

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition

March 14, 2025

Echoes of Old Florida: Highwaymen Paintings on View



Downtown Art Gallery is proud to present “Echoes of Old Florida: Highwaymen Paintings on View,” an exclusive exhibit running from Friday, March 14 through Saturday, April 12. This special collection showcases the work of the Florida Highwaymen, a group of African American artists who broke racial and cultural barriers to share their vision of Florida’s natural beauty.

Starting in the 1950s, the Highwaymen painted vibrant landscapes of Florida’s swamps, rivers and coastlines, selling their artwork door-to-door and from the trunks of their cars along highways like A1A and U.S. 1. With limited access to traditional galleries due to segregation, they built their own market, gaining recognition for their striking, fast-painted scenes. Two key figures, Harold Newton and Alfred Hair, were inspired by Florida artist A.E. Backus, developing a signature style that remains highly sought after today.

Despite early hardships, the Highwaymen’s legacy has endured. In 2004, all 26 artists were inducted into the Flor-

ida Artists Hall of Fame and their paintings are now highly sought after by collectors and art enthusiasts alike.

The exhibit, “Echoes of Old Florida: Highwaymen Paintings on View” features works from a private collection and will be on display at Downtown Art Gallery, 400 Orange St., Titusville. Please note that these paintings are not for sale. The Gallery is open Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call 321-268-0122. Don’t miss this opportunity to experience a vital part of Florida’s artistic and cultural heritage!

Quilts for JROTC Graduates Entering Service



Moonlight Quilt Guild Members would like to invite the public to attend our open house to view our quilts made for our 2025 Community Service Project. For the past eight years we have been creating patriotic quilts for our local Astronaut, Space Coast and Titusville High Schools JROTC graduating seniors who have enlisted in our armed forces to serve our country.

We give them a quilt as a Thank You from our guild to show how much we appreciate them, that we are proud of them and that this quilt we hope will remind them of home and the great country they are serving.

In years past we have invited the cadets, families and commanders to come to our April meeting so we could present them. However, we have grown larger every year and will present them at their schools this year.

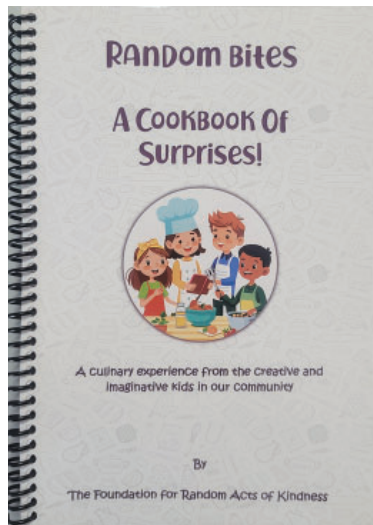
We welcome anyone interested in seeing the quilts before being presented to the cadets at their schools to come view them on March 29th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Titusville Library, 2121 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville.

SpaceX’s Crew 10 mission to the International Space Station was scrubbed on Wednesday night due to a problem with the clamp arms. It is scheduled for tonight with the launch window opening at 7:03 p.m.

Local Foundation Publishes Children's Cookbook to Fund Education Initiatives

The Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness has released a new children's cookbook, combining culinary creativity with charitable giving to support educational opportunities for local youth. The cookbook, featuring recipes contributed by children from across Brevard County, represents more than just a collection of kid-friendly dishes. Each purchase directly funds the Foundation's Education/Life Funds program, which establishes \$2,500 education funds for children ages 4-10.

"We wanted to create something meaningful that would showcase children's creativity while also providing sustainable funding for our programs," said Neesha Peters, Foundation President. "The response from the community has been overwhelming."



The cookbook includes everything from simple snacks to surprisingly sophisticated meals, each accompanied by the young chef's story and aspirations. Many recipes feature family traditions passed down through generations, creating a unique cultural tapestry reflecting the diverse community.

In just four years, the Foundation has established education funds for 77 children across the county. Primarily focusing on student loan debt, financial literacy, and supporting our community. Local businesses have stepped up to support distribution, with Sam's Mart and Tropic Ice Cream currently serves as the primary retail location.

"These cookbooks represent hope," said Sarah McClure, whose daughter contributed her family cookie recipe. "When she sees her recipe in print, she's already thinking about college and her future. That's powerful."

The cookbooks are available for purchase at Sam's Mart and Tropic Ice Cream, and at Foundation events for \$20. The Foundation is planning several book signing events where young contributors will autograph copies and share the stories behind their recipes. A paperback version can also be found on Amazon.

For more information about the cookbook or the Foundation's programs, contact foundationforrak@gmail.com or visit their upcoming Spirit Market Event at Space Coast Nutrition on April 13th from 9-2.

