

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition
Friday, June 3, 2022

Controlled Burn Goes Out of Control

What was supposed to be a controlled brush fire in Brevard County grew from three acres to 20 very quickly. It started as a three-acre fire and grew to 20 acres in a matter of two hours. The brush fire that erupted on the line between Cocoa and Sharpes quickly spread once the first calls went out in the early afternoon. Brevard County Fire Rescue and Florida Forest Services responded to the fire at U.S. 1 and Camp Road in Sharpes after it began at about 12:53 p.m. The fire stretched close to the border of Port St. John, but the majority was in Sharpes.

Multiple agencies were called in to battle the flames. A Brevard County Sheriff's Office helicopter was called in to douse the fast-moving fire as firefighters worked on the ground. The forest service used bulldozers to cut the trees, to cut off fuel for the fire.

Dozens of residents were evacuated and some homes were destroyed, according to Brevard Emergency Management officials. County officials confirmed that five houses were destroyed in the fire and four were damaged.

Evacuations occurred for 50 homes in the area of Monroe Street to Cherry Street and Broadway Street to Acorn Street. The Red Cross was called in to help those who were evacuated.



Our hearts go out to the families devastated by the Persimmon fire that happened in our community on Friday, May 28 and we would like to help with their recovery. The Port St. John Community Foundation (PSJCF) was created to bring our community together throughout the year by providing events (Fireworks, Fall Festival, Christmas Parade, etc). PSJCF also created the group PSJ Cares to provide help to those in our community who are in need.

PSJCF, through PSJ Cares, would like to offer drop off locations for donations and will also be coordinating a monetary donation through our non-profit for the

families affected. Contact us through our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/PSJCF/>, or visit our group page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/psjcares>.

Donations may be sent through electronic methods below. Please be sure to add a note FIRE VICTIMS.

CASHAPP = \$psjcf

VENMO = @psjcf

PAYPAL = psjcommunityfoundation@gmail.com

Typical items needed for donations are below. We are still working on obtaining specifics to share regarding the victim's needs.

Clothing (Don't forget new socks and underwear)

Furniture

Bedding (sheets, pillows)

Food (Non-Perishable)

Gift Certificates/Cards

Toys and Stuffed Animals

Pet needs are being coordinated through Brigdawg's Pet Supplies, 6225 N. US Hwy. 1, Port St. John

Physical donations may be dropped off at:

Canopy Insurance

1178 Fay Blvd. Port St. John

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Atlantic Wire & Rigging / Platinium Products

330 Williams Point Blvd., Cocoa

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Father's Day Is Approaching

William Jackson Smart was a twice-married, twice-widowed Civil War veteran and father of 14 children, one of whom dedicated her life to the creation of Father's Day in honor of her devoted and selfless dad.

William Jackson Smart, the original inspiration for Father's Day, was born in Arkansas in 1842 and records show that he enlisted as a Union soldier there in 1863. That was odd, because Arkansas was a Confederate state. William, in fact, fought for both sides in the Civil War.

Driving a supply wagon for Confederate troops, William was captured in the Battle of Pea Ridge, a decisive Union victory in Arkansas in 1862. Rather than languish in a prisoner of war camp, he opted to join the northern cause.

The story goes that William's daughter, Sonora Smart Dodd, was attending one of the first official Mother's Day services in 1909 at her church in Spokane, Washington, when she had an epiphany—if mothers deserved a day in honor of their loving service, why not fathers?

When Sonora was 16, her mother Ellen died, leaving William as a single father to Sonora and her five younger brothers. And by Sonora's account, he performed brilliantly. Sonora's mother Ellen, herself a widow, had three children from a previous marriage. On top of that, William had also been married and widowed before he met Sonora's mother. William had five children with his first wife, Elizabeth, who were already grown when William became a widower for the second time.

In 1910, Sonora brought a petition before the Spokane Ministerial Alliance to recognize the courage and devotion of all fathers like William on June 5, her dad's birthday. The local clergy liked the idea of a special Father's Day service, but couldn't pull something together so quickly, so they settled for June 19, the third Sunday in June.

On that first Father's Day in 1910, church sermons across Spokane were dedicated to dear old dad, red and white roses were passed out in honor of living and deceased fathers, the mayor of Spokane and governor of Washington issued proclamations, and Sonora found her calling. She would spend much of the next 60 years pushing for the official recognition of Father's Day as a national holiday.

