Badolato brothers build
Premier; named provider
at FIT; partners with UCI

By Ken Datzman

The urgent–care industry continues to represent one of the fastest–growing segments of the U.S. health–care system. And many of these providers, which offer patient convenience and smart, affordable pricing, are likely to see even more consumers using their services in the years ahead.

With rising wait times for primary– and emergency–care providers, urgent–care facilities have become an increasingly viable alternative for the non–life–threatening health–care needs of patients.

During the next five years, the industry is expected to see new growth, according to forecasts.

One growth driver will be the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which is projected to expand health–insurance coverage to millions of insured people by 2020. Also, the public’s growing desire for immediate access to medical care will play a role reshaping the provider landscape even more favorably toward the urgent–care business.

The local urgent–care market mirrors the national trend, with many providers in the field experiencing solid growth over the last five to seven years.

“Our practice has been growing rapidly,” said Dr. Steve Badolato, who owns and operates Premier Urgent/Primary Care in the Suntree area of Melbourne with his twin brother, Dr. David Badolato. “We have one of the busiest outpatient urgent–care centers in Brevard County,” he added.

Urgent care is growing because it provides patients a much–needed option for acute illnesses or injuries that aren’t life–threatening, such as urinary–tract infections, sprains and minor broken bones, and colds and flu. These centers serve as a bridge between the emergency room and primary care physician clinical services.

For many patients, urgent–care centers are the main place to go for care — especially on weekends or in the evenings when their primary–care physicians generally don’t have office hours.

Demand is rising at urgent–care centers around the nation because these facilities fit today’s patients’ busy schedules, and they are affordable.

Many urgent–care centers expect to see an increase in patient visits in the coming year; according to the 2014 “Benchmarking Study” of the Urgent Care Association of America. Sixty percent of survey respondents said that they have increased their services, including adding more locations, equipment, office

Dr. Steve Badolato, left, runs Premier Urgent/Primary Care in Suntree with his brother, Dr. David Badolato. Premier was recently named the exclusive medical–service provider at Florida Tech’s Holzer Health Center on campus. Premier has partnered with University Center Imaging, which is owned by Medical Technology Transfer Corp., to provide diagnostic services. For nearly two decades, MTT has provided a wide range of medical services at the Harris Family Medical Center at The Oaks Plaza in Melbourne.
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**Performance Dates**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 20</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday, November 21</td>
<td>2 p.m. &amp; 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sunday, November 22</td>
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<td>Saturday, December 5</td>
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University of Central Florida, FADD and DCF team up to protect children — to lead statewide project

ORLANDO — The University of Central Florida, in collaboration with the Florida Association of Deans and Directors of Social Work, will lead a new statewide project that will help reshape and enhance the work force at the Florida Department of Children and Families to better protect children under state care.

UCF is the lead university that will implement a $5.3 million contract to train social-work students across the state who would then become child protective investigators and case managers for the state.

“This is a great moment when academia can fulfill one of its missions — to help make our world better,” said Dean Michael Frumkin of UCF’s College of Health and Public Affairs, which is leading the effort. “Universities should be about helping solve real-world problems and we are pleased that UCF can work with universities across the state and with DCF to usher in change that will help protect some of our most vulnerable citizens.”

DCF received more than 190,000 calls about potential child abuse or neglect in fiscal year 2014-2015. There were more than 262,000 active investigations during that same time period.

The contract between DCF and UCF involves 14 public and private universities in Florida with schools of social work. The program will provide a maximum of $12,000 in stipends per student per year.

Full-time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for two annual stipends of $6,000 per year with similar work obligations.

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Full-time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for two annual stipends of $6,000 per year if they earn their degree in social work, take classes specifically designed to prepare students to work in child welfare and who pledge to work two years at a local DCF office, a sheriff’s investigative unit or a community-based care lead agency or one of its subcontractors. Part-time graduate students are eligible for three annual stipends of $4,000 per year with similar work obligations.

“One of the agency’s top priorities is to create a world-class child-welfare system through the development of a world-class work force,” said DCF Secretary Mike Carol. “This project will assist DCF in that mission by helping child-welfare professionals develop the assessment skills necessary to ensure child safety and help families across the state realize better outcomes.”

The new project meets one of the major goals outlined in the 2014 Florida Senate Bill 1666, which is for 50 percent of child-welfare professionals statewide to hold social work degrees.

The other universities involved in the project are Barry University, Florida A&M University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida International University, Florida Memorial University, Florida State University, Saint Leo University, Southeastern University, University of North Florida, University of South Florida, University of West Florida and Warner University.

Once students in the program earn their degree, the university will help them find work that meets the requirements of the stipend. Should the student fail to land a job within six months of graduation, they will be required to pay back the stipend.

“This partnership between the schools of social work in Florida and DCF provides the state with an opportunity to fundamentally transform child-welfare practice in Florida by improving the lives of the children and families we serve,” said Bonnie Yegidis, director of UCF’s School of Social Work and principal investigator for the contract.

For more information about the project and how to apply, contact Bonnie.Yegidis@UCF.edu or visit www.CoHPA.UCF.edu/SocialWork/Financial–Aid.

Brenner Real Estate Group announces Brown and Brown lease in Suntree area

Brenner Real Estate Group, a full-service commercial real-estate firm based in Fort Lauderdale with offices at Imperial Plaza in Melbourne, has announced a new lease in the local market.

Brown and Brown of Florida Inc., an insurance company, has leased 6,392 square feet of office space within Imperial Plaza Office Tower, 6905 N. Wickham Road in Melbourne.

