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COUNTY LINE

December 2014



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Lifeguard hopes the road to riches is paved with tea

You may have seen **Bryon White** patrolling the beach since 2002, but what you may not know is that White is an entrepreneur. He co-owns Yaupon Asi Tea with his brother, Kyle. The Whites and their staff of seven grow, harvest and package the tea in Edgewater. They own the only yaupon company that is certified organic and offers the top quality in wild crop and processing organic yaupon tea.

Yaupon is a smooth and a mild-flavored tea with a natural sweetness. It's available in loose leaf, whole leaf, bagged grade and powder.

"It has a caffeine kick and an added bonus of antioxidants," White said of the tea.

White's missions are to bring this ancient Native American tea into the lives of today's consumers and to promote healthy living, an active lifestyle, harmony with nature, and accountability in business.

He's always had a passion for plants and ethnobotany. That passion led to the discovery of yaupon holly, a native Volusia County plant used by the Timucua to make a highly caffeinated drink they called "Asi."

"You couldn't buy yaupon," White said. "It was impossible. You could buy a plant from a nursery, but you couldn't buy any ready-to-drink tea or single-service tea. It was just nonexistent."

After discovering the niche market, White began to experiment with the tea until he had a marketable formula. A presentation was made to start a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds and begin his business venture. The Kickstarter campaign was not successful enough to launch the business but did provide a local investor connection.

ORGANIC TEA – Bryon White shows off yaupon tea available out of his Edgewater facility.

(See TEA page 4)



Jim Dinneen

Wishing you every happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming year!

- Jim Dinneen and family



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COUNTY LINE



Flu season is here

Every flu season is different, and influenza infection can affect people differently. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. October marked the start of flu season in the United States and it can last through May.

Flu symptoms can include:

- Fever (not always present)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Body aches
- Headaches
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Sometimes diarrhea and vomiting



How does flu spread?

- Mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk
- Droplets can land in the mouths and noses of people who are nearby
- Possibly inhaled into the lungs
- Touching a surface or object the virus is on and then touching your eyes, mouth or nose

How to prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illness:

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick with flu-like illness for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Get a flu shot.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with the flu virus and other germs.



Steven LeClerc of Road & Bridge discusses flu season with a nurse.



Lisa Lewis of Elections gets her flu shot.

Retirees

September

Barbara Hadlock, Sheriff's Office – 13 years

Les Brown, Information Technology – 11 years

Deborah Shull, Emergency Operations – 28 years

Connie Newport, Purchasing – 11 years

Joseph McDonald, Sheriff's Office – 28 years

John Kizer, Economic Development – 12 years

October

Roy Baker, Environmental Management – 30 years

Pamela Renfro, County Manager's Office – 12 years

Christopher Higgins, Sheriff's Office – 20 years

Duane Daniels, Solid Waste – 22 years

Tom Hormes, Information Technology – 16 years

November

Roger Harris, Fire Services – 30 years

James Fisher, Parks, Recreation and Culture – 12 years

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

COUNTY LINE



EMERGENCY EXERCISE – Rick Moore, right, Emergency Management, meets with Canaveral National Seashore and Fire Services representatives about the Operation Vanishing Mosquito exercise at a planning meeting. Inset photos: First responders and hazmat take action during the full scale training exercise Oct. 22, 2014.

Emergency exercise highlights expert talent

Emergency Management's **Rick Moore** is no novice when it comes to disasters. He's been involved in disaster exercises in Volusia County since he began working at the county in 2004. He has planned more than 50 training exercises and taught 50 classes.

During a recent full-scale disaster training exercise Oct. 22, participants responded to an aircraft crashing at Canaveral

National Seashore. Moore coordinated the grant-funded exercise with nearly 100 emergency response personnel from local, state and federal agencies and student volunteers from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Moore said the exercise was a success with all agencies gaining a new perspective on teamwork.

TEA *(Continued from page 1)*

Not an entrepreneur by nature, White learned his business conduct on the fly. He said his biggest hurdle was creating awareness for yaupon tea. White has traveled around the country introducing people to yaupon. Two years later, he has a steady demand with shipments in the United States and to Great Britain, Canada and the Netherlands. Ultimately, White wants to be a wholesaler/bulk supplier of yaupon all over the world.

