By Ken Datzman

As part of their education, physicians spend four years in medical school and three to five years in residency training. For the rest of their careers, they rely on accredited continuing medical education as one of the support systems that helps them continuously improve their practice, while staying up-to-date on the latest trends in their field.

And one longtime local medical association has been at the forefront of providing a CME format for physicians and health-care professionals to receive this type of education.

The wide-ranging CME lectures typically feature top speakers in various practice specialties.

Twice a year, the Brevard Indo-American Medical and Dental Association, or BIMDA, a nonprofit entity with statewide visibility, brings physicians, dentists, and other health-care professionals together in a convenient location to participate in such a program.

“The CME initiative is a major part of this organization,” said BIMDA Vice President Dr. Pavan Kancharla, a medical oncologist with Cancer Care Centers of Brevard, part of the nationwide US Oncology Network. “We really rely on the CME component of BIMDA and we want to help educate more physicians in the region through the conference this spring.”

“One area where we strive to continue to grow the conference is through participation by more doctors,” added Glad Kurian, the honorary executive director and one of the founders of BIMDA, an educational and charitable organization. “If you don’t have the doctors attending, the value is not there. So, the conference is for the doctors and by the doctors.”

He continued, “We are very fortunate in that we have the support of the Brevard County Medical Society, and the medical staff offices of every hospital system in the county — Health First, Parrish Medical Center, and Steward Health Care System. We have great relationships with those organizations, as well as others, including HealthSouth Sea Pines Rehabilitation Hospital, Kindred Healthcare, home-health agencies, practice-management companies, and a lot of supporters from the pharmaceutical industry, and other closely aligned businesses. We have a niche market with our target audience.”

On Jan. 2, HealthSouth Corp. completed its planned name change to Encompass Health Corp. The signage transition to the new name will begin in April and continue throughout 2018.

Steward Health Care owns Rockledge Regional Medical Center and Melbourne Regional Medical Center, both formerly under the Wuesthoff Health System, and Sebastian River Medical Center.

Health First operates Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Palm Bay Hospital, Viera Hospital, and Cape Canaveral Hospital in Cocoa Beach. Titusville–based Parrish Medical Center has offices in Port St. John, Port Canaveral, and Melbourne.

The impact of physicians that are affiliated with all of these hospitals and who have their own private practices

The Brevard Indo–American Medical and Dental Association will host its 2018 Expo and CME Conference May 5 at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place. The program includes continuing medical education lectures for doctors and a Gala in the evening. BIMDA plans to bring national speakers to the event. From left, the team includes: Dr. Rajasri Krishnamurthy, Health First Medical Group; Dr. Biju Mathews, Parrish Medical Center; Dr. Pavan Kancharla, Cancer Care Centers of Brevard; Aparna Balaji, Brevard Health Center; Dr. Dinesh Patel, Charles Croft M.D., P.A.; and Glad Kurian, a BIMDA founder.

BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Please see Brevard Indo–American Medical and Dental Association, page 23
University of Florida teams to help innovate retrofits for homes for people with disabilities; awarded a three-year government grant.

By Brad Buck
UF/IFAS Communications
University of Florida

GAINESVILLE — Imagine using your bedroom as a dining room or your kitchen as a bedroom — complete with handicap-accessible equipment. University of Florida researchers will help develop those conversions, as they work on a three-year, $531,000, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant to develop and test innovations to retrofit homes for people with disabilities to make them more accessible and affordable.

In the past, research in this area focused on single-family homes, but this research zeroes in on attached housing, such as townhouses and duplexes, said Sherry Ahrentzen, a professor in the UF Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, and lead investigator on the project.

The center is part of the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Construction Management, a division of the UF College of Design, Construction and Planning. Faculty members from that college, along with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the College of Public Health and Health Professions will collaborate to collect and disseminate data for the project.

Most members of the research team are part of UF Vital by Design Initiative, which addresses challenges of an aging society by working with systems built without an aging population in mind, Ahrentzen said.

If national statistics are any indication, many people will benefit from this research.

According to the 2010 National Council on Disability report, 35 million households in the U.S. in 2007 had one or more people with some kind of disability, representing 32 percent of all American households.

“The ideal outcome for persons with disabilities is to have resources for accessible, affordable and aesthetically pleasing modifications to existing housing,” said Linda Struckmeyer, clinical assistant professor in the UF department of occupational therapy and one of 10 UF faculty members conducting research for the project.

Project investigators will use virtual reality techniques to simulate situations people with disabilities might face in their homes. Then, the people with disabilities will use virtual reality headsets to experience these simulated settings, providing researchers with feedback on ease of use, accessibility, comfort and aesthetic appeal.

Before they take participants through the virtual reality experimentation, researchers will meet with focus groups this spring and summer. Those panels will include people with disabilities, their care providers, occupational therapy and rehabilitation professionals, builders and others to find out what works and what doesn’t in people’s homes, Ahrentzen said.

“We will also interview people with disabilities to see what modifications they’ve done to their homes so we can have a better understanding of what they’ve come up against and how they’ve had to try to make it work,” she said.

UF researchers cannot construct the exact environment that people with disabilities encounter, so they will simulate them as best they can using virtual reality, Ahrentzen said.

“Here we can simulate these situations with the virtual reality and make it look as good as we can,” she said. “We’re trying to use technologies that we have so people can personally test them before they’re built or selected.”

For example, when volunteers take part in the study, they will wear a headset that projects virtual reality — three-dimensional space that adjusts as people move through it, turn their head and make other movements.

They’ll also use haptic gloves to see if they would be able to open a door or pull out a drawer in a proposed design, for example. Such a process allows participants to see and touch objects as though they were real, Ahrentzen said.

Also as part of the research, HUD will provide the UF investigators with building documents of layouts and designs of many typical federally assisted attached housing. UF researchers will then propose renovations of the designs for accessible use.

After the testing determines which retrofits were most accessible, affordable and attractive, the UF faculty will then need to disseminate their data. Randy Cantrell, a UF/IFAS housing and community development specialist, will lead that effort. For instance, Cantrell might use focus groups that include builders. He also will meet with UF/IFAS county Extension faculty to figure how best to get the research results to the public.

Disabled populations as well as caregivers of elderly populations will be among those who will benefit from the research findings, said Cantrell, an assistant professor in the UF/IFAS department of family, youth and community sciences. “Boomers in their 50s are putting their children through college while beginning to ponder how best to safely and comfortably house their parents,” he said. “They will find this information beneficial if for no other reason than to understand future discussions with potential remodelers.”

Florida Farm Bureau receives top national honor at Nashville event

GAINESVILLE — Florida Farm Bureau received the 2017 Pinnacle Award for outstanding member programs and achievement. The award was presented by the American Farm Bureau Federation at its 2018 annual convention in Nashville on Jan. 7. This is the fourth time Florida Farm Bureau has received the Pinnacle Award in six years. "Our organization is one of the best state Farm Bureaus in the nation," said Florida Farm Bureau President John Hoblick. "I am very proud of the contributions of our volunteer leaders, our members and our staff, and thank everyone in the entire Farm Bureau family for helping to make this happen."

The state organization also received the 2017 State Awards of Excellence for outstanding achievements in Advocacy, Engagement and Outreach, Membership Value and Leadership and Business Development.
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JANUARY 29, 2018
Visit BrevardBusinessNews.com for Advertising Information
By Joan McCain  
UCF Forum columnist  
University of Central Florida

A mixture of Irish and Belgian heritage is what my stepdad used to explain his enormous stubborn streak. My mother, his wife of 21 years, was the only one who could talk sense into him when he reached an impasse with anyone. It was a character flaw in an otherwise kind, hard-working, loving man.

We called him “Popsie,” and after my mother died he was alone. Alone in the house they shared, more than an hour away from me, more than three hours away from my brother, John. Fifteen years my junior, John was my half-brother, inheriting our mother’s sense of humor and, thankfully, none of his dad’s Belgian-Irish obstinance.

From the time my mother died, I asked Popsie to move closer to me. The answer was always the same: “No. I like my house.” It became more worrisome, and my moving suggestions became more urgent after his retirement. He had no friends, and his social contact became non-existent. His isolation and the accompanying worry it caused me were solidified when years of forgetfulness were diagnosed as dementia.