Carla Casey, regional manager and property manager for Brenner Real Estate in Brevard County, and colleague Colette Wood, a commercial associate, represented the tenant in the transaction.

The landlord, Real Capital Solutions Inc., was represented by Jewel McDonald of JM Real Estate in Melbourne.

For more information on Brenner Real Estate Group, visit www.BREG.net, or contact the firm locally at 242-4575.

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By Heather Gibson
UCF Forum columnist

A theatre student recently came to my office a little on the glum side. He was an actor in a production that had received a less-than-favorable review and he wasn’t taking it well. He had taken the writer’s words to heart and it was affecting his performance.

To be perfectly honest, I felt a little responsible for his pain. As the marketing director for the UCF School of Performing Arts, I had invited the writer to attend our production. Was my interest in publicizing the production interfering with the student’s education?

One could argue that since we are an educational organization we shouldn’t be inviting media to review our production. Was my interest in publicizing the show appealing to everyone, because that’s not degrade us as people or performers,” another added.

A quick poll of Theatre UCF alumni garnered some great advice:

“A blogger wrote a racially charged article about my role. When that happens, always maintain a level of professionalism and remember that it is the opinion of one person,” said one young alumna.

“Our job as actors is to tell the story of the playwright through the vision of the director. Negative comments can be hurtful, but we must never let them degrade us as people or performers,” another added.

And my personal favorite: “It’s not about making sure the show appeals to everyone, because that’s not what theatre is about.”

The next time someone has something bad to say about your work, remember these four things (which can be applied to everyone):

- A review is only one person’s opinion. That person may know a little more about theatre than the average person on the street, but it is still just one opinion — and there’s nothing saying that the guy on the street wouldn’t love what the critic just panned…or vice versa.
- Don’t let a review affect your performance. You have been given direction to perform your role in a certain way. Changing the way you perform your role affects the entire cast and goes against the director’s vision. This can be hard to do, so some professionals wait until the run ends to read reviews, some never read them at all.
- Design work is teamwork. Your name may be listed as the person responsible for the costume design, but your decisions weren’t made in a vacuum. The director, technicians and actors all affect how the costumes look in the show. And remember, this goes both ways. If you get a compliment, share that credit with your team.
- Find the positivity. Take a page from the marketing director’s handbook, and find the one great quote in the article to pull out. There’s always something positive in the review, so celebrate that instead of focusing on the bad.

I sent my actor friend out with this advice and a few days later he was feeling much better.

And I feel better knowing that he and all of our students are equipped to handle whatever comes their way — though this proud mother hen is confident that it will be nothing but rainbows and sunshine for my talented crew.

Tina Descovich is first to qualify by petition for Brevard County School Board District 3

The Brevard County Supervisor of Elections office has confirmed that Tina Descovich is the first to qualify by petition for Brevard County School Board District 3 seat. Descovich has reached out into the community and collected the 800 petitions needed to qualify for the ballot in 2016.

“Meeting the voters has been very energizing to my campaign. The community support is strong for a Common Sense candidate that believes parents, teachers and local leaders should be making educational decisions,” school board candidate Descovich said.

“I am thankful for the hard work of my campaign team as we continue to meet our fund-raising and community-outreach goals.”

Descovich filed in February for District 3, which covers Satellite Beach, Indian Harbour Beach, Indialantic, Melbourne Beach, Grant, Malabar, Barefoot Bay, Micco and portions of Palm Bay and Melbourne. The seat is being vacated by Amy Knessey, who has announced she will not seek re-election.

Descovich, who has a bachelor’s degree in communication, was raised in Brevard County. She is an experienced professional with more than two decades of business experience.

She has been an advocate for students, parents and teachers in the community and has volunteered more than 2,000 hours in Brevard Public Schools.

Descovich is the founder of an organization that fights “High Stakes Testing” and is an outspoken critic of “Common Core.” She is also a member of the School Advisory Council and is a past president of Indialantic Elementary Parent Teacher Organization.

She and her husband Derek have five children, of which two are currently school-aged and attending Brevard Public Schools. It is Tina’s goal to “return common sense to education and restore decision-making authority over our children’s education to parents, teachers and the local school board.”

To join the team go to www.TinaForSchoolBoard.com.
A portion of the April 29, 2015 DCF call regarding [redacted] was played for Ms. Loyd, who initially denied being the one who called in the allegation. Your Affiant explained to Ms. Loyd that there were no substitute teachers in [redacted]’s class on the date of the alleged admission and your Affiant showed her the phone number captured by DCF’s caller-ID, (321) 591-7964, which she identified as her phone number. Ms. Loyd then [redacted]’s school on the day she called DCF, and she indicated she had not.

Your Affiant asked Ms. Loyd if she would agree that calling a person’s soccer league, calling their employer, and contacting DCF to make an allegation you knew was not true would constitute harassment, and she said, “I’m gonna say, ‘Yes.'”

By not only contacting [redacted]’s out-of-state employer and members of his soccer league to accuse him of sexually abusing his daughter, but by also contacting the Florida Department of Children and Families to report overhearing admissions of sexual abuse and child neglect, Dana Loyd engaged in a course of action directed at [redacted] which caused substantial emotional distress to him and served no legitimate purpose.

Furthermore, by claiming to be a substitute teacher who overheard [redacted] making admissions of sexual abuse and child neglect and making allegations of the same via DCF’s Florida Abuse Hotline, Dana Loyd committed a third-degree felony (F.S.S 39.205).

