

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition
November 1, 2024

Brevard Zoo To Open New Habitat



More than 20 years ago, we introduced you to our incredible Expedition Africa experience with opportunities to feed giraffes, kayak past an “African” veldt and take a train through an animal habitat. On November 16, we’re opening the completed boardwalk loop to give you all new vistas of some of your favorite animals. You’ll also be able to see our three lion brothers, Chobe, Karoo and Ruaha in their new permanent habitat! Years in the making, this spacious, open-air 15,150-square-foot habitat features multi-level climbing platforms, a temperature-controlled “chill pad,” a training wall and more that will encourage our lion trio to express their full range of natural behaviors.

You’ll also be able to enjoy two new experiences: a new Okapi Encounter as well as a refreshed kayaking tour!

During our Okapi Encounter, you’ll get a chance to meet one of the world’s most elusive animals. You’ll be able to get close to George the okapi to feed him some of his favorite treats and snap a special photo. You can even interact with George and pet his graceful neck. As with all our Encounter stars, George has full choice and control over whether he participates in the Encounter. Those special snacks and pats make it worth his while!

We have some special activities for you to consider:



– Bring friends and family of all ages on a scavenger-hunt adventure throughout the Zoo! Explore the world from a lion’s perspective with interactive activities and fun challenges in this self-paced safari. Participate on weekends and select holidays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

– Join our Breakfast with the Big Cats with your family for a morning of delicious food while you create enrichment for Brevard Zoo’s big cats and create a piece of unique lion paw print art to take home with you. This breakfast will be held Nov. 16, 23 and 30 from 9-10:30 a.m. This is a specially ticketed event that requires pre-registration – so be sure to book your tickets today!

– Our Sunrise on the Savannah breakfast is an adults-only experience that lets you enjoy your morning coffee while getting a behind-the-scenes look at the care for our lions. Enjoy your catered breakfast as you learn more about these majestic cats Nov. 24 or Dec. 7 from 8-10 a.m. This is a specially ticketed event that requires pre-registration – so be sure to book your tickets today!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support! Your membership, Zoo visits and donations make it possible for us to continue bringing new fun to the Zoo!



Parrish Healthcare Recognized for Higher Quality and Cost-Efficiency in Maternity Care

Parrish Healthcare is proud to be recognized by Florida Blue, the state's Blue Cross Blue Shield plan, with a Blue Distinction® Centers+ (BDC+) for Maternity Care designation, as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. To earn this designation, each facility must deliver quality care, safely and cost-effectively.

The Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program plays a key role in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association's (BCBSA) National Health Equity Strategy aimed at reducing racial health disparities across the care spectrum and improving patient outcomes for all Americans. To align with this strategy, the Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program enhanced its quality and measurement standards to recognize higher-quality facilities that have taken action to respond effectively to obstetric emergencies, reduce racial disparities and improve maternal health outcomes.

Based on data from the current designation cycle, facilities designated under the Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program demonstrate higher-quality care compared to non-Blue Distinction Center facilities, with overall average rates of 26% lower episiotomies, 60% fewer elective deliveries and 17% lower cesarean births—all of which point to healthier outcomes for patients. BDC+ designated facilities also exhibited an average savings of 21% for maternity care.

"Earning the Blue Distinction® designation means that we are fulfilling our mission on behalf of the community we so proudly serve and we are achieving the quality, safety, experience and cost expectations established within the Affordable Care Act," said Parrish Healthcare President/CEO George Mikitarian.

"Leading health insurers, like Florida Blue, are seeking out healthcare providers that deliver proven value to their members; with value being defined as affordable access to proven quality, safe care," added Mikitarian.

The Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program's selection criteria was devised to close clinical care gaps and reduce inequities that persist throughout the maternal care spectrum. The selection criteria includes components of BCBSA's Maternal Health Equity Actions, which dismantle the cultural, operational and structural barriers that have created inequities that persist in maternal care.

To be designated under this program, each applicant facility was evaluated on a combination of objective data on patient outcomes as well as the practices implemented to reduce racial disparities and improve maternal health outcomes, such as:

- Using evidence-based best practices to respond

effectively to obstetric emergencies

- Offering unconscious bias training
- Participating in the regional Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- Having Douala support available on the maternity care team
- Collecting race, ethnicity and language data
- Having a program dedicated to quality improvements in maternal care
- Running drills and simulations to prepare providers are prepared to deal with a range of obstetric emergencies
- Demonstrating health outcomes that exceed the selection criteria from our program's previous evaluation cycle

Parrish Healthcare is proud to be recognized by Florida Blue for meeting the rigorous quality selection criteria for maternity care set by the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.