Still, he would not talk of moving. His mental condition worsened every year, and my anxiety grew every month. I envisioned car accidents, a stove left on, leaving a grocery store and not being able to find his car. Popsie would not budge. Eventually, I stopped asking because I knew he was too stubborn to submit to the idea on his own, and eventually I was sure a bigger force would intervene.

The slippery slope began with his inability to decipher a bank statement and relinquishing his bill-paying to John. Soon after, he began to have delusions. He would call, convinced he was in a motel in Georgia, and we had to come get him.

John and I had panicked phone conversations, and began researching foreign concepts to us like durable power of attorney and guardianship.

Before we were ready, a call came from a family friend, “Come now. He’s never to be left alone again.” He had driven to her office and had an episode in front of her. This, I realized, was what we were waiting for.

I raced over, but all I wanted to do was turn around. He didn’t fight. He packed a bag with a few basics and said, “Tell me what to do.” I drove him back to my house, thankful but still trembling.

Popsie would go to bed at midnight, awake at 5 a.m. The first morning, he greeted my husband of nearly 20 years with a bear hug, and said, “Tell me your name again.” I couldn’t fathom his confusion. I wept in my bed each night for the loss of the man who raised me.

To keep him occupied, one day I took him on a long drive to the old places we knew: the apartment we lived in each night for the loss of the man who raised me.

I realized, was what we were waiting for.

The Space Coast can add another ranking to its growing collection — top gainer in Milken Institute’s “Best Performing Cities 2017: Where America’s Jobs are Created and Sustained.”

Climbing an impressive 90 spots in just one year, the Palm Bay–Melbourne–Titusville region is now in the top one-third of large Metropolitan Statistical Areas, placing it in the competitive ranks of cities such as Austin, Dallas, Seattle, and others.

“Placing 63rd, from 153rd, on this list is an astounding accomplishment for Brevard County,” said Lynda Weatherman, president and CEO of the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast. “As our county’s success continues, this recognition will enhance the EDC’s efforts as we compete with regions more than twice our size.”

The report echoes the activity that the Space Coast and the EDC have been witnessing in recent years. Since 2010, the EDC has led 49 successful business-development projects with a local impact of $1.6 billion in capital investment, accumulating 16,027 new and retained jobs with an average wage of $75,509.

The Milken Institute’s Best–Performing Cities U.S. index measures metropolitan areas’ economic performance using outcomes-based metrics such as job creation, wage gains, and technology developments to evaluate the metros’ relative growth, to discover which metro areas offer the greatest opportunities for prosperity and innovation across the nation.

For more information on additional findings, and to download the report, visit www.MilkenInstitute.org.

Animal Emergency and Critical Care Center has cats for adoption

The Animal Emergency and Critical Care Center of Brevard Inc. in Melbourne is seeking individuals and families who are interested in adopting a cat and providing them with “forever homes.” These kittens “have saved countless lives during their time living with us at the AECC by donating blood to our emergency pet patients when needed,” said Melanie Morrow, AECC’s office manager. The AECC is located at 2281 W. Eau Gallie Blvd. The office phone number is 725–5365. For more information about AECC’s cat adoption program, call Morrow at the office.
‘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

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4/26/2016

File:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/B55/My%20Documents/androidMGR/LG-P870-04-26-2016-14-24-31/SMS/SMS.html 25/41

Jihosoft Android Manager

Content: That's disgusting!! Remind me in our discussion to talk about animal lovers and animal activist

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-12-28 20:44:37
Content: Will do. I think I'm an animal lover... Talk to you tomorrow.

From: +13212716029
Date: 2014-12-28 20:46:42
Content: You are!! You would do anything for an animal!! Activist will do anything for their cause and self beliefs!!

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-12-28 20:52:09
Content: Well send activists to Orlando and fight... I've never seen a dog or puppy look that bad at your shelter... EVER... And your dogs can move and run...

From: +13212716029
Date: 2014-12-28 20:58:12
Content: Yep!!

To: 3212716029
Date: 2014-12-29 19:03:00
Content: So, your day calmed yet?

To: 3212716029
Date: 2015-01-16 19:06:31
Content: I need a bicycle asap for a 12 year old boy from psj. His was stolen. Single parent waitress can't afford to replace. I'll do a story on BCSO... Please and thank you.

From: +13212716029
Date: 2015-01-16 19:31:58
Content: Can you call Lindsey at 505-8752 and she will try to make it happen

To: 3212716029
Date: 2015-01-16 20:22:25
Content: Will do. Thanks, I need a quote from you about the suicide teen today. I'll text you tomorrow... Make it good, like the Polk county sheriff. I also want to follow you for a day.

To: 3212716029
Date: 2015-01-22 13:49:57
Content: Forwarding you a text I just received...

To: 3212716029
Date: 2015-01-22 13:50:22
Content: Just had lunch at Kelly's BBQ and at the next table was a uniformed BCSO deputy a BCSO deputy off duty in shorts and pullover shirt and two slightly younger worshippers. The uniformed deputy was telling how he was going to "start making stuff up" against a family that he had previously mentioned in conversation. Obviously he didn't have anything to arrest them on so he was going to help. The off duty deputy driving unit 2459 who works mims seemed to agree with the other one on this scheme. Then the waitress made sure they knew that the 10% discount had been applied to their bill for Leo discount as well as the two younger worshippers. BCSO always scraping the bottom of the barrel when it comes to integrity!

To: 3212716029
UCF study shows benefits, challenges of lunch programs for elderly; Seniors First, UCF a longstanding partnership

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

ORLANDO — Eating lunch with others benefits the health of elderly Orange County residents, according to a study conducted by public affairs’ researchers at UCF.

The nonprofit Seniors First, which offers the Neighborhood Lunch Program in Orange County, partnered with UCF to review its program and determine whether or not it was having an impact on participants.

Doctoral students Faisal Mohamidi and Saffiya Prysmakova and Professor Su–I Hou and her research student group surveyed elderly residents participating in the program and spoke to several of its coordinators and leadership to compile its report.

Mohamidi and Prysmakova concluded that healthy food behavior — particularly eating appealing, nutritious food and eating with others — has a positive impact on the overall health of seniors and their perceived quality of life.

Making sure at–risk elderly are healthy and socially engaged, is important because the combination can help them live independently longer. That means preventing costly medical and social service needs that could be avoided. With a state population of 5.2 million senior citizens nationwide and 11.3 percent of them living in Orange County, programs like Seniors First matter.

That’s why Seniors First turned to UCF.

“Seniors First and UCF have a longstanding partnership to collaborate on projects that help to build a better Central Florida community,” said Marsha Lorenz, president and CEO of the agency.

The Neighborhood Lunch program offers congregate meals — meaning they are served in group settings that encourage socialization and better health — five days a week. The program serves more than 93,000 elderly citizens at 14 lunch sites each year.

The program also offers transportation to its lunch sites, which operate in space donated by community partners at locations throughout Orange County, from Pine Hills to Winter Park.

The researchers surveyed more than 70 participants at two of the lunch sites. More than 90 percent of the participants reported feeling healthier, eating healthier, having an enjoyable experience, socializing and continuing to live independently as a result of the program, according to the research team.

The study participants’ average age was 77 years; 82 percent were female and 66 percent were Black/African American.

In addition, the research team interviewed Lorenz, the Neighborhood Lunch program director and the lunch site coordinators to gain their perspectives.

Twenty–five percent of the coordinators reported lack of transportation and lack of funding as challenges.

Another challenge for coordinators is offering food that’s appealing to seniors. The coordinators offered the following recommendations for meal sites:

- Provide score sheets with the menu for immediate feedback.
- Serve the whole chicken instead of just breast meat.
- Increase the amount of whole grain bread and pasta offered with meals.
- Provide the menu in Spanish for Spanish–speaking seniors.

In written comments, Lorenz said the agency will use the findings in future grant applications and to make program improvements.

“The suggestions regarding changes to the menu will help us improve client satisfaction and decrease food waste,” she wrote. “The extensive and comprehensive literature review also provided us with the most current information available on this subject.”

Hou supervised the students’ research as professor of public affairs and of health management and informatics at UCF. She also guided their review of literature on the elderly and food insecurity.