Since Ms. Loyd stated to your Affiant that she has never met with or spoken to [redacted], it is clear that her call to the DCF hotline was not made in good faith. When considered within the totality of the circumstances- Ms. Loyd has never met with [redacted], has either not read or has ignored the numerous reports made by law enforcement officers and social workers in which the same sexual abuse and neglect allegations she reported to DCF have been unfounded time and again; and is aware of Judge Maxwell’s court order forbidding further interviews of the child due to the fact that additional interviews would constitute abuse of the child; there is probable cause to believe Ms. Loyd’s report to DCF was maliciously made for the purpose of harassing [redacted].

Based on the above stated facts, your Affiant has probable cause to believe Dana Delaney Loyd did commit the crimes of Filing a False Report of Child Abuse, contrary to section 39.205(9), Florida Statutes, and Stalking, contrary to section 784.048(2), Florida Statutes.
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Brevard Achievement Center’s new training program gets big lift from PNC grant, ‘Dinner–in–the–Dark’ event

ROCKLEDGE — Brevard Achievement Center, a nonprofit agency whose mission is to provide people with disabilities innovative services and opportunities to achieve personal success, has announced that its new Industry Readiness Training (IRT) program recently received a $5,000 grant from the PNC Foundation and $60,500 in cash sponsorships from its inaugural “Dinner–in–the–Dark” event.

The IRT is the “first” program of its kind in the Southeast.

The program was completely designed by BAC staff to give individuals with significant disabilities an opportunity to obtain and sustain employment at the highest level achievable. The program will focus on structured, in–house skills training in high–need industries like hospitality, retail, food service and manufacturing.

To ensure participants receive the right training to become more marketable in the work force, an advisory council consisting of leaders in these industries was formed. The council consists of: Cheryl Cost, CareerSource Brevard; Tom Charland, Harris Corp.; Scott Ellis, Clerk of the Court; Puneet Kapur, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Palm Bay; and Mike Klenotich, Winn Dixie, West Melbourne.

“Although a client in our day program has more significant disabilities, he or she might have the potential to work in the community with the right training,” said Robert Gramolini, vice president of Employment Services. “Thus, the focus of the IRT program is to provide in–house job skills training to those with more significant disabilities to give them a better chance of being able to transition into community employment.”

Donated funds will be used to purchase curriculum, as well as materials and equipment to build in–house simulated work “pods.” These miniature workstations will mimic the actual workplace setting of one of the IRT program’s focus industries. A work pod for the hospitality industry will simulate an actual hotel room, for example.

The “Dinner in the Dark’s” Presenting Sponsor was Southern Janitor. Other sponsors included: ADI Contracting; American Maintenance; Artemis; Badalato’s Family Health; BB&T–J. Rolfe Davis; Bellus Insurance; Carr, Riggs & Ingram; Copytronics; Deininger Benefits Advisors; Florida Eye; Rhoda Fisher; Ford & Harrison; Florida Power & Light Co.; Arthur J. Gallagher and Co.; Health First; Intercoastal Insurance; Dr. Deborah Kearney; Christine Lance; Las Olas Chemist; Bob and Kathy Lowe; McKesson; Marketing World; Miller Construction; Schlenker Automotive; Martha Sinclair; Southeast Petro; Summit; SunTrust; The Boon Group; The Viera Co.; Michael Welch and Casey Whelan; and Wuesthoff Health System.

To learn more about the IRT program, contact Gramolini at RGramolini@BACBrevard.com or call 632–8610, extension 228.

Information about BAC’s other programs and services can be found at BACBrevard.com.
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Two new board members have joined Brevard Cultural Alliance. They are Andrea Farmer and Andrew Weintraub. The board provides oversight of the organization and advocacy for the arts and cultural sector in the community.

Farmer is the senior director of communications at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. She joined the Delaware North team, operators of the Visitor Complex for NASA, in 2004 and is responsible for communications, content, media relations and community relations.

Farmer was honored as the recipient of the 2013 Harry Kolum Memorial News and Communication Award presented by the National Space Club Florida Committee. Farmer received her bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Central Florida.

Weintraub is the vice president of sales and business development for Health First Health Plans. Weintraub is responsible for providing leadership and business development activities for its commercial group plans, Medicare Advantage plans, and individual and Marketplace (Exchange) plans. He also leads business development efforts into new products, market segments and geographic regions for future growth.

Weintraub earned his bachelor’s degree from The Pennsylvania State University and is currently the board chairman of the Alzheimer’s Association (Florida Gulf Coast Chapter). He is also a board member of the Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce. Weintraub is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Brevard.

The BCA officers for fiscal year 2016 include: chairwoman, Karen Montas, attorney, Johnson & Montas, PA; chair–elect, Jill Reyes, director and CPA, McGladrey LLP; treasurer, Michelle Naberhaus, attorney, Dean Mead; secretary, Rebecca Shireman, senior editor, SCB Marketing; vice chairman, Joe Mayer, director of government relations, Lockheed Martin; financial counsel, Kathleen Thomas–Beck, partner/managing director, McGladrey LLP; and legal, attorney Jack Kirschenbaum, shareholder, GrayRobinson, P.A.

“As we embark on a new fiscal year we are thrilled to welcome new community leaders to our BCA team,” said BCA Executive Director Neil Levine. “Both Andrea and Andrew play an integral role in shaping the Space Coast, in business and culture, and we are proud to welcome them.”

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association to meet Nov. 9 at Kay’s in Cocoa Chapter 1137 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 9 at Kay’s BBQ Restaurant on State Road 520 in Cocoa. The organization gathers on the second Monday of each month at Kay’s. The meetings are open to the public and feature guest speakers. Visit www.NARFE.org/Chapter1137.

