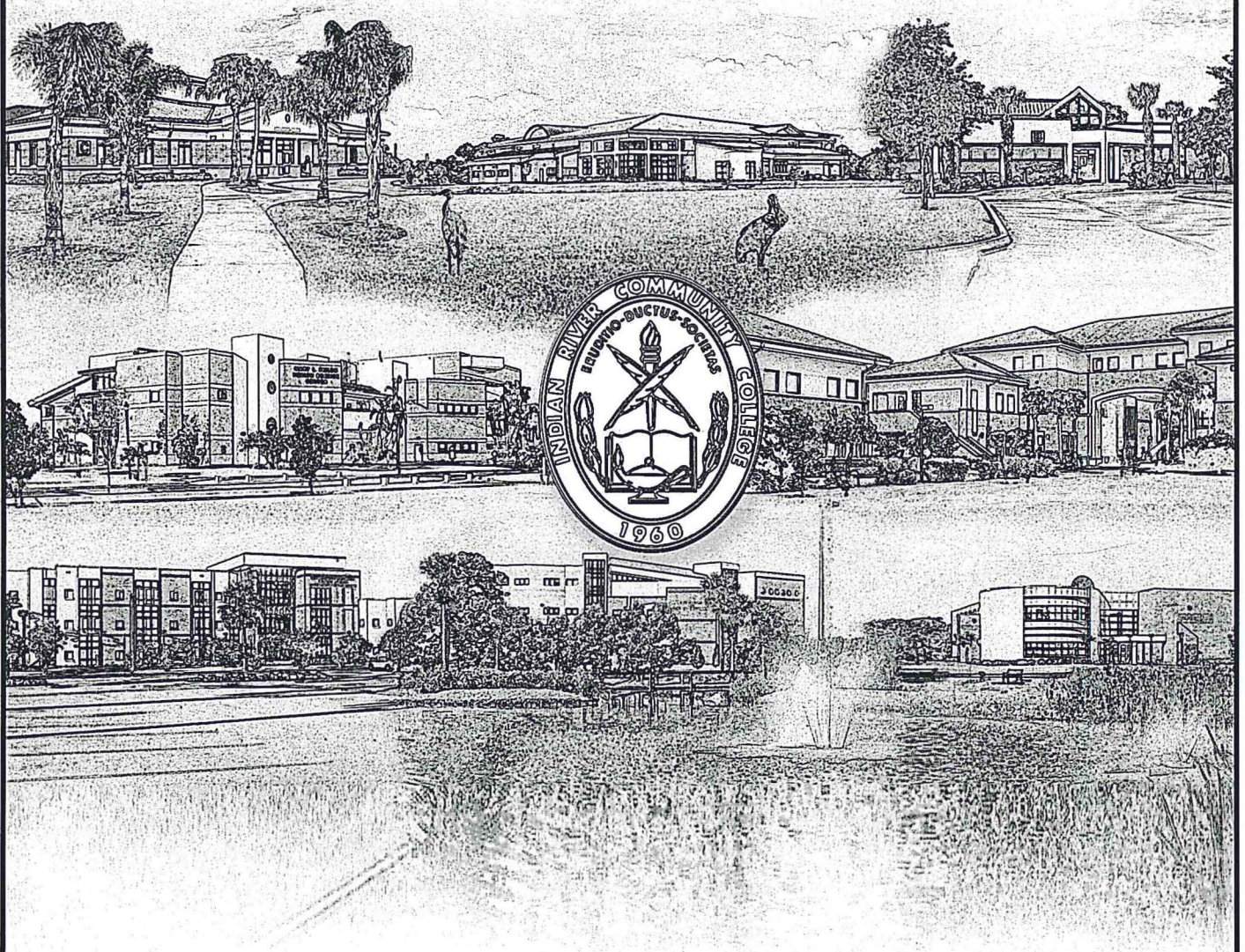


Sharing the News

October 31, 2007



Indian River Community College

Institutional Advancement Office

Stuart News
10-4-07

IRCC wants to lead regional economic push

Government, business leaders
discuss how to get Treasure Coast
economies moving at summit

BY ROBERT BARBA
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FORT PIERCE — Indian River Community College could soon become the backbone of an organization aimed at enhancing the economic viability of the Treasure Coast.

On Wednesday, IRCC President Ed Massey volunteered his school to serve as a neutral ground for a committee of government and business leaders that would create and oversee an innovative strategy to help the economies of Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties.

"We have what it takes to be successful ... we have done enough studying, folks," Massey said. "We need to start doing."

Massey's speech came during the Florida's

ECONOMIC

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Research Coast Economic Development Summit held at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies on the Fort Pierce campus of IRCC.

The summit was designed to build on past plans for regionalism and create a framework for future achievements, said Greg Vaday, economic development coordinator for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, which organized the event.

Massey said his proposition was unplanned, but inspired after hearing guest speaker Doug Henton, a national economic development expert, describe successes in California, such as those in San Die-

go, Silicon Valley and Sonoma County.

Henton's presentation emphasized the need for the local governments to act regionally and be innovative in their approaches to attracting and retaining businesses.

"You have to collaborate to compete globally," Henton said. "And if you don't have innovation, you will fall behind."

The idea of creating a regional council was at least conceptually embraced by the chairs of the boards of commissioners of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. Chris Craft, chairman of the St. Lucie board, said he would "convince St. Lucie County to participate" in IRCC's offer.

"We need to make a com-

mitment that our local governments would contribute," Craft said. "We are running in a circle and we now have a wonderful offer."

While the various Treasure Coast economic development agencies and the Workforce Board of the Treasure Coast already market the region to businesses under the Florida's Research Coast initiative, the plan proposed Wednesday would foster regionalism among the local governments and the private sector.

"I think it would be a nice complement to what we do," said Helene Caseltine, economic development director for the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce. "It would enhance what we are doing and maybe even give us a little more fuel to take it to the next level."

See ECONOMIC, page A8

PSC News 10/13/07



OPTIMISM ON THE JOBS FRONT: "By the end of the meeting, the crowd was pumped up, jubilant and brimming with hope for the future. There aren't too many meetings you can say that about."

That's how columnist Anthony Westbury described last week's meeting at which Ed Massey, Indian River Community College president, offered to help set up an innovation council. The council would work on getting entities to collaborate to create a true, regional hub known as the Research Coast.

St. Lucie County officials have done wonders to attract Torrey Pines researchers and others, but Martin and Indian River counties will have to get in on the business, too. Working together as a regional powerhouse and leveraging the assets each county has to offer will help the Research Coast, and its promises of a more diversified economy succeed.

IRCC, as an entity that serves the entire Treasure Coast, is in a position to help bring often-provincial counties, municipalities and residents together. It is, as Westbury noted, something to get pumped up about.

Coast to go from Treasure to Research

For a man who once had his head shaved in public, it was quite a statement to make.

"This is the most exciting thing that's happened to me in three years as an elected official," St. Lucie County Commissioner Chris Craft told the crowd toward the end of Wednesday's Florida Research Coast Economic Development Summit at Indian River Community College.

Craft had a good point. More than 100 representatives of government and the private sector from every Treasure Coast county crowded into the high-tech Kight Center to hear how to make the Research Coast a regional economic reality.

By the end of the meeting, the crowd was pumped-up, jubilant and brimming with hope for the future. There aren't too many meetings you can say that about.

IRCC President Ed Massey's offer to help facilitate the creation of an Innovation Council, which would explore the collaborations we'll need to create that regional research hub, dovetailed neatly with the spirit of cooperation buzzing around the room.

As Massey pointed out, the college has morphed into a true regional entity itself. Despite having facilities in every Treasure Coast county, it remains politically neutral, pre-



ANTHONY WESTBURY
COLUMNIST

ferring to support individual community development while retaining the larger goal of being a regional operation.

And that's exactly what the Research Coast has to do to attract the high-tech, good-paying jobs we all lust after.

Entrepreneurs don't necessarily recognize the same old political boundaries we do. They may choose a location for reasons that have nothing to do with what county they're in. So, old thinking isn't going to attract them here.

Consultant Doug Henton offered some tips on reaching a true regional mindset that he's gleaned from 30 years working in Silicon Valley, Calif.

There is a real sense of collaboration between the four counties and 27 cities that co-exist in the valley, the epicenter of the computer integrated circuit industry, Henton said. Of necessity, government there has become streamlined and business-friendly. How's this for a concept: You can even get building permits online.

After all, as Gordon Moore, CEO of Intel, pointed out: If the number of microchips in computers doubles every 24

months, why does it take four years to get a permit for a place to make them?

Massey encouraged the group to think collaboratively.

"We know we are a major player already. We know we have what it takes to succeed. We need to be asking ourselves, 'Where do we go from here?' We've done enough studying," Massey said referring to a handful of previous regional economic development studies. "We need to start doing."

He's absolutely right. Bringing in the jobs we covet isn't just a matter of dollars. We must create a culture of possibility on the Treasure/Research Coast that actively embraces change and facilitates moving forward. And it won't be a static process; we'll need to stay relevant and competitive. We have to create an atmosphere where change is embraced, not something to be feared. Silicon Valley has it and so can we.

If we don't, several speakers reminded us, someone else — in another state, another nation — can and will beat us to the punch.

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Stuart News
10.31.07

Grants will help train more nurses, teachers

BY COLLEEN WIXON
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FORT PIERCE — Three state grants totaling more than \$670,000 will help Indian River Community College produce more critically needed Treasure Coast teachers and nurses, college officials said Thursday.

SUCCEED, Florida! grants, paid for by the state Legislature, are given by the Florida Department of Education each year to help colleges increase the number of students in health care and education. Colleges throughout the state compete for the grants.

"We're excited to get all of these," IRCC President Edwin R. Massey said.

One grant of \$275,041 will pay for an after-school tutoring program for secondary students, in which future teachers at the college will mentor students throughout the region in math and science, Massey said.

The program will give those preparing to be secondary math, science and special education teachers hands-on experience, he said.

"This will be a great benefit to the students (who will be tutored), the families and to the (future teachers) to be able to get that first-hand experience," he said.

The college has placed a big emphasis on math and science to produce more teachers in these subjects because many people are hoping to make the region the Research Coast with biotech firm Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies and possibly other science-related companies moving to the area, Massey said.

"If we don't have a really strong math and science program, that would slow down that effort," he said.

A \$150,000 grant will let the college expand its Educator Preparation Institute with an additional 250 people, Massey said. The institute now helps people with bachelor's degrees fast-track their way to a teaching career. There are about 250 people enrolled in the institute.

The third grant of \$245,275 will help students in the college's fast-track registered nurse program with additional mentoring and tutoring. Through the program, licensed practical nurses can become registered nurses within one year.

Private donations already have helped the college expand the nursing program, Massey said. Hospitals throughout the Treasure Coast are asking for more registered nurses, he said.

Colleges had to apply for the grants by August of this year. Schools were notified last week of the grants, Massey said.

Editorial PSH News 10-5-07

Keep classrooms open

Florida's community colleges are doing their part to address the state's budget crunch with, among other things, a freeze on the hiring of full-time employees and equipment purchases, and increasing class sizes where feasible.

What they don't want to do is eliminate classes, reducing student access to education that would cripple even more the state's slowing economy.

To that end, the colleges support a compromise funding measure that would help them address an increasing number of students wanting to attend community colleges or those who have been blocked by a cap on student enrollment at the state's universities. The plan is solid.

Systemwide, community college enrollment is up 6.9 percent this year; 12 percent at Indian River Community College. Why? Trends show that when the economy slows, displaced workers turn to community colleges for retraining and other education. In other words, community colleges' missions are more critical than ever.

The compromise comes after Gov. Charlie Crist vetoed a 5 percent tuition increase approved by the Legislature. The new plan would re-direct to the colleges non-recurring, or unanticipated, revenue, plus increase the tuition 5 percent starting in January 2008. Those funds would be used to hire part-time instructors who do not receive the benefits of full-time employees.

The funding infusion would still be \$500,000 less than IRCC would have been funded based on last year's enrollment. So the college is shuffling to be able to handling the rapid increase in students. Legislative leaders, and even student government associations, support the plan. Even Crist has indicated a willingness to consider the proposal.

IRCC President Ed Massey, a leader in promoting the plan through chairmanship of a committee of the Community Colleges Council of Presidents, said, "This is a short-term response to provide education to those students who need it now." Massey's leadership has been exceptional.

Despite funding restraints, Florida should not be tossing away its future, especially when it comes to educating the present college-age generation.

Budget proposal takes on tuition

Increases, tied to inflation, could be smaller than the state's recent hikes.

By MICHAEL C. BENDER
Palm Beach Post Capital Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Tuition at Florida's colleges and universities would increase every year under a budget plan that state lawmakers received Tuesday. But the annual increase probably would be less than schools have received from the state in recent years.

The plan would tie tuition increases to a national rate of inflation, which in the past 10 years hovered between 1.6 percent and 3.4 percent.

During that same time, however, lawmakers approved average tuition increases of about 5 percent for community colleges and universities.

Yet, whether the legislature has the power to increase tuition at all remains the basis of a lawsuit filed in July by former Sen. Bob Graham. That power, he says, rests with the state Board of Governors, an oversight body for universities and colleges that was created by a constitutional amendment that Graham

See TUITION, 11A ▶

If bill passes, students would pay extra \$55 for spring semester

Palm Beach Post 10.10.2007

▶ TUITION from 1A

pushed and voters approved in 2002.

"The legislature is just kind of doing its thing," Graham, a Democrat, said of the action taken this week by the Republican-controlled legislature.

Despite that court challenge, lawmakers will vote Friday on a plan that would increase tuition 5 percent for the spring semester — about \$55 for 15 credit hours — and base future increases on the consumer price index.

This year, the national rate of inflation known as the consumer price index is estimated at 2 percent. It has reached 5 percent just once since 1982.

Meanwhile, university tuition in Florida increased at least 5 percent in seven of the past 10 years. Community college tuition rose at least that much six times.

The new law would let legislators adjust tuition higher or lower than the consumer price index, but college officials and students should anticipate an increase based on inflation, House Budget Council Chairman Ray Sansom said.

"I think it helps everyone have an understanding of what the next year of college will cost," said Sansom, R-Destin. "The cost of higher education should be as affordable as possible and I think we've done that."

The annual increase was included in the bill that implements the budget that lawmakers received Tuesday. They can't

Your Post

What effect would higher tuition rates have?
PalmBeachPost.com/yourpost

vote on that budget and implementing bill until Friday because of a constitutionally required 72-hour waiting period. After the legislature approves the budget and bill, they go to Gov. Charlie Crist for his signature.

Crist vetoed a 5 percent tuition increase for the fall semester but has signaled that he might be open to a tuition hike for the spring.

The implementing bill also includes a permanent technology fee for university students that would total 5 percent a year. The fee would start in 2009.

Calling for an annual inflation increase adds yet another dynamic to the yearly battle that lawmakers and college officials find themselves in over how to pay for a growing higher education system that has added 55,000 new students at 11 universities since 2000.

State University Chancellor Mark Rosenberg said the inflation increase was a "good first step" toward the legislature and Board of Governors working together. The board two weeks ago independently voted to increase tuition by 5 percent as well.

However, Rosenberg said the board still needs to ensure through Graham's lawsuit that it, rather than the legislature, has the power to set tuition.

"I am cautiously optimistic we are moving in the right direction," Rosenberg said. "But if we lose this court case, I will be very, very, very worried, because we're already at the bottom."

Florida has one of the lowest resident undergraduate tuition rates in the nation, with students paying just \$2,211 for a full year of 30 credits. With student fees, which vary by university, the average Florida student paid \$3,383 for 30 credits last year.

The national average, in comparison, was \$4,872, and no other state was cheaper than Florida, according to the College Board's annual survey. Only six other states totaled less than \$4,000 for tuition and fees: Georgia, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Statewide, the tuition increase would generate about \$9.5 million for state universities and community colleges, which would only partly make up the nearly \$100 million in cuts under the plan lawmakers will consider Friday.

Lawmakers started a 10-day special session last week to cut \$1.1 billion from the state's \$71 billion budget because a revenue shortfall due in large part to a slumping real estate market.

Indian River Community College President Edwin Massey said he hoped lawmakers would view the inflation increase as a starting point.

"This is an annual plan and we need a long-term tuition policy," Massey said.

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It's about student access

While Gov. Crist was vetoing their 5 percent tuition increase, and the Legislature was threatening up to 10 percent in cuts to make up a budget shortage, 50,000 new students were pouring into Florida's 28 community colleges. Even though not all are full time, it's as if the state just added a new university in terms of population, not including facilities or instructors.

That's why Florida cannot afford for Gov. Crist to do anything but support the budget agreement legislators and the colleges reached. The plan, which includes a midyear 5 percent tuition increase, would limit the cuts to \$650,000 at Indian River Community College and \$700,000 at Palm Beach Community College.

Even then, the deal relies on nonrecurring, or onetime money, to restore the budget cuts. No cuts should be happening at all when IRCC's enrollment between the fall of 2006 and this year has increased from 13,270 to 14,932, and PBCC's from 20,885 to 21,687. Yet the poor economic outlook and lack of any guarantee that the money will be replaced in coming years are reason for the governor to get this done.

Florida continues to lead the nation in the number of two-year degree categories, according to *Community College Week's* annual report for 2007 conducted by the National Center for Education Sta-

Community colleges need Crist to OK tuition hike.

tistics. During the 2005-06 academic year, the 28 colleges conferred 44,994 associate's of arts degrees. With the enrollment caps at the state's top four-year universities that already are sending many students elsewhere, including to Florida's community colleges, the two-year schools won't be able to keep their doors open as wide if the financing keeps trending where it's headed.

"It is really all about access," said IRCC President Edwin Massey, chairman of the policy and advocacy committee of the two-year schools' council of presidents. "Our message was to not break the pipeline to the universities, nor to training for economic development." But the long term, said PBCC President Dennis Gallon, "is where we're really going to be hurting."

Community college enrollment long has run countercyclical to the economy, with enrollment highest when the economy goes bad and more students seek to improve their skills, and lowest when economic times are good. In light of the economy, the Legislature has responded favorably, for now. So have the community colleges. It's Gov. Crist's turn.

Stuart News
10.9.07

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY COLLEGES

IRCC student leaders support tuition increase

Florida community college students are taking a strong stand to keep the doors to education open. For this reason, we encourage the Florida Legislature and Gov. Charlie Crist to enact a 5 percent tuition increase to take effect in January. We recognize that there is a budget crisis in Florida, and we want to help our colleges maintain the open-door policy and reasonable class sizes.



Thompson

The proposed increase would be \$2.68 per college credit for Indian River Community College students, for a full-time student this would total less than the cost of a tank of gas each semester. (About 44 percent of Florida's community college students receive need-based financial aid to help cover tuition, while many more are assisted by other types of financial aid and scholarships.) Students who receive Florida's Bright Futures Scholarships will also have their tuition covered at the increased rate. Even with the tuition increase, the tuition cost at Florida's community colleges would remain among the lowest in the nation.

Due to the economic downturn, community colleges have less money and more students. In fact, Indian River Community College experienced a 12 percent increase in stu-

REBEKAH THOMPSON
GUEST COLUMNIST

dents this semester. We are concerned that the reduction in state revenues to community colleges will result in classes being canceled, larger class sizes and fewer programs and services. Access to the classes we need is essential for us to complete our programs on time and continue on to universities, launch a career or re-train to support our families.

Community colleges are the ticket to a brighter future for many people. When unemployment goes up, enrollment at community colleges goes up. As Treasure Coast residents are laid off, they come to IRCC to re-train. In addition, more students are attending IRCC due to the freeze on freshmen enrollment at the state universities. IRCC attracts close to 70 percent of Treasure Coast high school graduates entering college and will now serve even more new students. The education these students receive ensures a pipeline of nurses, teachers, paramedics, law enforcement officers, computer experts, biomedical technicians and many others who help our economy flourish.

IRCC has faced some tough choices to deal with less funding and higher enrollment. Strategies include a freeze on hiring and equipment purchases. But these cost-saving measures aren't enough.

To address this issue, the 28 community colleges are working closely with the Florida Senate and House of Representatives to make up some of the lost revenue by allocating non-recurring funds to fill the gap and approving a 5 percent "mid-year" tuition increase beginning with the Spring 2008 Semester.

On Sept. 21 student leaders representing the eight community colleges of the Florida Junior and Community College Student Government Association Central Region voted unanimously to support a 5 percent increase. We also discussed these matters among our IRCC student leaders and came to the conclusion that we support the tuition increase. On Oct. 3 our IRCC Campus Coalition Government also adopted a Resolution to support the tuition increase.

Students at "The River" value the education we receive. It's affordable and convenient to where we live and work. The professors are highly qualified and supportive. It's really important to us that classes are available when we need them in order to graduate on time and that the standards of excellence are maintained. We are willing to do our part to preserve access to the education we need. It's an investment in our future.