Mohamidi said the project taught him patience, exposed him to many different cultures and increased his appreciation for senior citizens. He even gained a few elderly friends along the way.

“It was a great experience and working with the elderly made it more special,” he said. “It’s like working with your grandparents; they are so sweet.”
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Saturday, January 27 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 28 at 2 p.m.
Thursday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 3 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 4 at 2 p.m.
Friday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 10 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 11 at 2 p.m.
Friday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons names Dr. Castellon as president of organization

Dr. Mauricio Castellon, a board-certified plastic surgeon and founder of the Castellon Plastic Surgery Center in Melbourne, has been appointed president of the Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons.

Dr. Castellon has served as an active member on the FSPS board for the past eight years. FSPS includes a distinguished group of plastic surgeons who are working to promote the field of plastic surgery through research, education and advocacy in the state of Florida, and the rest of the country, for its members and the public. The organization has championed and supported patient-safety laws within Florida by directly advocating and promoting legislation within the state government and the Florida Board of Medicine, for more than half a century.

“Dr. Castellon’s leadership skills, plastic surgery expertise, dedicated FSPS Board membership and endless energy are qualities that will continue to build our FSPS stronger, which makes him the ideal candidate for this very important role,” said Susan Russell, executive director for the FSPS. “Under his direction, he will support more than 150 FSPS members and over 600 plastic surgeons in Florida, continuing the necessary education to protect the public and support legislative efforts to ensure patient safety.”

“This appointment is by far the highest honor to date that I have received in my professional career. It is humbling to be elected as the leader of one’s peers,” said Dr. Castellon. “I hope to serve this appointment with the best of my ability in promoting the field of plastic surgery to my peers and to the public.”

For more information about Castellon Plastic Surgery Center, visit www.DrCastellon.com.

Laura Chiesman to address the ABWA Space Coast Express Network Feb. 13

The Space Coast Express Network of the American Business Women’s Association will host a luncheon at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club in Indian Harbour Beach.

The featured speaker will be businesswoman Laura Chiesman, the president of FirstWave Financial in Satellite Beach. Chiesman is a Certified Financial Planner and WealthCoach at the longtime practice.

Chiesman’s commitment to serving the community extends beyond her work at FirstWave Financial. She is a member of the governing board and guild of Genesis House, and is actively involved as a volunteer on other community boards.

Chiesman has been a member of the ABWA Oceanside Chapter for seven years, and more recently became a member of the League of Extraordinary Women — weVenture’s organization of more than 60 female business executives, entrepreneurs and philanthropists. That nonprofit organization is part of Florida Tech.

The luncheon fee in advance is $20 for members and $25 for guests. It’s $5 more at the door the day of the event. To make a reservation, visit www.paypal.me.SCWEN, or call Darcie McMahon at 514–9966. Her email address is Darcie@HolyLandStone.com.
Brevard Department of Health reminds residents to take precaution as flu activity is increasing

In Florida and throughout the U.S., flu activity is on the rise. Brevard is currently seeing mild influenza activity that is actively increasing.

“You need to get a flu shot every year,” said Maria Stahl, the Brevard administrator for the Department of Health. “Flu viruses are constantly changing and flu vaccines may be updated from one season to another. Plus, your body’s level of immunity from a previous flu vaccine is expected to have declined.”

DOH–Brevard is urging residents to get their flu vaccine now if they have not already. There are still weeks of flu activity to come. “It is not too late to get your flu vaccine. The flu vaccine is safe, and recommended for everyone six months and older, including pregnant women.”

Flu vaccines can vary in effectiveness from season to season, but they continue to be the best way to prevent influenza infection and serious influenza complications, she said. To locate a flu shot vendor near you, contact your health–care provider or use DOH’s flu shot locator at www.flhealth.gov/findasfluhand

Adults may obtain flu vaccines from their medical doctor, area pharmacies, or the county health department. Children may receive the flu vaccines from their pediatrician or at county health department clinics. DOH–Brevard offers influenza vaccines on a walk–in basis, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at one of three DOH–Brevard clinics located in Titusville, Viera or Melbourne.

If you become ill with flu–like symptoms, contact your health–care provider as soon as possible. Your health–care provider can prescribe antiviral treatment if appropriate, Stahl said.

“Treatment is most effective when started within 48 hours, so calling as soon as you become ill is important, especially if you or your loved one is at a higher risk for complications: children younger than 5, adults over the age of 65, pregnant women, and those with underlying medical conditions.”

Stay home from work and keep children home from school or daycare when sick to help prevent spreading the flu to others, said Stahl. “It is also essential to practice good hygiene by properly and frequently washing your hands. Make it a habit to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces in your home, school or office.”

You can take additional steps to ward off the flu by coughing or sneezing into a tissue or your elbow and avoiding touching your face.

Visit FluFreeFlorida.com for more information on how you can be a part of#FluFreeFlorida. Visit www.floridahealth.gov/flu for more information on influenza and influenza–like illness in Florida.

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Satellite Beach Library receives a bequest from educator Jacquelyn Hayhurst

Jacquelyn Hayhurst, 86, passed away on May 2, 2017, in Indian Harbour Beach. A teacher and library patron, Hayhurst has left the Satellite Beach Library a $10,000 gift from her estate.

Hayhurst was born on Oct. 12, 1930, in Steubenville, Ohio, to Carl and Helen Salchli, and received her master’s degree from Florida Atlantic University.

After her long and successful teaching career, she continued to tutor students for the rest of her life.

Hayhurst was a “pride” member of the American Association of University Women, enjoyed playing bridge, and was a lifelong traveler. After she retired from teaching, Hayhurst went on an around—the–world cruise, and toured the United States in a recreational vehicle, visiting many of our national parks.

She was an avid reader, checking out a half–dozen books every time she visited the library. She was a frequent patron at the Satellite Beach Library, and much beloved by the staff. Her “generosity will allow the library to further its mission of literacy and lifelong learning for our citizens.”

The Satellite Beach Public Library has served the citizens of Brevard County for more than 50 years, and has more than 70,000 items available for checkout. At present the library is closed for major repairs to the HVAC system, but is expected to reopen in late January.
Immordino named chief financial officer at Rockledge Regional Medical Center

ROCKLEDGE — Jonathan Immordino has been named chief financial officer of Rockledge Regional Medical Center. Immordino joins the Steward Health Care family from Inova Fairfax Health System in Fairfax, Va. He has also worked for hospitals in Palm Beach and Orlando, as well as in Bethpage, N.Y.

“The operational side of healthcare is where I derive my greatest satisfaction,” said Immordino, who earned an MBA degree from Benedictine University in Chicago and a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Queens College in Queens, N.Y. “I’ll continue with staff development, and making sure we have the most complete services possible. I’ll also work to ensure everybody has all the tools they need.”

The new CFO said he was struck by the level of teamwork and the commitment to quality he observed when he first visited the hospital. “I was so impressed with the state–of–the–art technology, along with the dedication the staff had for one another, the patients and the community,” he said. “Rockledge Regional is a gem in the community. I’m just thrilled to be a part of this, to help provide these services.”

Immordino’s work will include implementing a new system of electronic records, a centralized accounts payable system, and new coding and billing processes. He will continue integrating Rockledge Regional’s processes with those of Steward Health Care, the company that acquired the hospital in May 2017.

During his career, which began in 1988, Immordino has amassed a long list of accomplishments. He managed all the financial oversight of a $1.5 billion facility, headed a hospital startup, and has extensive experience in managed care contracts.

“I’ve always been glad to be part of the process,” he said. For more information on Rockledge Regional Medical Center or Melbourne Regional Medical Center, visit RockledgeRegional.org and MelbourneRegional.org.

Jess Parrish Medical Foundation awards $5,000 to Women’s Center Safe House

TITUSVILLE — The Jess Parrish Medical Foundation has awarded $5,000 to the Women’s Center Ravindran Family Domestic Violence Safe House.

The facility is able to provide women and their children who are escaping domestic violence with housing and basic needs such as food, clothing, and personal items. Clients also have access to victim advocacy, case management, counseling, and other resources to help them become stabilized and self–sufficient. The safe house has a 24–hour domestic violence emergency hotline (607–6809) for those needing assistance.

