

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition

May 23, 2025

National Patient Safety Advocate Gives National Nurses Week Presentation at Parrish Medical Center

Sorrel King's Remarks "Validates the Work" by Parrish Staff to Promote Patient Safety

A mother whose toddler daughter died from a preventable medical error, and who has become a nationally recognized patient safety advocate, spoke during National Nurses Week 2025 to Parrish Healthcare Care Partners, commending them for their work on patient safety.

Sorrel King is an author of the best-selling book, *Josie's Story: A Mother's Inspiring Crusade to Make Medical Care Safe*. She speaks nationally on health care safety, and is president and co-founder of the Josie King Foundation, a patient safety advocacy organization.

The Foundation is named after King's 18-month-old daughter, Josie, who died in 2001 of dehydration after being hospitalized for second-degree burns. The hospital treating Josie was found to have ignored dehydration warning signs.

King said that throughout the U.S., medical errors claim some 250,000 lives every year, and that these are preventable tragedies. Parrish Healthcare's patient safety emphasis is an example of what can save lives, she told the hospital's employees, Medical Staff Members and volunteers, collectively called Parrish Care Partners.

In King's presentation, she emphasized the role of communication and collaboration in patient safety, and that patients and caregivers must be encouraged to speak up if they suspect an unsafe medical situation.

"Sorrel's story is both heartbreaking and deeply motivating," said Lisa Dickerson, Parrish Healthcare's Chief Nursing Officer. "It was timely and powerful to hear firsthand of her experience, and the importance of compassionate, vigilant care. It was uplifting to our Care Partners to hear her perspective, because it validates the work they do to promote patient safety."

Among its patient safety work, Parrish Healthcare is the only U.S. hospital to earn integrated care certification from the Joint Commission, the nation's leading health care accrediting organization. Parrish Healthcare is the county's sole health system to be Commission on Cancer accredited by the American College of Surgeons; is an American College of Surgeons Surgical Quality Partner; and Parrish has earned multiple 'A' grades from the Leap Frog Group,



From left to right: George Mikitarian (President/CEO of Parrish Healthcare), LeeAnn Cottrell (Assistant Vice President of Nursing Administration), Sorrel King, Matthew Graybill (Assistant Vice President of Operations) and Lisa Dickerson (Chief Nursing Officer).

a national patient safety advocacy organization.

"As a nurse, I have been personally inspired by Josie's Story and it was such an honor to have had the opportunity to meet and hear Sorrel in person," said Kristie Foreman, Director of Critical Care Services. "Her visit to Parrish Medical Center served as a moving reminder of the impact healthcare professionals have on the lives of their patients and families." Foreman serves on the planning committee for National Nurses Week and was instrumental in bringing the author to Parrish Medical Center.

The Josie King Foundation's website says its mission is to "prevent patients from dying or being harmed by medical errors by uniting healthcare providers and consumers, and funding innovative safety programs, we hope to create a culture of patient safety, together."

King's presentation was one of a series of National Nurses Week activities to celebrate and honor not just Parrish Healthcare's nursing teams, but every member of Parrish's family of Care Partners, "whose dedication and compassion are the cornerstone of the hospital's healing mission," Dickerson said.

The Josie King Foundation's website is josieking.org.

Ink and Ivy Book Club

Come join us at The Plant Shack on the last Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m. to discuss that month's selection. We can't wait to support this awesome new locally owned business, too! Join us as we meet each month to discuss a diverse range of books covering different genres, cultures, periods, etc., courtesy of the Friends of the Port St. John Library. All are welcome!

The Plant Shack & Beer Garden is located at 5800 N. Highway 1, Port St. John, 321-208-8001. They also have a Boutique Store, Beer Garden and Wine Bar. See their events page on Facebook.



Learn to Support Mental Health in Your Community: Adult Mental Health First Aid Course

Mental health is a critical part of overall well-being, and now more than ever, communities need informed and compassionate individuals who can offer support. UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County is proud to offer the Adult Mental Health First Aid course this month only for the price of \$65 and receive the course book at no additional cost!