For more information, visit the Foundation's website, www.foundationforrak.org

Worm Moon Is Here

We're barely done with the Lunar Eclipse last night, but last night, Friday, March 14, the final full moon of winter — the Worm Moon — rose, appearing on the eastern horizon during dusk and crossing the night sky. According to NASA, the full moon "...will appear full for about three days around this time." Although it is not as spectacular as the eclipse last night, it does signal that winter is almost over and spring will begin. All crop and flower growers, and warm weather lovers will be happy.

Amateur Backyard BBQ

Get ready for a sizzling good time as The Sharing Center of Central Brevard brings back its 10th Annual Amateur Backyard BBQ Contest! Mark your calendars for April 5, 2025, and head over to F. Burton Smith Park in Cocoa from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to indulge in some of the best local BBQ around.

Amateur BBQ teams from across the county will compete for the coveted title of Amateur Champion Griller in three mouth-watering categories: beef, pork and chicken. Each team will provide samples of their delicious BBQ for you, the public, to vote for the People's Choice Champion Griller. While the serious competitors are sweating it out, attendees can soak up the rays, enjoy great food, cold drinks and live entertainment.

The event's proceeds will benefit The Sharing Center's hunger relief programs, including the Children's Weekend Feeding Program, which empowers families with children by providing access to healthy food on weekends during the school year. Additionally, the Emergency Food Program, which distributes thousands of pounds of food monthly to individuals and families in need, and the Community Kitchen Program, which feeds the hungry 365 days a year, will benefit from the event.

Tickets for the event are priced at \$20 each, which includes entry, one BBQ dinner and samples from the BBQ teams. Enjoy live music by Classic Jurassic, participate in 50/50 raffles and stand a chance to win great prizes, including a Traeger Pellet Smoker!

Don't wait until the last moment to get your tickets! Starting February 10th, tickets can be purchased at the following locations:

- Jennifer Neuman Dicandio's Allstate Insurance, 950 Fay Blvd., Port St. John
- Sharing Center's Thrift Store at 113 Aurora Street, Cocoa
- Sharing Center's Thrift Store at 95 E. Merritt Island Causeway, Merritt Island

Tickets will also be available on the day of the event. Come join us for some great BBQ and help support our hunger relief programs. For more information, visit www.sharingcenterBBQcontest.com.

Parrish Healthcare Open Interviews & Job Opportunities for Healthcare Workers Affected by Rockledge Hospital Closure

Parrish Healthcare recognizes the dedication and expertise of the health care professionals affected by the closure of Rockledge Hospital. Parrish Healthcare is hosting several hiring events for those seeking immediate employment opportunities.

Parrish Healthcare hosts open interviews every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Parrish Medical Center; 951 North Washington Avenue, Titusville.

- Registered Nurses
- RN Clinical Coordinators
- RN Charge Nurses
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Emergency Medicine Technologist
- Respiratory Technologists
- CT Technologists
- EKG Technologists
- Quality Improvement
- MRI Technologists
- Radiology Technologist
- Phlebotomist
- Identity Access Management Analyst
- Paramedic
- Sterile Processing Technician
- Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
- Athletic Trainer

For additional information regarding open positions within Parrish Healthcare, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/careers.

Be a Part of Something Special. Be a Parrish Care Partner!

New Brevard County Parks and Recreation Newsletter

The Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce the launch of its new monthly newsletter. The newsletter will be released at the beginning of each month and include information such as:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Special Events | Career Opportunities |
| Park of the Month Spotlight | |
| Volunteer Opportunities | Surveys |
| Announcements | Maintenance Alerts |

Visit www.brevardfl.gov/communications/subscribe to subscribe to the newsletter. You can also stay up to date by following us on Facebook or Instagram.

The Plant Shack Grand Opening

Join us in celebration of our opening on Saturday, March 22, 1 - 4 p.m.! We will have pop up vendors, face painting for the kids, live music, food trucks, beer and wine and so much more. Free entry and families are welcome.

Meet owners and PSJ neighbors, Jim and Kristy Sanford. Enjoy the beautiful decor and plants. Relax and try some food and libations. Bring some friends and enjoy the deck. If you're tired of the jostling and noise, you have a new place to enjoy.

The Plant Shack & Beer Garden is located at 5800 N. Highway 1, Port St. John, 321-208-8001.

See their events page on Facebook.

Family Engagement in Early Childhood: Building Partnerships in Child Success.

Family engagement is the key to a positive outcome in a child's development, attitude and behavior. Families are essential to a child's growth, and when families and educators come together, engagement is put to work by building relationships, sharing responsibility, creating a safe environment and working together to choose goals for children. When early childhood professionals and families actively participate, it builds an ongoing process of meaningful relationships.