The Women’s Center has a 42–year history of helping women and families in Brevard County. “We are appreciative to the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation for being an integral part of the Women’s Center in North Brevard and supporting our efforts to ensure victims of domestic violence have continuous access to safety and shelter,” said Becky Lemstom, the grants manager for the Women’s Center.
Steve Kirsner and Friends to perform a concert scheduled for Feb. 11 at the Rockledge Country Club

Entertainer and pianist Steve Kirsner and Friends will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Rockledge Country Club.

The concert is put on by the Space Coast Jazz Society. Steve Kirsner and Friends often perform at Heidi’s Jazz Club in Cocoa Beach.

Kirsner started entertaining at age 7 when he “wowed” his second-grade class by playing “Swanee River.”

At age 15, he started playing professionally as part of a high-school ensemble, continued through dental school at pizza-joint gigs, and later during his military service at the Eglin Air Force Base Officer’s Club.

With 21 years as a dentist, Kirsner retired from that profession to devote himself to a family business, and to music, which he calls “the real love of his life.” His years as a professional performer are now considerably longer than his career in dentistry.

A Florida resident since age 9, Kirsner has lived in Brevard County since 1994. In 1997 he began playing at the now-defunct Indian River Jazz Club, where he met a number of fellow musicians with whom he still plays today.

He also had a 10-year gig at the Mango Tree Restaurant and, with fellow musicians, at other venues and private parties around the county.

Friends and fellow musicians joining Kirsner for the concert will be Dave Lewis on bass guitar, Ollie Downes on drums, Steve Mazzie on sax, Bill Boyd on trumpet and Tony Bosik on guitar. The program will be a mix of instrumental and vocal numbers.

All Space Coast Jazz concerts are open to the public and admission is paid at the door. The price is $10 for members of the Space Coast Jazz Society and for Rockledge Country Club members.

The cost is $15 for non-members and guests. Students will be admitted free of charge.

Rockledge Country Club’s address is 1591 S. Fiske Blvd. For more information on this event, call 960–4897, email Jazz@SpaceCoastJazzSociety.org or go to www.SpaceCoastJazzSociety.org. You can also join this organization at the concert or through the website.

Young Eagles Flight Rally set for Jan. 27 at the Merritt Island Airport

Kids 8 to 17 will take to the air on Jan. 27 as the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 724 hosts a Young Eagles Flight Rally at the Merritt Island Airport, 900 Airport Road. “The airplane rides are free,” said Dwight Bell, chapter coordinator for the event. “We hope to build a one-on-one relationship between the pilots and the young people, giving the new generation a chance to learn more about the possibilities that exist in the world of aviation.” The pilots will explain more about their airplanes and the function of flight controls, and airplane safety. The flights are an average of 20 minutes. Following the flight, each young person will receive a certificate making him or her an official Young Eagle Flight Member, and a personal Flight Log Book from Sporty’s Pilot Shop. Their names will also be entered into the “World’s Largest Log Book.” This book is on permanent display at the EAA Air Adventure Museum in Oshkosh, Wis.

Registration is from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. A parent or guardian must accompany the youngster. For more information on this program, call 266–7410 (Don) or 288–7209 (Dwight).

Southern rockers The Outlaws to perform at the King Center

The Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts will host The Outlaws in concert at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4. For 40 years, the Southern rock legends have remained one of the most influential and best-loved bands of the genre. “They are now headed back on the road, back on the radio and back into the hearts of fans nationwide.” Known for their triple-guitar rock attack and three-part country harmonies, The Outlaws became one of the first acts signed by Clive Davis to his then-fledgling Arista Records. The band’s first three albums, “The Outlaws,” “Lady In Waiting,” and “Hurry Sundown” — featuring such rock radio favorites as “There Goes Another Love Song,” “Green Grass & High Tides,” “Knoxville Girl,” and “Freeborn Man” — would become worldwide gold and platinum landmarks of the Southern rock era. Their new album is titled “It’s About Pride.” Tickets for the concert begin at $50 (inclusive of fees) and may be purchased by visiting kingcenter.com or by calling the King Center at 242–2219.
FIT’s Scott Center for Autism Treatment an invaluable resource in community; to mark 10th anniversary of ‘An Evening of Hope’ fundraiser; Rolex watch raffle

By Ken Datzman

Over the past decade, the multidisciplinary services, training, and research of the Scott Center for Autism Treatment on the campus of the Florida Institute of Technology has enhanced the quality of life for many area young people and their families.

The last decade has brought big advances in understanding and addressing the many physical and mental–health conditions that frequently accompany autism. For example, researchers now know that autism is a whole–body disorder for many people on the spectrum.

Its common co–morbidities include epilepsy, sleep disturbances, eating and feeding challenges, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, depression, and bipolar disorder, according to Autism Speaks, an advocacy organization that sponsors research.

Autism is one of the fastest–growing developmental disorders in America. It affects one in 68 children, and one in 42 boys.

“The need was great when we first opened the Scott Center, and the need is still as great today for the programs, services, and education we offer to families whose children are on the spectrum,” said Courtenay Porter, the director of external relations for the Scott Center, whose facility is dedicated to autism research, treatment, and education for families.

“For early intervention, which is our main program, we are at capacity with 25 children. We also have a social–skills program, which serves another 40 to 50 kids. The participants are divided between two age groups. I have seen what a facility like this can do for a family. Early intervention is incredibly effective.”

Area residents John and Susan Hopkins have also seen firsthand the positive impact the Scott Center has made on children with autism and their families.

Their granddaughter, Elizabeth, was diagnosed with autism 13 years ago. They have been a constant source of support for Elizabeth, her parents and her older sister from the beginning, going to doctor’s appointments, helping with schoolwork, taking the girls on trips, and being there whenever they were needed.

Today, Elizabeth is an honor–roll student at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Melbourne.

“Our are so proud of her,” said John Hopkins, a retired CPA who was one of the founders of Melbourne–based Berman Hopkins Wright & LaHam/CPAs and Associates and is active in fundraisers for the Scott Center.

“And we are so thankful to the Scott Center and everyone who supports it for helping her learn so much and do so well.”

John and Susan Hopkins consider Alexandra “Ali” Wiegand, lead behavioral analyst at the Scott Center, part of the family. She has been providing additional private services to Elizabeth for years.

Currently, the main research–based treatment for autism spectrum disorders is the intensive structured teaching of skills, often called behavioral intervention.

Porter said a “major component” of the Scott Center is research. “We have research programs going on year–round. It’s a great resource for the families. They can get treatment through the research we’re doing because we are working on best practices. In fact, we are the second–most published center in research in the field of autism among university–based treatment facilities. People around the world are using the research we do at the Scott Center.”

Dr. Michael Kelley is the executive director of the Scott Center and his research interests include assessment and intervention for severe behavioral disorders, pediatric feeding disorders, and the symptoms of autism.

The 22,000–square–foot Scott Center was partially funded by Ed and Cheryl Scott, whose son Reece was diagnosed with autism early in life. Through personal persistence and the help of his parents, great teachers, and therapists, Reece was able to overcome many of the challenges of autism.

He graduated from Georgetown University and went on to pursue a master’s degree in Japanese studies at the University of Oxford in England. Reece is the CEO and founder of GameTomo.

Courtenay Porter is director of external relations for the Scott Center for Autism Treatment at Florida Tech in Melbourne. Her organization will host ‘An Evening of Hope X’ on Feb. 17 at the Merritt Island home of Mike and Rashmi Shah. Mike Shah serves on Florida Tech’s Board of Trustees. The annual event raises scholarship and subsidy funds for treatment services and programs at the Scott Center. Sponsorships for the fundraiser start at $500 and include tickets to the event. Raffle tickets to win a new Rolex Oyster Perpetual GMT Master II donated by Kempf’s Jewelers are $25 each.
Health First Foundation looks to build on 2017’s upbeat year; Rob Perers of ABI is new board president; to introduce Donor Appreciation Dinner this fall

By Ken Datzman

The Health First Foundation closed out 2017 on a high note, with solid growth over the previous year. And it saw exceptional giving participation from Health First associates.

