Physicians. He was twice recognized as a “Top Doc” in “Main Line Today” magazine, a regional publication serving the Philadelphia area. In 2013, that magazine named him a “Health Care Hero” for his work in stroke awareness. Under his chairmanship, the emergency room of Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park, Penn., earned National Research Corp.’s Innovative Best Practice Award for commitment to improving patients’ experiences.

Dr. Cuculino said PMC’s “atmosphere of genuine caring for patients” was his reason for accepting this position after he and his wife decided to relocate after spending the last 18 years in Pennsylvania.

“I was very impressed with PMC’s people and their emphasis on a healing environment,” he said. “A hospital building can be made to look impressive, but what matters goes beyond what you can see. The friendliness of the PMC care partners and the way they genuinely care for their patients, and for each other, were the deciding factors for me.” He added, “That atmosphere of caring is where I want to be. I look forward to being a part of accomplishing great things for the people served by PMC.”

Dr. Cuculino earned his medical degree in 1996 from the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and completed his residency in emergency medicine in 1999 at Christiana Care Health System Medical Center of Delaware.
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Jess Parrish Medical Foundation supports nonprofit Walk on Water

Walk on Water, an equine-assisted therapy program for individuals with special needs, at-risk teens, veterans and typical children and adults, has received a grant from the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation.

“Our mission is to provide a place where these individuals and their families come to gain the benefits of interacting with horses and each other,” said Patricia Bryan, the executive director.

“We also provide the community with volunteer opportunities utilizing employable skills, and serve 4,000 people each year. Our riding programs reach Brevard County School children, and organizations like Turn Youth, Crosswinds, Devereux, the Juvenile Justice System Pay Program, and AMI Kids Space Coast.”

Walk on Water has been serving the community for the past 12 years. Located in North Merritt Island, it provides equine, physical, behavioral, occupational and speech therapies, as well as camps, and events like concerts and weddings.

This year, Walk on Water was chosen to be the Official Training Center for The Brevard County Special Olympics Equestrian Team. “With our arena complete, we can host exhibitions to raise support and awareness and provide volunteer opportunities to assist in the success of our participants,” she said. “The Jess Parrish Medical Foundation recently became a supporter of our Special Olympics program by issuing a grant. We thank the Foundation for recognizing the need and becoming an integral part of our program.”

Those interested in participating in the Special Olympics program as a rider or volunteer can call 412-8057. The web address is WalkOnWaterHorses.com.

Strong Family Ties

Continued from page 2

think critically, you can use those skills in a lot of different contexts,” Baldridge said. “The upside for people with disabilities is that jobs are becoming more specialized and more flexible, and can be built around what people can do, and what they can’t do doesn’t matter as much.”

Providing social supports to workers — such as mentoring and career advice — could help people with childhood-onset disabilities identify and seek opportunities to better use their skills in the workplace and work more hours if they desire, Baldridge said.

“Organizations have a responsibility to create open, inclusive climates and to develop leaders who are inclusive of all human differences, including disability,” he said. “And employees need to learn to advocate for themselves in responsible and positive ways. Sometimes those conversations are hard for people.”

The OSU College of Business educates students for success in managing and developing sustainable, innovative enterprises in a dynamic economy. With strong graduate and undergraduate programs, internationally recognized scholarly research, and an emphasis on experiential learning, the college helps students and businesses succeed.
two Decades in Revue have told us they love everything about the event. We have a big dance party at the end while the scores are being tabulated.

The entertainers gather community “votes,” in the form of donations, before their actual performance at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place. Each $1 raised equates to one vote for the performer of the donor’s choice. At the end of the event, the entertainers will be judged by an “expert panel” and are given scores based 50 percent on their performance on stage and 50 percent on money raised.

“For the first time, we’ll have a special award this year,” said Breckenridge. “It’s the People’s Choice Award. And the office of the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections will be bringing in voting machines to make the voting ‘official’ for the People’s Choice Award.”

