

# VERO BEACH 32963

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**Quail Valley Charity Cup Week  
exceeds expectations. P12**

**Hope for Families Center  
honors 5 volunteers. P20**

**Bark in the Park supports the  
Indian River Humane Society. P16**

For breaking news visit [VeroNews.com](http://VeroNews.com)

## Plea deal now seen possible in bike fatality

BY RAY MCNULTY  
Staff Writer

Sixteen months after a young Vero Beach bicyclist was struck by a car and killed on the 17th Street Bridge, the case against the woman charged with DUI manslaughter isn't close to going to trial – and it might not.

Both a state prosecutor and the attorney for Jamie Williams, now 22, said a plea deal is a possibility.

"This was a tragedy that impacted two young lives and their families," said Alan Landman, Williams' Melbourne-based attorney. "We're trying to find an equally fair, just and comfortable compromise to resolve the case."

Assistant State Attorney Steve Wilson, who has handled the case since lead prose-

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## County to Miami: 'Leave our sand alone. Get yours from Bahamas'

BY LISA ZAHNER  
Staff Writer

The County Commission voted unanimously last week to oppose pumping sand from the seabed a mile off Round Island Park and sending it south to replenish beaches in Miami.



Land Trust member King Stubbs scans a tracking tag FIT graduate student Anthony Cianciotto attached to tarpon. PHOTO BY PHIL SUNKEL

## New culverts link Bee Gum Point wetlands to lagoon

BY SAMANTHA ROHLFING BAITA  
Staff Writer

The Indian River Land Trust is in the midst of a large-scale scientific experiment at its 111-acre Bee Gum Point property

that could have a major positive impact on the imperiled ecology of the entire Lagoon.

Some years ago, the natural flow of water from the Lagoon into the wetlands at the western end of Fred Tuerk Drive

was artificially cut off to aid in mosquito control. Only one small culvert was provided to create a minimal wintertime flow of water into the wetlands.

Now, seven additional cul-

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## Vero tells court it cannot force low electric rates

BY LISA ZAHNER  
Staff Writer

According to the City of Vero Beach and its lawyers, courts have no say over what the city charges for electricity. Vero says its rates are its business, plain and simple.

The Town of Indian River Shores has sued Vero for breach of contract, contending that the city's rates are "unreasonable" to a degree that violates a 1986 franchise agreement in which Vero agreed to only charge reasonable rates. The Shores is seeking damages amounting to the excess that Shores ratepayers have been charged since 2008. That number could add up to \$18 million or more.

"Vero Beach alone is vested with the exclusive authority to regulate electric rates and nei-

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## Ocean views big draw for prospective buyers of \$3 million condos

BY STEVEN M. THOMAS  
Staff Writer

The first thing Alloy Development built at its condominium site in Indian River Shores was a sturdy, two-level

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Viewing platform at the site of the new 8050 luxury condos. PHOTO BY PHIL SUNKEL

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**Perfect choice for  
Child Advocate  
of the Year. P26**



## PEOPLE

# Perfect choice for Child Advocate of the Year



Kevin and Kelly Donovan.



Marlynn Scully, Pat Thompson and Karen Drury.

BY MARY SCHENKEL  
Staff Writer

The John's Island Community Service League was honored by the Children's Home Society of Florida's Treasure Coast Division as its 2015 Child Advocate of the Year at a cocktail reception held last Wednesday at the lovely oceanfront home of Kelly and Kevin Donovan.

Sabrina Sampson, CHS TC executive director, said the John's Island Community Service League was the perfect choice for the award.

"When we realized what the collective impact has been with the (John's Island Community Service) League, the (John's Island) Foundation and individuals, they truly are champions for children. Members of John's Island have been very active, serving as volunteers and making donations for 16 years."

As guest mingled over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, Pat Brier, JICSL grant chairwoman spoke about the

Children's Home Society Transitional Living Program, which they have supported in recent years.

"It fills a very unique niche; helping the kids who are aging out of the foster care system. They keep them safe, educate them and give them life skills to eventually be able to live on their own."

Adding that the program is in need of long-term funding, she noted, "Finding sustainable funding is really important for all these agencies."

"We house 12 kids residentially and we serve another 20 to 25 in the community," said Sampson. "We're the only facility on the Treasure Coast that houses 18- to 23-year-olds. The majority are young adults who have aged out of foster care. We're also getting calls from the homeless liaisons at the high schools about students who are over 18 and are couch surfing; they don't have stable housing."

She noted that the house mother who lives with the young adults nurtures them with the kind of care of-



Hope Woodhouse, Sabrina Sampson and Pat Brier.

ten missing from their lives, adding, "Over Christmas she showed them how to make a full holiday meal.

Some of them said it was the best Christmas they ever had."

Treasure Coast board chairman



actual patients of Dr. Sarbak

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actual patients of Dr. Hagood





## PEOPLE



**Kelly Donovan with Pat and Art Ryan.**

Dale Jacobs gave attendees an overview of the organization, which was founded in 1902. CHS is celebrating its 25th year on the Treasure Coast, one of 15 locations serving the entire state. The R. David and I. Lorraine Thomas Child Advocate Award, the highest honor given by CHS, was es-

established by Wendy's founder Dave Thomas to honor an individual or organization dedicated to improving children's lives.

"It is a privilege to recognize a most deserving organization for 2015, John's Island Community Service League," said Jacobs. "Your support



**Molly Hart, Janet Baines and Connie McGlynn.**

is important and helps us to serve a group of kids that would otherwise be homeless with nowhere to go,”

“Having worked in Child Welfare for over 17 years I know it requires special people with special hearts to serve victims of trauma,” said Sampson. “As of today CHS is serving 207

children in Indian River County who have been the victims of trauma.”

Before presenting the award to Pat Thompson, current JICSL president, Sampson painted a picture of their 16-year involvement. Their collective contribution of more than \$140,000

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*Let the Good Times Roll!*

**MONDAY**  
**FEB 8 6-10PM**

**THE MOORINGS**  
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**Mardi Gras**  
CELEBRATION  
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*Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
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For Sponsorship or ticket information: [www.WeCareofIRC.org](http://www.WeCareofIRC.org) or call 772.562.0123

Raising funds to provide free non-physician medical services and supplies for uninsured indigent patients in the We Care program.



## PEOPLE



Dale and Betty Jacobs.



Debbie and Douglas Alexander.



Mike McGee and Rodger Pridgeon.



Edith Dupuy and Marta Schneider.



Buff Penrose, Colleen Bonner and Tay Adams.

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began with support of the Girls Group Home (Baines Hall). This year's collaboration with the Child Advisory Committee of IRC enabled an expansion of the Teen Life Choices Program into Indian River County.

JICSL members have served on the Children's Services Advisory Committee. Ann Thompson, the first Indian River board chair, was joined by other past and present board mem-

bers including Sherry Ann Dayton, Nancy Briggs, Mallie Ireland, Susan Mehiel and Janet Baines.

Upcoming fundraisers include the 15th Annual Have a Heart ... Play Bridge for the Children, 9 a.m. Jan. 25 at Vero Beach Country Club, and the Fly Me to the Moon Dinner Party with retired NASA Astronaut Captain Winston Scott, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Corporate Air hangar. Call 772-344-4020 x 224 for tickets. ■

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