Rockledge-based Health First Inc. is one of the largest employers in Brevard County, and beyond. The nonprofit multi-hospital operator has some 6,000 employees.

Michael Seeley, the Health First Foundation president, is positioning his organization for more growth in 2018, as he introduces new programs and strategies to reach potential donors.

“We saw a 5 percent growth over the previous year, even with the ‘Grape Escape’ (a fundraising event for the Foundation) being scheduled for early 2018, and all while taking steps to engage new potential supporters in the health and wellness programs at Health First,” said Seeley.

He added, “A particular bright spot has been, without question, the success of our ‘Associate Giving’ initiatives, which have resulted in a nearly 50 percent participation rate.”

“Brevard Business News” recently conducted a Q&A with Seeley and businessman Robert “Rob” Perers, the new president of the Health First Foundation Board of Trustees. Perers is the president and CEO of American Business Interiors Inc. in downtown Melbourne.

BBN: As 2018 kicks off, what is the direction and strategy for the Health First Foundation as it moves ahead toward securing gifts and building relationships in the community? And what role will individual fundraising events play this year for the Foundation?

SEELEY: We will continue to focus on stewarding the extraordinary support of our community, and the amazing generosity of our associates. By thanking people for their gifts and showing them the difference their gifts of any size can make, we create lifetime supporters of Health First and create a rewarding way for new supporters to become involved. We want to know the passions and interests of our supporters and how we can align them with the myriad of programs at Health First.

Our events will continue to play an integral role in our community engagement and fundraising strategies. The Health First Foundation Golf Classic and the Grape Escape are great ways for people and corporations to support Health First Aging Services and Health First Cardiac Services. I am very thankful for the committees and volunteers who make those events happen.

The Health First Foundation Benefit Ball will undergo an exciting transformation this year. In response to community feedback about the number of fundraising events, the Health First Foundation is replacing the Benefit Ball with what will be an engaging, invitation-only annual donor-appreciation reception to recognize their generosity, celebrate providers, and share how their gifts are making a difference in the health and wellness of our community. The first Donor Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for September.

BBN: As the new board president of the Health First Foundation this year, what is your role with the organization in the community?

PERERS: My role is to be a conduit to help communicate the positive changes we are making to the Health First Foundation this year. I will also work to promote the mission of Health First with the other organizations of which I serve on the board. I pledge to do all I can to help increase funding for the Health First Foundation, so we can continue the good work we are doing in our community.

I enjoy being part of the Health First Foundation. My commitment began 10 years ago, and I have had an opportunity to meet great people. It has been awesome to see our folks telling our story to the community, and then witnessing people benefiting from it. I still have a close relationship with Hospice of Health First, and I know just how much these services benefit people in our community. I find my work with the Health First Foundation to be rewarding, and it truly warms my heart.

BBN: How active are the board members in reaching out in the community to potential Health First Foundation donors?

PERERS: We are a very active board, and everyone who chooses to join works together to raise funds for the Health First Foundation. We are increasing our focus on fundraising activities, and we have even put together affinity lists to help us connect with community members whom we have not reached yet. We want to let them know Health First fully supports them in its vision to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care that improves lives and communities.

BBN: Where does the money go that the Health First Foundation raises during the year?

Please see Health First Foundation, page 21
Waffle House closes on deal to build new facility at Eau Gallie Pointe in Melbourne

Matthew Development’s Eau Gallie Pointe project continues to attract businesses that are signing deals to construct new facilities on the roughly 19-acre site east of Interstate 95, in an expanding business corridor.

The Eau Gallie Pointe commercial subdivision, being developed by local businessman Mike Renfro of Matthew Development, is on West Eau Gallie Boulevard in Melbourne.

WaWa Inc. just opened a new convenience store and 16-bay fueling station at the Eau Gallie–John Rodes intersection.

“WaWa is already changing the sentiment and the feeling of that area as it pertains to business location,” said Renfro. “I think traffic counts are going to increase in that corridor because of their new store.”

Renfro’s Eau Gallie Pointe just closed a deal with one of the most popular 24-hour restaurants in America — Waffle House. The Norcross, Ga.—based corporation is set to construct a new Waffle House on the site.

“It will feature Waffle House’s new prototype, with glass around most of the building,” said Renfro. “It’s a sharp-looking design. They told me they are excited to be at this location. And we are excited to have them at Eau Gallie Pointe. Their store will help drive the traffic count in that area, too. Waffle House has a loyal client base.”

Another growing business, Preppy Pets, which is owned and run by Tony and Yolanda Lopez, selected Eau Gallie Pointe for construction of its new roughly 7,000-square-foot facility. Preppy Pets is currently located at 4045 Dow Road in Melbourne. The 10-year-old full-service business is open seven days a week and provides a range of services, including overnight dog and cat boarding and “doggie and cat daycare packages.” The facility welcomes all size dogs and cats, birds and small animals, too.

The first business to build at Eau Gallie Pointe was general contractor Welsh Construction, which specializes in commercial building. Welsh Construction opened its new headquarters at Eau Gallie Pointe last year. The 10,000-square-foot facility also houses, separately, the law offices of Shane Smith, P.A. Each business owns its space.

Renfro said he is looking for the strong momentum he experienced in 2017 at Eau Gallie Pointe to continue this year. “We did a lot of teeing-up, so to speak, last year and I think we’re going to see the results in 2018 at Eau Gallie Pointe, as well as other projects we’re working on.”

Oliveira a new team member at Coldwell Banker Residential

Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate recently announced that Melissa Oliveira, an experienced real-estate professional, has become a sales associate with the company’s Palm Bay and Melbourne offices.

“I look forward to providing the best customer service and helping area buyers and sellers achieve their needs with my knowledge of the area,” she said.

Formerly with Weichert Realtors Hallmark Properties, Oliveira specializes in residential property sales.

Oliveira may be reached at 339-4270, or MelissaOliveiraFloridaRealtor@gmail.com.
TITUSVILLE — RUSH Construction Inc. has announced the promotion of senior project manager Mike Lapinski to company vice president. This promotion is in recognition of Lapinski’s “demonstrated leadership abilities, extensive knowledge in all phases of construction and renovation, and dedication to RUSH and its staff.”

A 10-year veteran of the U.S Air Force, Lapinski has 37 years’ experience in all phases of the construction industry, including renovation, with an emphasis on government construction and contracting.

A LEED Accredited Professional and a state of Florida “Class A” licensed general contractor, Lapinski has managed design–build, construction management and general construction projects.

In his new role as vice president, he will be responsible for field operations and project delivery.

“We are very proud and excited to have someone as highly qualified and experienced as Mike Lapinski receive this well–deserved promotion,” said RUSH President and CEO William Chivers.

“For the past 20 years, Mike has been increasingly loyal and committed to RUSH and has consistently demonstrated the core values of safety, integrity, and quality that are so important for everyone on our staff, and to our clients.”

RUSH Construction is a general contractor, construction manager, and design–builder that has worked with such clients as NASA, the U.S Air Force, state of Florida, Space Florida, Parrish Medical Center, Embraer, Canaveral Port Authority, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ron Norris Inc., Barn Light Electric, Playalinda Brewing Co., Halifax Health Medical Center, Central Florida YMCA, Health First Inc., and the American Police Hall of Fame.

With an award–winning safety program and a 33–year litigation–free history, RUSH is one of two Certified Green Contractors in the state, with two LEED accredited professionals on staff. For more information about firm, visit www.RUSHinc.com or contact Chivers at 267–8100.

‘Champagne & Chocolate Sweethearts’ event set

Historic Cocoa Village will present “Champagne & Chocolate Sweethearts” Sip and Stroll event from 4–8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb 10. Check–in will begin at 4 p.m. in the gazebo area of Cocoa Village. For the ticket price of $20 in advance and $25 the night of the event, you will receive a Sip & Stroll commemorative wine glass, and a map of the participating merchants in Cocoa Village who will be offering special deals. Your ticket purchase automatically enters you into a drawing for one of the “fabulous gift baskets.” For more information on this event, call Susan at 749–3407. Tickets are available at Ossorio Café & Bakery in Cocoa Village or at www.Eventbrite.com.

When will I see my brother again?