The celebrity judges will include former astronaut Winston Scott of the Florida Institute of Technology, Libby Donoghue of 2–1–1 Brevard, and Rep. Tom Goodson.

Established in 2003 in response to a Legislative mandate to privatize foster care and related services, Brevard Family Partnership is the county’s lead child–welfare agency.

Working in partnership with more than 50 community organizations, its mission is to protect children, strengthen families and change lives through the prevention of child abuse, and the operation and management of a comprehensive, integrated community–based system of care.

Finding “forever homes” for children in the foster–care system is one of its missions in the county.

“The children are absolutely our future,” said Malak Hammad, a committee member of Decades in Revue and manager of Marine Bank & Trust’s new office in Suntree. “These kids are in circumstances beyond their control. But a loving home is all they need; someone who cares about them. We encourage people to visit the website (BrevardFP.org/adoptions) and look at these kids’ faces. Who wouldn’t want to adopt them?”

She added, “Brevard Family Partnership has been in the community for years, and the organization is making a difference in the lives of children and families. But nothing happens without proper funding. We all know that. So, I believe the community should step up, especially for an event like this one. Each dollar goes to the cause. Awareness is the most important thing because it brings attention to the kids. I just hope people open up their hearts and their wallets and support Decades in Revue.”

Said Buza, “I always think that these kids are the forgotten ones in the community. How often does someone think about foster children and their circumstances and what happens to them? This is one of the reasons I became involved in this event. It helps shine a light on their situations. It’s one small way in which I can help.”

Windle said she is “honored to be part of the Decades in Revue committee. This is something that is near and dear to me. My mother was adopted. So, when I was asked to be a member of the event–planning committee, I embraced the opportunity. Every year the committee tries to get different performance acts involved because it presents the opportunity to perhaps attract segments of the community that may not be fully aware of the role of Brevard Family Partnership. I think it is very important to get the word out about how Brevard Family Partnership helps Brevard’s at–risk children. You just want to reach out and help these children, and that is what this event is designed to do. And I think the past two events have definitely been successful. We enjoy putting them on and the people who come have a great time.”

Brevard Family Partnership exceeded its goal for child adoptions for fiscal year 2016–2017. The organization works closely with Impower, an organization that provides “overlay adoption case management services” to achieve permanency for children who have been permanently removed from their home and reside in foster, relative, or kinship care.

The agency’s adoption goal for the year was 67. There were 98 adoptions finalized between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017.

“We had a great year. Before the end of this year, we will have reached the milestone of 1,000 placements since Brevard Family Partnership was established, placing children in forever homes. We have an amazing team,” said Breckenridge.
Helin of Seniors Helping Seniors earns leading certification in field

Seniors Helping Seniors, a senior in-home care services, recently announced that one of its owners, Jennifer Helin, has earned the Certified Dementia Practitioner designation. The CDP certification is the earned credential which “recognizes that the highest standard in Alzheimer’s and Dementia education has been achieved.” CDP’s complete extensive training in Alzheimer’s and dementia care. CDP’s work to enhance the use of new methods, theories and tools related to Alzheimer’s and dementia—care practices.

“It is important to understand what is happening during all the stages of dementia and to stay current with research and development,” said Helin.

Seniors Helping Seniors was founded in 1998. Co-owners Helin and Rosemary Barton brought Seniors Helping Seniors to Brevard County in 2012 “after seeing the need in their own families.” They now provide services throughout the county, from Barefoot Bay to Titusville, and “keep more than 90 area seniors busy helping others.”

Research & Discovers

Continued from page 6

continue their work at UCF’s Image Analysis and Morphometrics Lab.

Undergraduate student researchers are recording computed tomography and magnetic resonance image scans of children with Down syndrome in collaboration with a local doctor. They are creating a database of qualitative and quantitative information for future research to identify and quantify the ways that trisomy 21 alters skull and brain formation and growth.

Starbuck’s students come from a variety of majors including anthropology, biology, biomedical sciences, and nursing.

