

‘Sweepstakes machines’ sail to port



Victory Casino Cruises’ ship Victory 1 offers two daily cruises from Port Canaveral. TIM SHORTT/FLORIDA TODAY

By Dave Berman
FLORIDA TODAY

The company that operates the Victory 1 casino ship from Port Canaveral plans to expand its gambling presence at the port.

Tynda Holdings LLC received unanimous Canaveral Port Authority approval this past week to operate so-called “sweepstakes machines” from its Cruise Terminal 2 facility at Port Canaveral as a way to boost its revenue, as well as provide additional revenue for the port.

Lester Bullock, a co-owner of Tynda

Holdings, said he expects to add about 30 sweepstakes machines at the terminal within the next several weeks, creating a facility similar to storefront Internet gaming centers that have cropped up throughout Brevard County.

“You can’t beat them,” Bullock said. “I’m going to join them.”

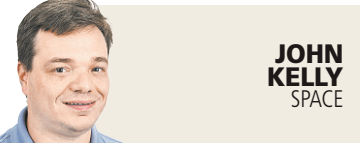
Bullock said he expects the presence of the machines at the terminal to boost customer counts for the Victory 1 ship, as well as attract people who may want to use the machines but do not

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A sunshield membrane for the Webb Space Telescope is tested. PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHROP GRUMMAN AEROSPACE SYSTEMS

Telescope costs might magnify



JOHN KELLY
SPACE

Stop me if you’ve heard this one before.

Independent reviewers believe that NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope could be on a path that would lead to more schedule delays and, consequently, the possibility of added costs.

You’ll recall, the space agency’s next great space telescope was originally estimated to cost taxpayers as little as \$1 billion and blast off on a mission to study the evolution of galaxies between 2007 and 2011. Now, the cost estimate is about \$9 billion and the launch target is late 2018. After an exhaustive review of the project, and harsh criticism from Congress, NASA overhauled the telescope management and promised Webb was back on track.

A new report, mandated by skeptical members of Congress and made public this week, indicates NASA has made progress on getting the telescope’s cost and schedule under control. Some “best practices” long suggested by the U.S. Government Accountability Office are being abided by the new management of the Webb project. But, alas, some best practices are not.

First, the project has what could be too little time and money set aside for unexpected challenges in the development of perhaps one of the most complicated spacecraft NASA has ever flown. In the space business, time is money. If NASA must delay the launch into 2019, which is likely given the historical record, every few months could cost taxpayers hundreds

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Students are teaching students in Frank Luke’s advanced algebra with financial applications class at Rockledge High. Student teachers are, from left, Khaleel Thorbourne, Mary Maccarone and Stephanie Rodriguez. RIK JESSE/FLORIDA TODAY

Students take over role as teachers

As math instructors, Rockledge High teens defeat daily distractions

By Mackenzie Ryan | FLORIDA TODAY

ROCKLEDGE—Students in Frank Luke’s advanced algebra class don’t goof off anymore. At least, not in a distracting way.

The Rockledge High teacher turned the tables on his students recently by asking them to teach the class.

As Luke explained it, his students are smart, just distracted. They’re more worried about socializing than learning advanced algebra with financial applications.

But he believed with the right motivation, they would learn.

“Most of my students, 99.9 percent of them, are exceptionally brilliant. They can teach,” Luke said. “The ability is there.”

About 50 of his 107 students volunteered to lead lessons. Within a few days, class dynamics changed.

Student instructors worked ahead, devising lesson plans that Luke reviewed. Knowing how bored they can become as students, as teachers the teenagers devised math games or other activities.

On Thursday, senior Khaleel Thorbourne presented a problem while classmates worked in

teams to solve it.

The first to write the answer on the board won a point. The prize: a homework-free night.

Occasionally, students came up with a wrong answer — prompting student instructor Stephanie Rodriguez, a junior, to write out the equation and demonstrate how she did it.

“You have to convert that,” she said. “It’s 5.74, but I rounded it off.”

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An honor during holiday season

WWII vets serve as grand marshals for Cocoa Beach parade

By Scott Gunnerson
FLORIDA TODAY

COCOA BEACH—Eight World War II veterans soaked up the holiday cheer Saturday afternoon as they were paraded down State Road A1A.

The group served as grand marshals for the Cocoa Beach Christmas Parade, which featured about 70 floats and 1,000 participants.

“It’s an honor for me, but it is important that this group is reminded as to who we were and what we did,” said Bill Logan, 83,

who served in the Navy in World War II and Korea.

Brevard County has about 6,300 veterans over age 85, according to Department of Veterans Affairs. One in five adults in Brevard is a veteran.

The eight veterans in the parade have participated in the Space Coast Honor Flights, a program that takes veterans to Washington, D.C., free of charge to experience monuments built in their honor. The organization had seven flights this year that carried 175 veterans. Since October 2010, 275 World War II veterans in Brevard have made the trip.

Cocoa Beach Christmas Parade organizers originally asked Space Coast Honor Flight staff to be grand marshals, but the

World War II vets were grand marshals of Saturday’s parade. MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY



group’s leadership declined.

“The grand marshals really need to be the World War II veterans,” said Bill Welser, a retired Air Force lieutenant general and the president of Space Coast Honor Flight. “They are the

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MORE ONLINE

See photos and video from the parade at **florida today.com**. For Best Bets on holiday-related events and more, visit **florida today.com/holidays**.