Thompson of Fort Pierce is president of the campus coalition government at Indian River Community College.

Crist hails tax plan in PSL visit

Tribune
10-31-07

BY DEREK SIMMONSEN
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PORT ST. LUCIE — It was hugs and grins all around as an exuberant Gov. Charlie Crist stood in the driveway of a local resident Tuesday to tout the benefits of "portability" and praise the Legislature for putting changes to Save Our Homes before voters in January.

The key provisions would double the state's \$25,000 homestead exemption and allow for residents to take their accrued Save Our Homes benefits with them if they move into a new home. Crist said he hopes it will help young families be able to afford larger homes and allow elderly residents who feel trapped to downsize their residences without losing their accumulated tax savings.

"Portability I think really is the lynchpin of the whole deal," Crist said, standing in the driveway of Steven Knapp, a 51-year-old English professor at Indian River Community College. "Portability is freedom."

The changes still would need to be approved

See CRIST, page A3

CRIST FROM PAGE A1

by voters under a constitutional amendment that will be on the ballot Jan. 29 and must receive 60 percent of the vote to pass. Backers of the plan say it would cut local property taxes by \$12.5 billion over the next five years; Treasure Coast homeowners typically would save a few hundred dollars.

Crist and Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp traveled from Tallahassee to Jacksonville and Orlando before arriving in Port St. Lucie, where their motorcade arrived on a shut-down portion of Southeast Lakehurst Drive shortly before 4 p.m. Crist shook hands with a few curious neighbors before addressing the media in front of a podium in Knapp's driveway and conducting a signing ceremony for the measure.

Crist said he decided to make Port St. Lucie one of his stops because it was Senate President Ken Pruitt's hometown. "What a beautiful place this is," he gushed to Pruitt before praising him for helping

iron out the compromises that led to the proposal.

Pruitt, in turn, praised Crist for delivering on his campaign promises to bring tax relief.

"Governor, you lifted us, you kept your promise and the people of Florida won and on Jan. 29, they're going to lift us even more," he said.

Kottkamp said residents are currently being "killed in the checkbook" with taxes and said portability would be a huge part of lessening that burden.

"The portability portion of what (the Legislature) did alone is enough to kick-start this economy, get the real estate market moving ... I think when all is said and done this is going to be one of the greatest things that's happened to the taxpayers in the state of Florida," he said.

Knapp, the former chairman of the Republican Party in St. Lucie County, said he and his wife bought their current home for \$103,000 in 2000, but have been looking to move because their four children are now grown up.

Crist touts tax revamp at Port St. Lucie home

A homeowner who says the present law traps him lauds the proposal for increasing his options.

By JIM REEDER
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

PORT ST. LUCIE — Gov. Charlie Crist came to Port St. Lucie Tuesday on a hastily arranged trip to campaign for voter approval Jan. 29 of the property tax reform package the Florida Legislature approved the day before.

"We heard over and over that people felt trapped in their homes by taxes," Crist said.

"That will be true no more after the people have spoken three months from today."

Steve Knapp, whose house was a backdrop for some of the victory-tour activities Tuesday, said he's one of those in a tax trap.

"We bought this house in 2000, and the taxes are \$1,734," he said. "We would pay \$4,000 in taxes if we downsized to a smaller house."

That's because the assessment of Knapp's house can rise no more than 3 percent a year under the Save Our Homes amendment.

If the Knapps move to another house, they would have to pay taxes on the current value, probably much higher than their \$102,348 assessed value.

If voters approve Jan. 29, the Knapps will be able to take the tax savings with them to their new house.

"I'm really interested in portability of the Save Our Homes tax cap," he said. "I hope this will help me get back in the market

for another house."

Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkam predicts tax reform will get the Knapps and others to buy new houses.

"This will get the real estate market moving," he said. "It means freedom for the people trapped in their homes."

Knapp, an English teacher at Indian River Community College, was chairman of the county's Republican Executive Committee in the early to mid-1990s, but hasn't been active in politics recently.

His wife, Karen, was on the St. Lucie County School Board

See TAX, 7B ▶

PALM BEACH POST 10-31-2007

Knapp thinks Crist heard him

▶ TAX from 1B

from 1992 until 2000, when she lost a bid for the county commission.

Knapp thinks comments he made at a tax meeting at IRCC caused the governor to visit his house.

Crist's office called about 9:30 p.m. Monday to ask whether the governor could visit, he said.

Crist and Senate President Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie, heaped praise on each other for their efforts to come up with a tax reform package.

"Pruitt is a special man because of what he was willing to do," Crist said. "That's why we're here."

Earlier in the day, Crist launched the two-day victory tour in Tallahassee.

The tax-reform plan, put together by Senate Majority Leader Daniel Webster during the weekend, does not technically double the existing homestead exemption because the increase applies only to non-schools taxes, which make up, on average, 56 percent of the total tax bill.

With the legislature's filing of the new proposal with the secretary of state's office late Monday, Crist had Attorney General Bill McCollum ask the Florida Supreme Court to drop the appeal on the "super" exemption property tax amendment that lawmakers put on the ballot during the June property tax



DAVID SPENCER/Staff Photographer

Steve Knapp, with his wife, Karen, (left) talks about how the tax plan affects him as visiting Gov. Charlie Crist leans in to listen Tuesday. Looking on are (clockwise from center back) State Reps. William Snyder and Gail Harrell, and Senate President Ken Pruitt.

special session.

The state had appealed a Leon Circuit Court judge's ruling tossing the question from the ballot because he said the ballot summary was misleading, and the high court had scheduled oral arguments for Dec. 3.

The ballot measure that lawmakers approved Monday goes to voters Jan. 29. If they approve it, it would:

- Double the \$25,000 homestead exemption, but only on the non-schools portion of homeowners' bills, providing on average a \$240 break.

- Let homeowners take as much as \$500,000 of their accrued Save Our Homes benefit with them to a new homestead, providing as much as an \$8,500 break.

- Give business owners a

\$25,000 exemption on "tangible personal property" bills, saving them about \$425.

- Cap assessment increases on non-homesteaded properties at 10 percent annually, but only for the non-schools portion of tax bills.

Crist will trumpet the plan at a news conference at 8:30 a.m. today in Miami, hometown of House Speaker Marco Rubio.

Rubio had a speaking engagement Tuesday night in the Orlando area and wasn't sure whether he would return to Miami in time for the meeting, his spokesman said.

Staff writers Michael C. Bender and S.V. Dàte contributed to this story.

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Training for terror

Tribune 10-31-07



JUAN DALE BROWN • juan.dale.brown@scripps.com

A fellow classmate tapes up Travis Martin, left, as they undergo training to respond to terrorist attacks at Indian River Community College. The two-day course, which concluded Tuesday, was taught by emergency responders with the University of Miami. It was designed for doctors, nurses, law enforcement and fire rescue personnel to learn how to handle everything from biological and chemical attacks to other types of terrorism. During one part of the exercise, the students dressed in white hazard suits designed to seal them off from potentially dangerous chemical and biological weapons.

Tribune/ PSC News 10/11/07

Corps forms for disaster

BY JAMES KIRLEY
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Airliner crashes, terror attacks, killer storms, large-scale industrial accidents, flu pandemics — imagine the worst.

Dr. Nancy Baker of Vero Beach doesn't need to imagine. She saw catastrophe firsthand when she joined Dr. Joshua Shipley and about two dozen more local volunteer physicians and nurses delivering medical care to victims of Hurricane Katrina in Gulfport, Miss., in 2005.

Now, the memory of that experience has encouraged Baker to become the first doctor in St. Lucie and Indian River counties to organize medical help in advance of large-scale disasters. Both counties are forming chapters of the Medical Reserve Corps, a nationwide effort that began in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

"This is a direct, palpable way you can help people when they really need it," Baker said. "One of the things Katrina taught us is that we were woefully unprepared for this type of disaster. I would want something already in place if something like that happened to us."

Paul Forage, professor of emergency management at Indian River Community College, will be teaching corps volunteers at three-hour sessions this month.

"A lot of people showed up at the (World Trade Center) disaster site with the best of intentions," Forage said. "But they had no experience and no coordination. In a major disaster or terrorist attack, you need as much help as possible. (The corps) is a way to do that."

The Martin County Health Department already has a Medical Reserve Corps, said James Harris, regional volunteer coordinator for the Florida Department of Health. Now, the two counties to the north have each received a \$34,000 federal grant to organize their own corps.

In the event of major disasters, state and federal officials can release stockpiles of medical supplies strategically placed throughout Florida, said Todd Deehl, St. Lucie County's public health preparedness coordinator.

Medical Reserve Corps volunteers will staff shelters for people with special medical needs, Deehl said, and they will train to run field clinics that treat minor injuries and funnel serious injuries to available hospitals.

RESPOND TO DISASTERS

Public health departments in St. Lucie and Indian River counties need volunteer doctors, nurses, pharmacists and medical technicians to help treat local residents in the wake of man-made and natural disasters. Local chapters of the national Reserve Medical Corps also need non-medical volunteers for support work. To volunteer contact:

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

- Contact Betty Kruska at the Health Department, (772) 873-4939
- Qualified applicants will be asked to attend a three-hour training session Oct. 15 at Indian River Academy in Fort Pierce.

INDIAN RIVER

- Contact Joelle Wilmott at the Indian River County Health Department, (772) 794-7455. Qualified applicants will be asked to attend a three-hour training session Oct. 22 at the Mueller Center of Indian River Community College in Vero Beach.

PSC News 10/7/07

IRCC holds information sessions for bachelor's degree programs

With the introduction of nine bachelor's degree programs by Indian River Community College, Treasure Coast residents have new opportunities to earn a four-year degree close-to-home in nursing, education, organizational management, public safety administration and health care management. IRCC bachelor's degree courses will begin in January.

To provide more information on how to get started, IRCC will hold information sessions at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Tuesday session will meet in the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies (V Building),

IRCC UPDATE

Room V110 at the IRCC Main Campus, off 35th Street and Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce.

The Wednesday sessions will be held in the Wolf High-Technology Center Auditorium at the Chastain Campus, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road in Stuart and in Room B-111 at the Dixon Hendry Campus at 2229 N.W. 9th Avenue in Okeechobee.

The Thursday sessions will meet at the Schreiber Conference Center at 500 N.W. California Blvd. at the St. Lucie West Campus in Port St. Lucie and at the Richardson Center at 6155 College Lane at the

Mueller Campus in Vero Beach.

The bachelor's degree programs will be offered with the same emphasis on quality education, small classes and personal attention that has characterized IRCC for more than 48 years. Tuition is expected to be about \$79 per credit for Florida residents.

Students can attend full-time or part-time and choose online classes, traditional classes or blended classes that combine online and in-classroom experiences. Courses from other colleges and universities can be transferred into the IRCC programs.

IRCC's bachelor of science

degree in teacher education will arm students with the education they need for teaching careers in math, science and Exceptional Student Education. The bachelor of science in nursing will prepare registered nurses who have an associate degree in nursing to advance to leadership and management positions. The bachelor of applied science degree will provide transfer into a four-year degree program for those who have earned an associate in science degree or associate in applied science degree in any career field. Students who hold an associate in arts degree also are invited to apply.

IRCC has been accredited to

offer bachelor's degrees by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The IRCC District Board of Trustees recently unanimously voted to change IRCC's name to Indian River College. The new name reflects IRCC's expanded program offerings, while maintaining Indian River's long-standing commitment to excellence, open access and responsiveness to community needs. The name change will be submitted for legislative approval in spring 2008, and will become official pending the governor's approval. The college anticipates phasing in the new name during the summer.

For more information, call the IRCC Information Call

Center toll-free at (866) 866-4722 or visit www.ircc.edu.

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

A free workshop offering step-by-step instruction on completing the Application for Federal Student Aid will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Chastain Campus, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road in Stuart, Building A, Room 110. The workshop is for the current academic year, and students should bring their tax information, including W-2s and parent's tax information if applicable.

For more information, call Carolyn Street at (772) 419-5617.

Compiled by IRCC staff

IRCC holds sessions for Bachelor's Degree programs

With the introduction of nine Bachelor's Degree programs by Indian River Community College, Treasure Coast residents have new opportunities to earn a four-year degree close-to-home in Nursing, Education, Organizational Management, Public Safety Administration and Health Care Management. IRCC Bachelor's Degree courses will begin January, 2008.

To provide more information on how to get started, IRCC will hold Bachelor's Degree information sessions at 6 p.m. on October 9, 10, and 11. The October 9 session will meet in the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies (V Building), Room V110 at the IRCC Main Campus, off 35th Street and Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce. The October 10 session will be held in the Wolf High-Technology Center Auditorium at the Chastain Campus at 2400 S.E. Salerno Road in Stuart and in Room B-111 at the Dixon Hendry Campus at 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave. in Okeechobee. The October 11 sessions will meet at the Schreiber Conference Center at 500 N.W. California Blvd at the St. Lucie West Campus in Port St. Lucie and at the Richardson Center at 6155 College Lane at the Mueller Campus in Vero Beach.

The Bachelor's Degree programs will be offered with the same emphasis on quality education, small classes and personal attention that has characterized IRCC for over 48 years, all at reasonable cost within easy driving distance for all Treasure Coast residents. Tuition is expected to be approximately \$79 per credit for Florida residents, about 1/3 less than the per credit cost at Florida public universities.

Students can attend full-time or part-time and choose online classes, traditional classes or

blended classes that combine both online and in-classroom experiences. Courses from other colleges and universities can be transferred into the IRCC programs.

IRCC's Bachelor of Science Degree in Teacher Education will arm students with the education they need for rewarding teaching careers in math, science and Exceptional Student Education (ESE). The Bachelor of Science in Nursing will prepare registered nurses with an Associate Degree in Nursing to advance to leadership and management positions. The Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree will open the door to advancement in a wide variety of fields, providing seamless transfer into a four-year degree program for those who have earned an Associate in Science Degree or Associate in Applied Science Degree in any career field. Students who hold an Associate in Arts Degree are also invited to apply.

IRCC has been accredited to offer Bachelor's Degrees by the prestigious Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Further, the IRCC District Board of Trustees recently took historic action, unanimously voting to change IRCC's name to Indian River College. The new name reflects IRCC's expanded program offerings, while maintaining Indian River's long-standing commitment to excellence, open access and responsiveness to community needs. The name change will be submitted for legislative approval in spring 2008, and will become official pending the Governor's approval. The College anticipates phasing in the new name during the summer.

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IRCC Holds Information Sessions for Bachelor's Degree Programs news release

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For more information, call the IRCC Information Call Center toll-free at 1-866-866-4722 or visit www.ircc.edu.

Tribune 10-19-07

GET EDUCATED Knowledge is power

From distance learning to charter schools to private college grants, Florida must enlist partners to raise the scholastic bar.

This is more than an academic exercise. Chronically high dropout rates — four of every 10 Florida high school students fail to earn a diploma — are a drag on society. Not only do dropouts earn less, they also are more prone to crime, teen pregnancy and all manner of abuses/addictions.

Education — whether vocational or collegiate — can break the cycle of misery and save future generations from the mire. For pennies on the dollars that taxpayers are expending today, self-paced, online education is available free through Florida Virtual School (flvs.net). Likewise, charter schools — which are free and open to all — deliver K-12 programs that meet or beat those offered at traditional public campuses, also at a fraction of the state's standard spending formula. Whatever school districts do or don't do, parents have an obligation to educate themselves about the available choices.

Support public and private education and measures that will help them become more accountable and effective.

As for higher education, if Florida Atlantic University can't ramp up a full-fledged four-year program on the Treasure Coast, Indian River Community College must aggressively (and cost-effectively) expand its baccalaureate offerings. This is crucial to revving up the academic engine and preparing students needed to power a diversified and globally competitive regional and Florida economies.

JUNIOR DOCS

A cooperative program between Florida State and IRCC has brought medical students to the Treasure Coast with the hope that they will stay and practice here

BY SUE-ELLEN SANDERS

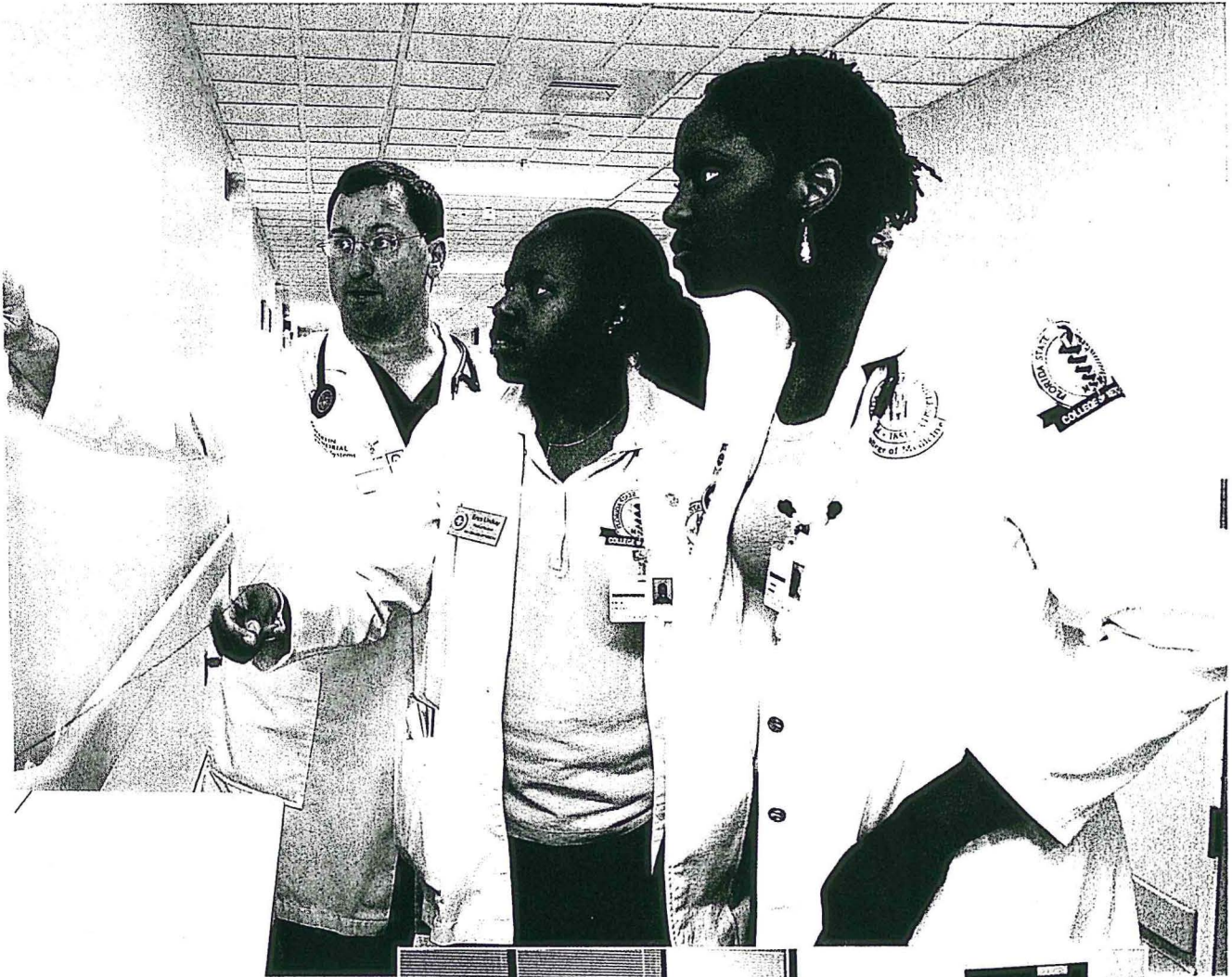
Molly. Tessa. Erica. Ellen. Irmanie. Kim. Leslie. Uchenna. Smart and pretty, young and enthusiastic, they are the next generation of physicians. The eight Florida State University medical students who moved to the Treasure Coast this summer are already making their mark in the world. They constitute the FSU School of Medicine's first class of medical students at the Fort Pierce campus of Indian River Community College.

The Fort Pierce campus is the latest of six locations, including Daytona Beach, Pensacola, Sarasota, Orlando and Tallahassee, where FSU medical students can receive community-based training in their third and fourth years of medical school. Now housed in temporary quarters at IRCC's Health Sciences Building, the program's temporary offices now overlook construction of the permanent home of the FSU campus, expected to be completed next summer.

This community-based education model, begun at FSU in 2001, is different from traditional medical schools, typically affiliated with large teaching hospitals where students spend their third and fourth years. Although used by only about a dozen of the nation's 125 accredited medical schools, it has a successful track record. The community-driven commitment of the students is just one reason why.

