



BBN photo — Leo Holland

Greg Davis and Nick Anderson founded Hood River, Oregon–headquartered Overwatch Imaging in 2016 and have seen it grow impressively. Hood River is a hub for airborne–imaging technology. The U.S. Forest Service was among Overwatch’s first customers. Overwatch recently announced the close of an \$11.15 million ‘Series A’ funding round. Squadra Ventures and Shield Capital co–led the round. Strategic investors included L3Harris. From left: Pat O’Reilly, vice president, corporate strategy and development, L3Harris, Overwatch board observer; Raj Shah, managing partner, Shield Capital, Overwatch board member; Guy Filippelli, managing partner, Squadra Ventures, Overwatch board member; Davis, CEO; and Anderson, chief technology officer. They are at Squadra’s office in Baltimore.

Squadra Ventures, L3Harris see strong growth potential in Overwatch Imaging

By Ken Datzman

Overwatch Imaging Inc., co–founded by engineers Greg Davis and Nick Anderson, is a shining example of American innovation and entrepreneurship.

In 2016, Davis and Anderson created a hardware and software enterprise that builds cutting–edge imaging systems for unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, as well as for piloted aircraft.

They both quit good jobs with technology corporations and followed their dream of having and running their own venture. Entrepreneurial leaders have traits that typically include navigating uncertainty and managing risk.

Overwatch doesn’t build the drones itself, just the airborne imaging technology. It designs and manufactures precision imaging systems with custom onboard artificial–intelligence software for large–scale, time–critical special mission and civil applications.

“The main focus of the company is on the software that automatically turns data into intelligence, and does it in real time,” said Chief Executive Officer

Davis, who earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and his master’s degree in aeronautics and astronautics, both from Stanford University, and is an instrument–rated private pilot.

“We will be expanding our operations in every regard, with a keen focus on artificial intelligence software that ‘lives on the product’ in the aircraft and allows us to not only collect more data, but also deliver answers to customers.”

His company is the leading provider of aerial wildland fire–map data to the U.S. Forest Service.

Overwatch Imaging is also the primary provider of search payloads to the European Maritime Safety Agency Remotely Piloted Aircraft System program. It

has integrated imaging systems on 12 piloted aircraft types and 10 drone models. The company’s technology is used in daily operations in the U.S., Australia, and Europe.

Overwatch Imaging systems help organizations “quickly find what they are looking for from the air,” so personnel can focus less on the search and more on the best response. The imaging systems are used in defense applications, search and rescue, maritime and coastal patrol, wildfire mapping, natural disaster response, infrastructure inspections, and more.

“UAVs are really great, but if a UAV requires a

Please see Overwatch Imaging Inc., page 23

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Brevard Duck Race a big success, raised funds for Crosswinds

COCOA (May 9, 2022) — Crosswinds Youth Services surpassed its duck-adoption goal for the 24th annual Great Brevard Victual Duck Race, which raised more than \$135,000 for the nonprofit organization. Thirteen-thousand ducks were adopted for the event. The proceeds will help Crosswinds continue to work diligently to provide essential services for hundreds of children, youth, and families in crisis. Many, many thanks to our sponsors, duck adopters, volunteers, Board, and staff. We so appreciate the generosity and the incredible participation that you gave in making this event the greatest success of all time. Congratulations to Kimberli Trader, the grand prize winner of the 2022 Honda Civic — a free two-year lease, courtesy of Space Coast Honda. This year's duck race was supported and underwritten by numerous and generous contributions and sponsors. The Top Duck Sponsors included: Publix Super Market Charities, Space Coast Honda, Shell, Ivey's Construction, Victory Casino Cruises, Elusen Inc, Chevron and Texaco. The Top Media Sponsors included: WFTV 9 Family Connection, Lite Rock 99.3/iHeart Media, and Space Coast Daily, among others. This year marked 48 years of Crosswinds providing services to thousands of children in crisis and their families through programs designed to strengthen families and offer young people the support, skills, and opportunities they need to succeed. Visit www.crosswindsyouthservices.org or call (321) 452-0800 for more information about Crosswinds.

Melbourne Civic Theatre to showcase 'Sense and Sensibility'

MELBOURNE (May 8, 2022) — Melbourne Civic Theatre will present "Sense and Sensibility" by Kate Hamill, a rollicking new adaptation of the Jane Austen novel. The show runs May 20 through June 26 every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. There will be Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. on June 11. Sense and Sensibility "examines our reactions, both reasonable and ridiculous, to societal pressures. Set in gossipy late 18th-century England, with the playwright's fresh female voice, the play is full of humor, emotional depth, and bold theatricality." The Dashwood sisters — level-headed Elinor and passionate, impetuous Marianne — are torn from their comfortable upper-class lives when family fortunes change, and tossed into a world swirling with the social pressures of class, money, and reputation. "Mix in a few dashing-love interests and a gaggle of gossipy socialites, for an energetic romp through the 19th century that will delight Austen fans and novices alike." The actors include Bobbie Letmon as Elinor and Natalie Jones as Marianne, supported by a cast of performers who play several roles each: Adonna Niosi, Daniel San Ramon, Sarah Lawrence, Rachel Greshes, CJ Ward, Adam Lightfoot, Sony Jackson, Anna Grace Cornell, and Steven Mogell. The show is directed by Peg Girard. Alan Selby is the Set & Light Designer and Technical Director, and Wendy Reader is Sound Designer. Set Artist is Linda Lindsey. Hair/Wigs are designed by Jessica Foix. Ball Choreography is by Heather McFarland. To purchase tickets for Sense and Sensibility, visit www.mymct.org or call (321) 723-6935.

Space Coast Weavers & Fiber Artists set to meet May 28

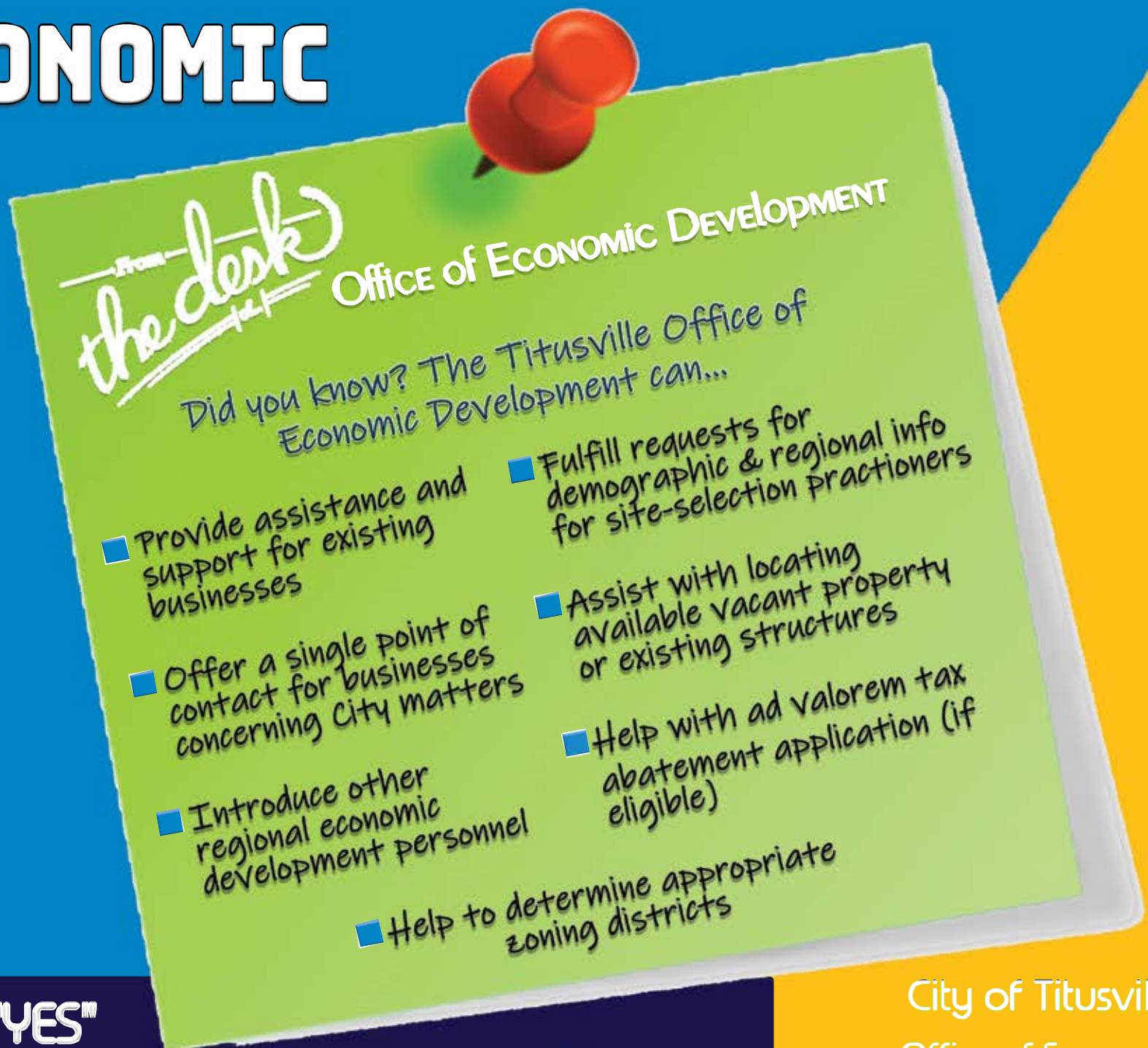
TITUSVILLE (May 2, 2022) — The Space Coast Weavers & Fiber Artists will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 28, at the Merritt Island Public Library, 1195 N. Courtenay Parkway. One of the highlights of these meetings is show and tell, when members share their latest projects. It is such a diverse group that you can expect to learn about weaving, spinning, felting, basketry, rug hooking, knitting, bookmaking and more. All that creativity also creates leftovers. May is time for the popular Mystery Fiber Bag Trade when members fill a grab bag of "cool stuff" they didn't use. The challenge is for the recipient to return in August with a completed project. The public is invited to join in the fun. Since 1983 SCW&FA has been Brevard's go-to guild for the fiber arts. The guild helps fiber artists, beginning or advanced, learn through workshops and the informal exchange of ideas. They also work to educate the public about the fiber arts. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, call Jeanie McCormack at (321) 266-1610.

Studios to host fundraiser June 10 at the Beachside Hotel & Suites

COCOA BEACH (May 9, 2022) — The Studios of Cocoa Beach will be celebrating its fifth year as the creative hub on the beaches with a fundraiser. Since 2017, this nonprofit, artist-staffed gallery has worked to inspire, educate, and enrich the community through art. Located at 165 Minutemen Causeway, the facility showcases local artists and its instructors present classes for everyone from beginners to experienced artists. On Friday, June 10, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., the Studios of Cocoa Beach will be hosting "Sunset Social Fundraiser" at the Beachside Hotel & Suites, 3901 N. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach. This event is open to the public and will include food, entertainment, a cash bar, a duck derby, silent art auction, art demonstrations, 50-50 Raffle, and more. Tickets are \$40 per person. The honorary event chairs are Cocoa Beach Mayor Ben Malik, Cocoa Beach City Manager Robin Hayes, Cocoa Beach City Commissioner Karalyn Woulas, Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce CEO Jimmy Lane, Beachside's Event Manager Suzanne McCarthy, and local artist Matt Bellina. For tickets and more information on this event, visit studiosofcocoa-beach.org. All proceeds will support the Studios of Cocoa Beach's mission.