"We thank Parrish Healthcare for helping drive care that aligns to our commitment to whole-person health that is accessible, affordable, and high quality," says Dr. Craig Hersh, vice president and chief medical officer for commercial business at Florida Blue. "We salute their achievements through the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program that help patients truly manage health and their well-being" Since 2006, the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program has helped patients find quality specialty care at lower costs in the areas of bariatric surgery, cancer care, cardiac care, cellular immunotherapy, fertility care, gene therapy, knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery, substance use treatment and recovery, and transplants, while encouraging health care professionals to improve the care they deliver.

For more information about the program and for a complete listing of the designated providers, visit our website - www.bcbs.com.

Free Space Memorabilia Show & Appraisals: November 2nd, 2024

The U. S. Space Walk of Fame Foundation, doing business as the American Space Museum in Titusville presents a FREE Space Memorabilia Show with FREE Appraisals on Saturday, November 2nd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Beachside Hotel & Suites, 3901 North Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach. Event sponsor Ken Havekotte Space Memorabilia will offer free appraisals of space items and have plenty to sell. A dozen vendors will be on hand with relics of the space age as well as artwork and craft items. You'll have the opportunity to engage with fellow enthusiasts, share your passion for space exploration.

What Is A Mobile Wallet?

What is a mobile wallet? It's sometimes called an e-wallet, digital wallet, or virtual wallet, which is a digital version of your financial accounts. It's easily accessible via computer, smartphone, or smart device; and provides a convenient, safer way to pay. Your phone can carry your debit or credit cards, so you don't have to!

To get started with a mobile wallet, first decide which one you want to use, a decision that is made easier by using the mobile operating system you already use. Check Apple Pay, Google Pay, or Samsung Pay to see which one your device is compatible with.

If you want to utilize a mobile wallet, enter your card information into the app or site of your choice. Your information will then be encrypted, and you can only use the wallet when you unlock your device and authorize the wallet's use.

To make a mobile payment, authorize the mobile wallet and hold it close enough to the card reader so your information transmits. Not all retailers accept mobile payments. Look for the contactless payment indicator on the retailer's point-of-sale system or card reader. The symbol looks like a sideways Wi-Fi icon.

A common hesitation with mobile wallets is the concern over safety and security. What happens if your phone gets stolen? Can hackers easily steal your information? Will you be putting your finances at risk?

Mobile wallets are more secure than physical cards because mobile payments are heavily encrypted and tokenized, meaning that none of your actual card or account numbers are stored within the mobile wallet.

Ultimately, your information is useless and unreadable to fraudsters when encryption and tokenization are used together. If a store or company ever experiences a cyber attack, your numbers, and private information won't get stolen! Not only is your information more secure thanks to that technology, but also through user verification. This added layer of security is usually done by fingerprint, facial recognition, or PIN.

Not only are mobile wallets great for simplifying payments, but they are also a great place to keep other important documents organized and easily accessible. Here's some of what you can store in a digital wallet:

- Credit or debit cards
- Insurance cards
- Boarding passes
- Hotel reservations
- Concert & sporting event tickets
- Gift cards
- Coupons
- Loyalty rewards cards
- Send and Receive Money

Whether you're picking up the check or paying back a friend, Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Samsung Pay facilitate sending and receiving money with a bank account, debit card, or the balance in the app's account.

- Thanx to Launch Credit Union

VenPaca Café Soon to Open Third Location Inside Parrish Healthcare Center in Port St. John

Parrish Healthcare announces VenPaca Café will soon open a third location, VenPaca Café Express, inside its Parrish Healthcare Center, located at 5005 Port St. John Parkway. The Latin American café will feature an array of express food options. VenPaca Café Express is scheduled to open mid-November.

"We're thrilled to open our third location at Parrish Healthcare Center in Port St. John," said VenPaca Café Express owner Marcos Allende-Villafane. "Soon, we'll bring the same delicious flavors, fresh ingredients and welcoming atmosphere we currently offer in Titusville to the Port St. John community and beyond. We look forward to this brand-new location and creating a convenient spot for both the community and Parrish visitors and staff members to enjoy."