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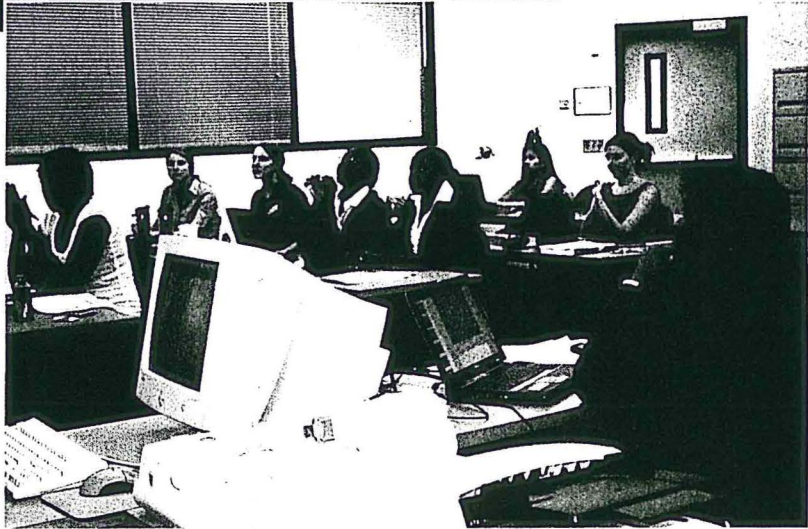
Erica Lindsay, left, and Uchenna Ikediobi review X-rays at Martin Memorial South with internist Dr. Daniel Edelman. At right, the third-year students spend Wednesday afternoons in classrooms learning and reviewing what they've seen during the week.



Maureen (Molly) and Theresa (Tessa) McKenna are twins from Pompano Beach, who have spent the last three months shadowing local doctors. Instead of waiting until their residency years to visit actual patients, the young women, along with their classmates, spend four and a half days a week seeing patients at doctors' offices, local hospitals and walk-in clinics. On Wednesdays, they spend half the day in 'doctoring' classes, studying case studies and topics that relate to this year's lessons.

Before they moved to Port St. Lucie, the McKennas volunteered with under-served and needy populations abroad in Haiti, Uganda and

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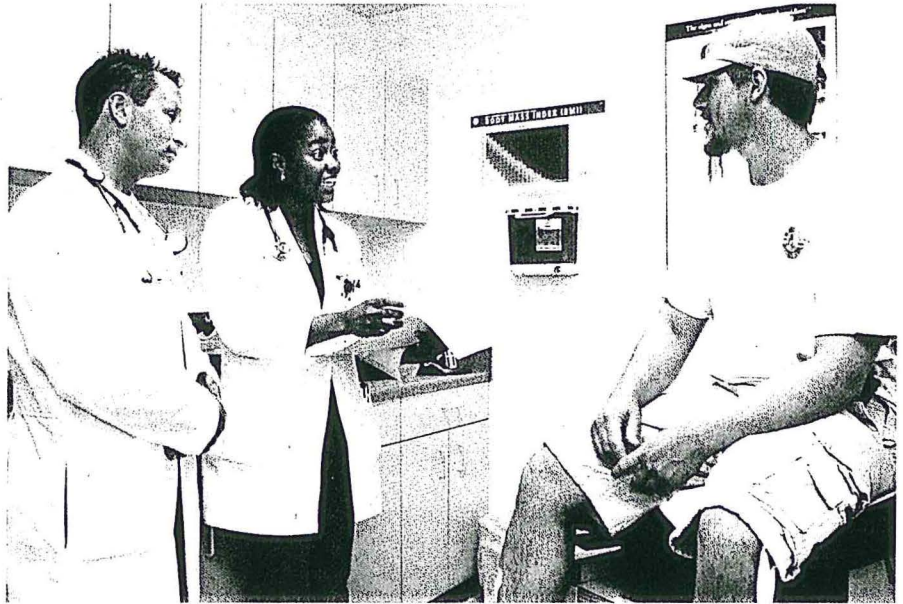


EDUCATION

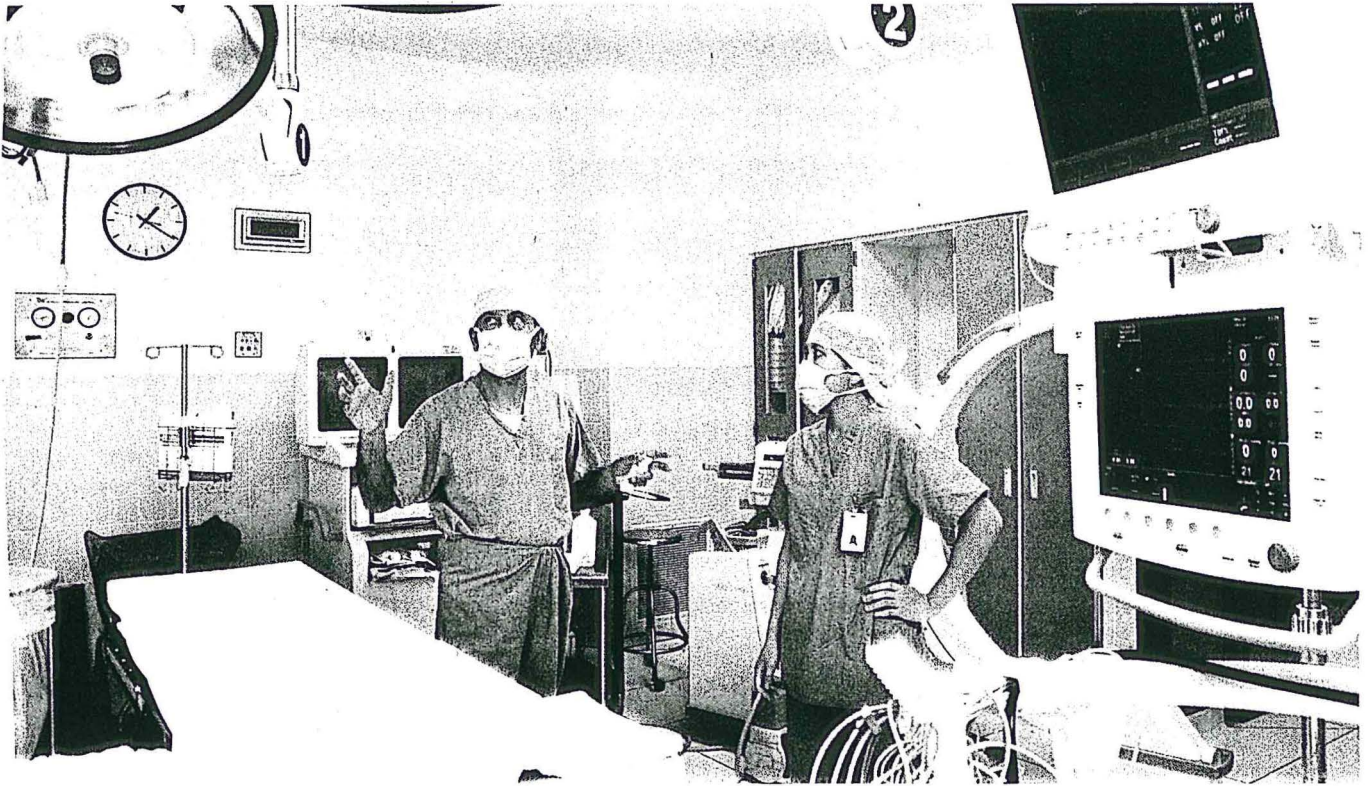
the Dominican Republic, forming a non-profit organization, Share One Pair, to collect shoes for men, women and children in Haiti. "A pair of shoes can help kids remain in school, instead of being home sick and can keep fathers and mothers at work, helping them to feed their family. A pair of shoes taken for granted in our closet can be a true blessing to another family," says Molly KcKenna. Together with their mother, they've shipped 4,500 pairs of shoes to Haiti.

The sisters are concerned with needs here at home as well. Tessa's call to action? "Forty million Americans don't have health insurance. We need to find a way to help them." Both students hope to specialize in working with infectious

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FSU student Imanie Eliacin, top, talks to a patient as she reviews his chart under the supervision of Fort Pierce internist Dr. Ian Boykin. Sisters Molly, left, and Tessa McKenna, above, compare notes before the Wednesday afternoon session begins.



FSU med student Ellen Abellana gets briefed by general surgeon Dr. Roshan Singh before a surgical case at Lawnwood Medical Center in Fort Pierce.



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and tropical diseases, especially with Florida's migrant population.

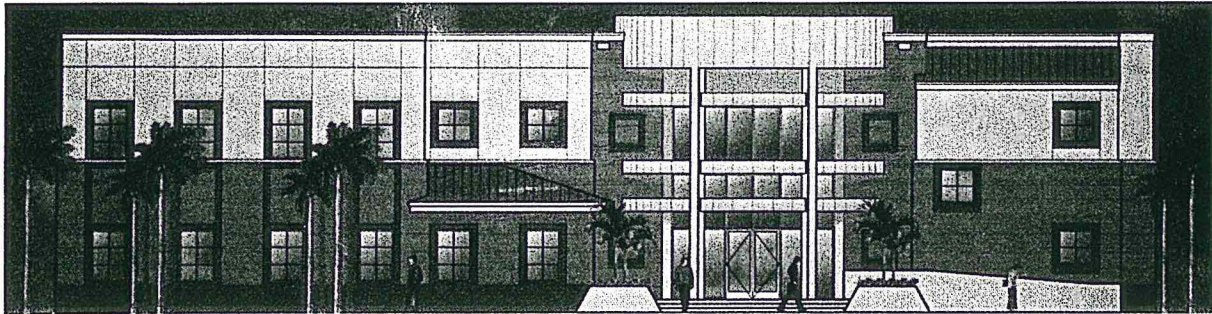
Miamian Erica Lindsey always knew she wanted to be a caregiver, but volunteering in college for the Shriners Children's Hospital led her away from nursing and down the path to becoming a doctor. Children motivate her and she is dedicated to making the world a better place for them.

Uchenna grew up in Nigeria, where she witnessed disparities and inadequacies in health care every day. She's founded Students Interested in Global Health to give students a global perspective on health-care delivery in developing nations. During one trip to Ghana, while volunteering at a local teaching hospital, Uchenna watched a patient die when the

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From left, Drs. Judy Linger, Prasad Chalasani and William Hood meet with Dr. Randall Bertolette, dean of the Fort Pierce campus of FSU's College of Medicine.



medical equipment that might have saved his life sat idle and unused because no one knew how to use it.

"Sometimes what people in developing nations need is not free medications and supplies. More often what they need in Ghana and places like it, is knowledge," she says.

Each of the other young women— Ellen Abellana, Irmanie Eliacin, Leslie Hancy and Kimberly Thorton—are dedicated to their future helping people.

Although only eight students began the program this summer, eventually the Fort Pierce regional campus will host up to 20 third-year medical students and 20 fourth-year students. At full capacity, FSU also expects to have 150-200 Treasure Coast physicians on faculty.

"It's definitely a win-win experience for both the students and the physicians," says Dr. Randall Bertolette, dean of the Fort Pierce regional campus, who practiced pediatrics in Vero Beach for 28 years before becoming dean. "There's never been a medical school presence in the area, and for physicians who want to teach, it's a great opportunity. It keeps them on their toes. Plus, students get real-life experience of practicing medicine in the community on a daily basis."

This is an artist's rendering of the new building on the campus of IRCC that will house FSU College of Medicine's Fort Pierce Regional Campus.

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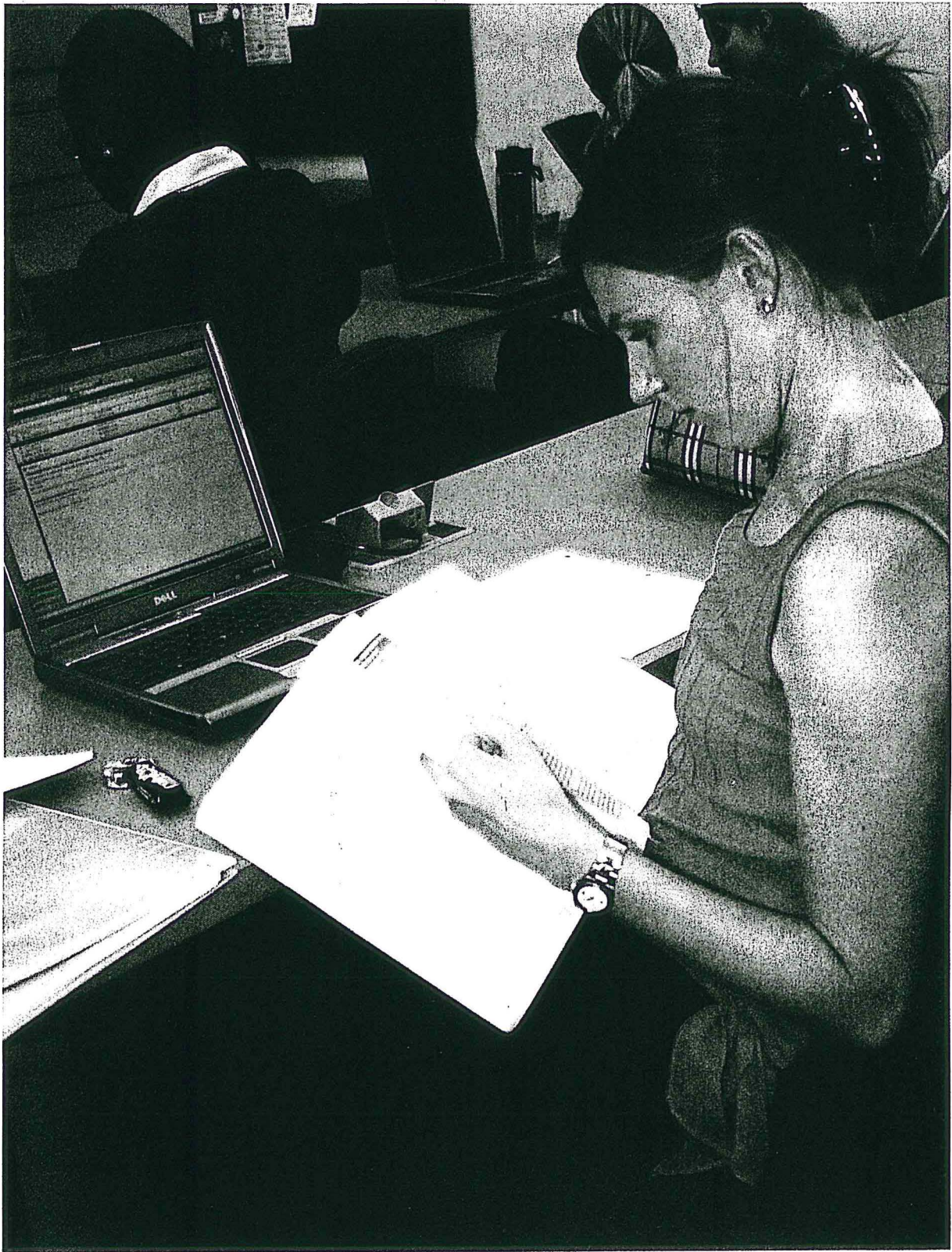
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Medical student Kimberley Thornton reviews material before her Wednesday afternoon class.

The students are now in the second of six rotations this year; each rotation lasts 6-8 weeks. During their third year of medical school, they'll rotate through internal medicine, family practice, surgery, pediatric, OB-Gyn and psychiatry, giving them a broad educational experience in all fields of medicine.

The local campus also opens the door to teach for other area physicians who've dreamed of academia. At each regional campus, medical students spend time with local physicians, who serve as clerkship faculty and mentors, shadowing them as they see patients at their offices, in hospitals and other medical facilities along the Treasure Coast. Their days are spent in physicians' offices, walk-in clinics and hospitals; their nights are spent studying.

FSU's intent is growing new doctors who will plant their roots in Florida. "These are young people we want to stay on the Treasure Coast. Studies show that often medical students will want to live where they've trained—they've made lasting relationships and formed bonds," says Bertollette. "We're hoping that more residency slots will be approved by the Legislature, so after spending two years here, the medical students can continue training in-state during their residency."



Medical Students Erica Lindsay, left, and Uchenna Ikediobi review patient charts with Dr. Daniel Edelman at Martin Memorial South

Christopher L. Slack, M.D.

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Matters of the Heart

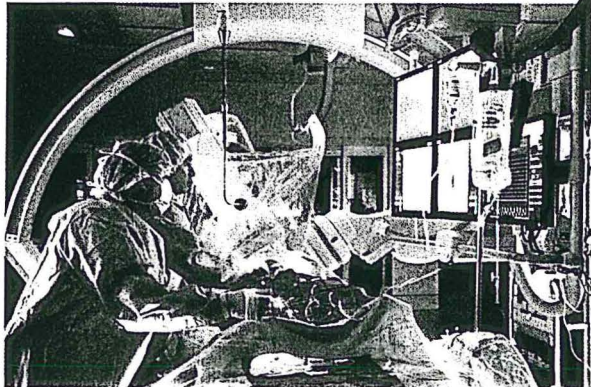


PHOTO BY IRMC

The Treasure Coast now boasts three heart surgery programs, providing residents the option of having heart surgery in their own county

BY SUSAN BURGESS

The first time Barbara Emard underwent open heart surgery, she made the hour-long drive from her home in Vero Beach to Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne.

Nearly seven years later, the exhaustion symptomatic of her heart disease returned. But this time, it was a five-minute trip to Indian River Medical Center, where Dr. Cary Stowe performed open-heart surgery in June to replace her mitral valve.

In between the two surgeries she watched as Indian River Medical Center applied to the state for permission to begin its own heart surgery program in 2004, and then affiliated itself with Duke University Health System in 2005 to set up the program that opened in November 2006.

"I was hoping we'd have this here," said Emard, who

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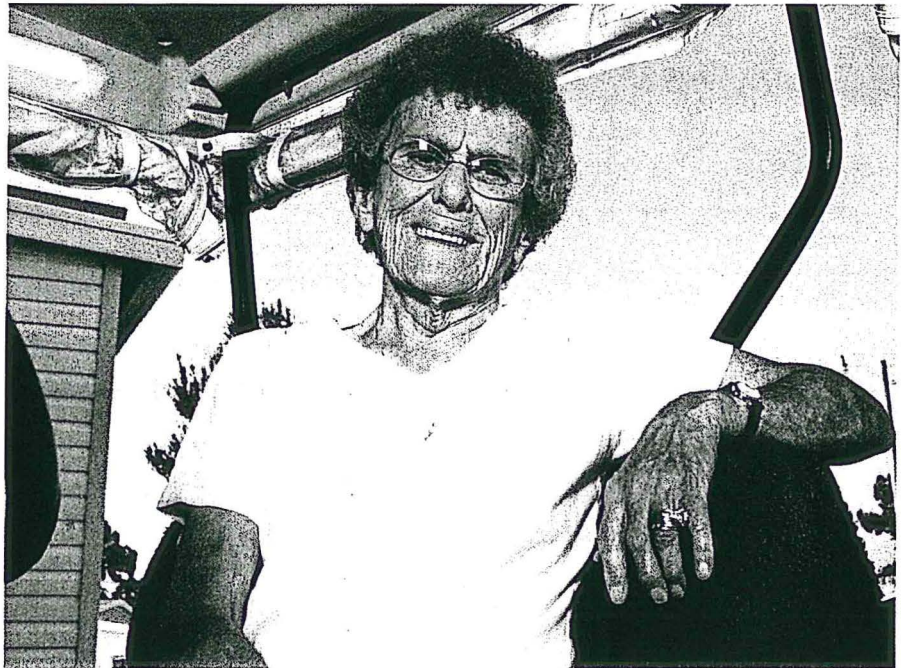


PHOTO BY POKRIE'S OF ORLANDO

Barbara Emard underwent successful mitral valve replacement surgery at Indian River Medical Center in June. Before IRMC began its own heart surgery in 2004, Emard had to travel out of town for treatment. Now she's back driving her golf cart around her neighborhood and returning to her job as a hostess at Cracker Barrel in Vero Beach. Above, Dr. Joel Greenberg performs a cardiac catheterization at Indian River Medical Center.

Med students' IRCC stint is just what's ordered for future doctors

By CARA FITZPATRICK
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

FORT PIERCE — Irmannie Eliacin, a third-year medical student at Florida State University, delivered seven babies in six weeks while working one-on-one with an veteran doctor in Fort Pierce.

The experience, although "wonderful," helped her realize that the field of obstetrics and gynecology wasn't really for her.

"It's an eye-opener," Eliacin said. "I learned that it can be long hours, short hours, any hours."

She is one of the first FSU students to study

'It's an eye-opener.'