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Nearly 25 million Americans over age 40 have cataracts and the number is projected to increase to 45 million by 2050. Over time, cataracts can disrupt the quality of one’s life in a number of ways, including nighttime driving.

Cataracts can cause halos around lights and difficulty in seeing in low-light settings, impacting the ability to drive safely in the evening and nighttime hours. Advanced cataracts can even cause people to fail the vision test required for a driver’s license.

The only way to remove cataracts — a clouding of the eye’s lens — is surgery.

Fortunately, Medicare Part B does cover cataract surgery costs. The average cost of cataract surgery in a Medicare outpatient setting is generally around $2,500 to $3,000 per eye, which includes the anesthesia provider. Medicare covers 80 percent of the surgical costs.

But many people who have cataracts are not Medicare-eligible (65 years old) and they cannot afford private insurance, even under the umbrella of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

They put off the procedure hoping for a godsend, while suffering with their cataracts, the leading cause of blindness.

“There are people who simply cannot afford to have cataract surgery and it’s sad because it limits their ability to function in so many different ways,” said Dr. James McManus, an eye physician and surgeon at The Eye Institute for Medicine & Surgery on West Nasa Boulevard in Melbourne.

“I’m not talking about a mild decrease in vision. I’m talking about patients who cannot drive or read because of cataracts. They can’t perform their daily activities.”

Dr. McManus, a board-certified ophthalmologist and cataract specialist, is offering the “gift of sight” to a Brevard County resident who is suffering from vision loss as a result of cataracts, is uninsured, and does not have the financial resources to afford surgery.

For the fourth consecutive holiday season, Dr. McManus is sponsoring his community-service project “The Christmas Cataract — A Happy Ending Waiting for Your Story.”

“This program is designed for people who really need cataract surgery, but do not have the resources to pay for it,” he said.

If you believe that you would be an appropriate candidate for this program, or know someone who is, submit a brief letter explaining your circumstances, including how long and to what extent you are suffering from vision loss, and how you think your life would change if your vision loss from cataracts was corrected.

The web address for submission is TheChristmasCataract.com. The dedicated site shows a festive fireplace in a beautifully decorated holiday setting, and you’ll hear Frank Sinatra’s classic “Silent Night,” recorded in 1957 at Capitol Records.

Dr. McManus says the staff at The Eye Institute for Medicine & Surgery helps promote The Christmas Cataract program in the community. “It’s really nice to see their involvement.”

He reviews all the entries for The Christmas Cataract and selects the candidate best suited for the surgery and who presents the “most compelling story.”

“Over the years, we’ve received a lot of responses from people needing cataract surgery,” said Dr. McManus. “It’s to the point where it is difficult to choose the best candidate because there are so many worthy people.”

He added, “The patients who have had this surgery in the past, as part of The Christmas Cataract program, were in great need. It’s amazing what the patients have been able to do once they’ve had the surgery.”

Older people are at increased risk of several eye diseases, including age-related macular degeneration, cataracts, and glaucoma.

Patients who in past years were selected for the charitable program have kept in touch with the staff at The Eye Institute for Medicine & Surgery. “Sometimes they make and send us artwork as a thank-you. They are very sincere in their gratitude,” he said.
Webster University looks to expand graduate degree programs in this market; Spring Term to begin Jan. 4; school offers five convenient class starts a year

By Ken Datzman

MERRITT ISLAND — Webster University on the Space Coast recently introduced its new Master of Science in Cybersecurity program, which is being well received in the community. The degree is currently offered at its Merritt Island and Melbourne campuses.

Now the St. Louis–based institution, which has both a national and a global reach providing graduate education to working professionals in a convenient format, is looking to build on the success of that launch. Presently, it is surveying and sizing up additional new degree opportunities to better meet the work–force needs of the local market.

“Some of the master’s programs we are looking at right now are Health Administration, International Relations, and Human Services,” said Naomi Coleman, community relations coordinator for Webster University.

“We think those three graduate degrees will be a good fit for this community, especially for people who are looking to advance in their careers. We don’t have a set date to start any of those programs. We are in the initial phase of exploring their potential to see if there is enough demand in this market.”

Statistically speaking, college degrees remain a sound investment for most workers and post–graduate degrees offer “even bigger payoffs” in the marketplace, according to the article “Higher Education, Wages and Polarization.” The article was published this year in the Federal Reserve Board of San Francisco’s “Economic Letter.” Economist Rob Valletta examined the benefits of higher education and affirms that graduate education pays off.

There are various metrics used to assess the benefits of higher education, but Valletta determined that “the most easily measured and arguably the most important element from an economic and social perspective” is the earnings advantage afforded to workers with a college degree or post–graduate education.

Valletta examined differences in pay among workers with different levels of education, and he concluded that there has been increasing “polarization” between groups of workers, which is pointed out in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ “Monthly Labor Review,” a 100–year–old publication.

Over the last 35 years, the “wage gap between college–educated workers and workers with a high school diploma has rapidly increased, with a notable period of fast growth during the 1980s. During the 1990s and early 2000s, the gap continued to widen, though at a slower pace. In 1979, workers with at least a college degree made 35 percent more on average than workers with no more than a high school diploma. By 2013, this gap increased and reached nearly 80 percent.”

College–educated workers produce more than 50 percent of the nation’s economic output, up from 13 percent in 1967, according to a detailed historical analysis of industry data by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

The dramatic increase in the economic value generated by college–educated workers is directly linked to the “rise of a college–educated service economy.”

The Georgetown study finds that mass production of standardized goods and services has been replaced by more complex consumer demands that include “quality, variety, customization, convenience, production speed, innovation, and novelty.”