Some of the top barriers to family engagement are lack of awareness regarding opportunities, time limitations, work conflicts or just lack in a connection with the school.

Let's be honest, the pandemic has impacted each and every one of us in education. The challenge to reverse the negative trends is the importance of knowing the benefits and positive outcome on a child's education with family involvement. So, what can you do to be actively involved? Essentially, creating a partnership between home and school is key. Communication with teachers allows both parents and teachers to be alert and on-board with academic progress. Attending school events and parent conferences will keep you up to date on information. Asking your child questions, setting aside dedicated study time and ensuring support for a home learning environment are other great ways to be actively involved. If possible and time allows, volunteer at your child's school. Study shows children whose families are engaged in their education are more likely to earn higher grades, graduate, develop self-confidence, have better social skills and classroom behavior. It's never too early or late to start building connections. The connection you build today will be the positive outcome of your child's future. The saying, "It takes a village..." requires the support and involvement from all parties involved for children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

-Sarah Travis, Early Childhood Education Specialist



LIBRARY HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.
9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.;
Wednesday, 12-8 p.m. and Sunday, 12-5 p.m.

Youth Services

STEAM Time - Every Tuesday afternoon from 4:30–5:30 p.m. in the meeting room for children ages six through twelve. We have activities centered around science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. This event requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

3/18— Sphero Car Coding

3/25— Lego Building Contest: Racecars

Read Your Way to K: Baby Story Time - 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. every Friday in the meeting room. We invite babies, young toddlers, and their caregivers to join us for stories, songs, and activities. This storytime is for babies ages three and younger and always requires parent or adult supervision.

Read Your Way to K: Toddler Story Time - 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. every Friday in the meeting room. We invite babies, young toddlers and their caregivers to join us for stories, songs and activities. This storytime is for toddlers ages three to five and always requires parent or adult supervision.

Sensory Sundays - Every Sunday from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., children can join the library staff for sensory bin activities. This event is for ages six and up and always requires parent or adult supervision.

3/16— Flamingo Hand Painting

3/23— Planet Sponge Painting

3/30— Doily Daisies

Teen Art League - On March 8th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Teens ages 13 and up can join other creative-minded individuals for some time to chill and work on their personal art projects. The library will provide various art supplies, but you can bring your own. Try new projects with staff:

3/8— Photography and Scrapbooking

Saturday Craft Crew - Saturday, March 22nd from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Join us on Saturdays for a fun, hands-on craft time designed for kids ages four and up. We'll explore a new project or activity each week, helping kids get creative with colorful materials and exciting themes! It's the perfect way to start your weekend with a splash of imagination and fun!

3/22— Flamingo and Turtle Mosaic

3/29— Space Rocket Craft

Family Programs

Family Spice Travelers Spice Club - Friday, March 21st at 3:30 p.m. This is a family event. Come to the meeting to pick up a spice kit and share food, recipes, and cooking adventures. It's fun for the entire family.

Escape Room - March 23-25, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Erin go Bragh! Use the luck of the Irish to unlock clues, solve

puzzles and find gold (chocolate) coins at the end of the rainbow! Please RSVP!

Game Day - Every Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Join us to meet other game enthusiasts for an afternoon of board, tabletop and card games in the main library area. Use one of the library-provided sets, or bring your own! All ages are welcome to this family-friendly event.

Spring Break Bash - March 15 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Blast off into a day of fun at our Spring Break Bash! This family-friendly event has something for everyone, with a variety of activities designed for all ages.

Glow-in-the-Dark Dance Party (All Ages)

Space-Themed Poetry Workshop (Ages 12+): Explore the wonders of the universe through creative writing in this out-of-this-world workshop!

Constellation Process Art (Ages 5 & Under): With this hands-on art activity, little ones can create their own sparkling night sky.

Rocket Craft (Ages 6-11): Kids can build and decorate their very own rockets!

Face Painting & Glittery Fairy Hair (All Ages)

Printmaking Class - March 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Collagraph and monotype printmaking class using found materials, trash, and used teabags. Ages 16+. Dress to get messy. Register at the reference desk

Adult

Community Advocate - Mondays, March 17 and 31, from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. The community support advocate assists with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources.

Port Readers Book Club - Wednesday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. March's title is Vampires El Norte by Isabel Cañas. Books are available at the reference desk.

Friends of the Port St John Library

2-DAY EVENT

 **Book & Bake Sale** 

Friday, March 14 - Saturday, March 15
10:00 - 4:00 each day

Cupcakes

cookies

BOGO books!
DVD's & CD's - 4/\$1

and other treats!

The weekly digital edition of
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