“Many of the students in my lab had no idea that the research I conduct is considered anthropology, so I continue to change their perspectives one mind at a time,” Starbuck said.

Shelby Lucia, an anthropology major and research assistant in Starbuck’s lab, said this research experience will give her a leg up when she gets to medical school because it emphasizes understanding anatomy and technology while providing her with an authentic research experience.

“Anthropology is so broad it gives you a well-rounded perspective of humans and human life,” she said. “Just taking a pre-med class on its own wouldn’t give you that.”

Getting people to see anthropology can change lives is one of Starbuck’s goals.

“Anthropologists tend to have excellent research skills, interpretive analysis, and the ability to communicate effectively in written and oral contexts,” Starbuck said. “These skills are transferable to many careers in today’s job market, although employers do not always know that someone with anthropological training can fulfill their needs. As anthropologists, we have to go the extra mile to educate the public about the power of our field and the significant contributions we make on a regular basis to improve the world we live in.”
Doctors' Goodwill Foundation
Continued from page 13

should be given to everyone 6 months and older, “as it is the best option for protection during the 2017–2018 flu season.” During last season, more than 100 U.S. children died of the flu, and thousands more were hospitalized for severe illness or complications from the virus, according to the Academy.

The Healthy Living lectures will include presentations on diabetes, orthopedics, pain management, fall prevention, wound care, hospice and palliative care, and medical cannabis, or medical marijuana.

“Medical marijuana has been a hot topic in Florida,” said Dr. Bhalini. “A lot of patients have been inquiring about its use in a medical setting. And we will be addressing that at the Expo. We will be having a seminar on the topic.” The Florida Department of Health said there are seven organizations in the state authorized to “cultivate, process, and dispense” medical marijuana. The seven entities are the only businesses in Florida authorized to dispense medical marijuana to qualified patients and legal representatives.

The businesses are listed on the agency’s website (www.FloridaHealth.gov/programs–and–services). The department updates the Office of Compassionate Use webpage regularly with “accurate information.”

At the Expo, attendees will have the opportunity to have their blood pressure and cholesterol checked.

Cardiovascular diseases, including heart disease and stroke, are the leading cause of death in the United States and Florida. About half of all Americans have at least one of these three risk factors for heart disease: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking. While men in their 40s are at higher risk for heart disease, women are at risk as they age.

“We want to provide the very best information about health and wellness in general to the community,” said Dr. Udeshi. “That’s one of the goals of the Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation. We think this is a really good format to help educate people on health issues. Hopefully, they will embrace screenings. Over the long term, it should provide them and their families a better quality of life.”

Lifestyle changes can contribute to the prevention of cardiovascular diseases, such as heart attacks and strokes.

In addition to hosting informational community events like the Expo, the Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation raises funds for health–related scholarships, and travels aboard medical missions. The organization will be making donations in support of the recent hurricanes that hit Houston, Florida, and Puerto Rico. It has already made a donation to help with the recovery efforts in Houston.

Dr. Bhalini said the Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation is considering making a trip to Puerto Rico to help the people there who were devastated by Hurricane Maria.

“As a general rule, after any disaster, we wait six weeks to two months before taking on a mission,” he said. “The need in Puerto Rico is going to be one or two years, or even longer. We want to help them in some way. Perhaps we could go there between Thanksgiving and Christmas, or maybe in early January. We’re looking at our options.”

People who attend the Expo at the Melbourne Hilton Rialto Place can bring school supplies, clothing, and other items that will be collected by the Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation. “We will get the items to the people. Every donation is important,” he said.

The Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation also plans to journey to India on a medical mission. Three physicians from Orlando, one from Tampa, and Dr. Bhalini, along with 15 students, will be traveling to India in late December. The dates of the mission are Dec. 26 to Jan. 5.

