

Newsweekly

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019
TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » TCPALM.COM

CELEBRATING WHAT'S SPECIAL
ABOUT INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



A model wears a creation from Pronovias during Barcelona Bridal fashion week in Barcelona, Spain. From dumping the bouquet and garter tosses to statement hats instead of veils, today's brides and grooms are going their own way. Some have their eyes on eco-conscious celebrations. MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

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GYAC expansion ribbon cutting set for May 15

Christina Tascon
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

VERO BEACH -- Where do children go after school when doors are closed to them?

Sometimes it is a relative's or neighbor's house or perhaps they are latchkey kids sitting at home without supervision. The Gifford Youth Achievement Center is there to meet that need, but has had to put more and more students put on a wait list each year leaving parents patiently waiting for a spot.



For 21 years, GYAC has made it a goal that every child who walks through its doors has a chance to graduate from high school. Since GYAC began offering after-school and summer academic programming in 1998, the high school graduation rate of African American students in Indian River County has increased from 23 percent to an astonishing 81.9 percent.

The center wanted to expand so more students could have access to its after-school programs. Organizers came with a plan to add 14,000-square-feet, including eight new classrooms, that will serve up to 325 children each year.

The board worked with the community to establish the Dream Weaver Capital Campaign to raise \$7.4 million to build the extra facilities and fund the programs.

The Dream Weaver campaign is just under \$1 million shy of reaching its initial goal. Dozens of donors have stepped forward with leadership gifts totaling over \$5.4 million and two have made \$1 million anonymous gifts, the largest ever received by GYAC.

A ribbon-cutting has been scheduled for May 15 at 4:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Attendees can tour the new building or make arrangement for a full tour at a future date.

The ceremony will be located at 4875 43rd Avenue just next to the original building and the Gifford Aquatic Center. Please RSVP if possible at 772-794-1005.



The new GYAC building is located between the Gifford Aquatic Center and the center's original building. CONTRIBUTED BY PROCTOR CONSTRUCTION

Matrimonial hits

With the local wedding season about to peak, here are some trends that are slighting tradition

When Ashley Yore and Derek Ultican were planning their wedding, the question of the garter and bouquet tosses didn't come up.

"It just wasn't something I ever wanted to do," said the 33-year-old Yore, who lives in Tampa, Florida. "Maybe because a lot of our friends are married already. We're just not a super-traditional couple. We wanted everyone to be part of the party and enjoy themselves."

They're not alone. According to The Knot's 2018 Real Wedding Study, many couples are going their own way when it comes to long-standing traditions. They're incorporating more personal touches, paying closer attention to their carbon footprints, and embracing fashion trends that have trickled from the runways to wedding halls.

Just 33% of more than 14,000 U.S. brides and grooms surveyed by the bridal site went the time-worn garter route, down from 41% in 2016. As for bouquets, 45% tossed, down from 53% in 2016.

See WEDDING, Page 6Y



GETTY IMAGES

Pelican Island Audubon Society recognizes volunteers

Richard Baker
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Pelican Island Audubon Society educates and helps the community become aware of environmental issues and advocates for preserving and protecting the environment for animals (including humans) and plants to thrive.

Volunteers are essential to this endeavor with the help they provide for such things as classes and workshops, birding field trips, landscaping and trees conferences, student programs and grant writing for funding.

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 11Y



Steve Palmquist (President's Award), Ricky Ray, and Terry Greene (Environmental Landscaping Award) volunteering at the Trees for Life project.

CONTRIBUTED BY PELICAN ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation awarded \$20,000

Susan McDaniel
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

VERO BEACH -- The Indian River Community Foundation presented the Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation \$20,000, a gift from an anonymous donor.

"We are so honored to be recognized

See DONATION, Page 11Y



Charlotte Terry, Barbara Guilford, Jacque Jacobs, Susan Boyd, Jeff Pickering, Marie Stiefel, Sean Sexton, Susan McDaniel, Susan Lovelace and Julie Weary. CONTRIBUTED BY LAURA (RIDING) JACKSON FOUNDATION