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U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation announces former U.S. Navy SEAL Jeff Webb as incoming president and chief executive officer

By Heather Epkins
heather.epkins@usna.com
United States Naval Academy
Alumni Association and Foundation

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 28, 2022) — The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation has selected Jeff Webb, a 1995 graduate, as its next president and chief executive officer.

After graduating from the Naval Academy, Webb served five years as a U.S. Navy SEAL officer. He has spent the last 15 years in the financial services industry — most recently as principal with Bessemer Trust.

Webb devoted seven years as a director of Families of the Wounded Fund, which provides direct financial support to the families and caregivers of severely wounded combat troops. His 15 years of active volunteer service in the alumni community included six years as the Eastern Region Trustee for the Alumni Association, chairman of the Board of Trustees Communications Committee, 10 years on the USNA Memorial Oversight Committee, and co-founding the Run To Honor Shared Interest Group, which honors Naval Academy alumni who are lost in combat or training operations.

“Stepping into this role is the opportunity of a lifetime for me and my family,” said Webb. “To be able to dedicate myself professionally to institutions that have meant so

much to me personally is an absolute privilege and an honor. I am incredibly fortunate to join a talented staff that has performed exceptionally well during challenging years. As a team, we will work together to understand the needs and interests of our wonderfully diverse alumni body so that we can deliver world-class programs and services. Thanks to the phenomenal leadership of my predecessor, Byron Marchant, the enterprise is well-positioned to carry this mission forward.”

Webb is married to Shannon Revell Webb, a 2004 graduate of the Naval Academy. Shannon served in the Navy for nearly six years as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer. She then attended the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business and has worked in corporate development over the last eight years.

She is a longtime volunteer, director, and former president of Run to Honor. The Webbs have four children.

“Our Class of 1995 was hit hard by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We wanted to honor all of our fallen Naval Academy shipmates and their families in a personal and profound way,” said Giovanna (Kostrubala) Meek, 1995, Webb’s Naval Academy classmate and partner in co-founding the Run to Honor Shared Interest Group. “I cherish the journey we have been on together, to lock arms as a community to care for one another. Jeff is an excellent leader and businessman, but what strongly differentiates him is his vision, compassion, and humility.”

The eight-member Joint Search Committee was co-chaired by Adm. Mark Ferguson, 1978, U.S. Navy (ret.), chair of the Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees; and J. Ronald Terwilliger, 1963, chair of the Naval Academy Foundation Board of Directors.

“I want to thank the eight members of our Joint Search Committee for their outstanding service and vital contribution to our alumni community in the difficult task of narrowing the field from approximately 50 outstanding nominees, including many nominated by alumni,” said Ferguson. “Jeff emerged from that richly talented and representative field as the best overall fit to lead our Association and Foundation going forward.”

The executive search firm Heidrick and Struggles assisted with the search, underway since December 2021, when the previous president and CEO, Byron Marchant, 1978, gave notice of his departure. “I want to thank our partner Heidrick and Struggles for helping us conduct a truly professional and rigorous search process from the start,” said Terwilliger. “Congratulations to Jeff, his wife

Shannon, and their family. I am thrilled to partner with Jeff as we take this next great step forward as an enterprise.”

The CEO leads a staff that performs alumni engagement services as well as heritage promotion, fundraising, and stewardship supporting the annual operating and long-term strategic objectives of the Naval Academy.

“I have known Jeff since the inception of my tenure as CEO in 2009 when we mutually started an effort to formally honor fallen alumni families; an effort that eventually became an annual Alumni Association event,” said Marchant. “He represents the best qualities of our alumni community. I welcome the opportunity to help ensure Jeff and Shannon have a successful transition as our new president and CEO family. The Long Blue Line will be in good hands.”

Other Joint Search Committee members included: Vice Adm. John Ryan, 1967, U.S. Navy (ret.); Rear Adm. Julius Caesar, 1977, U.S. Navy (ret.); Matice Wright-Springer, 1988; JoAnna Sohovich, 1993; Becky Haase, 1994; and Donald Horner III, 2008. Robert Gast, executive vice president and chief financial officer, served as the committee’s staff liaison.

“I wish to thank the Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors, and the search committee for their trust and confidence in selecting me as president and CEO,” Webb continued. “They are highly committed volunteer leaders who care deeply for our alumni body and the Naval Academy. I look forward to partnering with them in support of the premier leadership institution in the country.”

The United States Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation shares a single CEO and operates as a fully integrated organization to support the alumni community and the Naval Academy.

Webb will report as president and CEO in June. In the interim, Gast will continue to serve as senior executive in charge.

● About the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation operates as a not-for-profit organization with nearly 70,000 members, more than 70 active alumni classes, and more than 100 chapters around the world supporting strategic priorities that strengthen the Brigade of Midshipmen and our alumni community. For more information, visit www.usna.com.



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From the Public Record of Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey

From: Bill Erfurth <bill@moderncityentertainment.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2018 10:01 AM
To: Bill Erfurth
Subject: Police Videos

Hey, how's things? Some recent developments have come together about possibly turning the Heroes Behind The Badge documentaries into a TV series. Without getting into too many details, there is interest in setting up the series with a montage of real and dramatic police body camera, dash cam, helicopter, etc captured video. I'm reaching out to you to see if you happen to have any, or are aware of some highly dramatic, heroic, exemplary types of these videos? The more current the videos the better, but amazing footage is always still amazing.

Hope all's well. Any help would be great!

Thanks, Bill

Bill Erfurth | President
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f t HERES

National Security veteran Alexander Gates joins Shift5 as chief research officer, cybersecurity leader from DOE

By Katie Garagozzo
katie@shift5.io
Shift5

ARLINGTON, Va. (April 21, 2022) — Shift5, the operational technology cybersecurity (OT) company that defends military platforms and critical transportation systems from cyberattacks, today announced Alexander Gates has joined the company as chief research officer (CRO).

In this role, Gates will oversee the company's threat research portfolio, product security strategy, and knowledge management efforts, ensuring the distribution of Shift5 information as efficiently as possible.

Shift5 protects the OT layer of transportation and weapon systems, providing aviation, rail and metro, and military defenders complete visibility into their OT networks. For the first time in history, operators can begin to apply cybersecurity best practices to the operation of these critical systems, dramatically reducing their cyber risk.

As CRO, Gates will apply his experience from the highest levels of U.S. national security to the strategy and design of Shift5's threat intelligence apparatus, enabling transportation and defense industries to better secure planes, trains, and weapon systems at the OT level.

"Alexander has a unique experience of building systems, processes, and teams that secure U.S. critical infrastructure that rare few in this industry do," said Josh Lospinoso, CEO and co-founder, Shift5. "Not many have been on the ground-floor of creating the standards of critical infrastructure cybersecurity, and are positioned to guide the next phase of cutting-edge defense. We're honored that Alexander will join our team as we work to defend transportation infrastructure and military platforms from adversaries."

"Throughout his career within the U.S. government, Alexander has proven his ability to spark systemic change and demonstrated that effective cybersecurity isn't achieved through compulsory actions or by completing a checklist; rather, through ongoing efforts, innovative threat intelligence practices, and information sharing," said Shift5 President Joe Lea. "Alexander is a natural addition

to our leadership team of change-makers from Silicon Valley and the U.S. government. Shift5 is growing rapidly and we look forward to Alexander's leadership as we build a team uniquely capable of solving a difficult problem in cybersecurity."

With over 40 years of military and civil service, Gates brings extensive experience leading cybersecurity initiatives for the federal government to Shift5.

At the National Security Agency (NSA), he helped build the NSA Threat Operations Center, which identified emerging cyber threats; created a cyber integration lab that focused on cyber situational awareness; and spent years leading NSA's Red, Blue, Hunt and Technical Security Teams. Gates has served in numerous senior leadership and technical positions in the areas of cyber threat, signals Intelligence, research, and information assurance.

During his time at the Department of Energy (DOE), Gates served as senior advisor for cyberspace to the Secretary of Energy and led the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response. He created and implemented efforts to defend the grid — intelligence-driven initiatives designed to improve the generation and sharing of actionable threat information with the energy sector and the government.

Gates routinely engaged the private sector on cybersecurity matters and also represented NSA and DOE at the White House and Director of National Intelligence, Department of Defense, and to numerous congressional committees including those dealing with intelligence and critical infrastructure.

Gates holds master's degrees in public administration and information and telecommunication systems from Oklahoma and Johns Hopkins universities, respectively.

"When I started my career in the government, cybersecurity wasn't part of the conversation and a relatively small portion of our society participated in cyberspace," said Gates. "Today, everyone and everything is connected, whether it's a person with a cellphone, a plane, a critical infrastructure component, DOD weapon system, or a freight locomotive. There's also a growing sense of awareness of this interconnectedness in cyber-physical systems by nefarious actors."

He added, "Cyber never sleeps, and it only takes one gap in an infrastructure's defenses for a bad actor to compromise a critical system and gain a dangerous advantage. To that end, Shift5 is solving a difficult and crucial problem in national security. Its unique approach, innovative technology, and creative leadership team has positioned the company as a reliable and creative partner in defense of the critical systems our society relies upon every day. I am honored to join such a great team."

Shift5 allows operators to gain visibility, detect threats, and maintain resilience of OT systems as cyber-physical attacks become an increasingly likely and attractive strategy for digital attackers. To learn more about how the company secures the world's transportation and weapon systems from cyberattack, visit <https://shift5.io>.

● About Shift5

Shift5 is the OT cybersecurity company that protects the world's transportation infrastructure and weapons systems from cyberattacks. Created by founding members of the U.S. Army Cyber Command who pioneered modern weapons system cyber assessments, Shift5 defends military platforms and commercial transportation systems against malicious actors and operational failures. Customers rely on Shift5 to detect threats and maintain the resilience of a wide variety of operational technology systems, including aviation, rail and metro, defense, helicopters, and other heavy fleet machinery. For more information, visit <https://shift5.io>.

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Valeo Networks in Rockledge is named to prestigious list of leading MSPs in health care, legal, government

By Neal Stein
nealstein@techprsolutions.com
Technology PR Solutions

ROCKLEDGE (April 26, 2022) — Valeo Networks, a leading managed security service provider (MSSP), ranks among the world's Top 100 Vertical Market MSPs (<http://www.channelE2E.com/top100>) for 2022, according to ChannelE2E, a CyberRisk Alliance resource.