“If anyone is interested in joining us on this trip, including students, they are welcome. Each individual pays for his or her expense for airline tickets and everything else. No funds are used from the Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation. These mission trips are especially a great experience for college students who are considering careers in health care and medicine. It’s an international charitable experience to put on their resumes,” said Dr. Bhalini.

The Doctors’ Goodwill Foundation is dedicated to helping those students who wish to further their education in health care. The organization has awarded more than 60 scholarships to students pursuing education in a health–related field, he said.

“We serve the community in various ways. Scholarships is one way and the Expo is another way. We reach out to people through the Expo every year. We welcome newcomers. We want to make this a great experience for all the participants, and the vendors and sponsors,” said Dr. Bhalini.
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property, and it’s one of the things I really love about Team LBR. Their listings are heavily marketed on major real-estate websites.”

The Sherwood Golf Club is one of 17 listings that Carver has been entrusted with by a range of investors in a short period of time since shifting her focus full time to commercial real estate.

“I feel like I have been training for this type of career for the last 15 to 20 years,” said Carver, who has wide experience in sales, government relations, economic development, philanthropy, community service, and community redevelopment and was able to smoothly transition those skills to her new career.

“I love putting deals together, like we did at the Brevard County Commissioner’s office (in Titusville). Working under then-District 1 Commissioner Robin Fisher and seeing a lot of good things come together for North Brevard, really peaked my interest in economic development and commercial real estate. We worked to bring different parties together in an effort to make a positive impact on the community, in terms of attracting new businesses to North Brevard and creating jobs. It was exciting.”

Carver served as the chief legislative aide to Fisher, who was a Brevard County Commissioner for eight years. Fisher bid farewell to that role in November 2016 because of term limits.

In her job with the Commissioner’s office, she played a role helping reshape Titusville during the post–shuttle rebuilding years, and was out front telling the story of that city’s potential to anyone who would listen.

“To me, North Brevard had been ‘asleep’ for a long time. With its identity being across the river in space, there was a lot of concern when the shuttle program ended. So, who are we now? In the last five to six years, I was privileged to have a front-row seat in the Commissioner’s office and be part of the discussions, part of the research, and part of the reaching out to people as we began to redevelop and rebuild the area.”

She added, “We discovered that there was so much business diversity already here, but we just weren’t promoting it — companies like Knight Armament, Eckler Distribution, RUSH Construction, and manufacturer Vectorworks Marine, for example. We really began promoting Titusville as a waterfront community with all types of outdoor recreation activities, and with a small, walkable downtown area.

“We began reaching out and working to bring other businesses to North Brevard.”

During her time at the Commissioner’s office, Carver was especially known among the North Brevard business community for her “presentations” detailing the strengths and assets of Titusville to out-of-area companies that had shown an interest in making an investment in the community, through commercial real estate and eventually job creation.

“You had to really sell the area to get people to come and buy into what Titusville had to offer,” said Carver, who is a new board member of the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast and a founding member of Greater Titusville Renaissance Inc., a nonprofit entity that focuses on revitalization in the city.

She gave her North Brevard presentation many times to prospective investors and businesspeople. “Jeff Robison [of Team LBR] heard my Titusville presentation and I ended up joining their firm.”

Her presentation was fact–filled and highlighted the current growth and the potential growth of that area as the economy started to gain strength.

One day, Carver was called to LaCita Country Club in Titusville. The club property was for sale then and the existing owner had asked Carver to make her pitch.

“I didn’t know who was coming to town, but I was ready to go,” she said.

It was Vivian Dimond, an influential business leader and highly respected South Florida real–estate investor who ended up buying LaCita Country Club and renovating it.

A week after her presentation, Carver received flowers at her office from Dimond, who is the founder and managing broker of the real–estate firm Brown Harris Stevens Avatar in Miami, which has nearly 100 agents.

Carver said Dimond “has since become a mentor to me. She has mentored me in my real–estate career and has provided me leads and referrals on listings. Vivian is well known in her field. I think mentorship is very important, especially in commercial real estate, which can be a tough industry in which to establish yourself. Finding a good mentor in commercial real estate is a key to success, I think.”

