



The Stuart News

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TEACHER GETS HELP FROM CANINE FRIEND

An exceptional student education teacher at J.D. Parker Elementary has an unusual teaching tool: a 3-year-old golden retriever/Labrador mix named Coral.
LOCAL, 1B



AMERICAN AIRLINES FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

The parent company of American Airlines filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday, seeking relief from crushing debt caused by high fuel prices and expensive labor contracts.
BUSINESS, 6B



'TEENAGE DAUGHTER' EASY TO HATE

The laugh track-driven "I Hate My Teenage Daughter" substitutes unoriginal, mean-spirited one-liners for any conversation resembling human interaction.
TELEVISION, 13B

COMING THURSDAY YOUR HOLIDAY RECIPES

We asked for your best holiday treat recipes, and you answered with lots of goodies for us to try.

“It's a free country, and people can spend their money however wisely or stupidly they choose.”

Carl Hiaasen
OPINION, 7A

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ADVICE **11B** MOVIES **11B**
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Cove Road crash lawsuit settled

■ Families of two alcohol-impaired teen boys killed in 2009 settle wrongful death lawsuit

By Melissa E. Holsman
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STUART — The families of two alcohol-impaired boys killed on Southeast Cove Road in August 2009 when the Jeep they were in slammed into a front-end loader have settled wrongful death law-

suits filed against the construction firm in charge of the road-widening project, court records show.

Stuart residents Nicholas Coady and Christopher Briglio, both 18, and Connor Graver, 16, were killed in the crash. Coady, the driver of the 1989 Jeep Cherokee, had a blood-alcohol level of 0.251, more than three times the legal

limit for an adult, according to Florida Highway Patrol reports. Blood-alcohol tests released by FHP indicated Briglio and Graver also were impaired at the time of the crash.

Court records show on Nov. 8, Briglio's parents, Harold and Susan Briglio, settled a wrongful-death lawsuit filed in 2009 against

the Indiantown-based Sheltra & Son Construction Co., and driver Pedro Perez-Espinoza, who was operating the front-end loader struck by Coady's Jeep.

Terms of the Nov. 8 settlement were not disclosed in an order signed by Circuit Judge Elizabeth

See **LAWSUIT, 3A**

Challenger School teacher honored



ALEX BOERNER/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Exceptional Students Education teacher Fran Lefebvre (left) reacts as Education Foundation of Martin County board President Russ Reaver and board member State Rep. Gayle Harrell surprise her with a check for \$1,500 Tuesday morning in her classroom at the Challenger School in Stuart. The \$1,500 grant was one of 43 classroom enrichment grants totalling \$35,000 given out by the Education Foundation of Martin County. Lefebvre wrote a grant requesting money to purchase a small kiln for the classroom. She had had significant results in the past when her students worked with clay, but she had to outsource the firing. "We had kids who could barely move their fingers, and when they got in that clay it was one of the most spectacular things to see," Lefebvre said.

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD



Mental health cuts hurt patients

■ Health insurer's payment changes affect all plans, enrollees in Fla.

By Cynthia Washam
 Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

The state's biggest managed-care company is making changes many predict will jeopardize mental health care for thousands of Floridians.

"People who are going to suffer are patients in the middle of a crisis," Fort Pierce psychologist Michael Riordan said.

That includes the 12 of his 40 patients who are covered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida.

Riordan has cared for Blue Cross and Blue Shield patients for some 20 years. Until last summer, he hoped to continue their care. That's when he received a contract from the Kansas-based New Directions.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield was subcontracting with New Directions to manage its network of behavioral health providers. The change affects enrollees in all Blue Cross Blue Shield plans in Florida, including Medicare HMOs and employee plans for many state and county

See **MENTAL, 3A**

Free music available to library patrons

■ Freegal database offers downloadable music from variety of genres

By Kim Hughes
 Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

MARTIN COUNTY — If you've got a hankering for some holiday music but don't want to purchase another seasonal CD, check out the Martin County Library System's new Freegal database, which offers access to Sony Music Entertainment's extensive catalog of artists.

Available to any library cardholder, the Freegal (for Free and Legal) database offers downloadable music from a wide variety

How To Access Freegal

- Martin County Library System card holders can access Freegal for free downloadable music by going to www.library.martin.fl.us and clicking on the "Research" link. Choose "Freegal" from the list of available databases, click on the "Freegal" graphic and input your library card number.
- Users have a weekly download limit of three songs and can keep track of downloads in the upper right corner of the site. Every song has a sample clip users can listen to before downloading.
- The library system also has an overall weekly limit. If the library runs out of downloads for the week, users can go to "My Wishlist" in the upper right corner and queue up for future music.
- Downloads on this site are all in the MP3 format with no DRM. This service will work with any MP3 player, including an iPod, and can be loaded into iTunes. It works on both PCs and Macs.

of genres, from "Alternative" to "World Music" and everything in between. The program's cost has been underwritten by the Library Foundation of Martin County.

Janette Noé, collections manager for the Martin County Library System, said that conversations with patrons about the availability of music was the main reason the

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For more information about the Martin County Library System, go to www.library.martin.fl.us or call 772-221-1403.

library decided to offer this free service.

"What this does is provide over 500,000 song titles we physically could not manage either financially or spacewise," Noé said. "There's a little bit of something for everybody."

While the service is free to cardholders, there is a weekly limit of three downloads per card. The annual subscription purchased by the library system allows for a total of 7,800 downloads, which works out to 150 per week. There are 88,922 registered library users.

See **MUSIC, 11A**

HOA closer to Indianwood Golf & Country Club purchase

By Paul Ivce
 Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

INDIANTOWN — The Indianwood Homeowners Association is about two-thirds of the way to getting commitments from the 229 members needed to buy the Indianwood Golf & Country Club for \$30 million.

The group has been working with a St. Petersburg consulting firm, Florida Community Services Group Inc., to help purchase the property — which includes an 18-hole golf course, pro shop and restaurant, two swimming pools and other amenities as well as 596

“It's something that needs to be done. We're protecting our lifestyle as we know it and like it. Unfortunately, some people think if someone else buys it, things will keep going as they are.”

Karlee Shostrom, president of homeowners association

mobile home sites.

By Dec. 20, the group must raise \$9 million, including \$7.5 million

as a 25 percent down payment plus another \$1.5 million for closing costs and cash reserves, to qualify

for the \$22.5 million mortgage.

That means of the 572 homeowners, who pay an average of \$411 a month in rent for their lots, 229 must put \$1,000 down and commit to paying about \$39,000 more to be part of the new ownership group.

So far, 138 homeowners have made that commitment.

"In the last week or so we've seen significant progress," said Marty Pozgay, president of Florida Community Services Group. "Most of these folks, our experience has been, are liquid enough

See **INDIANWOOD, 11A**