VenPaca Café Express will offer a selection of breakfast items including pastries, breakfast sandwiches and specialty coffee options, as well as healthy lunch options including hot pressed sandwiches, breakfast burritos, soup and salad, along with empanadas (Puerto Rican fritters). "We look forward to soon welcoming VenPaca Café Express to our Port St. John Parrish Healthcare Center. This partnership allows us to offer the added amenity of convenient food service to our Care Partners, patients and visitors," said Matthew Graybill, Assistant Vice President of Operations at Parrish Healthcare.

Once opened, VenPaca Café Express will operate Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. A formal opening date will soon be announced. To learn more about VenPaca Café Express, or preview their menu, please visit www.venpacacafe.com.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

NARFE Apollo Chapter 1137 meets monthly on the second Monday of each month. Our meeting place is Kay's BBQ Restaurant, 1552 W. King St., Cocoa.

The November meeting will be on the 14th. You are invited to join us for lunch at 11:30 and an interesting speaker at 12:15.

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



Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., PSJ

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 12-8 p.m. and Sunday, 12-5 p.m.

Adult Programs:

Paint Party with the Friends of the Port St. John Library. Saturday, November 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Join the Friends of the Port St. John Public Library for a paint party every first Saturday of the month. During this class you will create custom wooden door hangers. Adults and teens ages 16+. \$40/per person. Payment is due at sign up.

Bookworms Book Club: Wednesday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m. Book discussion. See the reference desk for this month's selection and the next meeting date. This month the book club will be discussing *The Broken Girls* by Simone St. James.

Community Support Advocate: Mondays, November 11, and 25 from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.: The community support advocate provides assistance with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources.

Port Readers Book Club: Wednesday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m.: This book club meets on the fourth Wednesday each month at 6:30 p.m.. November's featured book is *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods. Books are available at the Reference Desk.

Family Programs

Spice Travelers Spice Club: Friday, November 15 at 3:30 p.m.: Spice Travelers Spice Club! Pick up a kit including this month's featured spice at the Reference Desk. The November featured spice is Filé powder. This is a family program and all are welcome.

This month come visit the library and check out our community puzzle.

Youth Services:

Brevard Help Me Grow Florida: Friday, November 01, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. Help Me Grow® Florida provides free expert knowledge on child development and ensures children and families are connected to needed community-based services and supports. This organization offers age-appropriate prizes for completing a free childhood development screening for children ages 5 1/2 and under. This event will be held in the library's youth area.

Bats! by the Florida Bat Conservancy: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.. Join us for a presentation courtesy of the Florida Bat Conservancy about the importance of bats in the ecosystem, what this orga-

nization does for the community, and what you can do for your local bat population. All are welcome to attend this family-friendly event!

Sensory Sundays: Every Sunday from 2:00-3:00 p.m., children can join the library staff for quiet time with sensory bins and activities. Sensory bin activities are exciting and engaging ways for kids to explore different textures, colors and materials. Designed for children ages 6-12, these activities help develop fine motor skills, encourage imaginative play and offer a hands-on learning experience. This event requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

Young Adult Book Club: Saturday, November 23rd from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Teens ages 14 through 17 can select one of the books from the monthly Hoopla Young Adult Cross-over digital book club titles and discuss their choice at the meeting. Snacks will be provided and all books are available as ebooks or audiobooks through the library's free Hoopla app.

STEAM Activity Time: STEAM is every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Port St. John public library in the meeting room. Come build and make things with us! We will have activities centered around science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. This event is for ages 6-11 and requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

Read Your Way to K: Babies: Baby story time at the Port St. John public library is from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. every Friday morning in the meeting room. Join us for some songs, short stories and surprise activities. This story time is for babies ages 3 and under and requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

Read Your Way to K: Toddlers: Toddler Story Time at the Port St. John public library is from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. every Friday morning in the meeting room. Join us for songs, stories, and a craft. This story time is for toddlers ages 3 to 5 and is intended to prepare toddlers for preschool with active listening, group participation, developing fine motor skills, and socializing with others. This event requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

STEAM kits are available in Youth Services!

**Daylight Savings Time Ends At
Midnight on Saturday, November 2nd**
**Remember to set your clocks back an hour
before you go to bed!**

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Parrish Healthcare*