College–educated workers and flexible technologies “have allowed the United States to achieve this rich mix of economic value at reasonable prices.”

The graduate education market in the U.S. is seeing new growth. The Council of Graduate Schools reported a 3.5 percent one–year increase in first–time graduate enrollment between fall 2013 and fall 2014 — the largest uptick since 2009.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employers will be adding nearly 2.4 million jobs requiring a graduate degree or higher between now and 2022.

Coleman is asking people who have an interest in one of the three mentioned programs to contact Webster University. Her e–mail is NaomiColeman38@Webster.edu or call the Merritt Island campus at 449–4500.

There is an array of job opportunities in the three new programs Webster University is considering for this market. For example, employment of medical and health–services managers is projected to grow 23 percent by 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations, says the U.S. Department of Labor.

As the large baby–boomer population ages and people remain active later in life, the health–care industry as a whole will see an increase in the number of medical services provided. This demand will in turn result in an increase in the number of physicians, patients, and procedures, as well as the number of facilities. Managers will be needed to organize and manage medical information and staffs in the health–care industry. There will likely be increased demand for nursing care facility administrators as baby–boomers age.
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Porsche Club of America’s Space Coast Region to be featured at the 18th annual ‘Havenly Affair’

The Haven Guild has announced that The Porsche Club of America’s Space Coast Region (PCASCR) will be displaying some of its finest vehicles at “The Havenly Affair” fund-raiser on Sunday, Nov. 15, at the riverfront estate of Keith and Lila Buescher on Merritt Island.

For the last two years, The Heavenly Affair has featured exquisite collections of rare and fine automobiles. This year’s event was not going to fully carry on the car theme, but in August The Haven was told they were chosen to be the “beneficiary of PCASCR’s annual Porsche Calendar.”

“It was simply meant to be,” said event chairwoman Mary Bowman. “As we began contacting sponsors about our event over the summer, we were repeatedly asked if there would again be a showcase of fine automobiles. When we heard the great news about PCASCR’s $8,000 donation to The Haven for Children, we jumped at the chance to invite them to display the calendar cars at our event.”

The Havenly Affair Benefactors are invited to a Champagne Brunch at 12:30 p.m. on the day of the event, and other guests will join at 2:30 p.m. for an afternoon of “delicious refreshments, live music and heartwarming stories of success from The Haven.” There will also be a live auction and a 50–50 raffle to benefit The Haven Endowment Fund.

The Haven for Children is a group home for foster children removed from their families because of abuse or neglect. “The ability to offer sustaining care to the children comes in large part from proceeds of the annual Havenly Affair and its generous supporters.”

The Heavenly Affair is a pre–sale ticketed event. Tickets are $150 per person, with Corporate and Individual Benefactor levels beginning at $500.

New director of development named at Habitat for Humanity of Brevard County

PALM BAY — Habitat for Humanity of Brevard County Inc. has named Kate Reed its new director of development. She joined the staff Oct. 19.

Before coming aboard Habitat, Reed spent 15 years working in the areas of sales, marketing, communications and customer–relationship management. “I am honored to be part of an organization that does such meaningful work. I am looking forward to helping Habitat continue its local mission of building homes, communities and hope.”

“Kate comes to Habitat with a wonderful blend of experience in construction and technology,” said Diane Koenig, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Brevard. “Her faith, strong work ethic and joyful personality will help Habitat serve more families.”

Koenig added, “As the local economy strengthens, it is becoming more expensive to live in Brevard. This is creating a greater need for the Habitat program to extend the hand up, not hand out, to hard–working families who cannot make ends meet. I am delighted to announce Kate Reed as our new director of development.”

Habitat for Humanity of Brevard County is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put “God’s love into action by building homes, communities and hope.”

Since 1985, the local affiliate has provided more than 334 families with the opportunity of home ownership in partnership with many individuals, businesses, organizations and members of the faith community. For more information about the organization, visit www.BrevardHabitat.com and www.BrevardHabitat.com/ReStore, or follow at www.facebook.com/HabitatBrevardCounty and at www.Twitter.com/BrevardHabitat.

4-H Rabbit Club recruiting members

Calling all Lops, Rexes and Angoras — The University of Florida/Brevard Extension Service is recruiting new members for its 4–H Rabbit Club. “Join us for fun and informative forays with your favorite fluffy friends.” The club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the UF/IFAS Extension Brevard Office, 3695 Lake Drive, in Cocoa. For more information about the club, contact Vanessa Spero–Swingle at 633–1702.
Brevard Library Foundation now accepting entries for Patrick D. Smith Literary Medal

The Brevard County Library Foundation is inviting authors in the region to submit their works to compete for the 2015 Patrick D. Smith Literary Medal.

The late Smith was a longtime resident of Brevard County and is viewed as one of the Sunshine State’s great authors. He wrote multiple novels, including “A Land Remembered,” which won the Florida Historical Society’s Tebeau Prize for the Most Outstanding Florida Historical Novel. The book was published in 1984.

Smith earned bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of Mississippi.

The Patrick D. Smith Literary Medal is an annual award to be given to the best original work submitted by a Brevard County author. In addition to the Medal, a cash prize of $500 will be presented to the winning author.

Individuals may submit more than one entry, but each title will require its own entry form, entry fee, and the requisite number of review copies. Entry fees will not be refundable. There is a $25 fee for each entry.

All of the details of the contest are posted at www.BrevardLibraryFoundation.org. Submit the entry fee amount with seven copies of each title, with each copy bound in a “duo–tang” style cover, plus one digital copy on a CD or flash drive.

