

Forum

Vero council proclaims June Alzheimer & Brain Awareness Month

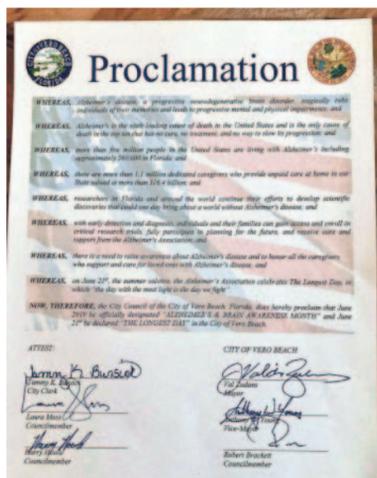
Yarissa Reyes
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

VERO BEACH -- The city of Vero Beach joined other Florida towns by proclaiming June as Alzheimer & Brain Awareness Month during a recent city council meeting.

To honor those living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers, city hall will be lit up in Alzheimer's signature shade of purple during the month of June. The council encourages the community to wear purple in support and to look into ways to help their neighbors.

More than 6,500 Indian River County residents are currently living with Alzheimer's dementia. The city wants Vero Beach residents affected and their caregivers to know that they are supported and not alone in the fight against Alzheimer's.

"We want Vero Beach residents to know we are here for them at any time of the day or night," said Yarissa Reyes, vice president of communications for the Alzheimer's Association Florida region. "The Alzheimer's Association helps families and friends navigate challenges and considerations at each stage of the disease, through face-to-face conversations with experts in local communities, our free 24/7 helpline



CONTRIBUTED BY YARISSA REYES

(800-272-3900) and comprehensive support and resources on alz.org."

Every 65 seconds someone in the United States develops Alzheimer's disease. It is America's sixth leading cause of death, affecting more than 5 million Americans and 16 million caregivers. Florida is at the epicenter of the disease with the second highest prevalence affecting 560,000 residents living with Alzheimer's.



John Cotugno and Jan Williams (front) accept the proclamation from the Vero Beach City Council on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association. CONTRIBUTED BY YARISSA REYES

About Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month: June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing public awareness of Alzheimer's disease, available resources and how to get involved to support the cause. Visit alz.org/abam to learn more about Alzheimer's, share your story and how you can support the cause during Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month.

About the Alzheimer's Association: This association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. For more information visit alz.org or call 800-272-3900.

Purpose is important for new GYAC Youth Program Director

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

VERO BEACH -- Everything is new again at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center. A shiny new expansion building is open just in time for a summer term full of fun activities and a new staff member who is making exciting changes to the curriculum.

Curtis Webb was promoted to the Youth Program Director beginning this summer term. He is a retired 20-year Army sergeant, who is bringing his organizational and disciplinary skills to the students' routines. He was originally hired as an after-school teacher and is already a familiar face to most of the GYAC students.

Webb has a bachelor's degree in Human Services and a master's degree in Education and Instructional Technology. He says his plans are to focus on teaching the students that they are



New Gifford Youth Achievement Center Youth Program Director Curtis Webb. CHRISTINA TASCAN

coming to GYAC "with a purpose."
"Students should know why they

are here; excel in their performance in classrooms, and then leave prepared," said Webb.

The timing could not be any better since the new Cis and Bill Glavin Educational Center just received its certificate of occupancy in time for summer camp. Students are enjoying the new facility with a structured classroom schedule that also allows for summer recreational activities.

Webb has implemented a new curriculum where all grades have five classes per day--History, Science, English/Language Arts, Math and Character Education. Younger students will have the same subjects but will stay in one classroom in the original building while sixth grade and up will move to different classrooms per subject.

This is the same as the Indian River County school system which provides time breaks and allows teachers to concentrate on specific levels per stu-

dent group.

During the school year the after-school program focuses on immediate student needs and the summer term is focused on longer term goals for the students.

"Our goal during the school year is to assist students in their homework and help them achieve their dream to graduate," says Webb. "We use the summer to jump start the students to the next grade level in the upcoming school year and make sure they don't lose a substantial percentage of previously learned knowledge in the 'summer slide.'"

The Gifford Youth Achievement Center is located at 4875 43rd Ave. and serves more than 300 Indian River County students to help them graduate by providing homework assistance, tutors, mentors and the tools to be successful in life.

To learn more about programs visit www.GYAC.net or call 772-794-1005.

Dads get in free at McKee for Father's Day



The Hall of Giants houses the world's largest single plank mahogany table according to McKee Botanical Garden literature. The table measures 35-feet long by 5-feet wide and is 4-inches thick. WILLIE J. ALLEN JR.

Connie Cotherman
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

VERO BEACH - McKee Botanical Garden will offer one free admission for dad (father, father-in-law, stepfather or grandfather) with one paid admission in celebration of Father's Day (June 16).

There are a million ways to celebrate dads this Father's Day, but probably his favorite way is spending time with you. Honor your father with a day he will re-

member with a visit to McKee Botanical Garden.

Enjoy some quiet one-on-one time and relaxation within the natural landscape of majestic palms, exotic plants, trees, waterfalls, tranquil streams, and historic structures at McKee and then stop for lunch at the Garden Cafe.

The Garden will be open from noon to 5 pm. The last admission ticket is sold at 4 pm.

For more information, call 772-794-0601.

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CELEBRATING WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

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CORRECTION

In the May 29 edition of The Newsweekly in an article titled "CIA director publishes tales from the dark side," former Secretary of Defense and Director of the CIA Robert Gates was incorrectly identified as Richard Gates.