We serve an average of 55 sibling groups in foster care each year in Brevard County.
Not all siblings will be placed in foster care together.
Will you help keep a sibling group together?

Foster together. Foster a future.

At a time when they need stability and security, to separate a child from their brother or sister can cause distress and adversely impact their sense of well–being. However, we simply don’t have enough foster homes to keep siblings together. That’s why we need your help.

Become a foster parent.

Contact our Recruitment Specialist to find out additional information at 321.752.4650 x3034 or foster@brevardfp.org.

www.brevardfp.org

Healthcaring.

Welcome to the affordable healthcare solution that honors God’s design—a huge community of members across America who share each other’s medical bills, including many small business owners and their employees. Modeled after the early believers in the book of Acts, Medi-Share is healthcaring—Christians caring for one another free of fear, uncertainty, or moral dilemmas.

More than 300,000 Christian members across America
Options for singles, families, groups, and seniors *
About half the cost of insurance
No enrollment period—you can join any time

VISIT BiblicalSharing.org OR CALL 800-PSALM-23 FOR A FREE INFORMATION GUIDE
Medi-Share is not health insurance. *Seniors must have Medicare parts A and B to qualify.
Brevard Public Schools leader Fleming named as a Principal of the Year finalist

VIERA—Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart recently announced that Rick Fleming, principal of West Shore Junior–Senior High School, is one of three finalists for Florida’s 2018 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership, or Principal of the Year.

For more than 23 years, Fleming has served the school district in various teaching and administrative roles. To enhance team camaraderie, Fleming instituted a “Wildcat Winner” program at faculty meetings where teachers acknowledge each other’s hard work and dedication. He is often sought after for his leadership expertise, and he serves on various committees that are focused on improving education. He is praised for leading by example and serving as a role model for his students, staff and community.

Stewart said in a statement, “It is a great honor to recognize these principals and assistant principals whose hard work and commitment to Florida’s students sets them apart, and I look forward to celebrating them next month at the Commissioner’s Summit for Principals.”

The winners will be named during the Commissioner’s Summit for Principals on Feb. 9 in Orlando. The 2018 Principal of the Year will receive a cash prize of $5,000, and the remaining Principal of the Year finalists will receive $1,500. The 2018 Assistant Principal of the Year will receive a cash prize of $3,500, and the remaining Assistant Principal of the Year finalists will receive $1,061.

Candidates for these awards were nominated by the superintendent from their respective school districts. Complete lists of candidates from each district for both categories are available online.

Cape Canaveral to host ‘Movin’ in the City,’ a wellness and mobility event

The City of Cape Canaveral will be hosting a 1980s–themed wellness and mobility event to kick off the city’s participation in the 2018 Health First Mayor’s Fitness Challenge. “Movin’ in the City” will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 104 Taylor Ave. in Cape Canaveral.

The event will start with a 3K walk, departing from Xeriscape Park at 9 a.m., with a turnaround at Cherie Down Park. Guests will return to enjoy the kick-off party that includes a wellness and mobility fair filled with local vendors, fitness demonstrations, and bicycle– and pedestrian–safety demons, along with prizes and giveaways that promote healthy living and bicycle safety.

As part of the city’s green mobility initiative, guests are encouraged to walk or bike to the event. Those that ride bicycles can take advantage of the free bike valet at the Nancy Hanson Recreation Complex and be part of the guided community bike ride that departs Xeriscape at 11:15 a.m., led by deputies from the Brevard County Sheriff’s Office. This event is free of charge and open to all ages.

For more information on this program, call the Culture & Leisure Services office at 868–1226 or visit www.CityOfCapeCanaveral.org.
Divine Mercy to launch its annual Space Day Feb. 2, a full slate of events and speakers scheduled

MERRITT ISLAND — Divine Mercy Catholic Academy will host its annual Space Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2.

Space Day is one of school’s yearly events to promote the importance of integrating science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and mathematics into classrooms to prepare students for the 21st century workforce.

Students in grades pre–kindergarten through eighth grade will participate in hands–on, interactive activities and lectures relating to the “exciting innovations” in space science. Students will see and hear firsthand from guest speakers who are experts in the field. This year’s lineup “is bigger and better than ever.”

Representatives from a variety of companies related to the aerospace industry will lead sessions with “propulsion exhibitions, rocket launches, drone flying and cryogenic demonstrations.”

At the astronaut encounter, students will have the rare opportunity to meet a veteran NASA astronaut. An astronaut who has lived and worked in space will share his experiences during a live presentation and question and answer session.

“I love using the infrared camera,” said second–grader Addie. “There might be new stations to go to this year, so I am excited.”

This year’s Space Day will feature for the first time “The Giant Mars Map, a large floor map that illustrates the topography of the entire planet. The map also identifies the landing sites of various Mars rover missions.

“I am excited about Space Day 2018 because space is endless and we can learn so much from it,” said seventh–grader Gianna.

To find out more about Space Day and Divine Mercy Catholic Academy, visit www.dmccs.org or contact the school at 452–0263.

Dorothy Koliba to conduct watercolor workshop at Studios of Cocoa Beach

If you are a watercolor artist looking for new inspiration, the Studios of Cocoa Beach has a workshop for you. The workshop will be conducted on Saturday, Jan. 27, and the following Saturday, Feb. 3. The instructor will be Dorothy Koliba. Students should bring several black–and–white copies of a photo. By cutting and pasting the photo, you will learn what to keep in, what to take out and what to add. The more different photos of the subject, the better. Bring your own painting supplies.

Attendees must have some experience in watercolors. The fee is $80 for the two–day workshop. Contact Koliba for more information on the workshop, a supply list and to sign up. Her email is DeKoliba@hotmail.com or call 327–8490. The Studios of Cocoa Beach is located at 165 Minuteman Causeway in downtown Cocoa Beach.
Renowned conservationist Jeff Corwin set to appear at ‘Safari Under the Stars’

Internationally renowned conservationist, media personality and author Jeff Corwin is set to appear at Brevard Zoo’s “Safari Under the Stars,” one of region’s most popular fundraising events, on the evening of Saturday, April 28.

The celebration is presented by Flammio Financial Group, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services Inc. The public will have the opportunity to attend a ticketed presentation featuring Corwin in the morning; more information about that event will be released soon.

Corwin is known for hosting “The Jeff Corwin Experience,” “Corwin’s Quest” and ABC’s wildlife adventure series “Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin,” as well as serving as a special science and environment correspondent for NBC News.

He has written several books, including 2009’s critically acclaimed “100 Heartbeats: The Race to Save Earth’s Most Endangered Species.”

“Throughout his extraordinary career, Jeff has used hope and humanity to educate and enlighten audiences all over the world,” said Karen Davis, the Brevard Zoo’s director of development. “We’re thrilled to be bringing his passions for wildlife to the community.”


A Friday night VIP event and the Saturday night gala are open exclusively to sponsors. Organizations and individuals interested in sponsorship should contact Chris Stagman at 254–9453, extension 485, or CStagman@BrevardZoo.org.

League of Women Voters to honor Chandler, Glavas and Thompson at luncheon Feb. 10

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast will honor three “Women of Action” at a luncheon set for 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10, at Suntree Country Club in Melbourne. The guest speaker will be Isadora Rangel, “Florida Today’s” public affairs and engagement editor.

The honorees are Jacqueline Chandler, Stacia Glavas and Laurilee Thompson. Chandler is the founder and president of I Am Proof Inc. — a group–mentoring program for young men to provide life skills needed to build character and self–determination. Glavas is the founder and CEO of Brevard Rescue Mission, an organization formed to break the cycle of homelessness among women with children. And Thompson is the founding member and driving force behind the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. She is a “dedicated advocate” of the protection of Florida’s natural resources.

The luncheon fee is $35 for members and $40 for guests. The reservation deadline is Feb. 2. To register, go to www.lwv–spacecoast.org (Events). For more information on this program, contact Doreen Archer at 622–4071 or doreenarcher1@gmail.com.
The Scott Center for Autism Treatment

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Dr. Dave Weldon, a former U.S. Congressman that represented District 15, was also a key partner in the funding of the Scott Center building. He secured funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the facility.

“We are grateful for what Ed and Cheryl Scott and Dr. Weldon did a decade ago to make this facility a reality,” said Porter, whose sister was diagnosed with autism at age 10 and is now a sergeant in the U.S. Army.