The annual list and research (hashtag: #MSP100) identify and honor the top 100 managed services providers (MSPs) in health care, legal, government, financial services, manufacturing and additional vertical markets. Moreover, the research affirms that vertical market MSPs have vastly expanded their managed security capabilities.

This year's research revealed several key MSP business, security, and market trends. Key takeaways include:

- **Surging MSP Revenues:** Honorees generated a combined \$3.05 billion in vertical market annual recurring revenue (ARR) in 2021, up 42% from \$2.14 billion million in 2020. The surge involved extremely strong MSP merger and acquisition (M&A) activity; accelerated demand for cloud and cybersecurity services; and successful MSP pivots amid the continued COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Key Verticals:** The most successful vertical market MSPs are zeroing in on health care and manufacturing, with continued strong interest in financial services, legal and government opportunities.

- **Managed Security Services:** All of the honorees offer some form of managed security services — particularly backup and disaster recovery (96%), endpoint detection & response (EDR, 88%) and managed detection and response (MDR, 82%). Moreover, the MSPs increasingly focus on

emerging areas such as Cloud Security Posture Management (CSPM, 49%) and eXtended Detection and Response (XDR, 38%).

- **End-Customer Reach:** The Top 100 Vertical Market MSPs now manage more than 6.1 million users across their customer sites as of 2021, up from 3.1 million in 2020.

- **Top 10 Strategic Technology Partners:** MSPs consider their top vertical market technology partners to be Microsoft (46%), ConnectWise (18%), Datto (18%), Cisco Systems (15%), Dell Technologies (14%), Ingram Micro (13%), Amazon Web Services (10%), SentinelOne (10%), Fortinet (9%) and Tech Data (7%).

Valeo Networks was ranked among the top vertical market MSPs in Manufacturing.

"We are thrilled to be recognized on ChannelE2E Top 100 Vertical Market MSPs for the second year," said Matthew Hodson, CIO, Valeo Networks. "The success we have experienced as a company is attributed to the expertise, agility, and innovation that the Valeo Networks team continually demonstrates. As we continue to grow, our team is staying laser-focused on empowering and protecting our clients through secure managed solutions that support their industry needs."

"ChannelE2E and CyberRisk Alliance congratulate Valeo Networks on this honor," said Amy Katz, executive vice president and general manager of ChannelE2E, a CyberRisk Alliance resource. "Businesses worldwide increasingly outsource their most critical security, business automation and IT management requirements to the world's Top 100 Vertical Market MSPs."

The ChannelE2E Top 100 Vertical Market MSPs list and research are overseen by Joe Panettieri (@JoePanettieri), executive vice president and editorial

director of ChannelE2E. To list and associated report is at <http://www.channelE2E.com/top100>.

Valeo Networks combines the best in cloud, cybersecurity, managed IT services, and IT consulting to provide a true all-in-one solution for companies that seek to cut costs and leverage technology to grow revenues. With rapid growth, ability to deliver exceptional services, and expertise in over 15 industry verticals, Valeo Networks continues to garner nationwide recognition.

- **About Valeo Networks**

Valeo Networks is a full-service, award-winning MSSP that serves state, county, and municipal markets, as well as small-to-medium businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Firmly seated in the top 5% of revenue generating MSSPs nationwide — making it one of the largest MSSPs nationally — Valeo Networks provides solutions in the areas of cybersecurity, compliance, cloud, network infrastructure, and managed IT services. With over 20 years of industry experience, Valeo Networks is headquartered in Rockledge, with additional locations nationwide. Learn more at www.valeonetworks.com.

- **About ChannelE2E**

ChannelE2E (www.ChannelE2E.com), a CyberRisk Alliance resource, is the leading digital destination for MSPs, IT service providers, channel partners and strategic investors seeking to maximize their business valuations, mitigate business risk and maximize security — from Entrepreneur to Exit.

- **About Cyber Risk Alliance**

CyberRisk Alliance (CRA) is a business intelligence company serving the high-growth, rapidly evolving cybersecurity community with a diversified portfolio of services that inform, educate, build community, and inspire an efficient marketplace.

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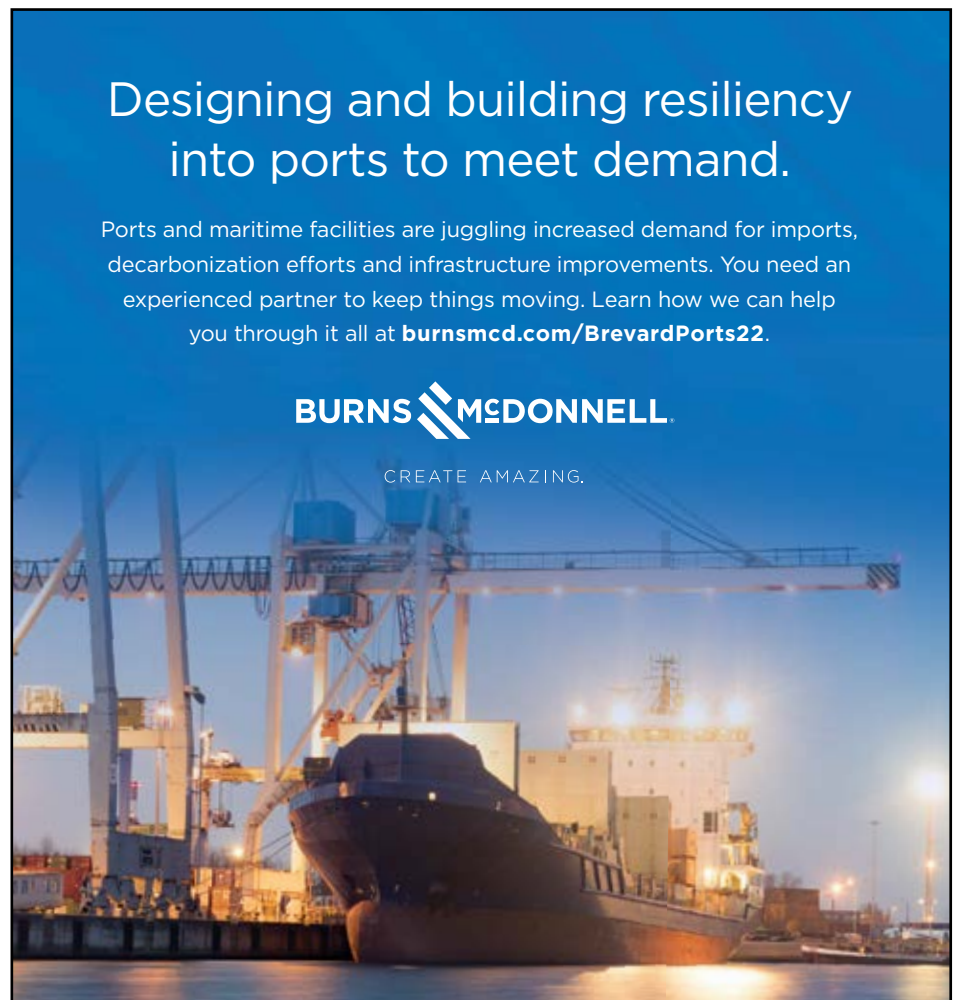


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Risk Strategies acquires The Insurance Center of Central Florida in Melbourne; strengthens presence and specialty capabilities

By Brittany Gould
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Account Executive
Matter Communications

BOSTON (May 11, 2022) — Risk Strategies, a leading national specialty insurance brokerage and risk management firm, today announced it has acquired The Insurance Center of Central Florida (ICCF), a firm primarily focused on crafting risk management solutions for private clients. Terms of the deal were not announced.

Headquartered in Melbourne, ICCF was founded 31 years ago by its president and owner Frank Hanrahan and is a member of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents and Professional Insurance Agents.

The firm offers property and casualty insurance for homes and vehicles and provides coverages and risk management advice for area businesses.

“As we build our presence and client services capabilities in Florida, we saw ICCF as a great cultural and business fit,” said Scott Popilek, Risk Strategies Atlantic region leader. “We’re excited to welcome Frank and his entire team to the Risk Strategies family.”

A Pittsburgh native whose father was also in the insurance business, Hanrahan moved to Florida and opened ICCF in 1991. The firm grew steadily, both organically and through acquisitions, due to its specialty expertise in the challenging Florida marketplace, particularly in the

aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

“We are located in the home of the John F. Kennedy Space Center. This area’s population has a clear need for specialized expertise in risk management for successful individuals and families, and area businesses,” said Hanrahan. “Becoming part of a specialty brokerage like Risk Strategies benefits our existing clientele and creates exciting new opportunities to grow and perpetuate the business.”

Risk Strategies continues to acquire complementary companies that have a unique and compelling value proposition and are additive to the Risk Strategies family. Over 100 organizations, each with specialty expertise and capabilities, have joined the company since its founding in 1997.

● About Risk Strategies

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Brevard Symphony Orchestra announces the return of popular Summer Evenings Series at Suntree United Methodist Church

By Virginia Anzengruber
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Brevard Symphony Orchestra

MELBOURNE (May 6, 2022) — The Brevard Symphony Orchestra (BSO) has announced the return of its Summer Evenings Series, hosted on Saturday evenings throughout the summer at Suntree United Methodist Church, 7400 N. Wickham Road in Melbourne.

This three-concert chamber music series begins on Saturday, June 18, at 7 p.m., with the remaining concerts taking place on July 16, at 7 p.m., and Aug. 13, at 7 p.m.

Tickets to each concert are \$25, or a Summer Evenings Series Subscription can be bought for \$60 and guarantees access to all three concerts. Tickets can be purchased at <https://brevardsymphony.com/bsosummerevenings>. Parking for each of the concerts is free, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

On June 18, the BSO Woodwind Quintet will perform with BSO principal

players shining in a program featuring music by Maurice Ravel, Valerie Coleman, and more.

On July 16, the BSO will present a performance of Nova Baroque, a program featuring Italian Baroque favorites performed in costume — powdered wigs and all!

And to wrap up the Summer Evenings Series, on Aug. 13, BSO Maestro Christopher Confessore will lead a string orchestra performing favorites by Mozart, Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Newbold, and more.

● About the Series

Music Director Confessore said, “I’m so thrilled to be bringing back this incredibly fun and exciting three-concert series again this summer. Each concert gives our unique ensembles an opportunity to shine as they present a wide variety of repertoire and musical styles. Our audience always appreciates the chance to hear our brilliant musicians in the intimate setting and beautiful acoustics of Suntree United Methodist Church. We look forward to another summer of great music.”

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Longtime agency rebrands as Realty World Curri Properties, first Realty World office in Brevard; John Curri plans to expand the office footprint, recruit agents

By Ken Datzman

SATELLITE BEACH — Next year will mark Curri Properties' 20th anniversary in Brevard County. The agency serves both residential and commercial real-estate customers, and has a property-management division.

Businessman John Curri, who founded the firm and has seen it grow — the agency closed \$178 million in sales last year — is now positioning his company for the future as it approaches two decades in the market.

In a strategic business decision, he has aligned his firm with one of the oldest and most-recognizable real-estate names in the industry, Realty World Inc.