Join us on Thursday, May 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County office, located at 3695 Lake Dr., Cocoa. Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

Register online at: <https://loom.ly/0yRdfoU>

This evidence-based training is designed for anyone who wants to learn how to assist adults experiencing mental health challenges, crises or substance use disorders. Participants will gain the skills and confidence to recognize signs of mental health concerns, provide initial help, and guide individuals to professional resources.

What You Will Learn:

How to identify signs and symptoms of common mental health challenges.

Five-step action plan (ALGEE) to respond to mental health situations.

Local resources and support systems available in Brevard County.

Who Should Attend: This course is ideal for community members, educators, first responders, healthcare workers, faith leaders and anyone interested in making a positive impact on mental health in their community.

Cost: \$65.00 per person. This month, this includes the course book for free!

Don't miss this opportunity to become a certified Mental Health First Aider. Join us in making a difference!

For any inquiries regarding this event, please do not hesitate to contact the UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County office at 321-633-1702 or email Brevard@IFAS.UFL.edu.

Fall 2025 Recreational Soccer is Here!

PSJ United SC is excited to announce that registration is NOW OPEN for our Fall 2025 Recreational Soccer Season!

Season Runs: September – Early November

Early Bird Discount: Register by May 31st and SAVE!

Open to boys & girls of all skill levels, ages 4–16

Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays & games on Saturdays held locally in the Port St. John area

Whether your child is new to the game or a returning player, our rec league focuses on fun, teamwork, and skill development in a supportive environment.

Spots fill fast — don't wait!

Register today at https://system.gotsport.com/programs/67241903K?reg_role=player.

Parrish Healthcare Open Interviews

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)
 - ED, Med/Surg
 - Clinical Coordinators
 - Charge Nurses
 - Electrophysiology Nurses
 - CVIS Nurses
- Technologists
 - CT/MRI
 - Echo Cardiovascular
 - Interventional Radiographer
 - Radiology
- Certified Nursing Assistants
- Medical Assistants
- CVIS Techs
- Paramedics
- EMTs
- Coders

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

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Be a Parrish Care Partner!**

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Parrish Healthcare Donates Life-Saving AED to LifePointe Ministries and Provides On-Site Training

Parrish Healthcare donated an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to LifePointe Ministries, a local organization dedicated to serving the community. In addition to the donation, two nurses from Parrish Healthcare's People Development Team provided hands-on AED training to the organization's leadership team, ensuring they are prepared to respond confidently in the event of a cardiac emergency.



Dana Dolin trains leaders at LifePointe Ministries on how to correctly use an AED.

During the training, Kristina Crabtree, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, Director of People Development, and Dana Dolin, BSN, RN, Professional Development Generalist, reviewed the vital steps to take when someone is unresponsive, including how to assess the situation, initiate CPR and properly use the AED until emergency services arrive. The goal of the training session was to empower LifePointe Ministry's team with the knowledge and confidence to act quickly in an emergency when every second counts.

"We are more than thankful for our friends at Parrish," said Pastor Royce "Scooter" Morrison, Senior Pastor at LifePointe Ministries. "The continued commitment to improve quality of life for the entire community is something we can all be thankful for. It's partnerships like these that make all we do even possible. I often say, together we are better, and our partnership with Parrish proves that every day."

"Parrish Healthcare is committed to extending health and safety beyond our organization's walls," said Crabtree. "Providing LifePointe Ministries with an AED and training supports our shared mission to safeguard lives in our community and equip those who need it most with life-saving tools."

This initiative is a part of Parrish Healthcare's ongoing efforts to provide local organizations with the tools and knowledge needed to respond to emergencies and promote



Leaders and volunteers from LifePointe Ministries pose with Parrish Healthcare Care Partners.

public health. In February 2024, Parrish Healthcare, in partnership with the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation, donated new AEDs to all youth sports leagues in North Brevard, as sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death among young athletes.

To learn more about Parrish Healthcare, and their ongoing outreach initiatives within the North Brevard community, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/news.