IRMANIE ELIACIN

Third-year FSU med student, of working in ob-gyn

at its newest regional medical school campus, at Indian River Community College. The eight students in the first class are women.

The program is available to third-year medical students this year and to both third- and fourth-year students next year. It allows future

See MEDICINE, 7B ►

Students laud practical experience

► MEDICINE from 1B

doctors to get experience in Treasure Coast hospitals, including Martin Memorial Medical Center, St. Lucie Medical Center, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute and Indian River Medical Center.

Students started in early July and are in their third rotations. Each rotation lasts six to eight weeks and covers six specialties: surgery, pediatrics, family medicine, psychiatry, internal medicine and obstetrics-gynecology.

They spend four days a week observing and working with a doctor in a particular specialty; the fifth day is a combination of caring for patients and listening to lectures from doctors. On Wednesday, students heard a geriatrics lecture from Dr. Michael Gilels of Martin Memorial, and discussed

their experiences at a news conference on campus.

Student Molly McKenna, whose latest rotation is in pediatrics, said she sees about 10 patients a day. Like many of the students, McKenna said practical experience is one of the best aspects.

"It's been a very good learning process," she said.

Leslie Haney, another student, agreed: "It's great, it's wonderful to work with the doctors one-on-one."

Medical students at FSU spend their first two years at the university's main campus in Tallahassee before being assigned to regional campuses. Students can do those rotations in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Sarasota, Orlando, Fort Pierce or Daytona Beach.

The Fort Pierce program, which eventually will be in a new \$5 million building at IRCC, is expected to enroll 20

third-year and 20 fourth-year students some day.

Dr. Kenneth Bridges, who works with students in his specialty of surgery, said the regional campus has advantages over larger, traditional programs in that students get to know one another and the doctors very well.

"When I was a third-year student, no one knew my name," he said. "I was just 'student.'"

© cara_fitzpatrick@pbpost.com

Unlocking the future

Education the key to success in 'healthy' bioscience industry

One thing is certain, you'll be touched by bioscience in the years ahead — from the food you eat to the medicines that keep you healthy and the fuel that powers your car.

Surpassing the globe-shrinking impact of computer information technology in the 20th century, bioscience will be the catalyst for dramatic change in the 21st century. A truly "healthy" industry, bioscience will serve as the impetus for far-reaching improvements in health and well-being, while boosting economic health. It's vitally important that we implement strategies that enhance the value of southeast Florida as a favorable medium for growing this clean industry, and the education provided by Indian River Community College (IRCC) plays a key role in the equation.

How do Florida and the four-counties that make up the "Research Coast" stack up in the race to attract biotechnology firms? According to a report from Workforce Florida Inc., Florida ranks second nationally in biomedical employment with more than 2,000 firms and 50,000 workers manufacturing medical devices, developing biomedical technologies, and discovering and producing new medicines. These companies pay an average wage of \$50,909, which is 40 percent higher than Florida's average annual wage.

Further, the biomedical industry generates approximately \$43 million in direct state and local taxes. Biotechnology is clearly a positive for our state and region.

program completers, ready for employment.

IRCC also partnered with the Workforce Alliance of the Palm Beaches, the Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast and Florida Atlantic University to train students with a bachelor's degree in another field for a new career in biotechnology.

It's never too early to start inspiring interest in science. IRCC's award-winning Living Science program brings scientists into middle and high school classrooms through Web casts with exciting experiments and activities on the Living Science Web site. Young people need to be ready for a world that is increasingly interconnected through science and technology, with cross-fertilization of ideas, information sharing and collaboration across different areas of expertise, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Viewers of the popular *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* television series are aware of the importance of collaboration among forensic scientists and law enforcement professionals. In fact, collaboration will be the focus of the Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex now under construction at the IRCC main campus in Fort Pierce. The 50-acre, \$38-million-facility will serve as a model for public safety and disaster relief training.

IRCC is actively engaged in initiatives and partnerships, from elementary school through post-baccalaureate training, to promote interest in science and prepare for the future in bioscience. These programs deliver a pipeline of skilled employees for biotechnology companies and are updated continually to meet the industry's needs and standards.

Students taking the introductory course in Indian River's new degree program in biotechnology become familiar with the diverse career paths in bioscience and gain hands-on experience in IRCC's sophisticated biotechnology laboratory.

There's a great deal of interest in forensics, with students eager to compare DNA "fingerprints" related to crime-scene investigation. Students also learn how to search for evidence of genetically modified foods and how to utilize gene amplification for disease analysis.

Because of the laboratory component, graduates of this university transfer program are well-prepared for employment as a lab technician while continuing their education to the upper-division level.

This summer, IRCC participated in a statewide project to provide short-term training in biotechnology skills for job-seekers. Offered in collaboration with the University of Florida's Banner Center for Excellence in Biotechnology, the IRCC sessions were among the most successful in the state, with 30 certified as

Complete with a Tactical Village, this facility will enable students to work in teams to defuse simulated crimes and emergencies. Sophisticated virtual reality technology is already being used to build experience in making on-the-spot decisions. Opening next year, the multi-building complex will house the Regional Crime Lab, with an observation area for student viewing of DNA testing, ballistics and forensics operations.

Also expected to open in 2008, the Brenda and Vernon Smith Medical Education Center will house a branch of the Florida State University College of Medicine. The establishment of this facility at IRCC represents an important step forward in the development of our region into a center for science, medicine and technology.

The college has gained national attention for our area through these endeavors and has been named No. 1 in the U.S. for use of technology among mid-sized community colleges three years in a row. The hub for the college's technology education is the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, which played a key role in attracting Torrey Pines to our area and houses highly-sophisticated training programs in cyber-security, digital media, robotics and photonics. Nanotechnology is next.

As new technologies emerge, our region needs to keep pace. Through cooperative efforts among our educational institutions, Chambers of Commerce, economic development organizations, business and industry we can build a strong research and knowledge-based economy that will benefit all residents of the "Research Coast."

Business leader meeting president

Tribune 10/10/07

Treasure Coast entrepreneur
invited for National Hispanic
Heritage Month

BY NADIA VANDERHOOF
nadia.vanderhoof@scripps.com

VERO BEACH — In 1972, Jose Conrado took a job as a manager at a Fort Pierce McDonald's.

Today, Conrado will meet with President Bush in the White House in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.



Conrado

“Actually, I got the invitation though e-mail and I thought it was a sham at first so I deleted it,” Conrado said Tuesday as he waited for his flight to Washington at Orlando International Airport. “Then I got a call ... I was able to retrieve it (e-mail invitation) from another mailbox and I responded and it went from there.”

The annual White House event brings together select Latino business and community leaders from across the nation to recognize and celebrate the significant contributions that Latino Americans have made in the nation.

Calls to the White House on Tuesday were not returned.

“I was actually in shock when I left the house this morning,” said Conrado, a registered Republican. “My wife kept asking me, what’s wrong and I said I was just a little nervous. But I am really a bit overwhelmed to say the least. This is a once in a lifetime sort of thing and I can’t believe I am heading that way now.”

Born in Spain’s Canary Islands, Conrado moved to Venezuela when he was a young child with his family.

At 16, he boarded a plane to Miami to learn English.

He then attended Melbourne-based Florida Air Academy before graduating from Indian River Community College

in 1972.

“A lot of people have been responsible for what I have accomplished along the way, a lot of my mentors believed in me and I had a lot of help from the people at IRCC,” Conrado said. “I grew up on a little farm in the Canary Islands and we were very humble people, but I tell you it’s been once heck of a ride ever since I came to this country.”

Later that year he began working at a Fort Pierce McDonald’s as a manager. He now owns two Vero Beach McDonald’s restaurants at 1925 and 754 S. U.S. 1 and oversees more than 100 employees.

Conrado is also involved in several local community activities.

Since 1995, the Conrado organization has been responsible for helping to build 13 homes for the Indian River Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

He has also served two years as chairman of the Indian River Community College Foundation Board and as a board member for 22 years and was granted the IRCC Distinguished Alumni Award in 1995.

Since 1993, Conrado has been involved in the Take Stock in Children Scholarship program in Vero Beach and annually sponsors a scholarship for a student from an economically challenged family.

His family is equally involved in his charitable work and his wife Maryanne, also a McDonald’s-certified franchisee, participates as a mentor for Take Stock in Children.

“McDonald’s is all about opportunity,” said Conrado. “It gave me a career path from crew to owner operator.”

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. The event first originated in 1968 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. It was later expanded when President Reagan authorized National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Local IRCC Student Receives Collegiate All American Scholar Award

*courtesy story and photo
Okeechobee News 10-18-07*

The United States Achievement Academy announced that Tiffany Mathis of Okeechobee, FL has been named a Collegiate All American Scholar.

The USAA has established the Collegiate All American Scholar Award Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The Collegiate All American Scholars must earn a 3.3 or higher grade point average. Only scholars selected by a school official or other qualified sponsor are accepted. This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all college students.

Tiffany Danielle Mathis, who attends Indian River Community Col-

lege was nominated for this national award by Melissa Tedders, Registrar. Tiffany will appear in the Collegiate All American Yearbook which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, winners of the Collegiate All American Scholar Award should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Founder of the United States Achievement Academy.

Tiffany is the daughter of Nini Mathis from Okeechobee, FL. The grandparents are Cecile H. Fitt of Okeechobee.



HomeTown News 10-2-07

Martin grad takes on 'Sweeny Todd'

James Channing, who graduated from Martin County High School in May, is spending the year at IRCC before going on to a four-year college.

He wants to have a career in the theater, and he is not wasting any of his time.

He's been selected to play "Sweeney Todd" in the pilot premier of the school edition of the Stephen Sondheim play, being mounted by StarStruck Performing Arts Center, and he takes the role and the honor very seriously.

"It's by far the biggest role I've ever played," he said. "When I found out we were doing the show, I barely knew the story. I started listening to the soundtrack and I've fallen more in love with it. It's one of the greatest pieces of theater. To have the lead in it is incredible, fantastic."

Mr. Channing, whose parents, Pat Channing and Gigi King, sing locally as a duo and as part of the Jukebox Band, has music in his blood, and the theater bug has bitten his younger sister, Katy, who will also appear in the production, to run at the Lyric Theatre from Nov. 9-11.

"My gateway to the theater was through music," he says. "When I'm introduced to shows, it's usually through the music. Here, I needed the plot as I sat down to learn the music. The musical is difficult and it's a welcome challenge. Stephen Sondheim is brilliant with his words. It'll take you to another place. Some songs are difficult to sing and require a big range."

Although the character

Scene

From page B1

of Sweeney Todd, a murderous barber who has his victims made into meat pies, is not really sympathetic. Mr. Channings understands there is a human being under the monster he's become.

"He is very dark and scary, but he's also hardened because of what has happened to him," he said.

"He misses out on a life that was stolen from him when he went to prison.

There is no doubt he has no remorse and he's not a nice person, but it's not without reason. He wants his family and the life that was stolen from him."

I asked Mr. Channing the same question I'd posed to his co-star, Brittany Weir, about whether Stuart was ready for a show like "Sweeney Todd."

"I absolutely think Stuart is ready," he said.

"The theater in this area has been getting better over time and the shows are getting more and more intense. Stuart is definitely ready. Anyone who is open to it will fall in love with it as much as I have. "Sweeney Todd" is its own beast. It's not your average show. If you go in expecting Rodgers and Hammerstein, you're going to be let down."

Mr. Channing had a prominent role in the school edition premier of "Rent" in the spring, and he says that this is even more challenging.

"Rent" was heavy," he said. "Todd" is dark."

**RIVERSIDE NAMES SCAFFA
MORTGAGE LENDER**

OKEECHOBEE — Riverside
Stuart News
10.2.07

Bank has appointed **Margaret Scaffa** as residential mortgage lender for the greater Okeechobee area. She is responsible for originating mort-



Scaffa

gages, building customer and referral relationships, counseling customers to ensure that their financial needs are met and supporting Okeechobee through community involvement. An Okeechobee native, Scaffa brings more than 10 years of experience to her new position.

Scaffa has received awards

and has been recognized for her work. Scaffa's community involvement includes volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and being a member of the American Business Women Association. Scaffa graduated from Indian River Community College, the Florida Institute of Banking and the Bank Administration Institute.

OUR VIEW

PSC News 10/27/07



STRELSA: Few have had as much influence on life in St. Lucie County as Strelsa Schreiber who died last week at age 92 at her daughter's home in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Schreiber and her husband, Jay, arrived in the new city of Port St. Lucie in 1968. She organized and co-founded the Port St. Lucie Business Women, the Democratic Women's Club, a hospital auxiliary to serve the new Port St. Lucie Medical Center, served as vice president of the League of Women Voters, joined the Garden Club and became manager of the Port St. Lucie Community Center.

That's a resume that would represent a major legacy in any community. But, Schreiber did much more. For more than two decades she served on the Indian River Community College Foundation Board of Directors. And, for 27 years, she was a columnist for the Port St. Lucie Tribune, reporting on social life and the important people of St. Lucie County.

Schreiber also wrote the first history of Port St. Lucie: "The Early Years of Port St. Lucie, Florida, a Personal Memoir."

While she seemed present at every social event in the area, she was warm to and interested in all she met from all walks of life.

With her death, she is reunited with her close friend and fellow journalist Anne Wilder who died this summer at age 93. They were two very remarkable women who made such a positive and lasting impact on their communities.

Schreiber was always beaming her bright smile and reaching out to hold the hand of whoever was engaged in talk with her. She loved people and she was loved so warmly in return.

She will long be remembered and missed.

Columnist made everyone feel special, important



ANTHONY WESTBURY
ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Tribune
10-23-07

She made everyone feel special and important, whether she'd known you for years or you'd just been introduced.

She was in some ways rather like our version of Britain's Queen Mum, but she'd be just as likely to shatter that regal impression with peals of laughter, throwing her head back in delight at some clever comment.

Strelsa Schreiber, longtime Tribune columnist and one of the original leading lights of In-glian River Community College, died peacefully Saturday morning in Michigan after a long illness. She was 92.

It was "as if she'd orchestrated it," her daughter, Paula Gaylord, said of her passing.

If so — and I have no reason to doubt it — that would have been typical of Strelsa. Beneath her grandmotherly appearance, she knew how to get things done and she knew exactly how they should be done. She wrote her own obituary, for instance.

I was reminded of that quality in June this year when her dear friend, veteran journalist Anne Wilder, passed away at the age of 93.

On the Friday afternoon before Anne's funeral, I received a call. It was Strelsa. "You are going to the funeral, aren't you?" she asked in a

INSIDE: Take a closer look at Strelsa Schreiber's life. B3

voice that brooked absolutely no opposition. "And you are going to speak, aren't you?" Again, no contest.

"Right, well this is what you must say," she began.

I did speak and dutifully included Strelsa's material along with a few funny stories of my own. Next up to speak was IRCC President Ed Massey. "I, too, had a call from Strelsa. . ." he began.

It didn't matter who you were, Strelsa told you how it should be, always in the nicest possible way. She came from an era when manners meant everything, but she made sure her opinions were crystal clear. Talk about an iron fist in a velvet glove.

Strelsa was fascinated by politics all her life and always made sure to attend the local candidate forums. While professionally she wrote only about good things, she was always completely up to date on the latest news, unpleasant or not.

In 27 years of column writing, she chronicled the social side of St. Lucie County life, Port St. Lucie in particular. She was one of the first to arrive here in 1968 and wrote the first history book about the young city.

Yet that didn't mean she was a powder puff. A few months ago, she sent me a copy of veteran White House correspondent Helen Thomas' book that rips today's editors for their meek response to the Bush administration post-9/11. Strelsa heartily concurred with Thomas.

"And don't forget, I want that book back," she warned me.

In her final column for the Tribune in April 2005, Strelsa explained, "I have been very fortunate during my lifetime to have doors of opportunity open for me, and now such a door is ajar, beckoning to me, and I am just curious enough to want to know what is on the other side."

She was talking about retirement, but I'm sure she felt the same way this week.

Associate Editor Anthony Westbury may be reached at (772) 409-1320 or anthony.westbury@scripps.com.

OBITUARY

PALM BEACH POST
10.23.2007

S. Schreiber, penned memoir of Port St. Lucie

By JIM REEDER
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Strelsa Wade Schreiber, 92, who served on education boards in two states and wrote a memoir of early Port St. Lucie, died Saturday in Grand Rapids, Mich., after a long illness.

She was on the Indian River Community College Foundation board of directors for 22 years, and that college honored her by naming the Strelsa Schreiber Conference Center on its Port St. Lucie Campus.

Born July 30, 1915, in Ironton, Ohio, Mrs. Schreiber grew up in Portsmouth, Ohio, and attended Fenn College, now Cleveland State University.

She also was the first woman appointed to the school board in Livonia, Mich., and was a member of the Michigan Association of School Boards. A building was named in her honor at Churchill

High School.

She and her late husband, Joe Schreiber, retired to Port St. Lucie where she quickly became involved in community activities. She was a longtime columnist for the *Tribune* newspaper.



Mrs. Schreiber
IRCC's Port St. Lucie campus named a center for her.

Her book, *The Early Years of Port St. Lucie, Florida: A Personal Memoir*,

recalled the early days of the community founded by General Development Corp. which has grown into a booming city.

Mrs. Schreiber moved back to Michigan to live with her daughter, Paula Gaylord, and family after the hurricanes of 2004 destroyed her house and most of her possessions.

In addition to Gaylord, Mrs. Schreiber's survivors include her sons, Jay and Dan Schreiber; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral will be 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids.

©jim_reeder@pbpost.com

Share your condolences

Post a tribute to Strelsa Wade Schreiber.
PalmBeachPost.com/obits

Port St. Lucie columnist dies at 92

BY JOE CRANKSHAW
joe.crankshaw@scripps.com

PORT ST. LUCIE — Author, columnist, school board member and community activist Strelsa Schreiber died Saturday at the home of her daughter in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Schreiber, 92, had been in ill health for some time.

Three educational facilities named in her honor stand in Livonia, Mich., where she was the first woman appointed to the board of education, and in Port St. Lucie, where she served 23 years on the Indian River Community College Foundation.

Schreiber and her husband Jay came to Port St. Lucie in 1968, settling in the River Park area. She became active with the Port St. Lucie Community Center, which is now named the Schreiber Classroom Building.

Born in Ironton, Ohio, on July 30, 1915, she graduated with highest distinction from Portsmouth High School and attended Fenn College before going to work in Cincinnati and Cleveland. During World War II, she joined the National Youth Administration, where she met her future husband.

They married and, at war's end, settled in Cleveland where he taught school and she raised three children. As the mother of three, Schreiber was active in PTA and was the first woman appointed to the Board of Education in Livonia, where they moved, as well as to the Wayne County Board of Education and the Michigan Association of School Boards.

In St. Lucie County, Schreiber became vice president of the League of Women Voters, joined the Garden Club, became manager of the Port St. Lucie Community Center and was named to the Indian River Community College Founda-



File photo

Strelsa Schreiber, a former columnist for Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, is seen here at the dedication of the Schreiber building at Indian River Community College in St. Lucie West.

tion Board of Directors, where she served for 22 years

She worked as a columnist for the Port St. Lucie Tribune for 27 years. She organized and co-founded the Port St. Lucie Business Women, the Demo-

cratic Women's Club, a hospital auxiliary to serve the new Port St. Lucie Medical Center and wrote a book about Port St. Lucie, "The Early Years of Port St. Lucie, Florida, a Personal Memoir."

The hurricanes of 2004 destroyed her home and most of her possessions, and she moved to Grand Rapids to live with her daughter, Paula and her husband John.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jay and twin daughters Ann and Deborah, who died at birth. She is survived by daughter Paula Gaylord; sons Jay Schreiber and Dan Schreiber; grandsons Martin Stein, J.P. Gaylord, and Robert Gaylord; and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be at a later date. Memorial contributions may be sent to Indian River Community College Foundation, 3209 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34981. Arrangements are by Metcalf & Jonkoff Funeral Service, Grand Rapids, Mich.

FP TRIBUNE 10-28-2007

Center, which is now named the Schreiber Classroom Building.

In St. Lucie County, Schreiber became vice president of the League of Women Voters, joined the Garden Club, became manager of the Port St. Lucie Community Center and was named to the Indian River Community College Foundation Board of Directors, where she served for 22 years

She worked as a columnist for the Port St. Lucie Tribune for 27 years. She organized and co-founded the Port St. Lucie Business Women, the Democratic Women's Club, a hospital auxiliary to serve the new Port St. Lucie Medical Center and wrote a book about Port St. Lucie, "The Early Years of Port St. Lucie, Florida, a Personal Memoir."

From staff reports

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.

Ex-columnist Strelsa Schreiber dies at 92

Author, columnist, school board member and community activist Strelsa Schreiber died Oct. 20 at the home of her daughter in Grand Rapids, Mich. Schreiber, 92, had been in ill health for some time.