Based in Newport Beach, California, Realty World was founded in 1973 and has hundreds of locations. It's a pioneer in the real-estate franchise business.

"We're really excited to be part of Realty World. It's one of the most established real-estate franchises in the United States, and it has a growing international presence," said Curri, the CEO of newly rebranded Realty World Curri Properties.

"This partnership allows us to scale quicker. Realty World has training portals and all types of resources, including proven systems, tools, and support to provide our agents and clients with the latest trends in technology and continuing education in the field. They have one of the most dynamic programs in the industry."

The Realty World Academy offers its members — both agents and brokers — various training strategies that can be accessed through either live training seminars or through Realty World's E-Academy web-conference training.

"Realty World constantly strives to innovate and develop new systems, tools, and technologies to ensure the continued success of the company and the members," said Curri.

A benefit of investing in a real-estate franchise is the owner gets a determined strategy and business model. Franchisors only survive if they make their franchisees successful, which is an important benefit for the prospective franchisee.

Each Realty World franchise is independently owned and operated, and the company has been expanding in the United States with new franchisees.

"The Realty World model is ideal for smaller boutique firms like ours," said Curri.

Curri added that his firm had been looking for new opportunities to grow and after "sizing up and evaluating the franchise landscape in real estate, Realty World rose to the top, in my eyes."

"We like to cut our own path in this business. Realty World is now unique to Brevard. We definitely like to be a trendsetter in the industry."

Curri has the Realty World franchise rights for Central Florida, from Daytona Beach to Vero Beach.

"The closest Realty World office to us right now is in Boca Raton, in South Florida, and to the northwest there is a Realty World office in Ocala. There are nine Realty World locations in Florida. The plan is to develop the Central Florida market with Realty World offices," he said.

Curri said he will be focusing on expanding the Brevard market first with Realty World offices.

"We're looking for good agents and good leaders in our community. We're planning to open a couple more Realty World offices in this county."

Curri recently flew to Realty World's corporate head-



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Curri Properties will mark its 20th year in Brevard in 2023. John Curri founded the firm and built it into a full-service agency, serving residential and commercial real-estate clients as well as property management customers. He's positioning his company for long-term growth and has rebranded as Realty World Curri Properties. Newport Beach, California-based Realty World is one of the oldest real-estate franchise systems in the nation. Curri has the Realty World franchise rights for Central Florida. He's at his office in Satellite Beach.

quarters office in Newport Beach, where he met with company executives.

"Newport Beach and Laguna Beach are my favorite cities in California," he said.

The chairman and CEO of Realty World is Andrew Cimerman. After heading up independent brokerage Cimerman Real Estate for years, he founded Toronto, Canada-based HomeLife Realty Services in 1985.

He launched the HomeLife Realty franchise with a few agents. Today, HomeLife Realty has more than 10,000 sales representatives and 150 offices across North America, as well as a presence in Europe. "He owns the largest real-estate franchise in Canada," said Curri.

In 1997, Cimerman bought the U.S. licensing rights to Realty World and its network of offices. He's now Realty World's CEO and chairman.

The Cimerman business-success story is inspirational. He traveled to Canada from Slovenia, as "a young fellow with only \$20 and one suit," and could not speak English, according to a recent story in "Real Estate Magazine,"

Canada's leading real-estate publication for professionals.

"After working in the construction industry for a while, Cimerman decided to get his real-estate license. He was so determined to pass the licensing examination that he memorized the entire textbook. It was 1969, and he'd been drawn to the real-estate industry by a newspaper advertisement promising he could earn \$250 a week."

"It's an honor to be working with Realty World," said Curri. "We see this relationship as a big step forward for our company. Realty World is a better footprint for us in both the residential and commercial segments. And we continue to see strength in both sectors."

He added, "With the tight inventory, people who are selling their homes continue to see multiple offers. And this county has seen an influx of new residents from California, New York, and other parts of the nation. In their eyes, the housing market in Brevard is reasonably priced."

Please see Realty World Curri Properties, page 19

People embrace nostalgic Dreamland Mini-Golf & More pop-up experience in Eau Gallie Arts District; Derek Gores and team put artistic twist on putt-putt fun

By Ken Datzman

The golden days of miniature golf have long faded in America. During the 1950s and 1960s, the game of putt-putt flourished in communities. It was inexpensive family fun.

The creation of artificial turf made the game commercially viable. Miniature golf courses were one of the first sports to have lighting for night play.

Originally intended for children, the game quickly attracted adults and was promoted as a popular family activity.

Myrtle Beach takes pride in its claim as the "Miniature Golf Capital of the World." There are more than 50 courses in all, according to RoadsideAmerica.com. Most form an ecosystem of manufactured mountains and Ty-D-Bowl blue waterfalls along a strip of Highway 17 that stretches all the way to the North Carolina border.

"For many people, I think miniature golf takes them back to their childhood years," said artist Derek Gores, who operates Derek Gores Gallery in the Eau Gallie Arts District of Melbourne, where he recycles magazines, maps, and more in his lush portraits on canvas.

"I love mini-golf," said Steve Moore of Toxic Roots, a clothing brand in Satellite Beach. "My dream job would be to operate a cool campground with my wife and have a mini-golf complex next to it. It would be the old type of mini-golf course, where everything is big with dramatic landscapes. I am a big fan of mini-golf."

Gores and his creative team, including Moore, who has carpentry skills, have brought miniature golf back to life in the local market with a pop-up experience now open in the Eau Gallie Arts District.

Dreamland Mini-Golf & More features two 18-hole art-infused golf courses inside the former Foosaner Art Museum on Highland Avenue.

Showcasing the latest in 1950s putt-putt golf technology, each hole was designed and crafted by "local dreamers" of many stripes: painters, poets, textile aficionados, carpenters, computer coders, dog lovers, film buffs, and floral designers.

"For about three weeks, we talked about the possibilities of how it could happen, and our actual installment time of Dreamland was only three weeks as well," said Gores. "We put the course together pretty quickly. It was built from roughly 90 percent recycled materials."

He continued, "Once we had some ideas, I put out a call for materials on Facebook. I had a list of about 50 items we were seeking, including PVC pipes, old computers, lights, working or not, and any leftover lumber from projects. We drove around the county picking up the items. We kind of

reverse engineered Dreamland."

Gores said his team knew it could come up with something once the materials were in the building. "At the same time, I put out a call for mini-golf-hole design ideas to the general creative community. When I do something like this, yes, it includes visual artists, but it absolutely goes beyond those boundaries."

"I was looking for people with fashion backgrounds or carpentry backgrounds or computer-coding backgrounds. This way, you get a wide variety of solutions from different people," he added.

With lead design and installation by Moore, the course started taking shape. "Steve was thrilled we took on this project and he brought not only his carpentry skills, but also his DIY spirit," said Gores.

The recycled, donated materials included two mini-golf holes produced via 3D printing by Roman's Artifacts.

Roman is Derek Gores' 13-year-old stepson. "The hole itself is about 14-inches square," said Derek Gores. "For that particular hole, players don't use a standard putter, they use a little 3D-printed putter instead. It's a pretty cool idea."

Gores said Moore was instrumental in the design process because he knew how to make the holes for the course.

"We actually drilled into the concrete floor of the former Foosaner Art Museum. We needed a little bit of common infrastructure with some of the walls and things. Other than that, we were open to the wildest possibilities of the different hole designers and the different materials that we could get into the building. We used doors as walls and manikins as obstacles, plants, a little bit of everything to make Dreamland come together."

About halfway through the design and build project was when they realized that "dreams" could be the connective tissue between the holes and the ideas, he said.

"So, at the time, we decided to call it Dreamland. That's a nostalgic name. It sounds like it's from the 1950s and 1960s, and yet dreams are timeless. There are so many interpretations of dreams — subconscious — but also your own career ambition, personal hopes for your life, and so on."

The first hole at Dreamland is the only hole that uses the familiar green Astro-Turf. "It's all the AstroTurf we had, so it's not a coincidence," said Gores. "For the first hole, we used recycled Christmas trees to form our take of a forest inside the former museum. Hole No. 2 is where players have to decide which course they are taking, left into the light or right into the night."

Gores said one of the favorite holes is on



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Dreamland Mini-Golf & More features two 18-hole art-infused courses inside the former Foosaner Art Museum in the Eau Gallie Arts District of Melbourne. Showcasing the latest in 1950s putt-putt golf technology, each hole was designed and crafted by "local dreamers." The courses were built from roughly 90 percent recycled materials donated by the public. Dreamland was produced by Derek Gores Gallery in EGAD. Lead design and installation was provided by Steve Moore of Toxic Roots. Gores is standing at one of the holes. The experience runs through June.

Please see **Dreamland Mini-Golf**, page 21

UF/IFAS expert Ken Gioeli says don't disturb bats during maternity season; most Florida bats live in big groups

By Lourdes Mederos
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IFAS Communications
University of Florida

GAINESVILLE (April 21, 2022) — It's maternity season for Florida bats, which means they might be roosting in or near your home at this time.

UF/IFAS scientists say these flying mammals are often misunderstood and feared.

Because bats in Florida are very adaptable to urban, suburban, and rural settings, property owners may not realize these critters have selected their homes or buildings as their new nesting place.

"In Florida, we have 13 native species that reside here year-round. They are mostly active at night, so most people don't even realize they're there," said Ken Gioeli, a UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County wildlife agent who specializes in environmental and natural resources. "Bats are not blind, another misconception, but they rely on their sense of echolocation to navigate and hunt insects — a form of natural pest control benefitting people."

Clearing up these misconceptions is important to note because occasionally the needs of bats come into conflict with people.

To help residents better understand their beneficial bats, Gioeli provides the following insights from research conducted by multiple scientists over the years at UF/IFAS.

Q: How common are bats in Florida?

A: Bats in South Florida are very adaptable to living around people. They live in urban, suburban, and rural

settings. Sometimes they live in dwellings, buildings, and bridges, at times by the hundreds of thousands.

Q: Do humans encounter these bats? If so, what are some of the important points they should keep in mind with respect to feeding or interacting with them?

A: Most Florida bats are colonial, meaning they live in big groups. If people or pets encounter a bat on or near the ground, that is an indication that something is wrong. Sometimes baby bats fall out of roosts and can't return. Other times, bats can contract deadly diseases like rabies which causes them to fall to the ground. These are called zoonotic viruses. There is a danger of contracting the virus from improperly handling bats who are infected.

Q: Should residents and property owners report them to an entity if they come across them?

A: If you encounter a bat on the ground, don't handle it or transport it in a vehicle, and make sure to remove your pets from the area. Call your local animal control or reach out to a wildlife rehabilitator for help. For bats in buildings, Floridians can use a search engine and look for "Florida bat exclusion experts." Be very wary of any wildlife "expert" willing to perform a bat exclusion during bat maternity season as wildlife professionals should know about the laws protecting bats during this time.

Q: What is bat maternity season and why is it important?