Carver said she also was mentored by Bobby Mutter of Bobby Mutter Realty in Titusville. Mutter is now retired. “Bobby is a great person and knows a lot of people in North Brevard. He was my early mentor in real estate. I learned a lot from him.”

Navigating the commercial real–estate landscape often requires definite knowledge and skill.

Carver worked for about 15 years locally in fundraising. She started with the Space Coast Marine Institute, which is now AMI Kids Space Coast, and also worked for the Jess Parrish Foundation and other organizations, before entering the political arena.

“I met a lot of great people and made a lot of friends over those years. And I’m still connected with many of them today.”

Those relationships include people at the EDC, local government, consulting firms, businesses and organizations.

Carver is also involved with “weVenture,” formerly the Women’s Business Center, at Florida Tech in Melbourne. The 10–year–old entity works with entrepreneurs by providing customized coaching, business education, mentorship, and networking programs. The program is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. “It’s an outstanding resource for entrepreneurs in the region,” said Carver.

She recently sold a 93–year–old building in Titusville to an aerospace company in Denver. The iconic 1924 property — the Historic Walker Hotel and the First Federal Bank Building — wasn’t even on the market.

With several aerospace contracts on the Space Coast, Barry Hamilton of Red Canyon Software reached out to the EDC to find a site for his East Coast operations, said Carver. Under the code name “Project Grande,” the team headed to Titusville. Carver joined them for lunch in downtown Titusville to share her knowledge of that market.

“Barry was looking for a very specific property, one that was mixed-use, in the HUBZone, preferably historic, with retail, a place for his offices on the bottom and apartments above. And he loves to renovate historic properties. The EDC called me and asked if I could do my ‘Titusville presentation.’ I met them for lunch,” she said.

Some 20 years ago, Carver happened to be with Joe and Huey Davis to tour the property when they decided to buy it. “I had developed a friendship with them and after a quick phone call, I was escorting Barry and the EDC team through the maze of 1920–era hotel rooms.”

While the EDC remained instrumental in connecting them from Denver with key stakeholders and organizations related to their aerospace endeavors, Carver served as their local representative in North Brevard offering insight and direct connections to help “navigate the local politics and gather relevant resources.”

The “blighted condition” of the property on South Washington Avenue and the potential economic impact of Red Canyon made it an “ideal candidate” to apply for incentives with the North Brevard Economic Development Zone.

The location in Titusville also made it eligible for a matching grant through the Community Redevelopment Agency, said Carver, who assisted the Red Canyon team with the application process.

The property sold for $925,000 and the transaction closed in July, she said. “It’s almost a city block. So, the downtown Titusville area is about to be completely transformed with this project.”

A website (Launchnow.space) was established to follow the progress of the two buildings. “You can sign up at the website to get on the list for the apartments,” said Carver.

Carver said the project will be completed in phases. The first phase will be “reactivating and reimagining” the “old Walker apartment building, also formerly known as the Walker Hotel, into 20–24 boutique–style apartments.

The project will also include renovating the clubroom and the rear balcony, plus “reactivating” the historic front balcony. The anticipated completion of the apartments is late 2018. Amenities within the Walker Apartments will be targeted to “tech–forward millennials.”

“We need affordable housing for the younger generation because a lot of professional people are moving to Titusville,” said Carver, whose listings include 14 acres in Mims situated in the busy U.S. 1 corridor. Recent development there includes a Dollar General and a Tractor Supply. At Team LBR, she is also marketing roughly 7 acres north of Parrish Medical Center.

Based on 2017’s strong performance, Carver said she believes the commercial market in North Brevard will continue with buyer activity and Team LBR is well–positioned to serve clients. “I’m humbled to be on Team LBR. It’s not just about real estate. There is a big focus on having the right work–life balance in your career and interacting in the community. We all serve on community boards. We’re all connected in that volunteer community spirit. It’s a great feeling.”
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