Three educational facilities named in her honor stand in Livonia, Mich., where she was the first woman appointed to the board of education, and in Port St. Lucie, where she served 23 years on the Indian River Community College Foundation.

Schreiber and her husband Jay came to Port St. Lucie in 1968, settling in the River Park area. She became active with the Port St. Lucie Community

WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT STRELSA SCHREIBER

• Indian River Community College President Edwin R. Massey paid tribute to her Monday: "With her warm-hearted spirit, insightful intelligence, and enthusiastic commitment to community service, Strelsa Schreiber made numerous outstanding contributions to our community over 35 years. She was a staunch advocate for education, an effective reporter and community historian, and a highly regarded leader of civic, business and church organizations ... In 2003, the new Indian River Community College Conference Center at St. Lucie West was named in her honor, recognizing Strelsa Schreiber's extraordinary service to the community, IRCC and its students. She recorded the past and helped to forge the Port St. Lucie of the future, always with kindness and a wonderful welcoming smile. She will be remembered with great respect and fondness by many throughout our community."

• Katherine Hensley, St. Lucie County School Board member and past chairwoman of the Democratic Women's Club: "She was one of my personal encouragers, someone you could sit down and talk about anything with. She always had a perfect hairdo and perfect nails. She was one of six founding members of the Democratic Women's Club of St. Lucie County."

• Chris Williams, Port St. Lucie Historical Society past chairman: "Strelsa offered so much to our area. Her love of this area shows so clearly in her book 'The Early Years, Port St. Lucie, Florida, a Personal Memoir.'"

• Richard McAfoos, co-chair of the Port St. Lucie Historical Society: "Strelsa's death is a real loss to our community. I was hoping to consult with her on republishing her book."

• Brad Culverhouse, St. Lucie Historical Society president: "She was such a great lady. It is amazing what a difference one person can make in life. She was a wonderful lady, and I don't think she ever met a stranger in her life."

• Stan Hicks, personal friend and treasurer of the PSL Historical Society: "She was such a scribe for our community, trying to report on the good things people were doing. I think that is as good a thing as you can do."

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.

Strelsa Schreiber

PSL NEWS 10-23-07

Strelsa Wade Schreiber, 92, died Oct. 20, 2007.

She was born in Ironton, Ohio, and moved to Grand Rapids in 2004, from Port St. Lucie.

Before retirement, she worked as a secretary and merchandising assistant in Portsmouth, Ohio, Cincinnati, and Cleveland.

She was vice president of the League of Women Voters of St. Lucie County, a member of the Garden Club, and manager of the Port St. Lucie Community Center. She was named to the Indian River Community College Foundation board of directors, where she served for 22 years.

She served as a columnist for the Port St. Lucie Tribune for 27 years. In Port St. Lucie, a conference center bears her name. She organized and co-founded the Port St. Lucie Business Women, the Democratic Women's Club, a hospital auxiliary to serve the new Port St. Lucie Medical Center, and was commissioned and wrote a book about Port St. Lucie's early years.

Survivors include her daughter, Paula Gaylord of Grand Rapids; sons, Jay Schreiber and Dan Schreiber; three grandsons; and two great-grandchildren.

Treasure Coast Chapter of Florida Public Relations Association installs new board for 2007-08



The Florida Public Relations Association Treasure Coast Chapter's Board of Directors for 2007-08 are, (from left) Debra Banta, Catherine Whitaker, Judy Roberts, Karen Brown, Ann Corbin, Bryan Beaty, Dorothy Kamm, Adrienne Moore, Beverly Bevis Jones, Linette Trabulsi, Cynthia Warren and Kathryn Treadwell.

The Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) recently met to recognize the 2006-07 board and to install the new board of directors.

President Karen Brown presented gifts in recognition of service to outgoing board members Susan Naugle, Executive Women's Golf Association; Samantha Kayser, Ocean Gate General Construction; and Lisa Swyrn, Dultmeier Photography.

The new board of directors for 2007-08 consists of:

- President: Adrienne Moore, public relations consultant
- President-elect: Linette Trabulsi, South Florida Water Management District
- Second vice president/membership chairman: Bryan Beaty, Indian River Community College
- Secretary: Kathryn Treadwell, ARC of Martin County
- Treasurer: Beverly Bevis Jones, BB Jones Communications Inc.
- Assistant treasurer: Judy Roberts, Jesus House of Hope
- Program chairwoman: Catherine

TREASURE COAST CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION

Whitaker, St. Lucie County Fire District

■ Publicity: Ann Corbin, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority

■ Newsletter: Tara Biek, Tara Biek Creative; and Cynthia Warren, Treasure Coast Hospices

■ Web site: Linda Probst, Global Design

■ Media breakfast chair: Jones

■ Image chair: Dorothy Kamm, Yates and Associates

■ Accreditation chairwoman: Debra Banta, Martin County School District

■ FPRA is a statewide organization for professionals and associates in the public relations field.

For information, visit www.fpratreasurecoast.com

Public relations professionals garner awards

BY BB JONES COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Posted on YourHub.com

The Treasure Coast Chapter of Florida Public Relations Association met Sept. 11 at the Schreiber Conference Center on the St. Lucie West campus of Indian River Community College for their year-end chapter awards and board installation.

Four awards were presented by 2006-07 President Karen Brown.

The Rising Star Award was given to Dorothy Kamm, regional vice president, Yates and Associates, Inc., Jensen Beach.

This award is presented to a new member who has demonstrated leadership qualities within the chapter and reached success for chapter goals. Kamm was co-chairwoman of the chapter Image Awards in May, which resulted in the chapter being recognized at the state conference for an outstanding event.

The Shining Star Award went to Ann Corbin, community and corporate relations assistant for the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Corbin has done great work for the chapter with press releases, photography and other committee duties. She also has extensive community service background with organizations such as the St. Lucie Mural Society, the Fort Pierce Downtown Business Association and the Board of the St. Lucie County Fair Association.

Members of the Year Award was given to ✓ Bryan Beaty, executive assistant to the president at IRCC and Linette Trabulsy, lead community outreach/media specialist for the Martin/St. Lucie Service Center of South Florida Water Management District.

Beaty coordinates legislative activities for the college and works with state legislators to enhance policies for the Florida system of 28 community colleges. He is also responsible for all



BB JONES COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
• Posted on YourHub.com

Bryan Beaty and Linette Trabulsy were both honored as Members of the Year by President Karen Brown.

correspondence and speech material for the president and develops visual aids for more than 160 presentations each year. Beaty was chairman of the 2007 Media Forum, an annual professional development fundraising event for the chapter.

Previously, Trabulsy was public information officer for the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners. She has received numerous awards for her work on hurricane communications. Trabulsy has been co-chairwoman of the Media Breakfast in the past and served on the committee again this year. She also took over the membership chairwoman responsibilities when asked to fill in and has agreed to step into the leadership track of the chapter, which leads to becoming chapter president.

Brown was presented with a plaque of appreciation for serving as chapter president for the second time.

ABWA: Women of Distinction Awards given *Okeechobee News 9-30-07*



Okeechobee News/ Teresa Matushek

The American Business Women's Association Women of Tomorrow Chapter held their meeting on Thursday, Sept. 27, and recognized (left to right) scholarship recipient Arrianna Hodges, education award recipient Patricia Alfrey, community service award recipient Linda Syfrett, and business leadership award recipient Maureen Budjinski for their accomplishments.

ABWA award local women

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

On Thursday, Sept. 27, the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Women of Tomorrow chapter presented their 2007 Women of Distinction awards in three categories: business leadership; community service and education.

These awards are given to women in the Okeechobee business community who exemplify the values promoted by ABWA National. The ABWA mission is "to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition."

Each year in September, ABWA National recognizes the top 10 women in business in the nation at the national convention.

The ABWA Women of Tomorrow chapter has its own local recognition at their program meeting on the fourth Thursday meeting in September. Members make nominations in the spring and selections are made by quorum vote in July.

Maureen Budjinski received the business leadership award for her exemplary leadership skills. Mrs. Budjinski is a long-time community volunteer with service to schools, churches, sports associations, community organizations and charitable organizations.

While Mrs. Budjinski has only lived in Okeechobee for two years, she is a long-time professional fundraiser, most notably with the American Cancer Society. Before moving to Okeechobee she was the executive director for the Wellington Chamber of Commerce.

She is a member of Okeechobee Main Street, Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce, Okeechobee County Realtors Association, Okeechobee High School Finance Academy, Okeechobee Business Women's Networking Referral Organization and is president-elect of the Okeechobee Rotary Club.

She has volunteered for Hospice of Okeechobee and is currently a team captain for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in Okeechobee on Saturday, Oct. 20. She also is an activist and speaker for organ donation awareness.

She has been married to her

husband Gary for 38 years and they have two sons -- Jason, 31 and Matt, 27.

Mrs. Budjinski stressed the importance of interpersonal relations. Through being a parent she claimed to have acquired most of the skills that served her in her career as a professional fundraiser to her years of service with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). She served the PTA at all levels including as a classroom mother and being president PTA.

The community service award was presented to Linda Syfrett, a retired pharmacist. Mrs. Syfrett has served on the Indian River Community College (IRCC) Board of Trustees, the Florida State Fair Authority as secretary, and as president of the Okeechobee Education Foundation, to name a few.

Mrs. Syfrett has long been involved with 4-H and is the winner of numerous 4-H awards including the 4-H Leader of the Year in 2000. She has served as both the secretary and president of the Okeechobee Youth Livestock Show Committee.

More recently, she was instrumental in bringing a county fair to Okeechobee and serves as president of the

See ABWA — Page 2

plans to complete a bachelor's degree in business and accounting. She works for the Florida Community Health Center.

For more information about the ABWA, Women of Tomorrow chapter contact President Marilyn Rinear (863) 697-1807.

Local meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from noon until 1 p.m. at the Golden Corral Restaurant.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar may be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

on personal and career decisions. She also supports the children by chaperoning youth mission trips. Mrs. Alfrey who also teaches a class in career success where she took a job skills inventory with her students and found that her giving nature, organizational skills and adventurousness reinforced the life career that she had chosen.

The ABWA commended these women for their selfless contributions to Okeechobee's business, recreational, and educational community.

The 2007 ABWA Women of Tomorrow scholarship was awarded to Arrianna Hodges. Ms. Hodges is currently a student at IRCC and

herself by obtaining her master's degree from Nova in guidance and counseling.

Mrs. Alfrey has been voted Teacher of the Year at Yearling Middle School and was recently recognized by IRCC for her role in the advancement of student enrollment. She is a member of the Florida Association of Colleges and was formerly the treasurer and president of the Treasure Coast Counselor Association.

She is a regular participant in the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer walks. She also spends a great deal of time with the Oakview Baptist Church youth group where she counsels them

ABWA

Continued From Page 1

Okeechobee County Fair Board.

Mrs. Syfrett expressed the importance of persistence in pursuing goals, while always adding a dash of fun. She also emphasized that when working with young people it is essential to set high standards and expect youth to rise to these standards. By expecting more, one attains more.

The education award was presented to Patricia Alfrey, a counselor at IRCC. Mrs. Alfrey started her career in elementary education and continued to educate

FIVE MINUTES WITH

By Teri K. Heston, Editor, Luminaries@trib.com



Q & A

Key to your success:

Positive outlook and perseverance

Entree into nonprofits:

Guardian ad Litem

Favorite quote:

"Striving for excellence is a positive quality; striving for perfection is self-defeating"

Persons I admire most:

My daughter Erika and my Polish maternal grandmother

True happiness is:

Serenity

Jan Pagano

IRCC dean takes responsibility to help youth

Jan Pagano takes her responsibilities seriously, doing so with all her heart.

Born in Detroit and "raised in the 'burbs, Jan was only 12 years old when her mother died. She quickly found herself in the role of raising her younger brother and sister. Despite that, Jan was able to go on to college and earn her degree in Journalism, Public Relations and Marketing from Central Michigan University, and her Juris Doctorate degree from Detroit College of Law/Michigan State.

She married her husband Jim and they moved to Florida in 1982, where she practiced law until they entered into a new venture and bought WAXE radio in 1985, WAVW radio in 1989 and then 94.7FM radio in 1994.

Her favorite responsibility of all is their daughter Erika, who was born in 1987. And it was throughout the 90s that Jan became a regular fixture at Riverside Children's Theatre (RCT).

"It was because of my daughter," says Jan.

One could venture to say that this was also due to Jan's love of children and her desire to be an advocate for them. She spent many hours volunteering with students and on the RCT committee.

"I attribute her poise and self confidence to RCT," she says as she speaks of her daughter, who is already accomplished at a young age. "It was also important for her and the others in

the program to meet kids from different schools and learn diversity."

RCT was not the only place Jan was helping throughout the 1990s. The Fort Pierce Exchange Club's CASTLE for the prevention of child abuse program was a big-time beneficiary of Jan's energies—So much so that she and Jim were awarded Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds in 1996.

Her passion for child advocacy is evidenced by her career transition in 1999, when she went to work for the Department of Children and Families.

"I developed a marketing campaign that would attract foster and adoptive families/parents," she explains. Jan won a prestigious ADDY award for the brochure she produced for the campaign.

In 2000 she made a big move to Indian River Community College, where she is currently the dean of the Corporate and Community Training Institute.

"This past year I became involved again with CASTLE," says Jan. "I love the organization. I love what they do and how they can intervene and assist families that need help. They help keep family together."

Jan has strong convictions, saying, "I believe that everyone has a responsibility to help our youth, even in small ways. You don't have to be a showboat. Just support a young person. Be a mentor. Do not wait until things are so bad that "system" has to try to help."

FORT PIERCE *Stuart News 10-30-07*
IRCC's Garcia
to review programs

Lori Garcia, recently appointed to the Exceptional Student Education faculty at Indian River Community College, has been invited by



Garcia

the Florida Department of Education to review teacher education programs throughout the state to ensure educa-

tional quality and compliance with state standards.

With the local college, the Port St. Lucie resident is expected to form an advisory board of school, agency, and community members for Indian River's ESE Baccalaureate program.



Luminaries seen at . . .
Schumann Center
Dedication

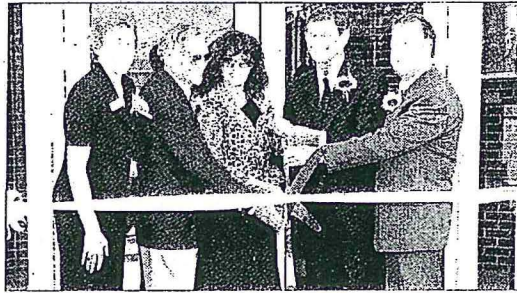
Indian River Community College and the IRCC Foundation marked the opening of the new \$7.4 million Schumann Center, located on the Mueller Campus in Vero Beach, with a ribbon cutting, dedication ceremony and tours.

- ① Alma Lee Loy and John and Kathi Schumann
- ② Florida State Representative Gayle Harrell (right) with John and Kathi Schumann
- ③ Sidney and Donna Sue Banack with IRCC president Dr. Edwin Massey and IRCC Foundation executive director Ann Decker
- ④ Dr. David Sullivan, IRCC Provost, begins a tour of the Schumann Center.
- ⑤ Ann Decker, John and Kathi Schumann, Dr. Ed Massey and Dr. David Sullivan



PSL News 10/14/07

Ribbon cutting



Ann Decker, John and Kathi Schumann, Dr. Edwin Massey and Dr. David Sullivan cut the ribbon marking the opening of the Schumann Center.

FORT PIERCE

*Stuart News
10.8.07*

Book proceeds will go to scholarships, lagoon

Local writer and ecologist Camille S. Yates and landscape artist Rick Kelly have teamed up with the Indian River Community College Foundation to produce a book called "Treasured Waters — the Indian River Lagoon."

Kelly, who studied under Florida artist A. E. Backus, is painting almost 100 new paintings for the book, which will be released this winter. Yates describes the history and ecosystem of the 157-mile lagoon from New Smyrna Beach to Jupiter.

Proceeds from the sale of the book will support IRCC scholarships and Indian River Lagoon conservation and education efforts.

For information, visit www.treasuredwaters.com or www.pioneerriver.com.

SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com



St. Lucie County



① Representatives from Team Samuel Gaines Academy have some fun at the recent Bowl For Kids' Sake to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie County.

② United Way of St. Lucie County's campaign chair Terri Sloan-Bartz speaks at the recent campaign kick-off luncheon at the Pelican Yacht Club in Fort Pierce.

③ Terri Sloan-Bartz, United Way of St. Lucie County campaign chair, Sharon Kelly-Brown, UWSLC board chair, Dr. Edwin R. Massey, president of IRCC, Karen Knapp, president/CEO of United Way of St. Lucie County, and Marsha Thompson of Indian River Community College at the recent United Way campaign kick-off where they celebrated 45 years of caring.

④ Dirty girls are happy girls. Anita Furtado, Anita Prentice, Janet Duncan and Rita Watkins get "down and dirty" at Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce.



SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com



St. Lucie County



① It was a family affair at this year's chili cook-off as chairperson Donna Greene (center) stands with her family. Also pictured are Donna's son Christopher, his wife Christine, their daughters Christin and Riley and Donna's husband Bob.

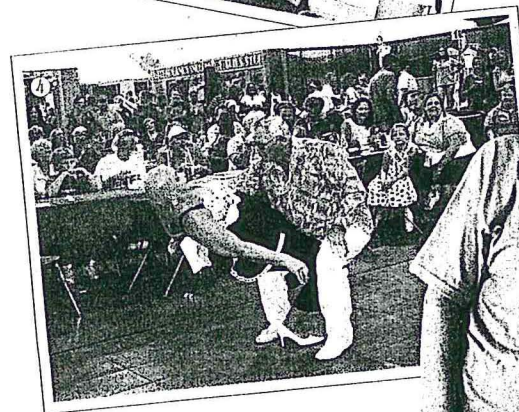
② Janice Cerveny, Debbie Baechle and Lily French at a recent party hosted by Linda and Owen Chastain to celebrate the inaugural "Stomp Out Child Abuse" event to benefit the Exchange Club CASTLE.

③ United Way of St. Lucie County welcomes its new board members: (back) Michael J. Lannon, Thom Padrick, Terri Sloan-Bartz, Linnes Finney, Esq., Roger Thomas, Lou Apugliese, Thomas Richards, Marge Riley, Michael Brown, Jr., (middle) Bill Parrish, Laura Maloney, Frank Lillo, Fredrick Fischer, Dennis Corrick, Esq., Carlo Bercy, Carol Wyatt, (front) Candace Walker, Sharon Kelly-Brown, Pat Alley and Marsha Thompson.

④ Gail and Russell Barrus "cut a rug" during the final round of the dance contest at the 26th Annual Fort Pierce Exchange Club Chili Cook-off to benefit the Exchange Club CASTLE.

⑤ Janice Elias and Carole Gilbert, sponsorship co-chairs for the 2nd Annual MASH Bash to benefit the Salvation Army of St. Lucie County, get ready for the opening of the recent event.

⑥ Alice Schmitz and Patty Weber-Schmidt, active members of IRCC's Institute of Lifelong Learning, talk about exciting plans for the Lifelong Learning membership committee at a recent fall reception.



Luminaries  seen at . . .

Luminaries' *Volunteer* Recruitment Fair

Martin County residents visited the booths of more than 30 of the Treasure Coast's best-known not-for-profits, as Luminaries brought together agencies and potential volunteers at an exciting recruitment fair, held at IRCC's Wolf High-Technology Center.

- ① Dee Benjamin
- ② Barbara Schmucker and Judy Walker
- ③ Sue Shipper and Betty Saffioti
- ④ Megan Nole
- ⑤ Lurley Miller and Lorraine Grant

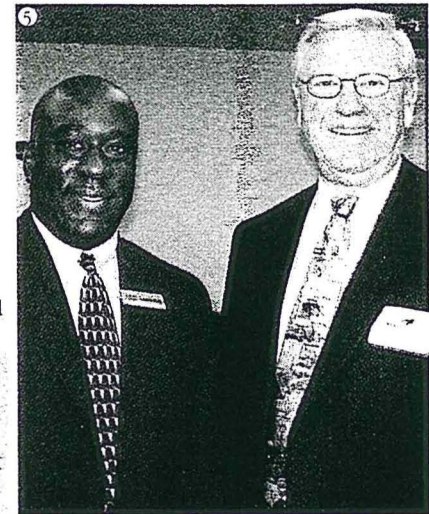




Luminaries seen at . . .
Positive Places
make Positive Faces

Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County recently held its "Positive Places Make Positive Faces" fundraiser at IRCC's Schreiber Conference Center. More than 100 people attended, ready to give of their time, talent and treasure. After being greeted at the door by Boys & Girls Club members, attendees enjoyed each other's company and breakfast. Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County serves more than 3,300 children.