That first Father's Day celebration in Spokane might have remained a local tradition if not for the perseverance of Sonora Smart Dodd. Following the 1910 Father's Day observance, William Jennings Bryan, one of the most famous politicians of the time, sent Sonora a congratulatory letter, which sparked a rush of national media attention on Sonora and Spokane.

Sonora won the support of her congressmen, who began to lobby for the creation of a national holiday. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson celebrated Father's Day in

Spokane during a visit to Washington. We don't know if William Jackson Smart was there to shake the president's hand, but it would have been one of his last Father's Days. William died in 1919.



FATHER'S DAY

Much more than a Father's Day booster, Sonora Smart Dodd was an accomplished artist, poet, children's book author, funeral home director, and founding member of just about every civic organization in Spokane. But she never let go of her determination to give fathers like hers the recognition they deserved.

It wasn't until 1972, six years before Sonora's death at the age of 96, that President Richard Nixon finally signed a Congressional resolution declaring the third Sunday in June to be Father's Day.

Thunder Over the Indian River

The event permit is being processed by the county now. This year's event will include a BBQ contest, food and cold drinks available to purchase, bounce houses, demonstrations and music leading up to the fireworks show at dark (usually about 9:15)!

Volunteers are needed. Please email to happenings1@att.net if you are willing to help. Vendor space is still available. Email psjcommunityfoundation@gmail.com.

For more information, visit our Facebook site; PSJ Community Foundation (@psjcf); Instagram: [psjstrong](https://www.instagram.com/psjstrong/); or go to www.portstjohncommunityfoundation.com.

Sales Tax Holiday Continues

The two-week sales tax holiday begins this weekend for Floridians preparing for the upcoming hurricane season, which began last week is still going. It ends on Friday, June 10, 2022. The state's annual two-week disaster preparedness tax holiday continues this year with a slew of items exempt from state and county sales taxes, including:

- Flashlights and lanterns worth \$40 or less
- A package of batteries worth \$50 or less
- Coolers worth \$60 or less
- Portable generators worth \$1,000 or less
- Various pet supplies

The Department of Revenue has a full list of items at <https://Floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep/Documents>.

If you're thinking about replacing items for your house to be hurricane ready, there's another sales tax break for impact-resistant windows, doors and garage doors that runs from July 1, 2022 — June 30, 2024. For two years, these items will be exempt from sales tax for both commercial and non-commercial use. That's a LOT of saving.

Parrish Healthcare Community Support Groups July Schedule

Stroke and Heart Survivors Support Group

If you've experienced a diagnosis or event, or are caring for someone living with heart disease or stroke, our community is here to support you.

- When: Tuesday, June 21, 2-4 p.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Janet Rooks, MA, CDP
- For additional information, please contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800.
- To register, visit www.parrishhealthcare.com/events-calendar/event-signup/?Event=27934.

Caring for Caregivers Support Group

Care giving is a rewarding, yet demanding labor of love. Join us to learn how to care for yourself while you care for your loved one.

- When: Thursdays, June 9 and 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Janet Rooks, MA, CDP
- For additional information, please contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800.
- To register, visit <https://www.parrishhealthcare.com/events-calendar/event-signup/?Event=28098>.

Fearless Café

A collaboration with St. Francis Reflections Life Stages Care, this group shares a casual discussion about advanced directives, power of attorney, wills, living wills and all of the often, scary conversations about death and dying.

- When: Wednesday, June 1, 10-11 a.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Janet Rooks, MA, CDP
- For additional information, please contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800.
- To register, visit <https://www.parrishhealthcare.com/events-calendar/event-signup/?Event=17144>.

Cancer and Survivor Support Group

This group is for cancer patients, cancer survivors and anyone touched by the disease. Enjoy refreshments and talk with others sharing similar situations and experiences.

- When: Wednesday, June 15, 4-5:30 p.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Shannon Luker, RN, BSN, OCN, CBCN
- For additional information, please contact Shannon Luker at 321-268-6111, ext. 3544.
- To register, visit <https://www.parrishhealthcare.com/events-calendar/event-signup/?Event=28099>.

Moms Support Group

Free support group for mothers with babies ages birth to

six months. During this class, moms will be able to discuss topics such as infant feeding, sleeping, milestones, car seats, play, development, post-partum care, birth control, post-partum depression, dietary needs and much more. Space is limited.

- When: Mondays, June 6, 13, 20 and 27, 10-11 a.m.
- Where: The Children's Center, 5650 S. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Teri Newman, MSN, RNC-MNN, IB-CLC
- For additional information and to register, contact Teri Newman at teri.newman@parrishmed.com.