PLENTY TO DO AT THE ZOO

A family membership to the ever-changing Brevard Zoo may be a good investment, columnist Maggie Dickinson writes.

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FPL PURSUES PIPELINE PROJECT

Florida Power & Light’s planned natural gas pipeline would stretch hundreds of miles across the state.

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Khaleel Thorbourne, left, Mary Maccarone and Stephanie Rodriguez expalin a problem during teacher Frank Luke's class at Rockledge High. RIK JESSE/FLORIDA TODAY

Teachers

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At times, Luke stepped in to further explain a problem. More often, he walked around the small groups, offering one-on-one help or encouragement.

Senior Mary Maccarone, one of the student instructors, said she's become a better student. Classmates agreed; they sympathize with how hard it is to be a teacher.

"I know it sucks when everyone is talking and goofing around when you're teaching," she said. "You try to be quieter about it or try not to do it."

Senior Ivan Muriel-Pacheco also noticed a change.

"It gives the room a good vibe," he said. "Our friend is teaching the class and doing it his way, instead of the normal routine."

To his surprise, Luke has seen a marked improvement with students who previously slacked or struggled. They became more engaged, and they work harder to understand. They want to teach.

"They realize that they can do it," Luke said.

As word has spread, parents have started coming to

class to watch their son or daughter lead. And it's prompted Luke to consider taking the approach for the rest of the year.

Students also see the benefit of self-directed learning, which is needed to work ahead and teach the rest of the class.

College professors will expect them to do much of their class reading and learning on their own. And a few said they imagine preparing for work presentations or meetings will be similar.

But when asked whether their interest in financial al-

SCAN THE CODE

See video of students as teachers at floridatoday.com



gebra has increased, students laughed.

"It's more fun," Muriel-Pacheco said. "But it's still math."

Contact Ryan at 321-242-3664 or mryan@floridatoday.com. Follow her on Twitter @ Mackenzie_Ryan or at Facebook.com/FloridaTodayEducation

Plane crash at park kills pilot

By Eliot Kleinberg
The Palm Beach Post

A Cessna 421 that had just left the Lantana airport slammed into a stand of trees and exploded in front of startled picnickers at John Prince Park, west of Lake Worth, on Saturday afternoon, killing the sole person aboard, according to authorities and witnesses.

Authorities on Saturday afternoon had not yet identified the pilot. Palm Beach County Sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Barbera said the National Transportation Safety Board was expected to send an investigator today.

An aviation source identified the plane as a 1980 Cessna 421-C, an eight-seat, two-engine plane sold in September 2011 to SDSEF Leasing of Miami Lakes.

The plane crashed around 1:30 p.m. on the south shore of Square Lake, a small arm of Lake



Investigators work the scene of a plane crash at John Prince Park in Lake Worth on Saturday. The plane's pilot was killed. TAYLOR JONES/PALM BEACH POST

Osborne in the middle of the park, which sits between Palm Beach State College and the Lantana airport.

Maria Rocha of Greenacres was with her family at a pavilion at John Prince Park and saw the plane heading from northwest to southeast, almost aiming back toward the airport, with its wings wobbling.

She said it made an arc following the shore of Square Lake until it was almost traveling due east,

then angled down and into the palm trees on the lake's southern shore.

"Immediately, it just hit the ground and burst into flames, a black cloud," Rocha said.

Rocha's father, Salvatore Rocha, said he and his son were not looking in the same direction but heard the explosion and turned around. He said people were running up to the plane, but there were no signs anyone was alive.

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Engagement

TIBBITS WILKINSON
Edward and Ellen Tibbits of Cocoa Beach, Florida, along with Robert and Andrea Wilkinson of Cocoa, Florida, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Katharine Elizabeth Tibbits and Jacob Dylan Wilkinson.
Miss Tibbits graduated from Cocoa Beach High School and BCC, and is currently attending UCF working toward an elementary education teaching degree. She is employed by Publix in Cocoa Beach.
Mr. Wilkinson graduated from Cocoa Beach High School and BCC, and is currently in the Paramedic Program at BCC and finishing up his degree at UCF. He is employed by Sunrise Marina in Cape Canaveral, Florida.
The happy couple will be wed on December 15, 2012.
"Two Souls, One Heart"

Engagement

SMITH - DROLL
Melinda Smith of Merritt Island, Florida and Justin Smith of Melbourne, Florida, announce the engagement of their daughter, Courtney Smith, to Kyle Droll, son of Suzanne and Ray Droll of Melbourne, Florida.
Courtney, a 2011 graduate of UF, is currently a kindergarten teacher in Levy County, Florida. Kyle, a senior at UF majoring in Mechanical Engineering, is currently employed at the Emerging Pathogens Institute at UF.
A February 2014 wedding is planned.

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Happy Birthday

MAJOR GENERAL FRANK SIMOKAITIS, USAF (RET.)
Frank Simokaitis will celebrate his 90th birthday on 12 December 2012. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, he was a pilot - 8th AF - in WWII; a graduate of STL Univ. Law School - married Mary Jane Feeney and they had 3 children: Frank (deceased), Peggy and Mary. Blessed with 9 grands and 6 great grands.
Retired in '78 from AF and was DOD Dir. NASA HQ until retirement in '83.
Happy Birthday Frank! We Love You!