- ① Pauline James
- ② (Standing) Steve Waters of Grand Bank & Trust, Charles Cuomo of Forest Grove Middle School, (seated) Kathryn Hensley of the SLC School Board, Jane Rowley and Frank Knott of CORE Communities
- ③ Mike Brown of National City and Larry Lee of State Farm
- ④ Jonathan and Doris Ferguson, Dan Harrell, Sam Gaines and Chris Dzadoovsky
- ⑤ Lonnie Blake of Grand Bank & Trust and Martin Zickert of New York Life

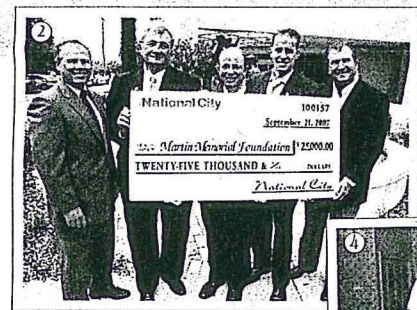


SAY LUMINARIES

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Martin County



① Marty Shell, firefighter paramedic, Brian Roberson, paramedic, Lt. Scott Ritchey, Lt. John Davidson, president of the Firefighters & Paramedics of Martin County, Anne McCormick, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County, Michael DiTerizzi, Martin County Commissioner and Boys & Girls Clubs board member, Bryce Currie and Mike Diapoulos, firefighter paramedics; as the firefighters present a \$3,000 check to the Club. Money was raised from the sale of Florida Salutes Firefighters specialty license plates.

② Mark E. Robitaille, senior vice president and COO of Martin Memorial Health Systems, J. Hal Roberts, president and COO, Central/Northeast Florida Region, National City, J. Eric Hartman, senior vice president, National City, Joshua A. Harris, vice president, National City and Eric Crawford, board member of Martin Memorial Foundation as National City donates \$25,000 to Martin Memorial's Robert and Carol Weissman Cancer Center.

③ Olene Stuart, chair of the Library Foundation Ball, and her Hooray for Hollywood! committee members Emmy Johnston, Ken Middleton and Sam Baerstch get ready to party.

④ (Front) Lorraine Almond, Nancy Evans and Nancy Sbordone (rear) Ona Walls, Judy Luca and Kathy Falconer, members of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of Martin County, go over plans for the 7th Annual fund raiser.

⑤ The all-volunteer committee of the 11th Annual 4Cs Golf Tournament, Auction and Dinner, Jean Seyer, Pat Brimlow, Mary Grey, Carole Jacobson, Doug Brimlow, Susan Coton, Tom Whittington and Sherrel Steed, smile for the Luminaries camera.

⑥ Cliff Whitehill (center) Hibiscus Children's Center CEO, presents volunteers Richard and Sue Rasmussen with a special "angel" painting done by a child who resides at the Shelter. When the Rasmussens recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, in lieu of gifts for themselves, they purchased a new restaurant-style oven for the Center.

SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com



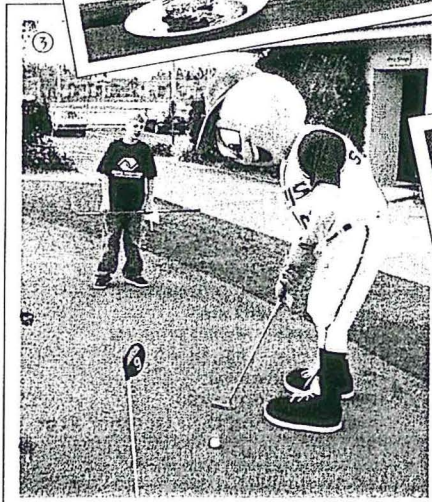
Indian River County



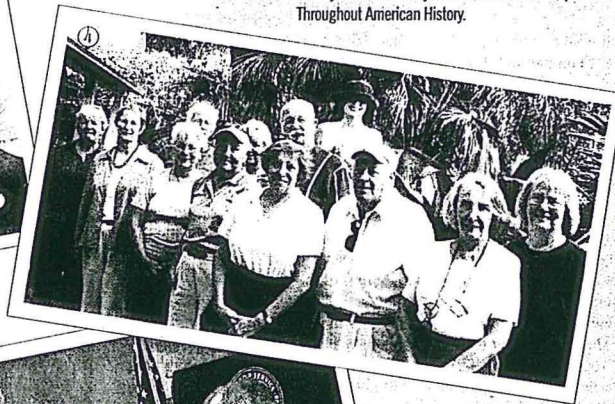
① Vero Beach Devil Rays outfielder Garrett Groce takes a break from signing autographs to smile for the camera at the recent Home Run for Kids event.



② Wingfest, hosted and sponsored by the Vero Beach Devil Rays to benefit Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Vero Beach, and allowed participants the opportunity to taste wings from six different area restaurants.



③ Vero Beach Devil Rays mascot Squeeze takes a couple of swings on the practice green with a child from the Boys & Girls Club before the Vero Beach Devil Rays golf tournament at Vista Plantation.



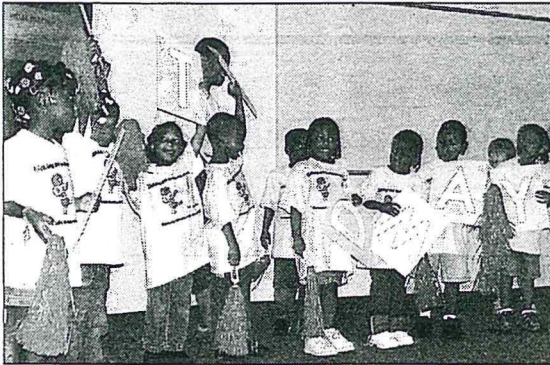
④ Indian River Community College's Institute of Lifelong Learning is a peer-led and peer-directed membership program. Here nature photographers enjoy a field trip to McKee Gardens.



⑤ Jeff Smith, president of the Exchange Club of Indian River, accepts the Hibiscus Children's Center's Award from Parris Westbrook, director of Resource Development. The plaque was presented in appreciation of the Club's continuing work in the prevention of child abuse and as a sponsor of the Hibiscus Children's Center Behavior Guidance Program.



⑥ American Association of University Women, AAUW of Vero Beach partnered with the Lifelong Learning Institute to present Women in History. Peer Leader Joyce Levi (third from left) presented First Ladies Throughout American History.



Four-year-olds from Gertrude Walden Child Care Center, a United Way-affiliated agency, perform cheers at the recent campaign kickoff.

United Way kicks off campaign

United Way of Martin County kicked off its 35th annual campaign Sept. 28 with a pep rally and a salute to its founders.

The event was held at the Wolf High-Technology Center on the Chastain Campus of Indian River Community College (IRCC) – the “home field” of this year’s campaign chairwoman, Patty Winterburn, IRCC provost for Martin County.

**UNITED WAY
OF MARTIN COUNTY**

Youngsters from Gertrude Walden Child Care Center and music from the IRCC Rivercorps pep band led the cheering at the kickoff.

The event wrapped up with a pep talk from former Notre Dame

and NFL football player Autry Denson. Denson related personal stories that highlighted the importance of the United Way and its agency partners.

“We are obligated to honor those who came before us and made it their business to care for us,” Denson said. “All of us are

Please see UNITED WAY, 10

Guest speaker highlights importance of United Way

PALM BEACH POST 10-22-2007

UNITED WAY, from 9

where we are today because someone else cared enough to take time out and invest it in us.”

United Way marked its 35th anniversary and honored the founders, including Larry Buchanan and Ken Ferguson

Buchanan, a founding partner of the Crary-Buchanan law firm, was the first president of United Way (then called the United Fund). He led the first board of directors, encouraging more agencies and businesses to participate. Buchanan recently was honored by the Business Development Board of Martin County with the Charlene Hoag award for community service.

Ferguson was the owner of ERK Manufacturing (now TurboCombustor Technologies). He was the vice president and payroll chairman of the inaugural United Fund campaign and was the campaign chairman and board president in the drive’s second year. He is now business-services manager at the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce.

The Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce also was recognized for its leadership at the inception of the local United Way.

For information about United Way of



United Way Campaign Chairwoman Patty Winterburn presents a plaque of appreciation to guest speaker Autry Denson.

Martin County, visit www.unitedwaymartincounty.org, or call (772) 283-4800.

Hub News

Post your news on www.yourhub.com

Martin United Way kicks off annual campaign

BY DIANE TOMASIK

Posted on YourHub.com

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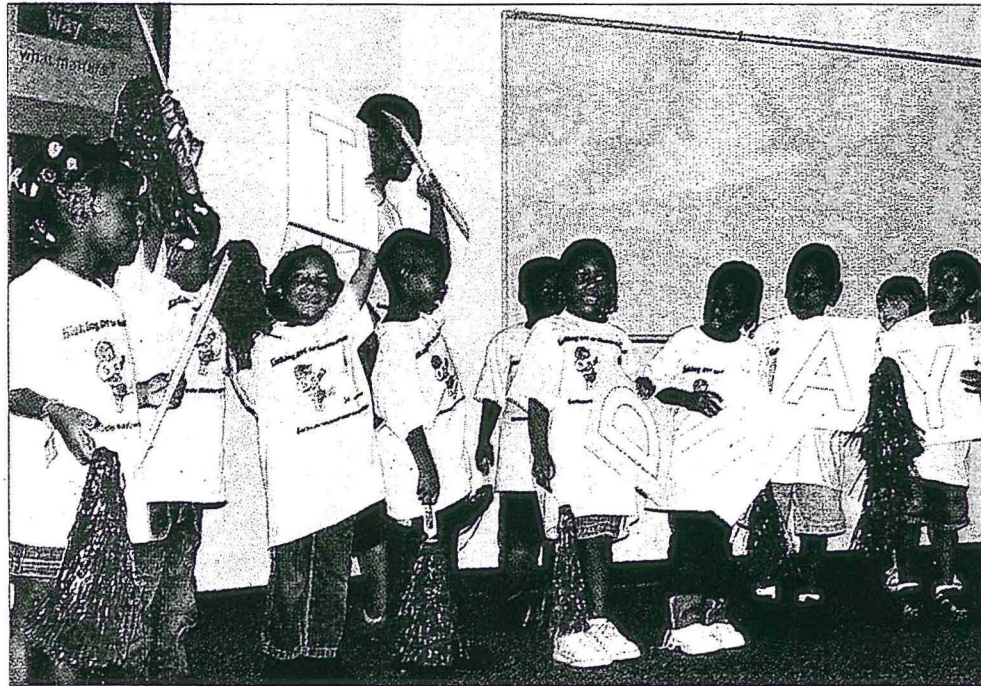
The event was held at the Wolf High-Technology Center on the Chastain Campus of Indian River Community College — the “home field” of this year’s campaign chairwoman, Patty Winterburn, IRCC provost for Martin County.

During the festivities, Winterburn announced the United Way of Martin County campaign goal for the coming year — \$2.3 million. And she also announced that Publix Super Markets has already given the campaign a healthy start.

“Getting us on the way to reaching our goal,” Winterburn said, “Publix has just concluded its drive and its employees have pledged \$175,000 — that’s \$22,000 more than last year.”

The announcements were cause for cheering, and youngsters from Gertrude Walden Child Care Center and music from the IRCC Rivercorps pep band led the spirit.

The event wrapped up with



DIANE TOMASIK • Posted on YourHub.com

Four-year-olds from Gertrude Walden Child Care Center, a United Way affiliated agency, performed cheers at the campaign kickoff.

a pep talk from former Notre Dame and NFL football player Autry Denson. Denson related personal stories that highlighted the importance of organizations like United Way and its agency partners in the

lives of young people.

“We are obligated to honor those who came before us and made it their business to care for us,” he said. “All of us are where we are today because someone else cared enough to

take their time out and invest it in us.”

Denson’s words were quite appropriate on a day when United Way marked its 35th anniversary and honored the founders of United Way in

Martin County, including Larry Buchanan and Ken Ferguson.

Buchanan, a founding partner of the Crary - Buchanan law firm, was the first president of United Way (then called the United Fund). He led the first board of directors, encouraging more agencies and businesses to participate. Buchanan was recently honored by the Business Development Board of Martin County with the Charlene Hoag award for community service.

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The Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce also was recognized for its leadership at the inception of the local United Way.

For more information about United Way of Martin County, call (772) 283-4800 or visit www.unitedwaymartincounty.org.

Learn About Rewarding Careers in Public Service at IRCC ^{okee.} ^{news release} ^{TIMES 10 18 07}

The best careers combine opportunities for personal achievement with the chance to help others. A job as a paralegal, law enforcement or corrections officer, human services specialist, firefighter, or disaster relief manager offers that satisfaction. Those interested in a rewarding career serving the community should plan to attend the upcoming Public Service Information Session at the Indian River Community College Indian River Academy Thursday, October 18 at 6 p.m. The Academy is located at 5900 Tedder Road in Fort Pierce.

Anyone interested in investigative work, with an eye for detail, should learn more about the Legal Assisting/Paralegal Program at IRCC. Students receive a solid college education with strong emphasis on theory, responsibilities and ethics of the legal profession. Career prospects are excellent, with salary, benefits and opportunities that match the increasing demand for legal assistants. A demonstration of Westlaw, an online legal research tool, will be available at the Information Session. Participants will learn how to use Westlaw to locate legal research materials.

Individuals with careers in Human Services have the opportunity to assist children, help the elderly, or aid people with difficulties facing life's problems. With an A.S. degree in human services from IRCC, students become skilled paraprofessionals who can provide help and assistance in a variety of settings, including mental health facilities, children's service agencies, shelters, educational facilities, and social service agencies.

Learn how to prepare for a career in the fire sciences, and for the fire service or fire protection professional get the continuing education you need for advancement. Occupations include firefighters, investigators, fire protection and detection specialists, fire engineers, and safety inspectors. Information session attendees will have the opportunity to tour the Mobile Training Unit (MTU) that provides live-fire training through the use of two vapor propane burners.

Jobs in criminal justice are among the largest career groups in public service, with positions available at federal, state, and local levels,

as well as the private sector. Uniformed officers may be the most visible personnel in criminal justice, but many other opportunities exist. Career paths fall into five major fields: law enforcement, the court system, corrections, forensic science, and private security. Learn about them at this special Information Session.

IRCC also offers an Associate in Science degree in Emergency Administration and Management. The program prepares students for advanced work in disaster relief and humanitarian operations and attendees at the information session can learn more about this unique program.

For more information, visit www.ircc.edu, or call 1-866-866-4722.

IRCC PROGRAM ALSO OFFERS FAST TRACK TO TEACHING

Implementing solutions to the critical teacher shortage, IRCC is offering the Educator Preparation Institute, an accelerated teacher certification program for those who hold a Bachelor's Degree in a field other than education. Interested Treasure Coast residents are invited to a free information session about the program on Thursday, Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, Room V309, at the IRCC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. The Kight Center is located off 35th Street and Virginia Avenue.

Participants who complete the competency-based preparation program are eligible for employment as a classroom teacher, and the Educator Preparation Institute also helps participants prepare for teacher certification. The accelerated courses are offered on Saturdays throughout the year with an additional intensive one-week format during the summer so career changers can progress quickly while still employed in another field.

IRCC's award-winning Educator Preparation Institute serves as the model for alternative teacher education throughout the State. Over 250 participants in the IRCC program are now employed in Treasure Coast classrooms.

For additional information, contact Gale Patterson toll-free at 1-866-866-7508 or mpatters@ircc.edu. The IRCC Information Call Center may be reached at 1-866-866-4722.

PSC News 10/14/09

Job Source Notes & News

Rewarding careers in public service

Learn about jobs in public service — legal assisting/paralegal, human services, fire safety or criminal justice — at the upcoming Public Service Information Session at the Indian River Community College Indian River Academy site Thursday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m.

Professionals in these fields are in growing demand and perform a large number of diverse duties. If you want to find out how you can have a career helping others, attend the Public Service Information Session at the IRCC Indian River Academy site.

For more information, visit www.ircc.edu, or call 1-866-866-4722.

Careers in Health Science

Learn about careers in health care during Health Science Awareness week at Indian River Community College at one of five Health Science Open Houses at IRCC.

The health care industry is one of the largest employers on the Treasure Coast and growing. Some careers, such as nursing and respiratory therapy, involve patient care; others, such as medical coder/biller, focus on support services. Radiographers conduct MRI tests and CT scans and take X-rays to assist in diagnosis; dental lab technologists combine creativity and technology. Medical assisting is versatile, and specialists have responsibilities in administrative and clinical areas.

IRCC students may choose a "Career Ladder," completing their education in health care. And now they can complete a bachelor's degree in nursing right at IRCC.

For more information, contact Nick Brown at 1-866-866-4722 ext.7549. The open houses will be held:

- Tues., Oct. 23, at 6 p.m. at the main campus in Fort Pierce in the Mary L. Fields Health Science Center, Room H106
- Wed., Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Chastain campus in Stuart in the Wolf High-Technology Center, Susan H. Johnson Auditorium
- Wed., Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Dixon Hendry campus in Okeechobee in B- Building, Room 110
- Thurs., Oct. 25, at 6 p.m. at the St. Lucie West campus in Port St. Lucie at the Schreiber Conference Center
- Thurs., Oct. 25, at 6 p.m. at the Mueller campus in Vero Beach at the Richardson Center

If you have news that has an impact on workers or other members of the employment community, send your information to nichepublications@yahoo.com.

10-17-07 Scripps Your Hub
Tribune

Careers in public service can be rewarding

BY ROBERT LANE

Posted on YourHub.com

The best careers help advance personal achievement and involve helping others. A job as a paralegal, in human services, fire safety and criminal justice can offer that satisfaction.

Those interested in a rewarding career serving the community and helping others, should plan to attend the upcoming Public Service Information Session at the Indian River Community College Indian River Academy site Oct. 18 at 6 p.m.

Anyone interested in investigative work, with an eye for detail should learn more about the Legal Assisting/Paralegal program at IRCC. Students will receive a solid college education with a strong emphasis on theory, responsibilities and ethics of the legal profession. Career prospects are excellent, with

salary, benefits and opportunities that match the increasing demand for legal assistants. A demonstration of Westlaw, an online legal research tool, will be available at the Information Session. Participants will learn how to use Westlaw to locate legal research materials.

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Learn how to prepare for a career in the fire services, and for the fire service or fire protection professional, get

ready for career advancement with IRCC. Careers in the fire services field include firefighters, investigators, fire protection and detection specialists, fire engineers, and safety inspectors. Attendees to the event will have the opportunity to tour the Mobile Training Unit trailer that provides live-fire training through the use of two vapor propane burners.

Jobs in criminal justice are one of the largest career groups in public service, with positions available at federal, state and local levels, as well as the private sector. Uniformed officers may be the most visible personnel in criminal justice, but many other opportunities exist. Career paths fall into five major fields law enforcement, the court system, corrections, forensic science and private security.

For more information, call (866) 866-4722.

Learn about public service careers at upcoming information session

Tribune 10-14-07

The best careers combine opportunities for personal achievement with the chance to help others. A job as a paralegal, law enforcement or corrections officer, human services specialist, firefighter or disaster relief manager offers that satisfaction. Those interested in a career serving the community should plan to attend the upcoming Public Service Information Session 6 p.m. Thursday at the Indian River Community College, Indian River Academy, 5900 Tedder Road in Fort Pierce.

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IRCC UPDATE

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For information, contact Gale Patterson toll-free at (866) 866-7508 or mpatters@ircc.edu. The IRCC Information Call Center may be reached at (866) 866-4722.

Compiled by IRCC staff

Launch a career in health care during open houses at campuses

Learn about careers in health care during Health Science Awareness Week at Indian River Community College. Find out how IRCC helps students achieve their goals at one of five Health Science Open Houses hosted at the IRCC Main Campus and at the four branch campuses at 6 p.m. throughout the week.

A review of job ads in print or online demonstrates the many different positions open for skilled health care providers. The health care industry is one of the largest employers on the Treasure Coast, and careers in health care offer many opportunities.

Some careers, such as nursing and respiratory therapy, involve patient care; others, such as medical coder/biller, focus on support services. Radiographers conduct MRI tests and CT scans and take X-rays to assist in diagnosis, while dental lab technologists combine creativity and technology.

IRCC offers training programs in these and many other health care fields. Students often choose a "Career Ladder" approach while working. The first step can be completion of the nursing assistant program and employment as a certified nursing assistant. The next step is practical nursing, and the third step is registered nursing. With the introduction of IRCC's new bachelor's degree in nursing, students can continue to a fourth level for career advancement.

The Health Science Open House will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Mary L. Fields Health Science Center, off 35th Street and Virginia Avenue at the Main Campus in Fort Pierce. The Open House will be held in Stuart at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Chastain Campus Wolf High Technology Center. The campus is located at 2400 S.E. Salerno Road.