A.W.A.K.E Sleep Support

This group is dedicated to exchanging information and increasing awareness of sleep, sleeping disorders, and related health concerns. Everyone with an interest in sleep and health is encouraged to attend.

- When: Wednesday, June 29. 6-7:30 p.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Michele Roberge, RT(R), RPSGT
- For additional information, please contact Michele Roberge at 321-268-6408.
- To register, visit <https://www.parrishhealthcare.com/events-calendar/event-signup/?Event=27267>.

City of Cocoa Changing Water Treatment

Everyone who is using city water will get the notice in your bill, so I'll skip being redundant. One thing that wasn't in the notice: How long is the free chlorine transition? I found this on their website, and while there wasn't a direct answer, I think we can all add 2+2+6 and realize it's 10 weeks. Here's the paragraph:

During the **first two weeks** and **last two weeks** of this period, as the water in the distribution system transitions from chloramine disinfectant to free chlorine and then back to chloramines, customers who use kidney dialysis machines should be aware that their water may contain chlorine, ammonia, and/or a mixture of the two. **During the middle six weeks**, the water should contain free chlorine only.

So there is the answer. If you have fish or invertebrate aquariums and holding tanks for fish and/or shellfish, or if you use home dialysis equipment, you may need to take action to maintain appropriate water quality during this period. The temporary change in treatment may have adverse effects on dialysis machines and may be harmful to fish and aquatic mammals if not properly addressed.

Visit www.CocoaFL.org for more information.

Boeing Starliner Returns to Earth



After spending a little less than a week at the space station, Boeing's new passenger spacecraft, the CST-100 Starliner, returned to Earth last week. The successful touchdown brings an end to a crucial test flight for Starliner, one that showcased the vehicle's ability to launch to space, dock with the station, and then return home safely.

Starliner performing every major step it was meant to accomplish. It wasn't a completely smooth flight, though. Throughout the mission, Starliner encountered a number of issues with its various thrusters, tiny engines used to maneuver and propel the vehicle through space. None of those problems proved to be fatal for the flight.

This marked the second successful landing for Starliner, as Boeing already showcased the vehicle's landing during its first test flight in 2019.

Starliner accomplished many of its goals while docked with the ISS. Astronauts on board the ISS opened Starliner's hatch, entered the vehicle and retrieved cargo brought to the station. The capsule brought about 600 pounds of cargo back to Earth, as well as Rosie the Rocketeer, a mannequin that rode along inside Starliner to simulate what it will be like when humans ride on board.

Over the coming months, NASA and Boeing will study the failures that occurred on this flight and determine if Starliner is ready to carry people to space during a test flight called CFT, for Crewed Flight Test, which could occur by the end of the year. If Starliner is cleared to fly people, NASA will finally have what it always wanted: two different American companies capable of taking agency astronauts to orbit.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

The NARFE Apollo Chapter 1137 June meeting will on the 13th. Our speaker will be Cpl. Jennings from the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, who will talk about cyber crimes and scams. The meeting is at the Red Lobster Restaurant, 215 E. Merritt Island Causeway, Merritt Island. You are invited to join us for lunch at 11:30.

Our website address is www.NARFE.org/Chapter1137.



Annual Job Fair

Meet employers the in-person at Radisson Resort Conference Center, 8701

Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral on Wednesday, June 15th from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Get your resume ready and dress for success! Businesses will be hiring managers are offering interviews on-the-spot!

There are participating businesses in:

Aerospace, Aviation, Engineering, Healthcare, Hospitality, Manufacturing, Construction, Administration, Information Technology, Warehousing, Logistics, Transportation, Education, Law Enforcement and more!

You can register in advance and find more information at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-job-fair-registration-342388843247>.

Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John

321-633-1867

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 12-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m..

All Brevard County libraries will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

Meeting rooms are available for reservation by calling the library and study rooms are open on a first-come-first-served basis.

Computers are available, and we also offer scanning, wireless printing and faxing.

5/28 10 a.m.-noon: Pokemon Club of Port St. John. All ages welcome.

5/21: Community Baby Shower. See Youth Services desk for more information!

5/25 6 p.m.: Friends of the Port St. John Library Membership meeting.

Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m.: Humanatee Yoga for Beginners or Intermediate. \$5 Instructor Fee.

Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.: Storytime for Young Readers. Ages 6-12.

Fridays 10:30 a.m.: Little Listeners storytime. Ages 2-5.

There will be no story times the last two weeks of May as we prepare for the Summer Reading Program!

The weekly digital edition of HAPPENINGS is sponsored by Parrish Healthcare