Mail the material to: Brevard Library Foundation, Patrick D. Smith Literary Medal Committee, 219 Indian River Drive, Cocoa, Fla., 32922. The packet can also be dropped off at this address, which is the Brevard Library Foundation’s office. The deadline for entries is Nov. 12.

The winner will be honored at a special Patrick D. Smith Literary Award event. At this time, the event is anticipated to be held in February.

Silent Art Auction Nov. 12 in Melbourne to benefit the MAF Student Scholarship Fund

The Melbourne Art Festival (MAF) will hold a Silent Art Auction to benefit the MAF Student Scholarship Fund from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Melbourne Realtor Conference Center. The address is 1450 Sarno Road.

The evening will include an auction of fine art, live music, food and refreshments. All artwork is donated by participating festival artists.

The scholarship fund has provided more than $104,000 to students, teachers and arts programs in Brevard County since its inception in 1996. Scholarships may be used for art classes and workshops. Seventy-five percent or more of participating MAF artists donate at least one piece each year to the scholarship auction.

MAF, a nonprofit corporation, produces an annual art festival in downtown Melbourne the fourth full weekend of April. “Sunshine Artist Magazine” has rated the event consistently in the “top 100 art festivals in the nation.” MAF’s mission is to organize, promote and encourage artistic endeavors, education and appreciation in Brevard County.

Advance tickets for the auction may be purchased at www.MelbourneArts.org for $25 each, or $45 per couple. Tickets are $30 per person or $50 per couple at the door the evening of the event.
Dr. McManus has practiced in Brevard County for more than 25 years, performing thousands of cataract surgeries. He says Brevard “has been a wonderful place to set down roots and raise a family. I want to give back to the community that has been wonderful to me.”

Cataract is the leading cause of treatable vision loss and will affect more than half of all Americans by the time they are 80 years old, according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

In cataract surgery, the cloudy lens is removed and replaced with an artificial lens.

As a cataract slowly begins to develop, you may not notice any changes in your vision at first. But as the cataract progresses, you may find that it interferes with your daily activities.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends a comprehensive eye examination for all adults starting at age 40.

A recent study found that those who have cataract surgery to correct visual impairment live longer than those who do not have the surgery. The research was conducted in Australia.

The study compared people over the age of 49 who had cataract–related vision loss and had cataract surgery to those similarly aged who had the same type of vision loss, but did not have the surgery.

The study found that there is a 40 percent lower “long–term mortality risk” in those who had the surgery. The research was drawn from data gathered in the “Blue Mountains Eye Study,” which examined vision and common eye diseases in an older Australian population.

Adjustments were made for age and gender as well as a number of mortality risk factors, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, heart disease, and body–mass index.

The association between the correction of cataract–related vision problems and reduced mortality risk is not clearly understood, the study said. Possible factors may include improvements in “physical and emotional wellbeing, optimism, and greater confidence associated with independent living after vision impairment.”

Meanwhile, as the economy improves, more cataract patients are asking for “premium lens,” the new, emerging lens–implant technology in the field of ophthalmology that treats astigmatism, said Dr. McManus.

These lenses are not covered by insurance because they are seen as an elective or cosmetic procedure. “But they are growing in popularity because a large percentage of the population has an astigmatism,” he said.

Astigmatism is an imperfection in the curvature of your cornea — the clear, round dome covering the eye’s iris and pupil — or in the shape of the eye’s lens. Normally, the cornea and lens are smooth and curved equally in all directions, helping to focus light rays sharply onto the retina at the back your eye, said Dr. McManus.

However, if your cornea or lens isn’t smooth and evenly curved, light rays aren’t refracted properly. This is called a “refractive error.”

When the cornea has an irregular shape, it is called “corneal astigmatism.” When the shape of the lens is distorted, you have “lenticular astigmatism.”

As a result of either type of astigmatism, vision for both near and far objects appears blurry or distorted. It’s almost like looking into a “fun–house mirror in which you appear too tall, too wide, or too thin,” according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Premium lens implants have been helping patients do the activities they might not have been able to do because of their vision, such as golfing, driving, or reading the newspaper. They now depend less on glasses for these things.

“The goal is to reduce the effect of the astigmatism to a point where it is no longer a significant factor,” said Dr. McManus, whose practice uses the Toric lens to correct for astigmatism. They are placed in the patient’s eye during routine cataract surgery. These lenses reduce or correct astigmatism.

Another lens that is popular among cataract patients is the multifocal lens, he said. The multifocal lens is for patients who generally do not have a lot of astigmatism.

“What’s nice about this lens is that it gives the patient the ability to see both distance and near.”

While cataracts cannot be prevented, development can be delayed by: protecting your eyes from the sun; eating a diet rich in fatty acids including fish, avocado, and nuts; maintaining vitamin C levels; not smoking; and controlling blood sugar if you have diabetes, says the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Thousands of eye physicians and surgeons like Dr. McManus will be descending on Las Vegas to attend the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s 119th annual meeting Nov. 13–17 at the Sands Expo/Venetian.

New technological developments in the field will be discussed. For example, a joint symposium between the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Association of Ophthalmic Oncologists and Pathologists will address the use of nanotechnology in eye care.

Ophthalmologists can now treat common eye disease by injecting microscopic particles into the eye. These evolving therapies could prevent vision loss due to some diseases and restore sight in other cases.

Another symposium will explore how collaborative research has advanced the treatment of “lazy eye” and other childhood vision problems.

Additionally, the skyrocketing rates of nearsightedness, which affects 40 percent of the U.S. population, will be addressed.