In Okeechobee, the Open House will be 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Dixon Hendry Campus, Building B, 2229 N.W.

IRCC UPDATE

Ninth Ave. The event will be held Thursday at the St. Lucie West Campus, Schreiber Conference Center, at 500 N.W. California Blvd. in Port St. Lucie and at the Mueller Campus

Richardson Center at 6155 College Lane in Vero Beach.

For more information, call the IRCC Information Call Center at (866) 866-4722.

FLORIDA READY TO WORK EVENT

A new initiative, Florida

Ready to Work, defines the skills businesses need and gauges a job candidate's abilities to perform those skills. Area businesses are invited to learn more about this program at a free breakfast event from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at the

Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, Room V309, at the IRCC Main Campus off Virginia Avenue and 35th Street in Fort Pierce.

Register online at www.ircc.edu/ccti. For more information, call the IRCC In-

formation Call Center toll-free at (866) 866-4722. The Corporate and Community Training Institute may be reached at (772) 462-7630.

Compiled by IRCC staff

Educational programs available locally for medical assistants

Tribune
10-14-07

► **Indian River Community College**
Certificate program
in medical assisting
Fort Pierce (866) 866-4722
www.ircc.edu

Medical Assisting at IRCC is a certificate program that can be completed in full-time day program in about nine months or part-time in an evening and weekend program in about 18 months.

Students who complete the program earn four certifications— Certified Medical Assisting Certificate, Basic X-ray license, certification in Phlebotomy and certification in EKG.

For more information about medical assisting, Indian River Community College is holding a series of Health Science Open Houses during the week of October 22. See "Job Source Notes and News" on this page for complete listing of classes.

Medical assisting sessions are also held the first Wednesday of each month. The next two sessions are Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. on the St. Lucie

West campus, A119-B, or contact Theresa Errante-Parrino, CMA and president of the Treasure Coast chapter of the Florida Society of Medical Assistants. Call (772) 336-6237 or by e-mail at tparrino@ircc.edu

► **Keiser University**
Associate of Science
in medical assisting
Port St. Lucie campus
10330 S. U.S. 1 at Jennings Road in the Marketplace Plaza
(772) 398-9990
<http://www.keisercollege.edu/psl.htm>

Students complete eight medical assisting core requirements over about eight months including a two-month externship followed by eight general education requirements (which include English, speech, computers, math courses, etc.)

After the first eight months, students are qualified to sit for national certification exams in medical assisting and state exams in phlebotomy, EKG

and radiology (X-ray). They are also qualified to seek employment as a medical assistant.

The next class begins Oct. 22. Call the number above for more information.

► **MedVance Institute**
Diploma course in medical assisting
Stuart campus
851 S.E. Johnson Avenue, east of U.S. 1 and south of Kanner Highway
(772) 221-9799
(866) 86-GO-MED
www.medvance.edu

Students attending morning classes will complete the course in about 10 ½ months. Evening classes can be completed in about 13 months. Both include externships. Graduates are eligible to sit for medical assistant certification exams and the school encourages them to pursue additional certifications such as phlebotomy, EKG and radiography.

Call the number above for more information.

Tribune Scripps YourHub
10-17-07

Learn about jobs at Health Science Awareness Week

BY ROBERT LANE

Posted on YourHub.com

Learn all about careers in the health science field during Health Science Awareness week at Indian River Community College.

Find out how IRCC helps students achieve their goals at one of five convenient Health Science Open Houses hosted at the IRCC Main Campus and at the four branch campuses during the week of Oct. 22.

A review of job ads in print or online demonstrates the many different positions open for skilled health care providers. In fact, the health care industry is one of the largest

employers on the Treasure Coast, and careers in health care offer many opportunities.

Some careers, such as nursing and respiratory therapy, involve patient care; others, such as medical coder/biller, focus on support services. Radiographers conduct MRI tests and CT scans and take X-rays to assist in diagnosis, while dental lab technologists combine creativity and technology. Medical assisting is very versatile, and specialists in the field have responsibilities in administrative and clinical areas.

Indian River Community

College offers training programs in these and many other health care fields. Students often choose a "Career Ladder" approach while working. For example, the first step can be completion of the nursing assistant program and employment as a certified nursing assistant. The next step is practical nursing, and the third step is registered nursing. With the introduction of IRCC's new bachelor's degree in nursing, students can continue to a fourth level for career advancement.

For more information about these upcoming open houses, call (866) 866-4722, ext. 7549.

October is National Physical Therapy Month

October is National Physical Therapy Month, and the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is using their month to focus on physical activity and the prevention and reversal of obesity.

According to a recent study conducted by the Trust for America's Health, obesity rates climbed in 31 states last year. And a lack of exercise is a major contributing factor to obesity rates.

Physical therapists develop fitness plans for both adults and children that promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability, according to the APTA. They are careful to prescribe safe exercise that protects joints.

And they are healthcare professionals skilled at working safely with people of all age groups and all fitness and ac-

tivity levels.

A career in Physical Therapy

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), a member organization of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, said physical therapists (PTs) are among the most satisfied with their job of any occupation. A National Opinion Research Center survey found that PTs are second only to clergy in job satisfaction and the only health care career in the top five most satisfying careers.

And the Wall Street Journal and Parade magazine have named physical therapy one of the hottest jobs for college students to consider.

For the most part, physical therapists are health care professionals who diagnose and treat individuals of all ages from newborns to the elderly who have

health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move or perform routine activities.

PTs examine each individual and develop a plan of care to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability.

Physical therapists also work with healthy individuals to prevent the loss of mobility by developing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.

Physical therapist assistants work with the patients of physical therapists helping them complete their exercises and the plan of care.

At one time, you could become a physical therapist with a bachelor's degree. No more.

See **PHYSICAL THERAPY**, page F3

PHYSICAL THERAPY

FROM PAGE F1

"Now, physical therapists have a master's degree or above," said Jeff Tucker, MPT and owner of Premier Physical Therapy. The MPT stands for Master of Physical Therapy.

The American Physical Therapy Association drove the educational changes to raise the level of professionalism and skills for PTs to allow them to treat a wider range of individuals such as those who need to establish a fitness routine or who do not have a doctor's referral.

Tucker devotes a full hour to evaluate each individual who comes to see him. "That's a lot of time," he said. "I think that's one of the things that's made us successful."

"Based on that (evaluation) we set a plan of care," he said. At Premier, Tucker, another physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant will work with the individual to complete the plan.

Physical therapist assistants, PTAs, are licensed professionals, he said. "As a PT, I can evaluate the patient and write a plan of care," he said.

A PTA can take that plan of care and evaluation and work one-on-one with the patient to help the patient get better and improve mobility.

To become a physical therapist assistant takes two years in a degree program at Indian River Community College, he said.

Physical therapist assistant is a good starting point to work your way into becoming a physical therapist.

The most important lesson for anyone planning to become a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant is that physical therapy is a people business. You are often working directly with patients, some of whom are in pain and distress because of physical injuries or surgery.

But so are similar healthcare fields, Tucker said.

Tucker started out in sports training. "I wanted to work for a football team," he explained. But after graduating with a bachelors degree in sports medicine, Tucker decided to go on for his MPT.

He has hired PTs who started as exercise physiologists or occupational therapists. But you don't have to come from a healthcare background.

"I have one physical therapist who was once a police officer," Tucker said.

Among other jobs, Tucker has worked in sports medicine, in a training hospital, a burn unit and with an orthopaedic group. "My first few years I used to figure out what I would specialize in," he said.

He ended up as the director of rehabilitation at St. Lucie Medical Center before going out on his own in private practice, he said.

Six in ten physical therapists nationwide work for a physical therapy practice, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. They also practice in hospitals, clinics and specialty facilities. Or they treat patients in hospital rooms, homes, or schools.

The most important lesson for anyone planning to become a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant is that physical therapy is a people

business. You are often working directly with patients, some of whom are in pain and distress because of physical injuries or surgery, Tucker said.

"We center around the patient being happy," he said. "We have a fun group of therapists and everyone, patients and therapists, have a good time while working to help the patients get better."

"We survey every patient that leaves the clinic. They answer a series of questions on a scale of not satisfied to very satisfied," he added. "And on all 100 surveys I've gotten back in the last two weeks, the patients circled very satisfied on all of the questions."

The career of physical therapist is expected to grow faster than most jobs as the population ages and as obesity levels rise.

There is growth on the Treasure Coast. In two years, Tucker has added two additional offices. He plans to add two more by next year. But that is not indicative of true growth, he warned. A couple of physical therapy practices have also gone out of business in recent years, he said.

But this area has grown in population. So expect to see more opportunities for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in coming years.

Stuart News
10.31.07

Meet employers at the fair

Staff report

INDIANTOWN — Job seekers will have an opportunity to meet with more than eight local and regional employers at a job fair Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Indian River Community College, Indiantown Education Center, 15655 S.W. Osceola St.

The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast is sponsoring the event. No appointments are needed. Admission is free.

Employers at the job fair will be: the Martin Correctional Facility; ITS Telecommunications; Chicago Bridge & Iron; Floridian Natural Gas Storage Company; Florida Power & Light; Indian River Community College; Scripps

Treasure Coast Newspapers; the Martin County Sheriff's Department; and Gary Insurance.

IRCC and Chicago Bridge & Iron will also be exploring local interest in expanding the college's welding training programs due to the need for hundreds of certified industrial welders for the construction of the Floridian Natural Gas Storage facilities beginning in the summer of 2008.

Locally, experienced certified welders earn a base salary of between \$38,000 and \$50,000 annually, plus benefits and overtime.

For information, call the Stuart One Stop Career Center at (772) 223-2653.

FORT PIERCE
IRCC will sponsor
Save a Life Tour

Stuart News
10.30.07

Indian River Community College Health and Wellness Department and the Students Activities/Campus Coalition Government will co-sponsor a free National Save a Life Tour on from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 15 in the Koblegard Student Union at the Main Campus in Fort Pierce.

Students will learn the dangers of drunk driving by sitting behind the wheel of a computer drunk-driving simulator. The "Save a Life Tour" simulator uses the same technology as military battle simulators. The result is an interactive driving experience that shows students how alcohol can impair driving skills.

For more information, contact the IRCC Call Center at (866) 866-4722.

Bio Tech talk Tuesday

Get an overview of biotechnology research and developments by attending a talk by Robert Shatters, a molecular biologist with the U.S. Horticultural Research Lab, Fort Pierce. The presentation is noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Richardson Center on Indian River Community College's Mueller Campus, Vero Beach. Admission is free. Seating is limited. Register online at www.ircc.edu/ccti, the Corporate & Community Training Institute Web site. Go to the Training Matrix and click on EDI Lunch & Learn. Call (772) 462-4942 in Fort Pierce and (888) 283-1177.

Press Journal 10-8-07

Companies should meet and plan off-site for best results

BY JUDITH RILEY
BJ guest columnist

Have you ever returned from vacation with a refreshed attitude toward work? Remember that conference where you came back with new solutions to old business problems?

Research demonstrates that strategic planning has many benefits, especially if the session is conducted at a location removed from daily activities. Planning off-site can help your company develop fresh ideas and goals. It seems that a new location promotes creative thinking.

It's important to utilize state-of-the-art technology to present your plan in a professional manner. Holding a conference offsite also reduces the number of interruptions.

Where can you hold such a session on the Treasure Coast? Indian River Community College operates facilities in Indian River, Martin and St. Lucie counties. Each center offers a high-tech, affordable setting for employee training, strategic planning, board retreats or awards dinners.

Housed in each center is an auditorium that can accommodate job fairs, banquets and training for 160 to 200 attendees. Each auditorium has a computer-assisted Smart Podium, multiple

INDIAN RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUSINESS CONFERENCE CENTERS

Richardson Center
IRCC Mueller Campus
6155 College Lane
Vero Beach
(772) 226-2690

Schreiber Conference Center
IRCC St. Lucie West Campus
500 N.W. California Blvd.
Port St. Lucie
(772) 336-7741

Wolf High-Technology Center
IRCC Chastain Campus
2400 S.E. Salerno Road
Stuart
(772) 419-5700

LCD projectors, plasma screens, digital document camera, wireless Internet access and other services.

"The Treasure Coast chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association has been using the Schreiber Center for monthly meetings, an awards ceremony and a Meet the Media Event for several years," said Beverly Bevis Jones, treasurer for FPPRA. "The center



Photo provided

IRCC operates conference centers in Vero Beach, Port St. Lucie and Stuart with auditoriums, strategic planning rooms and other facilities available to businesses and organizations.

offers us a modern, central location for our tri-county organization with outstanding audiovisual capabilities and professional on-site staff".

A separate strategic planning center in each location has the same technology as the auditoriums and breakout

rooms ideal for committee or department discussions. With computers in each breakout room, planning ideas can be formulated and documented on the spot.

See MEET, page 25

MEET

FROM PAGE 24

"We have held our strategic plan meetings for officers and directors at the Richardson Center for the past three years," said Andy Lawrence, president of Marine Bank & Trust in Vero Beach. "I find it more productive to have meetings at an offsite location. The center is conveniently located, offers many amenities and has a large selection of equipment available for business meetings. I would highly recommend it."

The centers are equipped with computer rooms that can accommodate 16 to 24 attendees for training on a compa-

ny's software program. Companies can bring their employees to one location on one day.

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, which holds monthly meetings at the Wolf High Technology Center in Stuart, is pleased with the professional service and equipment.

Along with meeting areas, each center has food facilities, from a full commercial kitchen at the Richardson Center to catering kitchens at the Schreiber Center and the Wolf Center. Companies can bring in own refreshments or hire caterers.

Judith Riley is Richardson Center manager at Indian River Community College. Contact her at (772) 226-2690.

Press Sound
10-13-01

FORT PIERCE

**Course offered to
become a teacher**

Implementing solutions to the critical teacher shortage, Indian River Community College is offering an Educator Preparation Institute, an accelerated teacher certification program for people with a bachelor's degree in a field other than teaching.

Treasure Coast residents are invited to a free information session about the program at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, Room V309, at the IRCC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. The Kight Center is off 35th Street and Virginia Avenue.

Participants who complete the competency-based preparation program can work as a classroom teacher, and the institute also helps participants prepare for teacher certification. The accelerated courses are offered on Saturdays throughout the year, with an additional intensive one-week format during the summer, so career changers can progress quickly while still employed in another field.

For information, contact Gale Patterson toll-free at (866) 866-7508 or mpatters@ircc.edu. The IRCC Information Call Center is at (866) 866-4722.

FORT PIERCE *Stuart News*
10-4-07

**IRCC course can help
people become teachers**

Indian River Community College is offering an Educator Preparation Institute, an accelerated teacher certification program for people who hold a bachelor's degree in a field other than teaching.

Treasure Coast residents can attend a free information session about the program at 6 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, Room V309, at the IRCC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. The center is off 35th Street and Virginia Avenue.

Participants who complete the competency-based preparation program are eligible for employment as a classroom teacher, and the Educator Preparation Institute also helps participants prepare for teacher certification.

For information, contact Gale Patterson at (866) 866-7508 or mpatters@ircc.edu. The IRCC Information Call Center may be reached at (866) 866-4722.

|Stryker Electric juiced about industry award

|Focus: Palm City

By BY BILL CHURCH BJ contributor

Friday, September 21, 2007

Palm City-based Stryker Electric is that company you hear about because it is both doing well financially and doing good for the community.

The electrical contractor is the Palm City Chamber of Commerce's representative for an Industry Appreciation Award to be given by the Martin County Business Development Board in mid-October. The company is being recognized for its long history of giving time, finances and expertise to a number of local organizations.

"Giving back to the community you serve is vital," said Scott B. Eccleston, who holds several titles at Stryker including chairman. He is one of five partners in the privately held company. "I say that to anyone getting into business."

The company donates to and Eccleston is personally involved in the American Red Cross, the Humane Society, the Treasure Coast Wildlife Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Caring Children, Clothing Children.

Eccleston credits the example set by company president and co-founder Michael G. Bryan.

"Our company has been rewarded because of his generosity to the community," Eccleston said.

The proof is in the financial numbers. Eccleston, 44, who directs the company's finances and administration, said that 2007 will be Stryker's best year ever despite the slowdown in the economy generally and the construction business specifically. The company is still operating on a backlog of multi-year contracts signed in previous years.

When Eccleston joined the company in 1993, Stryker had \$4 million in revenues. From 2005 to 2006, service revenues increased 40 percent.

Today, annual revenues total \$30 million, he said. Most of that comes from installing electrical wiring in buildings, primarily new construction.

More than half of revenues comes from institutional work, including schools, hospitals

and correctional facilities. One of its major projects: construction of the new Palm Beach Gardens High School.

Another 35 percent of revenues comes from multi-family building construction, such as Jade Beach and Brickell on the River, high-rise condominiums in Miami-Dade County.

A small but growing portion of the business, which already accounts for the remaining 10 percent of revenues, is the service department. It does work for retailers such as Home Depot, WalMart and BJ's Wholesale Club.

Stryker serves customers from Indian River County to Miami-Dade County. The company once had an office in Charlotte, N.C. It closed, but the firm continues to serve existing clients in the Carolinas and Georgia.

At its current size, Stryker is geared for large projects, Eccleston said.

The company bids on projects worth \$3 million and up. The ideal job is worth between \$3 million and \$14 million.

Projects of that size keeps busy the company's 285 employees, 246 of which are electricians. Another 23 people work in the service department and 16 in administration.

Eccleston also has an apprenticeship program, which pays the total cost of sending any interested employee to Indian River Community College's four-year program leading to journeyman status.

"We want young people to know these are good jobs," Eccleston said. "Electricians can earn up to \$50,000 after about five years."

All employees are full time and their benefits include vacation time, medical, dental, life insurance and a company-matching 401(k) retirement program.

Stryker's has stayed busy in recent years with school construction projects from Martin County to Miami-Dade. With recent a downturn in school enrollment and cutbacks in funding, some school boards taking projects off the board, Eccleston said.

At the same time, capital for condo construction has begun to dry up.

Anticipating a slowdown, Stryker shrank its workforce over the past year or so. The company once had more than 400 workers and cut that to less than 300 through attrition. Company leaders also became more selective in choosing projects.

"We feel we shouldn't have to lay anybody off," Eccleston said. "We will continue to handle personnel levels through attrition if the market continues down."

Stryker has also trimmed back its office space. Eccleston opted to move all but administration personnel to the field.

"We need our guys on the job," Eccleston said. "I set up a compound for them at their sites. They take their vehicles home since they're on call 24 hours a day."

From 15,000 square feet at its old location in the Turnpike Industrial Park in Palm City, the company moved just last March to a new 4,800-square-foot facility in the Palm City Business Park on High Meadows Avenue. The company also maintains a small office in North Miami and three more at major job sites.

Stryker competes on the Treasure Coast primarily with Gerelco Electrical Contractors, a large company, and the smaller Fast Track and Arlington firms.

Brothers Joe and Michael Bryan founded Stryker in 1983 when they purchased the former Charter Electric. They changed the name to Stryker because they liked the popular fishing boat of the same name. The company was based in Jupiter until 2000, when it moved to Palm City where both Bryan and Eccleston live. They also wanted to make the company more focused on the Treasure Coast.

Joe has retired but Michael, 64, a licensed electrician, remains active not just as president, but also as a field worker.

"He just wants to be out there with the guys, working alongside them," Eccleston said. "He's their leader, their mentor."

Eccleston joined Stryker in 1993 after an earlier career as a bartender and then in country club food and beverage management. Unfortunately, he says, his product got the best of him. A recovering alcoholic, he has been sober since 1990.

"I was lucky that I realized I had a problem at the young age of 26 when I could do something about it," Eccleston said.

He went on to earn his degree in accounting from Florida Atlantic University and worked his way up to his present leadership role at Stryker.

STRYKER

STRYKER ELECTRIC

Headquarters: 4241 S.W. High Meadow Ave., Palm City

Telephone: (772) 219-3389

Employees: 285

Executives: Michael G. Bryan, president; William C. Bryan, executive vice president; Scott B. Eccleston, executive vice president, secretary and treasurer; Steven E. Dixon, senior vice president and chief estimator.



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Corporate & Community Training Institute

The CCTI continues to offer the online training "How to start (or grow) your own business: Planning the entrepreneurial venture (PEV)" from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and Cisco Learning Institute (CLI).

If you are considering self-employment, freelancing, returning to your old job as a contractor, starting a business or growing a business of your own or for an employer, find out how to succeed with this course.

You will have access to an IRCC Business Instructor and will complete an easy-to-prepare business plan that is ready to take to a banker.

For more information call the CCTI toll free at (888) 283-1177.