White is a Florida native and a second-generation county employee who lives in New Smyrna Beach with his wife, two dogs and a parrot. He studied at University of Central Florida for his undergraduate degree in legal studies and at the

University of Loyola in New Orleans for his master's degree in criminal justice administration.



COUNTY LINE

Lifeguard awards

Beach Safety announces the best on the beach

Each member of the Beach Safety team requires a unique skill set that includes thinking quickly, being courageous and being able to save a life. Each year the Volusia County Beach Safety team puts other people's lives before their personal safety.

During the annual awards banquet Volusia County once again singled out employees that go above and beyond the call of duty.



Marc Rodriquez received the Officer of the Year award. His nomination letter states: "Rodriquez recruits and trains with his team on a daily basis to ensure success." This 18-year veteran has been described as a mentor, coach, successful competitor and a selfless individual. Other nominees were **Frederic Urquhart**, **David Foley** and **Jason Legath**.

Lifeguard of the Year award went to **David Rapozza**, a lifeguard with countless rescues. "Sitting on one of the busiest towers on the beach, Rapozza does not compromise his eagerness to better himself through training on his own time," his nomination read. "Rapozza has an outstanding work ethic and is respected by all his peers." Other nominees were **Travis Tingler**, **Kristohpher Kerr**, **Jonathan Buckman** and **Robyn Venables**.

Milena Cruz took the honor of Recruit of the Year. Her superiors wrote: "Milena is truly everything we look for in a Volusia County lifeguard. From her eager personality to her ability to learn quickly and her infectious positive attitude, Cruz has proven worthy of Recruit of the Year." Other nominees were **Samuel Hayworth**, **Deborah Roberts**, **Corbin McKeon** and **Andrew Lydecker Jr.**

Rookie of the Year was awarded to **Deborah Roberts** of tower 341. "Roberts works at the busiest tower in District 3 and has made numerous rescues and responded exceeding expectations to several medical calls during her short time with the county so far," her nomination form read. "We look forward to more years with Roberts on the beach."

Stephan Meerman was presented with the Jay McDonough award, given to an exemplary fulltime, nonlaw enforcement beach safety specialist. "Meerman has always been a team player who is willing to step in where needed without fail," her nominator wrote. "Peers and superiors both state that Meerman is a guard others should aspire to be with countless rescues and a humble heart." Other nominees were **Brandon Cavanaugh**, **Daniel Hugus**, **Matthew Kraljev** and **Christian Atkinson**.



LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR/JERRY RIMMER AWARD – Left to right: Robyn Venables, Travis Tingler - Jerry Rimmer Award, David Rapozza - Lifeguard of the Year, Kristopher Kerr, and Jonathan Buckman



OFFICER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES – Left to right: Ofc. Marc Rodriquez - winner, Ofc. Frederic Urquhart, Ofc. David Foley, and Ofc. Jason Legath



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES – Left to right: Samuel Hayworth, Milena Cruz - winner, Deborah Roberts, Corbin McKeon, and Andrew Lydecker



COUNTY LINE

Around the county



Light Up Volusia Nights!

'Tis the season for celebrating!

Hundreds of people celebrated the spirit of the holiday season at the fourth annual Light Up Volusia Nights! at the Ocean Center Nov. 29. The free public event included activities for children and adults, refreshments, live stage entertainment and of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus, who arrived via a Volusia County fire truck.

Volusia County Chair **Jason Davis** and other dignitaries helped flip the switch to light up the 40-foot tree and surrounding area.

For more information about next year's event contact **Angela Daniels**, Ocean Center marketing and sales director, at 386-254-4500 or adaniels@oceancenter.com.



LIGHT UP VOLUSIA NIGHTS! – Locals gather to partake in the tree lighting ceremony at the Ocean Center.

Season's Greetings

In the spotlight



Name: Cynthia Forbes

Job: As an inventory control specialist for Corrections, Forbes manages, receives and stores everything received at the jail, which is valued at \$500,000 annually. She also runs the general store and oversees the inmate crew.