The LEED–certified Scott Center facility includes classrooms, meeting space, observation rooms, small–group exposure rooms, large group/classroom–style rooms, a pediatric feeding program center, severe behavior therapy rooms, and a toilet training room.

Florida Tech’s Community Psychology Services department is also located in the main facility and offers outpatient therapy and counseling services for families and individuals.

To help raise funds for the facility, the Scott Center hosts an annual benefit called “An Evening of Hope.”

Registration is now underway for the 10th anniversary of “An Evening of Hope,” a milestone event that will pay tribute to the center’s past, while also revealing new technology with the power to enrich the future for children with autism.

“Through the years, the community has been very generous supporting this event,” said Porter. “The more money we raise, the more families we can help. The event benefits programs and services at the Scott Center.”

“An Evening of Hope” will be held from 7–10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Merritt Island home of Mike and Rashmi Shah, longtime supporters of the Scott Center and the Florida Institute of Technology. Mike Shah, president of Cocoa–based Southeast Petro Distributors, serves on Florida Tech’s Board of Trustees.

This special anniversary celebration will honor Ed and Cheryl Scott and their instrumental role in the creation of the Scott Center, which provides families affected by autism spectrum disorders a full range of evaluation and services, from diagnosis to intensive treatment.

The event will also feature the “unveiling of an exciting new technology” that will allow the Scott Center to offer its services to “countless more families” affected by autism.

“An Evening of Hope also raises money for the Wish Scholarship,” said Porter. “That’s really important because that scholarship helps families that cannot afford treatment. There are a lot of different ways in which we can use the scholarship money to help children and families.”

Last year’s An Evening of Hope raised $145,000, and organizers are looking to exceed that amount for the 10th–anniversary celebration, said Porter.

Sponsorships for the event are available and range from the $500 Faith level to the $15,000 Hope level. All levels include tickets to An Evening of Hope.

For more information about being a sponsor for the Scott Center’s An Evening of Hope, visit www.TheScottCenter.org or contact Porter at EOH@FIT.edu or 674–8106.

The fundraising efforts also include a raffle of a new $8,450 Rolex Oyster Perpetual GMT Master II donated by Kemp’s Jewelers in Indialantic.

“The Kempf family has supported An Evening of Hope since the creation of the event,” said Porter. “All the proceeds from the ticket sales for the Rolex raffle go directly to the Scott Center for treatment services for children. We are very thankful for the Kempf family support all these years.”

Raffle tickets are available for a donation of $25 each. They can be purchased at the Scott Center on the Florida Tech campus, at Kemp’s Jewelers, or online at www.TheScottCenter.org.

The committee members of the 2018 An Evening of Hope are: Holly Cleveland, Ulyen Close, Leasha Flammio–Watson, Laurie Flutie, Carey Gleason, Gary Grant, John Hopkins, Dr. Michael Kelley, Jason Kempf, Dr. Mary Beth Kenkel, and Jennifer Lacey.

The list continues: Loretta Livinghouse, Rich Martinson, Jennifer Michael, Colleen Middlebrooks, Rita Moreno, Porter, Jeri Ronaldson, Rashmi Shah, Theresa Travis, and Susie Wasdin.

“We have a great team of people working to make An Evening of Hope X a big success. We couldn’t do it without their support and dedication to the Scott Center. We thank them for their efforts in the community,” said Porter.
Moon Golf Invitational at Duran Golf Club to feature top collegiate women’s golf teams

VIERA — The Duran Golf Club is set to showcase the first Moon Golf Invitational on Feb. 19–20, an event hosted by the Louisville Cardinals Women’s Golf Team.

The event will feature several schools that rank within the top 65 golf teams in the nation, with two institutions currently ranked in the top 25, the University of Louisville and Furman University.

Other notable teams participating will include the University of Michigan, Virginia Tech, Maryland, Memphis and Rutgers, as well as several other top programs across the nation.

“We are so honored to work with the University of Louisville in bringing the first Moon Golf Invitational to Duran Golf Club,” said Moon Golf owner Anne Moon. “We are grateful to Duran Head Professional Matt Morrison and the Duran team for hosting this exciting event. Our long-term goal is to make this one of the premiere events for Division 1 Women’s Golf” on an annual basis.

The 13 participating golf teams “are in for a real treat when they arrive in Viera for the Moon Golf Invitational.” The Duran Golf Club has been one of the premier golf courses in Brevard County for 13 years, being voted as the “Best of Brevard” golf courses year–after–year.

The Duran golf course features 30 acres of pristine sod offering sparkling lakes, sweeping doglegs, stunning palm trees and a “coastal breeze to cool you off during your afternoon game.”

“We are excited to be hosting some of the top lady collegiate golfers in the nation at Duran Golf Club,” said Morrison. “The golf course is in exceptional condition and will provide a great test to the competitors.”

The 54–hole competition will take place over two days, with the players completing 36 holes on Monday, Feb. 19, and the final round on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

“We are thrilled to be hosting a tournament with Moon Golf in Brevard County at Duran Golf Club,” said Louisville Head Golf Coach Courtney Trimble. “The event is shaping up to be a very competitive tournament and will showcase some of the best female collegiate players in the United States.”

Duran Golf club is located at 7032 Stadium Parkway. The event is free of charge to attend and is open to the public.

Fifth Avenue Art Gallery to host First Friday Opening Reception for member exhibit

The Fifth Avenue Art Gallery will present a member exhibit from Feb. 27 through March 31. The exhibit is titled “Sleep Walkers.” Member artists will create artwork “inspired by all things night.” Subjects may be indoor or outdoor, the light of the moon, candlelight, or perhaps, drawing from the sleep realm, a dream imagery. “This should prove to be a different exhibit with a new perspective on eyes wide open.” There will be a First Friday Opening Reception at 5:30–8:30 p.m. on March 2. Light refreshments will be served and attendees will have the opportunity to meet the member artists. Fifth Avenue Art Gallery is located in the Eau Gallie Arts district. The address is 1470 Highland Ave. For more information on this event, visit www.FifthAvenueArtGallery.com.
Health First Foundation
Continued from page 13

PERERS: The Health First Foundation Golf Classic raises funds for Aging Services and the Grape Escape raises money for Health and Vascular programs. Direct gifts of support may be designated for programs near and dear to the hearts of the donors, be it nursing scholarships, Hospice of Health First, or the Cancer Institute. That’s the magic of working with the Health First Foundation — people can choose the programs they wish to support.

BBN: Last year, the Health First Foundation launched the Corporate Partners program. How is that faring in the community?

SEELEY: Companies want to support charities that hold dear the best interest of their employees and the community—at-large, and they want to be able to do so easily and at a good value. The Corporate Partners program touches on all of those, and the response has been very favorable. The program creates a convenient way for companies to have access to all Health First special events, and it thanks and recognizes corporate supporters at those events, as well as on signage at Health First’s corporate office (in Rockledge).

BBN: ABI has been a longtime supporter of Health First. Is ABI part of the Corporate Partners program?

PERERS: Yes, ABI is a proud supporter of the Corporate Partners program.

BBN: Collective giving groups, or “giving circles,” seem to be growing in popularity as a way for donors to support organizations. Does this concept have potential for the Health First Foundation?

SEELEY: Giving circles are a great way for people to pool their resources to make a greater impact on charities. We have benefited from what is likely one of the longest—standing giving circles in Brevard County — the friends and colleagues of Evelyn Foster who have long supported nursing scholarships at Health First. Their efforts have resulted in the funding of an endowment valued at more than $600,000, and we’ve awarded more than 100 nursing scholarships in the past few years.

BBN: People who give to charitable entities are happier than those who don’t, according to a new study. Why do you think this is, and have donors ever expressed this to you during all your years in this field?

SEELEY: People want to make a difference. This is the greatest calling and satisfaction for a fundraiser; helping people connect their passions and resources to deserving programs. People have different motivations for giving to Health First, ranging from wanting to ensure availability of the best possible care in Brevard, to thanking one of their caregivers, to commemorating a loved one. No matter the reason, the sense of fulfillment one achieves from giving is very real, especially in a health-care setting and especially at Health First.