In addition to being a full–service ophthalmology practice, The Eye Institute for Medicine & Surgery runs a Hearing Center, which was expanded and is now located on the second floor of the facility on West Nasa Boulevard in Melbourne.

The Eye Institute for Medicine & Surgery also has locations in Rockledge and Palm Bay. But entries for The Christmas Cataract program are made online.

Dr. McManus said he created the charitable program because “while most of us enjoy the gift of sight on a daily basis, not stopping to think of how truly blessed we are, many people suffer from lost or diminished vision and don’t know where to turn for help.”
Indian River Lagoon Day Nov. 14 to feature free activities for young people and families

The annual Indian River Lagoon Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Front Street Park, 2210 Front St., in Melbourne. The free event is being hosted by the City of Palm Bay, the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, the Marine Resources Council, the City of Melbourne, Brevard County Natural Resources Management and Anglers for Conservation.

Many lagoon–focused activities will be offered for every member of the family. Attendees will learn about the Lagoon at exhibitor booths. The activities will include the “Hook Kids on Fishing” event, from 9 to 11 a.m., and the “Rain Barrel Workshop,” from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

There also will be face–painting, T–shirt painting, and free kayak rides provided by Karen’s Kayaks. Keep Brevard Beautiful will be collecting plastic bags to be recycled and there will be a collection booth for non–perishable food items to help support The Boy Scouts of America’s canned food drive.

Registration is required for the Hook Kids on Fishing event, Rain Barrel Workshop, and the IRL Paddle Adventure. To register, visit www.PaddlingParadise.com/Indian–River–Lagoon–Paddle–Adventure.html. Or register for these events by contacting Lydia Jackson at Lydia.Jackson@BrevardCounty.us or call 633–2016. For more information on this program, contact Kaylene Wheeler, City of Palm Bay, at 953–8996 or at Kaylene.Wheeler@PalmBayFlorida.org.

Caprice Atwell of Prudential Sterling earns a leading industry designation

Caprice Atwell of Prudential Sterling Properties has earned the prestigious Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager designation presented by the Council of Real Estate Brokerage Managers. Realtors earning the designation have completed a comprehensive program combining experience with management education. The Council is a not–for–profit affiliate of the National Association of Realtors, with almost 7,000 members in North America.

Atwell is the office manager at Prudential Sterling Properties in Indian Harbour Beach and in Vero Beach. A member of the Space Coast Association Board of Realtors, the Florida Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors, Atwell also serves as the director of relocation and referral Services for Prudential Sterling Properties.

Rotary seeks donations for Holiday Meal Program

The Rotary Club of Palm Bay is currently conducting its 24th annual Holiday Meal Program to benefit Palm Bay families in need. More than 150 complete turkey dinners will be provided during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Area businesses and individuals wishing to participate may donate $45 to have a dinner delivered in their name. Donation checks may be made out to Rotary Club of Palm Bay and mailed to: Rotary Club of Palm Bay, C/O Collins and Associates Real Estate, P.O. Box 060787, Palm Bay, Fla., 32906. For more information on this program, call Gene Collins at 727–9000.
Continued from page 11

(people born between 1946 and 1964). Employment is projected to grow in the offices of health practitioners. Demand in medical group practice management is expected to grow as these groups become larger and more complex.

Webster University currently offers a range of degree programs at campuses on Merritt Island, at Patrick Air Force Base, and in Melbourne. The programs include the Master of Business Administration, the Master of Public Administration, and the Master of Arts in Counseling, in Human Resources Management, in Human Resources Development, in Management and Leadership, in Information Technology Management, and in Procurement and Acquisition Management. Most of the programs are offered at all three campuses.

Among Webster University’s longstanding and largest enrollment programs in this region is its Master of Arts in Counseling, a 60-credit hour degree (includes internship hours and practicum hours). “The program offers the option for the Florida state licensure and has an emphasis on clinical mental health counseling,” said Coleman.

Classes for Webster University degrees are held from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. “We do have some Saturday classes for counseling students. They are the only ones who take Saturday classes at this time,” she said.

The school’s Spring 1 Term will begin Jan. 4. The student application is available at www.Webster.edu/SpaceCoast. Coleman said the university will waive the $50 application fee “for any new students.” The school will also be hosting “information sessions” soon to introduce Webster University to potential candidates. The sessions will be held during lunch hour and after work. The times and dates will be posted on the website.

Coleman said her institution is doing more community events, working closely with such organizations as the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce. Webster University has been hosting “Lunch and Learn” events, too, in the community. “We are asking our faculty members to step forward and volunteer to conduct these gatherings. These information-rich seminars cover all types of interesting topics and are free of charge to the public. We provide a light lunch as well.”

Webster University typically caters its graduate programs to working professionals who have experience in their fields. The degrees are offered in both a physical classroom setting and online. Some students combine the two formats, said Coleman. Another convenience is the school’s five start times a year, in January, March, May, August, and October.

“We have five nine–week terms per year. We typically have a two–week break in between each term. The nice thing about having five starts per year and nine–week–

long terms is that most students are able to complete their master’s degree within 15 months, which is a good turnaround time for a graduate program,” said Coleman, who herself is a graduate of Webster University, with a master’s degree in Management and Leadership.

Webster University on the Space Coast is set up to be a “one–stop shop” for student services, including the processing of VA benefits which are then sent to the flagship campus in St. Louis. Financial aid is available for qualified students.

Nationally, Webster University has been one of the leaders providing graduate education at more than 50 Extended Campus locations. Locally, it has more than a 20–year track record offering degrees at its three campuses, which are under the leadership of Aaron Williams, director.