A: Bat maternity season is April 15–Aug. 15. During this time, sometimes bats reside in spaces like attics, eaves, chimneys and even buildings and bridges where they roost and raise their pups. By law, bats cannot be excluded from structures. Exclusion is the process of safely removing bats from these dwellings by installing

one-way doors. These one-way doors are used allowing bats to leave the dwellings but not return. During maternity season, exclusion is prohibited. During this time, mother bats leave the roost to forage for insects and leave the pups back in the roost. When mother bats attempt to return to the roost after hunting insects at night, the exclusion devices prevent them from gaining access to the space where their baby bats are found. This causes a scenario where the baby bats will die from lack of maternal nursing. This wildlife protection keeps this from happening.

Q: Should people be scared or concerned about bats in urban areas?

A: There are a lot of myths and misconceptions about bats. Dracula movies don't help. I've studied vampire bats in the humid tropics of Central America. We just don't have vampire bats in Florida. The bats we do have provide many environmental benefits, such as controlling insect pests.

● About the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

The mission of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is to develop knowledge relevant to agricultural, human and natural resources and to make that knowledge available to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. With more than a dozen research facilities, 67 county Extension offices, and award-winning students and faculty in the UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, UF/IFAS brings science-based solutions to the state's agricultural and natural resources industries, and all Florida residents.

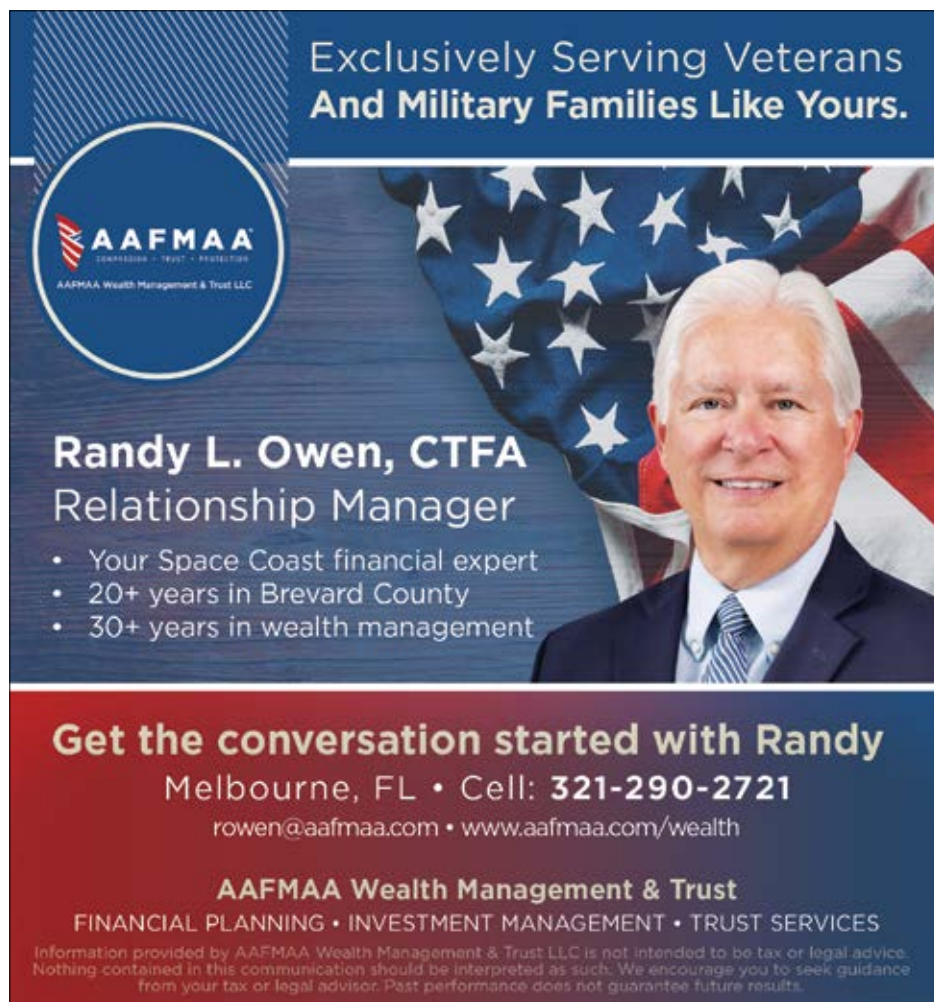
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Gov. DeSantis — a champion for Florida through challenging times — gets endorsement from Americans for Prosperity Action

By James Davis
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Americans for Prosperity Action

TALLAHASSEE (May 2, 2022) — Americans for Prosperity Action (AFP Action) announced its support for the re-election of Gov. Ron DeSantis.

With today's endorsement, AFP Action will leverage the country's largest and most effective grassroots outreach and mobilization capability to educate and turn out voters to support DeSantis' election.

"Gov. DeSantis has been a champion for Floridians through difficult and challenging times, and he has succeeded with his economic freedom-oriented approach," said AFP Action Senior Advisor Skylar Zander.

"His support for policies — from reducing spending to expanding school choice — have caught the attention of people across the country who want to live in a state where the government respects and empowers its people."

"AFP Action volunteers across the state are ready to turn out to support his reelection," said Zander.

During the 2020 election cycle, AFP Action supported candidates nationwide with more than 8.5 million telephone calls, 1.5 million door knocks, and more than 49 million pieces of mail. AFP Action has unmatched direct voter outreach capability supported by a world-class data operation.

AFP Action is a 527 political action committee focused on electing candidates

who will drive policy change and facilitate the building of broad policy coalitions that remove barriers to opportunity and help people improve their lives.

The organization has a strong, permanent grassroots presence, including highly motivated activists who volunteer during the election season by making telephone calls and knocking on doors in support of policy champions.

● About Gov. DeSantis

Gov. DeSantis earned AFP Action's endorsement because he has been a champion of Florida taxpayers and people living on fixed incomes who are watching helplessly as their hard-earned paychecks and life savings are ravaged by inflation.

The governor has continuously demonstrated concern for taxpayers by vetoing more than \$1 billion in projects in 2021 that wouldn't benefit all Floridians.

He also ended recurring projects in the budget that were clear cronyism or irresponsible.

DeSantis moved \$5 billion of Florida's federal COVID funds to Florida's reserves, unlike other spendthrift states recovering much slower than Florida. His work in health care, such as eliminating certificate of need, has expanded Florida residents' access and quality of care.

A leader on expanding education opportunities, DeSantis supported creating the Florida Empowerment Scholarship program and subsequently expanded it so more students can access the education environment that's right for them.

Judicial Nominating Commission now seeking applicants for Supreme Court Justice; deadline scheduled for May 27

TALLAHASSEE (May 10, 2022) — The Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission is seeking qualified applicants to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Alan Lawson effective Aug. 31, 2022.

The judicial application may be obtained from the Governor's Judicial Nominations website at: <https://www.flgov.com/judicial-and-judicial-nominating-commission-information>. Applicants must submit: an original electronic copy of the application (including all attachments) in pdf format; and a redacted electronic copy of the application (including all attachments), which excludes all material that is exempt or confidential under applicable public records laws, also in pdf format.

Both the original and redacted electronic applications must be submitted electronically to all Commission members at their email addresses below before 5 p.m. on Friday, May 27, 2022. The Commission strongly prefers the submission of applications in a searchable (for example, non-scanned) pdf format.

After the deadline for submitting applications, the Commission will determine which applicants to interview. Applicants who are selected by the Commission for interviews will be contacted to confirm the date, time, and location. It is anticipated that interviews will take place on Saturday, June 11, and, if needed, on Sunday, June 12, in Tampa.

The members currently serving on the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission include:

- Chair Fred Karlinsky, Weston, karlinskyf@gtlaw.com
- Vice Chair Jesse M. Panuccio, Palm Beach Gardens, jpanuccio@bsflp.com
- Cynthia G. Angelos, Port St. Lucie, cynthiangelos@gmail.com
- Daniel Nordby, Tallahassee, DNordby@shutts.com
- Hala A. Sandridge, Tampa, hala.sandridge@bipc.com
- Heather Stearns, Tallahassee, hstearns@libertydentalplan.com
- Jeanne T. Tate, Tampa, jeanne@jtatelaw.com
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Marineland Dolphin Adventure earns American Humane Certified seal for exceptional animal welfare

By Savannah Young
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American Humane

WASHINGTON (May 09, 2022) — American Humane, the country's first national humane organization and the world's largest certifier of animal welfare practices, today announced that Marineland Dolphin Adventure earned the American Humane Certified seal, demonstrating the exceptional welfare and treatment provided to animals in its care. The facility passed rigorous, expert third-party audits to join a growing number of leading zoological institutions that have earned the American Humane Certified designation.

"All animals, including those being cared for in our zoos, aquariums and conservation parks, are entitled to humane treatment," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane. "When you see the Humane Certified seal of approval, you can rest assured that the facility meets the highest standards of animal care. We commend Marineland for this great achievement — a testament to the hard work, dedication and compassion of the oceanarium's amazing staff."

The Humane Conservation program is the first certification effort solely dedicated to helping verify the welfare and demonstrably humane treatment of animals living in zoos, aquariums, and conservation centers across the globe. The program enforces rigorous, science-based and comprehensive criteria for animal welfare, developed by an independent Scientific Advisory Committee comprised of world-renowned leaders in the fields of animal science, animal behavior and animal ethics. The standards provide verification of good practices at deserving zoos and

aquariums, and an assurance to visitors that the institution they are visiting is worthy of their support.

American Humane's certification process exhaustively verifies the many dimensions of animal welfare, with areas of evaluation including: excellent health and housing; positive social interactions within groups of animals, as well as between animals and handlers; safe and stimulating environments with concern for factors such as appropriate lighting, sound levels, air quality, and thermoregulation; and, evidence of thorough preparation and protocols established to prevent and manage medical or operational emergencies.

"Above the fog of the pandemic is a great future that shines brightly and at Marineland we are thrilled to embark upon the responsibility and honor of becoming American Humane Certified. The care and welfare of the marvelous Dolphins in our care is our number one priority," said Travis Burke, executive director of The Dolphin Company North America.

"The certification is a testament to the selfless dedication and hard work of our specialists, educators, vets, support team and our General Manager as they strive to educate our guests on a daily basis and share the wonders of the marine world. Becoming American Humane Certified reflects the commitment we have, throughout our organization, to ensure the animals in our care are provided the best care and welfare possible. This certification is a vital cornerstone in supporting our strategic vision as a conservation-based aquarium dedicated to protecting species from extinction, educating the public, and exemplifying the highest levels of animal care and welfare. Being Humane Certified is a testament to the hard work, dedication and compassion of our care professionals."

Marineland Dolphin Adventure, located in St. August-

ine, Florida, is the world's first oceanarium, founded to foster the preservation and protection of marine life. Its mission is to utilize interactive education, enhanced by on-site research, to inspire visitors and new generations to value and respect marine mammals and their environment. The facility's interactive programs offer a unique way for people to come up close and personal with bottlenose dolphins and form a connection that will last a lifetime. Guests can also visit the resident sea turtles and sand tiger sharks.