BBN: Was the recent “Giving Tuesday,” a global—giving movement, a success for the Health First Foundation?

SEELEY: It was our first year participating in Giving Tuesday, and it shined a bright light on one of the most thoughtful programs — Bright Star — where children and their families learn to deal with the loss of a loved one. To be able to recognize our associates who work with the tiniest grievers made Giving Tuesday magical, and the generous support we received will be put to very good use.

BBN: Is the record performance of the stock market helping drive contributions for the Health First Foundation?

SEELEY: Gifts of support of any size are invaluable to us, especially in times of ever—shrinking operating margins and as the need for health—care services in Brevard continues to grow. Those gifts can come in the form of cash and appreciated stock and may be pledged over time. And, we have full gift—planning capability, where supporters may pledge gifts after they’ve passed or possibly through gifts of property. The community can help sponsor our events, too, and also volunteer.

BBN: Anything else you would like to add?

SEELEY: We are always interested in having stories about community members’ positive experiences at Health First. If you would like to share a story or are interested in volunteering, send an email to the Foundation@Health—First.org. We would love to hear from you.
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A new study by the American Medical Association says physicians “add opportunity, growth, and prosperity” to the economy by creating 12.6 million jobs and generating $2.3 trillion in economic impact.

And the activity begins at the community level, with each physician generating $3.2 million of economic impact on average.

The report found that every dollar applied to physician services supports an additional $2.84 in other business activity. An additional 11 jobs — above and beyond the clinical and administrative personnel that work inside a physician practice — are supported for each $1 million of revenue generated by a physician’s practice.

Physicians’ contribution to the national economy generates $92.9 billion in state and local tax revenue for their communities — translating to $126.129 for each physician on average — enabling community investments to be made.

The report is titled “The National Economic Impact of Physicians” and is broken down state-by-state. In Florida, the total economic activity generated by physicians is $113.8 billion. The average economic total generated by each physician is $2.5 million. And the direct economic activity generated by physicians in Florida is $50.9 billion.

The direct number of jobs supported by physicians in the Sunshine State is 218,406. The indirect number is 455,277. The average number of jobs supported by each physician is 14.8.

Looking ahead, physicians will have an opportunity to further drive the economy. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services just announced the launch of a new voluntary bundled payment model to improve quality. Under the traditional fee-for-service payment, Medicare pays providers for each individual service they perform. With this new bundled payment model, participants can earn additional payment if all expenditures for a “beneficiary’s episode of care” are under a spending target that factors in quality.

“As an organization, BIMDA will be working to help educate physicians regarding the new Medicare payment models that are coming, including the quality initiatives and the incentives for better outcomes,” said Dr. Kancharla. “We want to make sure physicians understand the new changes that are set to be implemented in 2019 by CMS.”

BIMDA’s spring Expo and CME Conference is set for Saturday, May 5, at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place. The event will get underway at 7:30 in the morning with CME lectures and will close out in the evening with a Gala.

“I have been associated with BIMDA since I moved here from New York in 2006,” said Dr. Rajasri Krishnamurthy, an internal medicine practitioner with the Health First Medical Group.

“The first big event I went to in Brevard County was a BIMDA conference and social gathering. That’s where I came to know a lot of my colleagues from the various practice specialties, and I have been coming to these events ever since. The continuing medical education program is a big attraction of the conference. I always look forward to it, along with the Gala.”

Dr. Krishnamurthy’s training includes having completed a nine-month post-graduate research fellowship in neurology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Her husband, Dr. Aravind Kumar is a former president of BIMDA.

Dr. Dinesh Patel, a cardiologist with Charles Croft M.D., PA., moved to Melbourne one year ago from Jacksonville, where he was practicing, and became involved with BIMDA.

“I thought one of the best ways for me to become better acquainted with physicians in this region was through BIMDA and the events it holds,” said Dr. Patel. “When I joined BIMDA, it presented me the opportunity to have a lot more exposure to the practicing physicians in the different fields around the county, all the way north to Titusville and all the way south to Sebastian and Indian River. And BIMDA’s continuing medical education program covers the different specialties in medicine, with various experts making presentations. It’s a very convenient and effective format for area doctors to earn CMEs.”

Participation in an accredited CME offering helps physicians meet requirements for maintaining their licensure and specialty board certification, as well as credentialing, membership in professional societies, and holding other privileges in their field.

Dr. Kancharla is in charge of recruiting speakers for BIMDA’s 2018 Expo and CME Conference. The program will feature five CME topics, including one on oncology.

“We are planning to have a renowned speaker from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., at our event,” he said. “From an oncology standpoint, we are going to focus on multiple myeloma, which is a devastating blood cancer. Some of the new advances that are benefiting patients will be highlighted, and how the outcomes have changed significantly over the last few years because of new treatment options for multiple myeloma patients.”

Multiple myeloma is a type of blood cancer that affects the plasma cells, said Dr. Kancharla. In multiple myeloma, malignant plasma cells accumulate in the bone marrow, “crowding out” the normal plasma cells that help fight infection.

Multiple myeloma is the second most common blood cancer, and although it is considered incurable, it is very much a treatable disease, thanks to recent advancements in cancer research.

Cancer mortality in the U.S. continues its decades-long decline, according to the “Cancer Statistics 2018,” the American Cancer Society’s comprehensive annual report on cancer incidence, mortality and survival. The cancer death rate dropped 1.7 percent from 2014 to 2015, continuing a downward trend that began in 1991.

The report estimates that there will be 1.7 million new cancer cases and 609,640 cancer deaths in the United States in 2018. The cancer death rate dropped 26 percent from its peak of 215.1 per 100,000 population in 1991 to 158.6 per 100,000 in 2015.

A significant proportion of the drop is because of steady reductions in smoking and advances in early detection and treatment of cancer, according to the American Cancer Society.

“Cancer treatments have changed greatly in the last four or five years, with new modalities of treatment such as immunotherapy. Treatments are a lot more advanced today in terms of medical oncology,” said Dr. Kancharla.

Immunotherapy refers to any treatment that uses the immune systems to fight diseases, including cancer. Unlike chemotherapy, which kills cancer cells, immunotherapy acts on the cells of the immune system to help them attack the cancer, Dr. Kancharla said.

The most common causes of cancer death are lung, prostate, and colorectal cancers in men, and lung, breast, and colorectal cancers in women. These four cancers account for 45 percent of all cancer deaths, the report says.

Medicine, in general, is making advancements that are extending the lives of patients.

“My field has dramatically changed over the last 10 years,” said Dr. Biju Mathews, an interventional cardiologist with Parrish Medical Center and a member of BIMDA. “One of the biggest advancements has been in the area of aortic valve replacement.”

“We perform a procedure called transcatheter aortic valve replacement, or TAVR, to replace a damaged aortic heart valve. And we do it through the leg. TAVR is a big advance in the field as far as heart disease is concerned.”

TAVR is an alternative for inoperable or high surgical-risk patients with aortic stenosis, the most commonly acquired valvular disease in adults.

This innovative approach replaces the aortic valve without open-heart surgery. Instead, the valve is replaced using a catheter that is threaded through vessels in the leg into the aorta and then the heart.

Once the new valve is expanded, “it pushes the old valve leaflets out of the way and the replacement valve resumes the job of regulating blood flow between the heart and the body.” The TAVR procedure was first approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2011.

Parrish Medical Center’s Cardiowascular Care program also offers “transradial catheterizations,” which reduces recovery time, improves patient outcomes, and lowers hospital and health-care costs. Dr. Mathews was one of the physicians who established North Brevard’s first Transradial Catherization program years ago. “Rather than going through the leg to get to the heart of the patient, we go through the arm. The patient goes home one to two hours after the procedure.”

Transradial cardiac catheterization is a procedure used to treat and diagnose certain heart conditions. The radial artery is a blood vessel in the arm.

Following the CME lectures, and the other parts of the program, will be a Gala for BIMDA members and their spouses, as well as sponsors of the event.

“People look forward to the Gala,” said Kurian, a vice president with Morgan Stanley in Melbourne. “Each Gala is different. No two events at BIMDA are the same. We are always re-engineering the concept. That’s what makes it exciting year after year.”
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