The university also has a long history of giving back to the community. Annually, Webster University sponsors a campus–wide community service day in partnership with local agencies and nonprofit organizations. Students, faculty, staff and alumni work in teams on various projects.

The community service day is appropriately titled “Webster Works Worldwide.” The event is held every October. “We just partnered with The Children’s Hunger Project in Cocoa, helping that organization. We unpacked boxes and packaged meals,” said Coleman.

The nonprofit organization is dedicated to providing nutritious weekend meals for low–income children in the area. “The meals are put in the backpacks of young students as they leave school on Friday afternoon. “Everyone really enjoyed participating in The Children’s Hunger Project. What a great community program,” said Coleman.

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The Brevard Library Foundation is pleased to present the Patrick D. Smith Literary Medal

Honoring the best work by Brevard authors

Brevard County authors are cordially invited to submit their works to compete for the 2015 Patrick D. Smith Literary Medal.

The Medal is an annual award to be given to the best original work submitted by an author who is a resident of Brevard County, Florida.

In addition to the Medal, a cash prize of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00) will be awarded to the winning author.

Individuals may submit more than one entry. Entry fees will not be refundable.

Entry Rules and Requirements are available at www.brevardlibraryfoundation.org

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Recently, Premier was named the exclusive medical–service provider at the Holzer Health Center on the campus of Florida Tech in Melbourne.

“Premier is honored to be providing care to a university with such an outstanding reputation and privileged to follow the dream of Dr. O.A. Holzer, who started the center in 1975,” said Dr. David Badolato, who is board certified in family medicine.

“It’s a center of educational and medical excellence now for us,” said Dr. Steve Badolato about the Holzer Health Center. “We’re really excited about our new partnership with FIT and look forward to developing a long and beneficial relationship with the goal to provide the highest quality of care to the entire Florida Tech family. We would love to grow the Holzer Health Center in terms of providing more services to students and staff.”

Premier expects to see about 7,000 patient visits in the first year at the Holzer Health Center. Office visits are free of charge to all registered Florida Tech students regardless of insurance for acute illnesses or injuries, said Dr. Steve Badolato. The Holzer Health Center will also extend their services to all Florida Tech faculty and staff.

Premier has partnered with University Center Imaging to create a nationally recognized health–care delivery system that will be distinguished from other universities and colleges throughout the nation, said Dr. Steve Badolato.

University Center Imaging at The Oaks Plaza in Melbourne and the Centre at Suntree is owned and operated by Medical Technology Transfer Corp., or MTT, a health–care company that provides an array of medical services to employers, hospitals, physicians, insurers, and the public.

Frank Bright, executive vice president of MTT Corp., says Premier “unquestionably has the expertise, experience and resources to effectively and efficiently operate FIT’s Holzer Health Center. Nevertheless, they chose to partner with MTT Corp. in order to leverage MTT’s nearly two decades of successful experience in providing a wide range of medical services in a health center (Harris Family Medical Center) dedicated to serving the employees, retirees, and dependents of Harris Corp. — an environment very similar to that of Holzer Health Center.”

By combining MTT’s expertise, experience, and resources with its own, “Premier created a unique team with unparalleled ability to tangibly improve the health and quality of life for FIT’s population,” added Bright. “MTT, which has broad clinical and managerial expertise in the delivery of health–care services, will augment Premier’s resources and capabilities primarily in the area of administrative management with diagnostic imaging provided through its University Center Imaging facilities.”

University Center Imaging has provided imaging services to Harris Corp. for many years. These services are available to Harris employees as well as their dependents and retirees. The center is designated as an American College of Radiology Accredited Facility, and holds other professional accreditations.

University Center Imaging is also the “preferred” imaging facility for Florida Tech’s athletic department. “University Center Imaging has been extremely helpful throughout the entire process,” said Dr. Steve Badolato about the partnership.

“Our goal is to have at least basic X–ray facilities on site and then for MRI and other diagnostics we will continue to send the students to University Center Imaging at The Oaks.”

The Holzer Health Center staff includes two full–time certified nurse practitioners, Deborah Marino and Brittany Collins. Marino has been the medical director for the Holzer Health Center for almost 15 years and will continue to serve as the director. She sits on many Florida Tech committees that relate to the health and well–being of the student body, and directs and leads many preventive and wellness promotion seminars that are provided on campus.

Collins has been a medical provider at the Holzer Health Center for about two years and has played a “major role” in developing and organizing multiple preventive and wellness educational programs available to Florida Tech students.

In addition, Dr. David Badolato will have a clinic on campus to provide medical consultations for students on a weekly basis. His brother will provide consultations on a weekly basis to evaluate sports and orthopedic–related conditions.

Two years ago, Dr. Steve Badolato was named the medical director for Florida Tech’s Scott Center for Autism Treatment. Dr. Steve Badolato provides his services to the organization free of charge. He is very active as a medical volunteer, both locally and internationally.

Dr. Steve Badolato has been recognized for his philanthropic work over the years. His honors include the Harold S. Strasser Good Samaritan Award from the Florida Medical Association, and he has been a recipient of the Space Coast Humanitarian Award.

He has made a number of international medical mission trips to help young people in need. Through his work with the Runuska Village orphanage in Haiti and his trips to Nicaragua and Honduras, he and others have provided critical medical care for thousands of needy children.

Dr. Steve Badolato has also contributed resources to the Space Coast Early Intervention Center and to Club Esteem in Melbourne. “We try to volunteer and help support charitable entities as much as we can. The need is great.”
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