Founded in 1877, American Humane is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare and well-being of animals, and our leadership programs are first to serve in promoting and nurturing the bonds between animals and people. For more information or to support its work, visit www.americanhumane.org.

Marineland Dolphin Adventure opened in 1938. Over the past 80 years, Marineland has appeared in the spotlight as the site of Hollywood films, made significant contributions to marine science and conservation, and delighted countless guests with the enchantment of dolphin encounters. For more information visit <https://marineland.net/> and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

For more than 27 years, The Dolphin Company, the largest park operator in Latin America, has provided "The experience of a lifetime" to more than 16 million visitors in its 32 parks, dolphin habitats and marinas around the world. With presence in Mexico, the Caribbean, the United States of America, Argentina and Italy, The Dolphin Company offers exciting activities that provide unique, memorable experiences, while raising awareness among its visitors about the importance of animal welfare and the preservation and care environment. For more information, visit www.thedolphinco.com.

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WorldStrides, Charles Darwin Foundation to offer students exclusive opportunity to 'Walk in Darwin's Footsteps'

By Edward Ruddy
eruddy@sloanepr.com
Sloane & Company

NEW YORK (May 06, 2022) — WorldStrides and the Charles Darwin Foundation have announced a new partnership that will offer students from across the United States and around the world a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to "Walk in Darwin's Footsteps."

The immersive experience is an expansion of WorldStrides' Break Escapes programming and will include field excursions, guided tours, expert instruction, and premier cultural activities. Students will stay at the Charles Darwin Research Station — a world-renowned base for scientific research and education.

The new Break Escapes program is centered around themes of conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable development, and will offer students the exclusive opportunity to get up close and personal with the island's world-famous wildlife through marine life explorations, species studies, volcanic rock discovery, local

cultural activities, and more — all while interacting with field experts in sustainable development, ecosystem conservation, and ecosystem restoration.

"This Galapagos program offers a unique experience for students across the United States and around the world to walk in Darwin's footsteps — and we are excited to partner with the Charles Darwin Foundation to make it possible," said Bob Gogel, president and CEO of WorldStrides. "Students can immerse themselves in the culture and ecology of the Galapagos Islands and come away from the program with the education and experience they'll need to grow into the stewards of our environment tomorrow."

"Providing students with experiential learning in one of the most iconic places in the world is key to inspiring our next generation of biologists and outdoor enthusiasts — there is no place like the Galapagos Islands to make that happen," said Rakan Zahawi, executive director of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

The Experience will include:

- Four nights of accommodation and instruction at the Charles Darwin Research Station, a hub for conservation and sustainability in the Galapagos since 1964

- Immersive field excursions with themes of conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable development

- Premier cultural activities, such as locally guided tours to see Isabela Island's celebrated wildlife and an exciting hike alongside the Sierra Negra Volcano

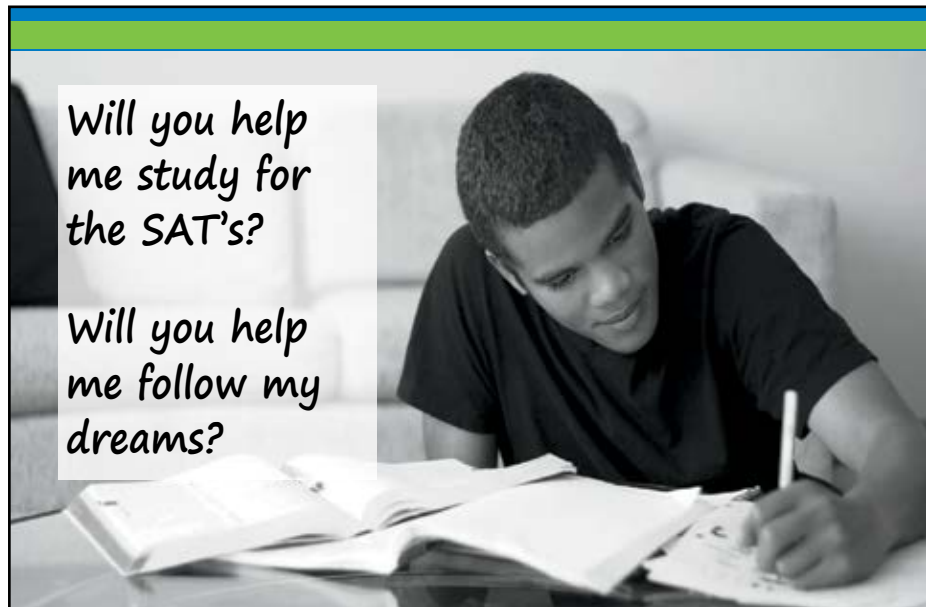
Visit <https://breakescapes.worldstrides.com/galapagos> for more information about the opportunity.

● About WorldStrides

WorldStrides was founded in 1967 to provide middle school travel programs to Washington, D.C., and has grown to provide a wide range of programs for more than 550,000 students annually from more than 5,000 K12 schools and universities to over 100 countries around the world.

● About The Charles Darwin Foundation

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to scientific research. The mission of the Charles Darwin Foundation and its Research Station is to provide knowledge and assistance through research and complementary action to ensure the conservation of the environment and biodiversity in the Galapagos Archipelago.



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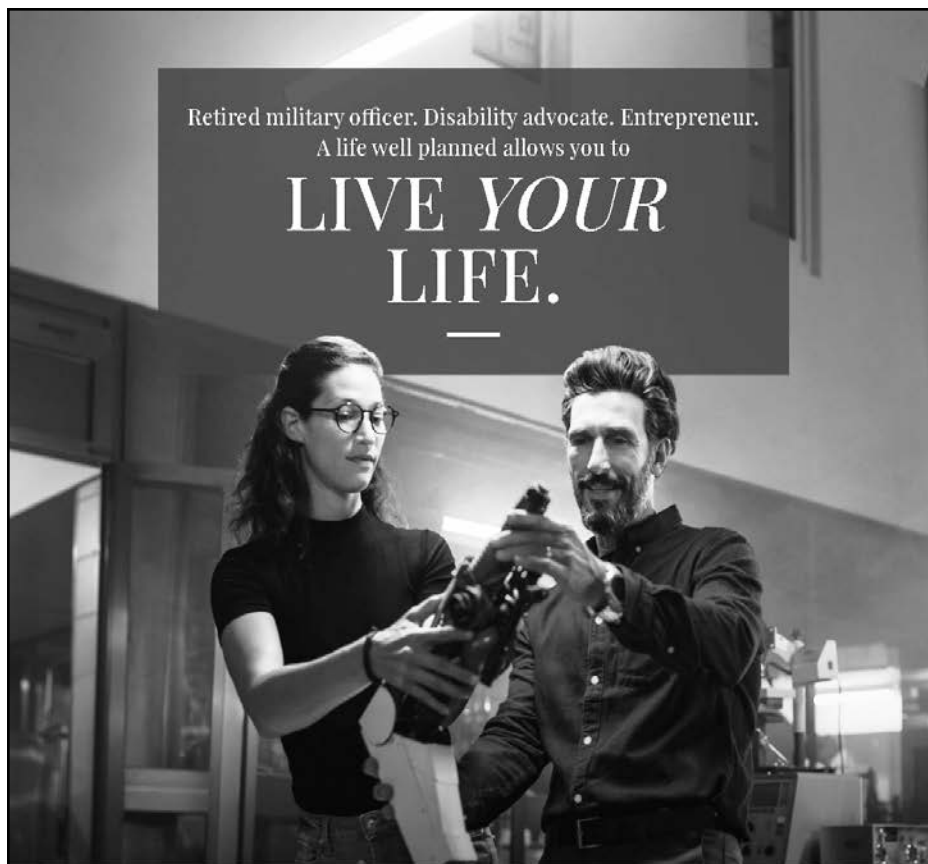
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Realtors see sharp increase in number of homes with green features, such as solar panels and energy efficiency

By Spencer High
shigh@nar.realtor
National Association of Realtors®

WASHINGTON (April 26, 2022 — The number of Realtors involved with buying or selling a property with green features has significantly increased in the past year, according to a recent study from the National Association of Realtors.

The 2022 “Realtors and Sustainability Report” surveyed NAR members nationwide regarding sustainability issues currently facing the real-estate industry.

Half of agents and brokers surveyed said they helped a client buy or sell a property with green features during the past 12 months, a notable jump compared to 32% in 2021.

Nearly two out of three respondents — 63% — said that energy efficiency promotion in listings was very or somewhat valuable. Over half of agents and brokers — 51% — found that their clients were somewhat or very interested in sustainability. And 35% reported that their multiple listing service features green data fields. Among

those with green data fields in their MLS, the top ways they were used were to promote green features (35%), energy information (24%) and green certifications (13%).

“Sustainability continues to play a growing role in consumers’ purchasing decisions, and this is becoming even more prevalent in the real estate market,” said NAR President Leslie Rouda Smith, a Realtor from Plano, Texas, and a broker associate at Dave Perry–Miller Real Estate in Dallas. “With the residential property market, in particular, home buyers have expressed increased interest in eco-friendly factors like solar panels and energy efficiency.”

Roughly three out of four Realtors — 77% — said that properties with rooftop solar panels were available in their market. These numbers were highest in the West (89%) and Northeast (86%). Thirty-six percent said that homes with solar panels increased the perceived property value, compared to 30% that said they had no effect.

The report also noted rising anxiety among Realtors about the effect of climate change and extreme weather events on their businesses. More than one out of three respondents — 34% — said they were very or somewhat

concerned about the impact of extreme weather events on the housing market.

Jessica Lautz, NAR vice president of demographics and behavioral insights, said that the increased focus on sustainability in recent years is a win-win for all homeowners. “More sustainable homes bring benefits to homeowners like cost savings from energy efficiency, health benefits from improved indoor air quality, and increased comfort and durability from material use and construction, and may also increase resale value.”

● Methodology

In March 2022, NAR invited a random sample of 46,452 active Realtors to fill out an online survey. A total of 2,652 useable responses were received for an overall response rate of 5.7%. At the 95% confidence level, the margin of error is plus-or-minus 1.9%.

● About National Association of Realtors

The National Association of Realtors is America’s largest trade association, representing more than 1.5 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

Information about NAR is available at nar.realtor.

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Realty World Curri Properties

Continued from page 12

In 2021, single-family existing home prices rose at the fastest pace in five decades at an average year-over-year pace of 18 percent, driven by strong job growth and low interest rates, according to the National Association of Realtors.

With the strong home-price run-up across the nation, there are Metropolitan Statistical Areas where houses are still undervalued relative to the market's underlying fundamentals.

In its latest report, 2022 "Housing Market Hidden Gems," the National Association of Realtors identified the top 10 areas with strong underlying housing-market fundamentals, but where home prices are "still undervalued and relatively affordable."

As such, these "hidden gem" markets are expected to experience strong price appreciation in 2022. Among the top 10 undervalued markets is the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area. It joins other MSAs such as Tucson, Arizona; Spartanburg, South Carolina; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Huntsville, Alabama.