Hire date: 2011

Hometown: Forbes was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and moved to Florida in 1991.

What she likes about her job: Working closely with corrections officers and civilian staff. "Everyone is like a family," she said.

How she spends her spare time: Forbes enjoys reading, cooking, listening to music, and spending quality time with family and friends.

Personal: She has been married for 22 years to Raymond, who is also her best friend. They have two cats and no children.

Her philosophy: "Treat everyone the way you want to be treated. I have truly lived that throughout life."



COUNTY LINE

New major assumes command of the Judicial Services Division

With promotion comes added responsibility. **Chico Mandizha** got a full dose of both recently when **Sheriff Ben Johnson** promoted the 23-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office to the rank of major. With his promotion, Mandizha became one of the Sheriff's Office's three majors, each commanding one of the agency's three operating divisions.

"You've earned this," Sheriff Johnson told Mandizha as he handed him his major's badge in front of a large crowd of family and co-workers gathered at the Sheriff's Office's Deputy Stephen Saboda Training Center in Daytona Beach. "You've worked hard for this and I'm very proud for you. Just know that it comes with a lot of responsibility."

Mandizha has risen through the ranks since joining the Sheriff's Office in October 1991. He earned promotion to sergeant in 2000, lieutenant in 2004, and captain in 2008. His assignments have run the gamut, from patrol, motors and judicial services to communications and assistant district commander of the Sheriff's Office's Deltona operations. He spent the last five years as the executive officer and second-in-command of the agency's Law Enforcement Services Division.

In his new assignment, Mandizha commands the Judicial Services Division, which includes court security, prisoner transport, central records and the civil section.



Major Chico Mandizha is pinned by his proud daughter.



EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER – The Sheriff's Office honors its top-performing employees for the second quarter of 2014. Pictured from left to right are Deputy of the Quarter Mike Worlledge, Civilian Employee of the Quarter Kathy Burnsed, Sheriff Ben Johnson, Telecommunicator of the Quarter Christine Watts, Volunteer of the Quarter Marge Clauser, and Investigator of the Quarter Lance Lamee.

Movers and shakers

Library staffer finds new way to distribute literature



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY – Charlie Schwab stands by the “little free library” he constructed and erected at McElroy Park in Daytona Beach Shores.

Charlie Schwab hit upon a way to combine his two passions – reading and building – when he read about the Little Free Library movement that’s sweeping America.

Little free libraries are basically boxes full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another to share. The boxes have a unique, personal touch, and there’s an understanding that people are sharing their favorite books with their neighbors.

Schwab, a library assistant at the Daytona Beach Regional Library, created three little libraries, which he placed in McElroy Park, Dunlawton Sugar Mill Gardens and his own front yard. He keeps them stocked with good reads, and they’ve met with rave reviews from other book worms.

“This is a great way to encourage reading and bring the library to the public,” Schwab said. “It’s unique and funky.”



Do you know a mover and shaker?

Please contact **Kendra Lee** in Community Information at khaley@volusia.org with the details.



Sharon Angelastri honored

Sharon Angelastri has been an active part of the Ocean Center team since 1988. She serves as administrative coordinator for the facility with responsibilities ranging from executing sales contracts to preparing monthly statistics. Recently the Hotel and Lodging Association of Volusia County recognized Angelastri as the Outstanding Employee of the Year at its ninth annual employee appreciation lunch. She earned the award for her outstanding work ethic and willingness to assist wherever she is needed.

Environmental Management’s triumphs continue



Dale Peterson accepts Agent of Change award at the NAHMMMA National Conference from Florida NAHMMMA President Chris Gilbert and National President Victoria Hodge.

The Environmental Management Division has received the National “Agent of Change” award from the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association. For the second time in two years, the association recognized the division for its outstanding programs and activities. This year’s award highlights the Hazardous Waste Pollution Control activity and its ability to be proactive in our communities. The association also recognized the division for its previous successes and accomplishments with the Small Quantity Generator Program and the St. Johns River Cleanup.



Happy Holidays

COUNTY LINE