If you have news that has an impact on workers or other members of the employment community, please send us your information to niche-publications@yahoo.com.

Lunch and Learn ^{Stuart News} 10.7.07

The IRCC Business Incubator in partnership with the Entrepreneur Development Institute at IRCC and the Economic Council of Martin County are holding a free seminar: "Strategic planning — tough yet critical to a company's success."

Kerry A. Bartlett, the principal of The Bartlett Group consulting firm in Vero Beach, will provide the basic steps to initiate strategic planning and adapt to change.

The seminar is Wednesday, Oct. 17, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Wolf High Technology Center, IRCC's Chastain Campus, 2400 SE Salerno Road in Stuart.

Refreshments are provided but seating is limited. Register online at www.ircc.edu/ccti. Go to the 'TrainingMatrix' and click on EDI Lunch & Learn.

In other business news ^{Stuart News 10/6/07}

Ready to Work?: The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast has a new Florida Ready to Work program that helps businesses take the guesswork out of hiring and promoting employees, by defining the exact skills businesses need and gauging a job candidates' abilities to perform those skills.

The program, available at Indian River Community College and Corporate and Community Training Institute, is designed to reduce employee turnover, reduce employee training costs and save hiring time and money, increasing productivity and profitability. The program will be offered Oct. 23, 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, 3209 Virginia Ave, Room 309. For information, call (772) 335-0677 or e-mail cbarbeau@tcjobs.org.

Press Journal
10-18-07

VERO BEACH

**Lunch and learn
starting Nov. 15**

The Entrepreneur Development Institute at Indian River Community College, in partnership with the Corporate & Community Training Institute and the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, will offer free lunch and learn seminars at the Richardson Center on located on IRCC's Mueller Campus in Vero Beach.

- Nov. 15, 11, a.m. "Exploring New Frontiers: What's Really Out There in Government Contracting and Is it for Me?" with Donn-Miller Kermani from the National Center for Small Business at Florida Institute of Technology.

- Dec. 13, noon. "Taking the Mystery Out of Marketing" with Gary Mastro former Vice President of Brand and Product Marketing for UPS.

For information, call (888) 283-1177 or visit www.ircc.edu/ccti.



Donna Greene and Ray Isenburg

Cover Story Luminaries

2007 Chili Cook-off Will Break \$2 Million Mark

By Sydney Liebman

If you're looking for structure in a civic organization, the Fort Pierce Exchange Club may not be for you.

But if you're hoping to join a group of business people who know how to get things done, then show up at Norris's Famous Place for Ribs at noon any Thursday and you'll find the members of the Fort Pierce Exchange Club making plans for its annual chili cookoff.

The club was organized in October 1971. Ray Isenburg, whom members have deemed club historian, remembers those early days quite vividly. After spending a decade experimenting with different fundraisers, including sponsoring preliminaries for the Miss America contest, the club found its niche.

The Fort Pierce Exchange Club does one thing, and does it well. In its 26th year, the annual chili cookoff has gone from making \$5,100 to more than \$200,000. In its history, the event has garnered more than \$1.75 million, which has been directly donated to the Exchange Club's CASTLE for the prevention of child abuse, which services a four-county area.

"If we have a good year this year," said Ray, "we will break the \$2 million dollar mark."

Ray attributes the success of the club to the success of the chili cookoff, saying, "Everyone gravitates to success. I can say without a doubt, we have raised more funds for the prevention of child abuse than any other Exchange Club in the United States."

"The members of this club are like a well-oiled wheel when it comes to organizing the annually held fundraiser. The cohesiveness of the membership makes the event a success and the event has made the club a success," said Larry Clancy, 23-year member and St. Lucie County's Assistant Tax Collector. "Despite the appearance of disarray at our weekly meetings, we are one of the few organizations that's as successful as we are."

Donna Greene, assistant vice president of Riverside National Bank, is this year's "chili chair." The undertaking not only includes the chili competition, but also a parade, boat show, car show, motorcycle show and poker run, art contest, stage shows, dance contest, pageants, booth construction, hot air balloon rides and making sure there's enough electrical power going to the more than 40 participating teams.

Donna's a believer in volunteerism and obviously the chaos at the weekly meetings did nothing to dissuade her from joining this group of business people that let off some steam each Thursday at noon.

The 26th Annual Chili Cookoff is Friday and Saturday, Oct. 12-13, at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds. All proceeds benefit the CASTLE, the Exchange Club's center for the prevention of child abuse. For additional information, call (772) 971-2653.

Cover photo by Bob Dobens of Photo Fantasies: (Back) Bob Davis, Jim Teneyk, Don Lucy, Jim O'Connor, Larry Clancy, (middle) Chuck Kitzmiller, Tom Eby, Chris Drazdovsky, (front) Mel Liebman, Ray Isenburg, Donna Greene and Bill Foley

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How to Submit: *Luminaries* is published each Monday by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers and distributed throughout the Treasure Coast. Press releases and photographs about upcoming events and follow-up stories about past events are welcome. All subjects in photographs must be properly identified from left to right. Deadline for advance releases is one month prior to date of event. Submit all press releases and photos to: luminaries@scripps.com or visit: www.LuminariesWeb.com for additional information.

Fort Pierce has hot time with chili

10-14-07 PSL NEWS/Tribune



Photos by ERIC HASERT • eric.hasert@scripps.com

Jessica Johnson, 17, of Fort Pierce, collects the last bit of change to make her escape from the jail and bail following her "arrest" in the 26th annual Fort Pierce Exchange Club Chili Cookoff at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds on Saturday.

psk News | Tribune 10-14-07

COOKOFF RESULTS

Top Fundraisers:

1. Norris's Famous Place For Ribs — \$32,125
2. National City Bank — \$29,583
3. QVC — \$25,370
4. St. Lucie County employees/Board of County Commissioners — \$21,187
5. Seacoast National Bank — \$14,140

The Jim Lamb Memorial Award for Best Chili:

1. First Peoples Bank
2. Seacoast National Bank
3. Sunrise City Realty

The Tom Liguori Memorial Challenge Trophy:

1. Seacoast National Bank
2. St. Lucie County Clerk of Courts
3. SLC employees/BOCC

Best Media Award:

The Tribune/Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers

The Brenda Bidle DeWitt Memorial Showmanship Award:

1. Indian River Community College
2. SLC employees/BOCC
3. Riverside National Bank

People's Choice Award:

St. Lucie County Firefighters and Paramedics Local 1377

• More than \$166,000 was raised over the two-day event, which brought the total amount raised over the cookoff's 26 years to more than \$2 million.

BY LARRY BAILEY

Correspondent

FORT PIERCE — A St. Lucie County staple since 1981, the Fort Pierce Exchange Club's Chili Cookoff once again brought the community together for a worthy cause over the weekend.

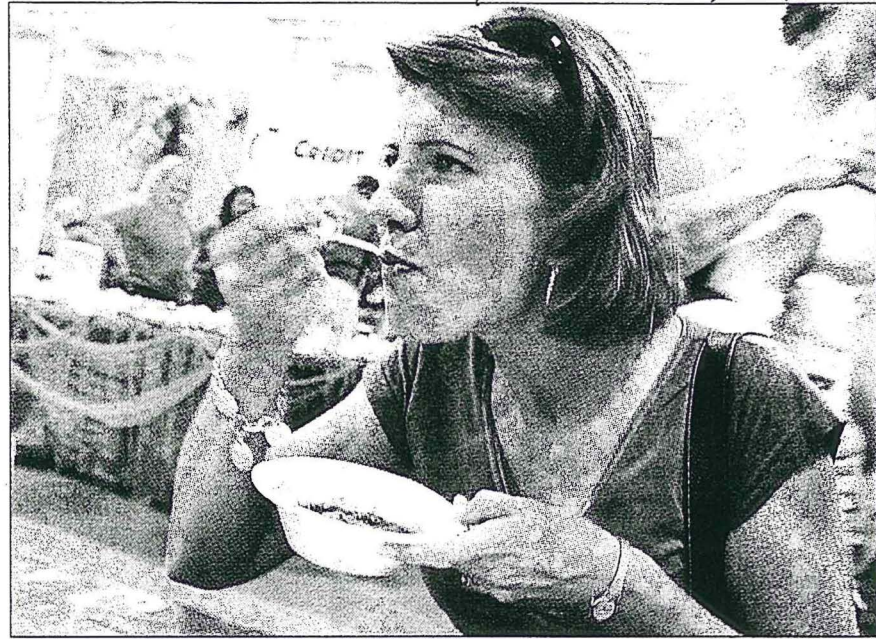
The 26th annual event, Friday and Saturday at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, attracted families and "chiliheads" throughout the region who came to have fun, eat chili, and raise funds for children at risk for abuse or neglect.

"This is a very special year because when the numbers are tabulated, Fort Pierce Exchange Club will have raised more than \$2 million for the prevention of child abuse since 1982," said club member Ray Isenberg of Port St. Lucie.

The cookoff is a family oriented event where chefs from about 50 different teams compete to produce the most scintillating dish of chili. Each team makes an average of five to 10 gallons of chili.

Cookoff participants also plan their display booths with elaborate designs to attract chili buyers, raise funds, and get others to join them in their cause.

In addition to all the food, there was festive music and shows presented throughout the weekend. Cook-off activity included the Groove Chefs drum team, a dance contest, hot-air balloon rides, speed eating, face painting, horseback riding, the music of Skeeze and more.



Megan Nole of Port St. Lucie savors a bowl of chili during the Fort Pierce Exchange Club Chili Cookoff on Saturday.

Saturday afternoon, event chairwoman Donna Greene estimated attendance at 20,000 based on the amount of food sold and parking spaces filled.

Pam Madden of Port St. Lucie, an Exchange Club CASTLE administrator, added, "Every person who attends the Chili Cookoff can be assured that they have played an important part in helping the Castle with their mission to eliminate child abuse so that one day children everywhere can live free from the fear of abuse and neglect."

TCPALM.COM
FLORIDA'S TREASURE COAST AND PALM BEACHES

CHILI COOKOFF

The day was hot and so was the chili at the 26th annual Exchange Club Chili Cookoff that wrapped up Saturday at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds in Fort Pierce.

Attendance was estimated at 20,000 based on the amount of food sold and parking spaces filled.

IRCC students to raise money through holiday bazaar

BY IRCC - JEAN PATTON
Posted on YourHub.com

The Indian River Community College Chapter of Delta Epsilon Chi, a student business organization, will present the 27th Annual Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 17, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the IRCC Main Campus in Fort Pierce.

Hundreds of craft and gift items including holiday decorations, toys, fabric, books, plants, and more will be on sale. Food, drinks and bake goods will also be available.

Each year the bazaar provides a forum for IRCC students to apply various skills learned in the classroom. IRCC business students plan, coordinate and organize this exciting event. The event features approximately 125 vendors, and several thousand people typically attend the annual event.

Funds will be raised through various activities including a cut-a-thon, in which IRCC Cos-

metology & Barbering students will provide haircuts at \$5 each. Cut-a-thon tickets may be purchased at the bazaar or pre-purchased through the IRCC Cosmetology & Barbering Department. For cut-a-thon tickets, please call (772) 462-4286.

The Interior Design Sale will be located in the Koblegard Student Union this year. The sale will feature accessories to beautify your home for the holidays, holiday fabrics, as well as design displays and consultation. Students will be giving presentations on the latest design trends and interior technology.

The Agriculture Department will offer "Florida friendly" plants for sale. Horticulture students will be available throughout the event to share information with you about plant care and propagation.

The Culinary Arts program will do a cooking demonstration offering mouth-watering delights for the most

What: 27th Annual Holiday Bazaar

When: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 17

Where: IRCC Main Campus in Fort Pierce

Cost: Call for details

Contact: (866) 866-4722, ext. 7660

discriminating tastes. The culinary program engages students in real-world learning experiences at area restaurants augmented by classroom instruction.

A portion of all proceeds raised by IRCC student activities will benefit the President's Challenge Scholarship Fund. Through the IRCC Foundation, the fund provides full two-year scholarships to financially disadvantaged students who maintain good grades and complete high school.

Vendor space is available now! For more information, please call the IRCC Call Center at (866) 866-4722, ext. 7660.



IRCC - JEAN PATTON • Posted on YourHub.com

The IRCC DECA Bazaar on Nov. 17 will provide hundreds of craft and gift items and will feature about 125 vendors. Several thousand people typically attend the annual event.

DECA students plan 27th holiday bazaar

The Indian River Community College Chapter of Delta Epsilon Chi, a student business organization, will present the 27th annual Holiday Bazaar from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 17 at the IRCC Main Campus in Fort Pierce.

Hundreds of craft and gift items including holiday decorations, toys, fabric, books, plants and more will be for sale. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available.

Each year the bazaar provides a forum for IRCC students to apply various skills learned in the classroom. IRCC business students plan, coordinate, and organize this community event. The event features about 125 vendors, and hundreds of people typically attend each year.

Funds will be raised through various activities including a cut-a-thon, in which IRCC Cosmetology and Barbering students will provide haircuts at \$5 each. Cut-a-thon

IRCC UPDATE

tickets may be purchased at the bazaar or prepurchased through the IRCC Cosmetology and Barbering Department. For cut-a-thon tickets, call (772) 462-4286.

The Interior Design Sale will be located in the Koblegard Student Union this year. The sale will feature accessories to beautify your home for the holidays, holiday fabrics, as well as design displays and consultation. Students will be giving presentations on the latest design trends and interior technology.

The Agriculture Department will offer "Florida friendly" plants for sale. Horticulture students will be available throughout the event to share information about plant care and propagation.

Vendor space is available. For more information, call the IRCC Call Center at (866) 866-4722, ext. 7660.

JAZZ BAND AND COMPANY TO PERFORM

Indian River Community College Jazz Band and "Company" Singers debut this season with their performance "And The Musicians Played On!" beginning 8 p.m. Thursday at the McAlpin Fine Arts Center in Fort Pierce.

"And The Musicians Played On!" will be performed in the McAlpin Fine Arts Center at 8 p.m. Nov. 1-3 and 2 p.m. Nov. 3. Tickets are \$12.

Purchase tickets at the box office in the McAlpin Fine Arts Center lobby, at the IRCC Main Campus, 3209 Virginia Ave. in Fort Pierce, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by phone with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Call the McAlpin Fine Arts Center Box Office at 462-4750 or toll-free at (800) 220-9915.

compiled by IRCC

Stuart News 10.24.07

WQCS names membership, special events specialist

BY ADRIENNE MOORE
Posted on YourHub.com

Michele Calvo will serve as the new membership/special events specialist at public radio station WQCS/88.9 FM, effective Sept. 24. She leaves her three-year post as the director of membership at Riverside Theatre in Vero Beach.

Calvo will succeed Public Relations/Development Specialist Adrienne Moore, APR, CPRC, who is retiring after 25 years at the station and Indian River Community College. She ends a career handling membership, fundraising, media relations, publications and public relations.

Calvo will be taking over the general membership and fundraising activities and special events. She started with Riverside Theatre in 2004, working on the theatre's \$20 million capital campaign



Calvo

and coordinating multiple campaigns for Riverside.

Public radio station WQCS, NPR station for the Treasure Coast, is licensed to Indian River Community College and located on the Main Campus of IRCC in Fort Pierce. At 100,000 watts, the station serves a listening audience of nearly 90,000 listeners between northern Palm Beach County and south Brevard County. Its format is news/information and classical music with traditional public radio programs, such as Car Talk, Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me, A Prairie Home Companion and Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz, on the weekly schedule.

Hallstrom Planetarium

PSL HT NEWS
10.8.07

Relax in one of the 71 reclining seats and transport yourself into distant places and times, watching the sun, moon and planets appear as if by magic on a 40-foot domed ceiling.

This memorable experience awaits at the Hallstrom Planetarium, located at the Indian River Community College.

You can also join the Treasure Coast Astronomical Society, which holds monthly meetings and "Star Parties" that are open to the public.

The Hallstrom Planetarium is located at 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce. Jon Bell has been the director of the Planetarium since 1993.

For more information on programs or the Treasure Coast Astronomical Society, contact Mr. Bell at (772) 462-4750 or visit www.ircc.edu.

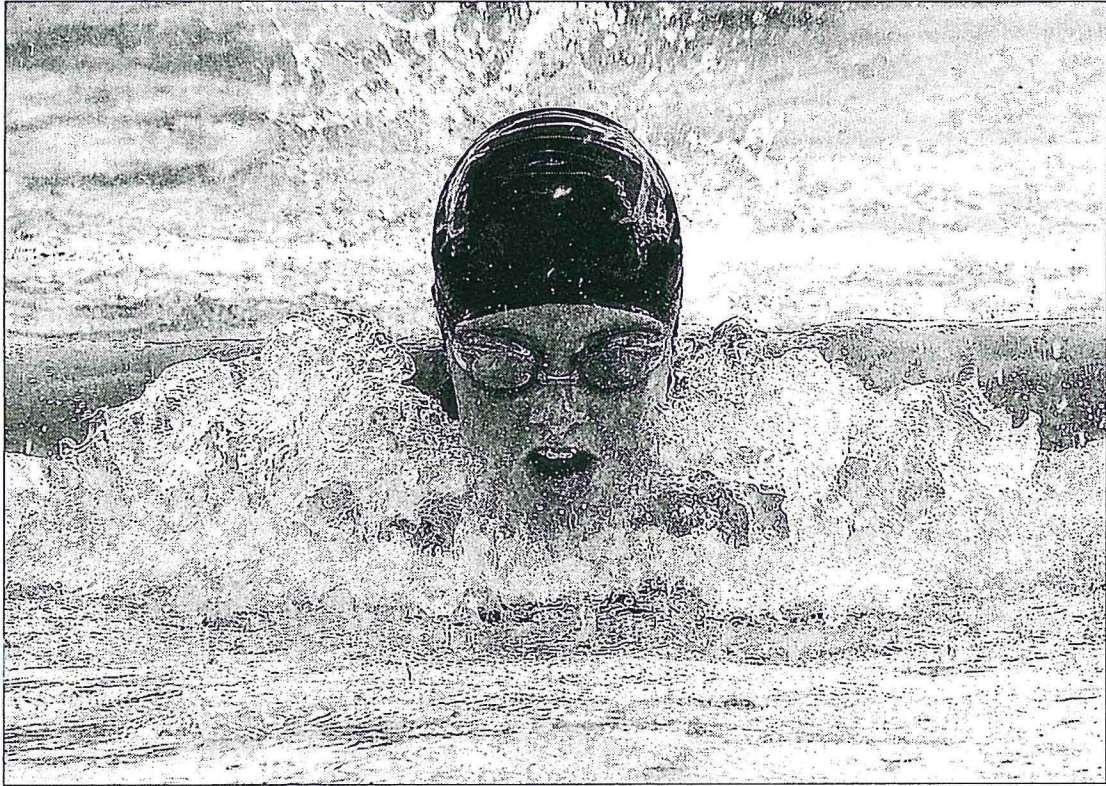
Luminaries
10.8.07

Forever friends

I recently ran into old friends **Ted and Linda Burrows**. Ted is a former editorial Scripps-ite, having been with the **Stuart News** for 27 years and is now the local news broadcaster for **WQCS** radio. My thanks to Ted for his very positive feedback with regard to the look and feel of **Luminaries** saying, "It's definitely a Monday must-read." Hmmm, does he get some of his news from us?

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING DISTRICT MEETS

Tribune 10-20-07



JUAN DALE BROWN • juan.dale.brown@scripps.com

Katie Kittrell of Lincoln Park swims the butterfly leg of the 200-yard individual medley during the District 6-1A championships Friday at the Indian River Community College pool in Fort Pierce.

ALONG THE TREASURE COAST

PSX News 10/13/07

3 volleyball clubs merge into 1

BY LISA RIDDLE

lisa.riddle@scripps.com

co-directors Bradley and Vazquez at riversvbc@yahoo.com.

Indian River Volleyball Academy will combine with Sunrise Volleyball Academy and Indian River Juniors to make one juniors club for the Treasure Coast area.

"We wanted to provide a more unified volleyball program here to really make an impact in the Florida region. We thought it was necessary not to have everyone split up," said Susan Bradley, Indian River Community College's volleyball coach and a co-director for the new club.

The club will be called Rivers Volleyball Club and will be based at IRCC. Bradley's co-director will be Ed Vazquez, who is the former president of the Sunrise Volleyball Academy, which was started by former IRCC volleyball coach Ron Jacobs.

Indian River and Sunrise have been based in St. Lucie County, and Indian River Juniors was based in Indian River County.

On Sunday, the club will have an informational meeting at 2 p.m. in the Kight Center in Room V110 (on IRCC's main campus in Fort Pierce) for interested players and parents. Those interested in coaching should plan to attend a 4 p.m. meeting to follow.

For more information, email