The National Association of Realtors considers a market a hidden gem if it meets a combined set of seven indicators that drive housing demand and supply, including three-year wage growth, three-year job growth, and three-year population growth.

With a home-to-income ratio of 2.9 (homes cost 2.9 times what the average person earns in one year), the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville housing market is affordable compared to other metro areas of Miami-Kendall (4.7), Orlando-Kissimmee-Stanford (3.9), North Point-Bradenton-Sarasota (3.8), Port St. Lucie (3.5), Cape Coral-Fort Meyers (3.7), or Tampa-St. Petersburg (3.5).

The Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville metro area had the second-highest pace of wage growth, 27.7 percent, over a three-year period. And the local metro area has the highest share of households with broadband services, at 78.3 percent, making it an attractive place to live for people who want to work from home.

"The influx of workers and retirees is expected to bolster the demand for housing in the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA in 2022," the report says.

The housing market is expected to return to pre-pandemic 2019 norms — at least in terms of inventory and the share of purchases made by first-time homebuyers — by 2024, according to a panel of housing-market experts polled in the latest Zillow "Home Price Appreciation Survey."

The dwindling supply of houses for sale has been a key driver of the recent surge in U.S. home values.

"We are in the 'Silicon Valley' of the space industry," said Curri. "I believe the residential market, even with rates ticking upward, will continue to attract buyer interest. And the commercial real-estate sector, where Realty World is making a big push to deepen customer relationships, is showing strength in Brevard County."

While rising rates might pose a risk to economic growth, the chief economist for the National Association of Realtors — Lawrence Yun — expects the commercial market to perform well despite the headwinds, especially in the short term.

During the recent National Association of Realtors' Commercial Issues and Trends Forum, he explained that while the commercial market generally follows the overall economy, some things are different this time.

"Outside of the office sector, which is lagging behind as employers allow increased remote work flexibility to keep and attract talent, commercial real estate continues to strengthen. The industry sector is booming, retail is turning positive, the hotel industry is recovering, apartments are doing very well, and rents are rising in all

commercial segments," said Yun.

Yun added that the residential housing shortage will result in solid rent growth over the next two years, with apartment rents expected to keep rising by more than 10 percent.

"Locally, I believe we are going through a metamorphosis in commercial real estate," said Curri, who found success as an entrepreneur at a young age in the telecommunications field before selling his venture to a South Florida businessman and investing in real estate.

"There is a lot of real estate around the county that needs to be repurposed and upgraded. There are opportunities for small- to mid-level investors to acquire real estate and adapt it for new use."

He added, "Realty World is growing its presence in the commercial real-estate industry and we are going to be part of that as we continue to cater to commercial clients, helping them find properties and invest in properties. With the Realty World brand now behind us, this is a new era for Curri Properties. We're excited about the future."

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Indian River Colony Club known for hosting tournaments, charities like location, course conditions, amenities

By Joyce Wilden
joyce@buzzbizpr.com
BUZZ Biz Public Relations

VIERA (May 9, 2022) — An estimated 1 million golf tournaments are held each year in the United States, netting an average \$10,000 or more in a single day.

For many charities and nonprofits in Florida, an annual tournament is the fundraising tool of choice. And deciding where to hold the event is key. For a growing number of charities on the Space Coast, Indian River Colony Club (IRCC) has become the go-to spot for tournaments. Centrally located in Viera, the private community for military veterans is designed around a well-groomed 18-hole golf course, ideal for scramble start tournament play. Carts are provided by IRCC and the club's food and beverage facilities are available to tournament golfers, along with the use of the Aqua driving range, putting greens and practice bunkers.

On average, the tournament cost is \$65 per person, including food. The IRCC is located off Murrell Road, at 1936 Freedom Drive. The patriotic neighborhood was named one of the Top 20 Golf Communities in North America, by Golf Course Home Network.

A hole-by-hole description of the course may be found at www.ColonyClub.com, along with additional information on tournaments. To learn more about IRCC, call (321) 255-6000.

The gated golf community for veterans hosts around a dozen tournaments per year. Several organizations have a history of golf tournaments at IRCC stretching back more than a decade, including Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community, Family Promise of Brevard, and Brevard

Alzheimer's Foundation. The Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation also holds an annual "helicopter ball drop," in which 2,000 sponsored golf balls rain down upon the course. The ball closest to the pin wins a cash prize.

Florida golf course architect Gordon G. Lewis designed the par-72 course with water on every hole, a magnet for birds and other wildlife, and a challenge for golfers.

Asked why groups return year after year to IRCC, on-site PGA professional Joe Imondi said, "It's pretty simple, really. The Indian River Colony Club course is private, professionally designed and it's in awesome condition. Our staff makes sure everything runs smoothly, including the scoring."

Imondi recommends calling the Pro Shop at IRCC to check the availability of tournament dates.

"We can be busy with resident golf groups, so our dates fill up quickly. And I always like to talk to the organizers and make sure our course is a good fit for everyone involved," he said.

● About Indian River Colony Club

IRCC began to take shape in 1986, its vision to create a private country club-like environment for members. Still predominantly a haven for military veterans, IRCC maintains a culture centered on service to others. IRCC is a gated golf course community of nearly 800 homes on 453 acres in Viera, owned entirely by its membership. "The Place Patriots Call Home" enjoys 24-hour gated security, a generous maintenance package and a full complement of newly renovated and 100 percent debt-free country club amenities for active adults aged 55 and over, including an 18-hole, par-72 private golf course designed by acclaimed Florida golf course architect, Gordon G. Lewis. Social memberships are available for those who live offsite but wish to enjoy the amenities and lifestyle. The patriotic neighborhood was named one of the 2018 Top 20 Golf Communities in North America by Golf Course Home Network. For more information about Indian River Colony Club, call (321) 255-6000 or visit www.ColonyClub.com.

EFSC Minority Youth Golf Camp registration deadline is set for May 25

COCOA (May 9, 2022) — The Eastern Florida State College P.J. Wilson and Henry Scott Minority Youth Golf Camp will be held from 9-11 a.m. June 6 through June 16 at the EFSC Fred Gay Golf Academy, 3570 State Road 524, in Cocoa. The program is open to youth ages 10 to 17. Admission is free, but registration is required.

The camp was created in 1992 under the guidance of former EFSC President Dr. Maxwell King with the assistance of Henry Scott and P.J. Wilson, two Brevard County African-American golf professionals and community leaders. It was designed to provide youth with the basic skills of golf, including golf etiquette, conduct and

sportsmanship, as well as values for successful living.

Though its focus is outreach to minority youth, the camp is open to all young people.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, May 25. Registration packet can be found at easternflorida.edu/documents/golf.pdf.

Orientation will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, at the EFSC Cocoa Campus in the Clark Maxwell Jr. Lifelong Learning Center (Building 3, Room 103), at 1519 Clearlake Road, in Cocoa.

For more information on this event, email Diane Taylor at taylord@easternflorida.edu or call (321) 433-7060.

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Dreamland Mini-Golf & More

Continued from page 13

the night course. "It looks like lips and teeth. The players putt through the teeth to get to the hole. That hole was inspired by Nico Lehman. It was inspired by an actual dream of her teeth chipping. It's one of the best holes at Dreamland. I love it because it's larger than life, playful and weird, but not quite scary."

"I'm not sure if this was a nightmare or dream of Nico's from childhood or more recently, but it's interesting to bring your subconsciousness or your unreal experiences and manifest them in real life in a miniature-golf setting," he added.

Play follows traditional mini-golf rules and most holes use the expected putter and golf ball. Beyond that, players are "limited only by their dreams."

In addition to mini-golf, Dreamland includes the "Selfie Museum," a type of art gallery designed to provide a setting for players to pose in photographs to be posted on social-media sites. There are 15 photo-ready walls fine-tuned for Dreamland participants.

They include: The Butterfly Wall, Black-and-White Drawing Wall, The Lips Couch, The Amazon Trail, That 1970s Sound, Be Curious, and Overworked.

"We did the entire project on a shoestring budget," said Gores. "We spent just a little amount of money on some new screws, because recycled screws are no fun to work with."

Dreamland is open on Thursdays from 5–10 p.m., Fridays from 5–10 p.m., Saturdays from 12–10 p.m., and Sundays from 12–5 p.m. The fee is \$10 for a round of mini-golf for ages 10 and older. The full-access ticket is \$30 and includes the Selfie Museum experience. There is also The Projection Experience by Illuminated Paths, "moving light ready for your silhouette to help make the magic."

And Dreamland is also available for private events, including birthday parties for youngsters and social events and corporate gatherings.

Contact Rachel@DerekGores.com for full details.

Tickets for rounds of Dreamland Mini-Golf and access to the Selfie Museum and Projection Experience are sold at <https://DerekGores.com/tickets-to-dreamland>. A portion of the proceeds go toward scholarships to Gores' "Create Your World Art Camp," set for this summer.

Dreamland's lease at the former Foosner Art Museum runs through June.

"We are getting a great mix of people coming and enjoying mini-golf, realizing that this is something universal," said Gores. "Some people come every day we are open to play the course, to see what has changed and what we have added."

"I think it's amazing that we are attracting a lot of people from outside the area that have found Dreamland either through the internet or social media," said Moore.

There is a small bar in the lounge space at the facility. The beverages include a custom brew by Intracoastal Brewing Company located in the Eau Gallie Arts District. "Intracoastal Brewing did a custom beer for us inspired by mini-golf," said Gores.

After playing a round of golf, attendees can visit The Dreamland Gift Shop to purchase merchandise.

The former Foosner Art Museum was purchased by Larry Jarnes of the local firm Northboro Builders Inc. His company plans to build a boutique hotel on the property, and Jarnes wanted to keep the artistic energy flowing until the time for construction comes.

"Larry loves art himself and smartly knows that art is the identity of the Eau Gallie Arts District," said Gores.

"We're happy to be part of the EGAD community with so many exciting projects coming," said Jarnes, whose family lives in Eau Gallie. "I wanted to maintain momentum at EGAD and knew that Derek Gores and his many

creative friends would come up with something special. Dreamland is super cool."

Produced by Derek Gores Gallery, Dreamland is presented by Toyota of Melbourne, Northboro Builders, Intracoastal Brewing Company, and FM Pizza Oven.

The creative people involved in Dreamland include: Kodi Howard, Sarah Peck, Mr. Science, Petal & Bone, Shawn Creel, Muntaser Syed, Noah Cook, Roman's Artifacts, Lear Bunda, Apocalypse Dimension, Brooks Nichols, Carly Sinigoi, Nico Lehman, Sara Russo, Eyan

Eyster, Ryan VW, Connor Bea, 321 Home Staging, Clifton Chandler, Illuminated Paths, Mason ALX, Gigi Rippis, and more.

Gores said Dreamland is a great fit for the Eau Gallie Arts District because of its uniqueness.