Pet Costume Parade

Dress your pet in a colorful rainbow costume and join the "Be the Rainbow" Pet Costume Parade, hosted by Tails at the Barkery, in Historic Cocoa Village, on Saturday, June 7th in the Gazebo area at 9:30 a.m.

Enjoy a walk through Cocoa Village for a day-full of Rainbow Adventures. Awards will be presented to the top three most creative and colorfully dressed pets. All pets must be on a leash or in appropriate carriers, and have current vaccinations and county tags for the safety of our animals and friends.

For more information about the "Be the Rainbow" Pet Costume Parade, contact Tails at the Barkery at 321-305-4584.



Spotlight Artist for June: Terrence Cope's Brushstrokes Echo Coastal Beauty

Downtown Art Gallery is proud to announce that our Spotlight Artist for the month of June is the dynamic and prolific Terrence Cope. Known for his vibrant, textured works, Cope masterfully blends acrylic, oils and mixed media to create pieces that pulse with energy and inspiration.

Cope's artistic vision is rooted in the natural beauty of Florida's Space Coast. His colorful, eclectic paintings feature iconic coastal imagery such as tangled mangrove roots, wave-chasing surfers, gliding sea turtles and silvery predators of the deep. His work often highlights the unique landscapes and wildlife of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore, capturing the essence of our local environment in a truly captivating way.

Terry's bold use of texture and movement invites viewers to experience the vitality of Florida's waters and wildlife through a fresh, creative lens. Whether you're a longtime collector or a first-time visitor, you won't want to miss the opportunity to see his work in person.

Stop by the Downtown Art Gallery throughout June to enjoy this inspiring collection. Located at 400 Orange St., Titusville, 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.

Celebrate summer with a splash of creativity—experience the world of Terry Cope!

Port Canaveral Upgrading

Port Canaveral is investing upwards of \$500 million in land side and waterside improvements as part of its comprehensive Port Canaveral Advantage plan to expand capacity and capabilities across all aspects of its business operations. Port Canaveral Advantage is a port-wide continuous improvement program that identifies near-to long-term needs for enhancements and upgrades to Port assets and operations. Within a five-year planning window, the program includes large-scale, high-value critical infrastructure projects associated with new cruise ship arrivals, modernizing and expanding cargo berths and bulkheads, upgrading facility maintenance, deploying new technologies across a spectrum of operations and renovating the Port's recreational facilities like Jetty Park.

Several cruise-related projects are about to get underway, with one of the most ambitious being the expansion of Cruise Terminal 5 (CT-5). The design project will increase the terminal's size by 65 percent to accommodate larger vessels. During an estimated 16-month construction period, the cruise terminal would continue to operate without interrupting scheduled ship turns.

The Port also plans to enhance Cruise Terminal 10 (CT10) to expand its capacity, beginning with a feasibility study that is expected to be completed by June 2025. The project's goals include expanding the terminal's capacity to accommodate the world's largest cruise ships up to 5,600 passengers and berthing up to 1,200 feet in length.

Exterior upgrades at Cruise Terminal 1 (CT1) will begin in May 2025 and include new canopies and walkways, updated landscaping and new lighting. Other upgrades include refurbishments to the adjacent cruise parking garage with new paint, landscaping, perimeter fencing and gangway upgrades. Under the direction of newly hired Vice President of Facilities Optimization Steve Shelton, the first phase of program is already making a significant impact with additional projects scheduled over the coming months.

On the commercial cargo side, Port plans are developing to renovate existing pier structures on the south side of the Port to create additional multipurpose, multiuser berth space and improve vessel turn times. Renovations to two north side cargo berths—North Cargo Berths 3 and 4—are nearing completion, adding 1,800 linear feet of multipurpose bulkhead space. Roadway improvements are underway to improve access to and from cargo terminals, ease roadway congestion and reduce truck wait times.

Two commercial space companies, SpaceX and Blue Origin, have maritime operations at the Port, utilizing multiple cargo berths for their vessels' dockage and for offloading and transporting recovered launch vehicle components.