"At EGAD, we are always looking to the future — how do you stay relevant in a spot on the planet that is so much about innovation, man on the moon, and all the space history. We like to think it's our job to entertain and spark the next generation of creative types for our county."

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Overwatch Imaging Inc.

Continued from page 23

geospatial intelligence applications, either for classified satellites for space or on unmanned aircraft used through the Department of Defense.

"Nick (Anderson) and I saw this great opportunity to pull data out faster, quicker, and easier than what was currently being done by leveraging big-data techniques and artificial-intelligence software," he said.

Before founding Overwatch Imaging with Anderson, Davis was the director of product management and business development for Cloud Cap Technology Inc., a UTC Aerospace Systems company, now part of Collins Aerospace, a Raytheon Technologies subsidiary. Cloud Cap Technology built drone avionics and stabilized turrets for large UAVs.

Davis was also a program manager at Insitu, which was acquired by The Boeing Co. At Insitu, he led the development of the "RQ-21A Blackjack," also known as "Integrator," an unmanned aircraft for the U.S. Navy. Before Insitu, Davis worked on space-based classified remote-sensing systems for Lockheed Martin, and on aircraft and spacecraft simulation for NASA.

Anderson, who is Overwatch Imaging's chief technology officer, earned his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from California State Polytechnic University at Pomona. Anderson also worked at Cloud Cap Technology.

At Cloud Cap Technology, he helped develop the "TASE400 EO/IR" video-imaging system and associated aircraft mounts and auxiliary equipment, before spending 12 months as a deployed imaging system subject-matter expert in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

In that role, he worked directly with operators, maintainers, and intelligence teams using airborne-surveillance systems in mission-critical environments.

Overwatch Imaging currently has 26 employees working in a 6,500-square-foot office and manufacturing facility in Hood River.

"Hood River is a hotbed of airborne-imaging technology and drone technology," said Davis, who serves on the board of directors for the Gorge Technology Alliance.

The Alliance, a professional association, represents the technology industry in the bi-state Columbia River Gorge region. The region includes the counties of Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman in Oregon, and Skamania and Klickitat in Washington.

Unlike many companies in today's environment, Davis said Overwatch Imaging is not challenged by recruiting. "We find that our employees love the idea of working at a company that is growing fast and is backed by great investors. They love the mission we're supporting. We have a mission-driven group of employees. They are passionate about their work and the role we play. We have great benefits and a great company culture. That's the feedback we hear from our employees."

Looking ahead three or four years, Davis sees Overwatch Imaging making big strides in the world-wide market.

"We just had an outstanding board meeting at Squadra's office in Baltimore to talk about the future of Overwatch Imaging. I believe our sensors will be supporting applications around the world, and our software will be flying on all sorts of different data-collection devices, so that we can turn raw data into intelligence — better, faster, and more efficiently. We are excited about the future of Overwatch Imaging."



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Keith Wilkins, retired City Administrator for the City of Pensacola, Board Member of the Florida Brownfields Association and 42 years of experience in environmental policy, environmental management, site contamination assessment and remediation
PRESENTS:
• Perceived vs. Actual Risk
• University of West Florida GIS Map showing all potential toxins in the area and groundwater flow

Charles Ray, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC)
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Phase 1: Brownfield Assessment

Joe Nesbitt of Nesbitt Design LLC, Little Growers Inc. Lead Design Consulting Partner is a landscape designer, community planner, and permaculture consultant. His work focuses on creating resilient communities, regenerative landscapes, and social justice
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Overwatch Imaging Inc.**Continued from page 1**

person to watch the data full time, then the system is really not autonomous,” said Davis. “We are working on technology solutions that allow UAVs to truly deliver on being autonomous, being scalable, by making the sensors autonomous, not just the aircraft autonomous.”

The increasing use of smart technology for surveillance, analysis, and imaging, among other things, is expected to boost the growth of the unmanned aerial-vehicle market.

In addition, analysts say the UAV market is expected to be fueled by growth in adapting end-user applications, such as military and defense, and civil and commercial markets, for example.

“The UAV market is enormous with all sorts of possibilities for applications, including homeland security, and simple applications for emergency response and public safety. Other examples are industrial and commercial applications for pipeline inspections and various types of infrastructure inspections,” said Davis, in a telephone interview.

The construction industry has a lot of potential for using UAVs for mapping, surveying, inspection, and observation studies to better understand ground realities and infrastructure development challenges.

Said Davis, “Our approach of using sensors and smart software reduces the need of people staring at screens, and instead lets people do more advanced things, such as figuring out how to respond to problems rather than just looking for them.”

The Hood River, Oregon, based company, Overwatch Imaging is growing and gaining a wide range of customers.

In 2021, the company was ranked No. 781 on Inc. 5000’s list of the “Fastest Growing Private Companies in America,” and it has caught the eye of Squadra Ventures in Baltimore, Shield Capital in San Francisco, and Melbourne-based L3Harris, among other investors. The company also made Deloitte Technology’s “Fast 500” in 2021.

“When I first met Greg (Davis) and Nick (Anderson) and the Overwatch team, I was immediately struck by three things,” said Guy Filippelli, managing partner of Squadra Ventures, whose firm works with and invests in early-stage companies and has a track record of success.

“First, it was extremely impressive to me that they had built some very sophisticated technology that allows airborne imaging to take place in an automated fashion. They were able to build a multi-spectral sensor that could be deployed on drones and manned aircraft.

Secondly, it was extremely impressive that they were able to build a real business out of that with very little funding. They were running a profitable business with real customers, including the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Coast Guard, and international clients who had demonstrated a willingness to pay a significant amount for their platforms.

Thirdly, they had built a phenomenal team and it stems from Greg (Davis) and Nick (Anderson) not only being exceptional technical leaders, but also being outstanding business leaders and human leaders. They have fostered an exceptional culture at Overwatch Imaging. When you combine technology, business, and culture — and also believe there is a big market ahead of you — I think you’ve got a really exciting recipe for something to invest in.”

Filippelli knows about team-building and leader-

ship. He’s a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he earned his bachelor’s degree in economics. He’s a highly experienced entrepreneur, having founded and run two successful companies before launching Squadra Ventures in 2019 to fill a void in the market, he believed.

“I’ve always felt there were not enough venture capital firms built truly from the ground up, designed to help entrepreneurs who could use some additional support — coaching, teaching, mentoring, oversight, guidance,” he said. “So, we launched Squadra to do that and said we were only going to invest in three or four companies a year. We only want to be working with one new company every quarter. If we did more than that number, we would dilute ourselves.”

He added, “Squadra Ventures operates mainly in the realm of cybersecurity and what we call ‘dual-use’ — national security where there are companies doing business with both the federal government and the private sector. And those two spaces continue to be on fire right now.”

In general, the American venture capital ecosystem was stellar last year. Startups raised \$329.9 billion in venture investments in 2021, nearly double the previous annual record of \$166.6 billion set in 2020, reports the latest “Pitchbook–National Venture Capital Association Venture Monitor.”

Filippelli said entrepreneurs need to have a “vision for their company and what we call ‘the look over the horizon.’ They need to be thoughtful at the visionary level, at the strategic level, and at the tactical level.”

Filippelli began his career as a U.S. Army intelligence officer, serving in Korea, Italy, Germany, and Afghanistan. He also worked for the National Security Agency. In 2007, he received the National Intelligence Medallion, the nation’s highest intelligence award for civilian personnel, for his efforts in Iraq to bring real-time targeting capabilities to our tactical forces.

In addition to West Point, he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University, in the United Kingdom, where he studied as a Marshall Scholar. George Marshall, for whom the scholarship was named, was a U.S. Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Army Chief of Staff.

“It’s exciting to have investors like Squadra Ventures and L3Harris — one of the leading aerospace and defense companies in the world, Shield Capital, Bridger Aerospace, and the Portland Seed Fund,” said Davis.

“It is giving us the opportunity to pursue all sorts of applications rapidly. Our highly respected group of investors brings not only capital to accelerate our growth, but also amazing experience and valuable networks.”

Davis added that Overwatch Imaging is in talks with L3Harris that could help propel Overwatch Imaging’s long-term growth.

“L3Harris is anticipating and rapidly responding to challenges in a complex world with agile technology,” said Pat O’Reilly, vice president for corporate strategy and development at L3Harris. “We are excited to work with Overwatch Imaging to support their growth.”

O’Reilly is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general. He had a distinguished career with the Army Ordnance Corps, and he also served for several years as director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency. O’Reilly is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and holds a master’s degree in physics from the

U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, among other credentials.

On April 5, Overwatch Imaging announced the closing of an \$11.15 million Series A funding round. Series A financing refers to an investment in a privately held startup company after it has shown progress in building its business model and demonstrates the potential to grow and generate revenue.

“We invested in Overwatch Imaging because of their technical expertise and traction in using artificial intelligence at-the-edge in their unique airborne-imaging systems,” said Raj Shah, managing partner of Shield Capital and former director of the Pentagon’s Defense Innovation Unit.

“Shield Capital focuses on frontier technologies that matter to a secure future for free nations, and these artificial intelligence-enabled imaging systems meet a large, important, and unmet worldwide need.”

Squadra Ventures and Shield Capital co-led the “Series A” funding round. They were joined by strategic investors L3Harris, Bridger Aerospace, and the Portland (Oregon) Seed Fund.

The invested funds will be used to speed up Overwatch Imaging’s growth worldwide, including meeting the demand for its products, enhancing its automation and image-analytics software, and expanding into new market segments. The company plans to hire more engineers and business development personnel this year.

“Company growth has been very good the past couple of years,” said Davis. “During that time, we have been splitting our focus between growing a strong business, delivering revenue growth, but also demonstrating some exciting and differentiating technology that allows us to continue to scale. While we are enjoying solid growth to date, we see opportunities to grow ‘10X’ or even ‘100X’ in the future.”

One of Overwatch Imaging’s first customers was the U.S. Forest Service, which uses drones in wildland firefighting. Drones can be equipped with infrared cameras and payloads for wildfire control.

Last year alone, there were more than 46,000 wildfires, burning nearly 6 million acres nationwide. In Florida, 2,262 wildfires burned 105,475 acres, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Federal Aviation Administration works with federal and state agencies to find ways to support firefighting efforts, including approving hundreds of emergency airspace authorizations to fly drones.

“The state-of-the-art before Overwatch Imaging was that wildland fires were mapped at a speed where the data was only made available to the firefighters on the ground 18 or even up to 36 hours after the time that the data was collected,” said Davis.

“We were able to accelerate that process to essentially real time, so we are getting better data faster, which allows the firefighters on the ground to be safer and to fight fires more effectively. This is how Overwatch Imaging started. Our first couple of customers were related to wildfire-mapping.”

“Overwatch Imaging has clearly shown its expertise in fire-mapping and makes the best product out there for intelligence on massive wildfires,” said Tim Sheehy, CEO of Bridger Aerospace.

“They are an important component of our next-generation aerial-firefighting solutions, and we are looking forward to working together with them to make a tremendous impact on this area worldwide.”

Davis said he spent his career working on

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