



NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR STATE

Bikes, Romney boost area

By JEFFREY CASSADY
BUSINESS WRITER

DAYTONA BEACH — The tents have disappeared. The out-of-towner motorcyclists have departed.

And area hotels and merchants are counting the money they earned during Biketoberfest, the four-day motorcycle rally that wrapped up Sunday.

“It’s mostly better than last year,” said Bob Davis, president and CEO of the Hotel and Lodging Association of Volusia County, which represents area hotels.

Davis surveyed members Monday to see how the hotels

Hotels, restaurants welcome added autumn business

“Some were down from last year, but more were up than down,” Davis said. “Overall, occupancy and daily rates were up.”

The Daytona Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau started Biketoberfest 20 years

ago as a way to increase tourism in the usually slow month of October. The event draws an estimated 100,000 visitors annually.

This year, the fall motorcycle event got a small assist from an unlikely source — a campaign rally for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his

vice presidential running mate Paul Ryan at the Daytona Beach Bandshell on Friday evening.

The 744-room Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, the Volusia-Flagler area’s largest hotel, was fully booked throughout Biketoberfest this year, just as it was last year.

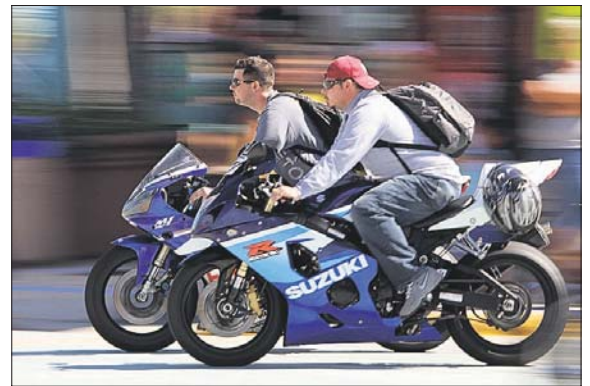
The difference this year is that the hotel raised its daily room rates.

“We were up year over year,” said Jason Reader, the Hilton’s

MORE ONLINE See recent coverage of Biketoberfest 1012 at news-journalonline.com

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News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Bikers streak along State Road A1A in Daytona Beach on Saturday as the city’s Biketoberfest celebration headed into its final hours.

Top shots in readers’ contest



Sherry Cook

This “RCAF head on” image captured first place among reader-submitted photos in the Wings and Waves contest.

More than 800 enter pictures

By KATIE KUSTURA
STAFF WRITER

DAYTONA BEACH — More than 800 air-show fans at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Wings and Waves event submitted hundreds of photos from the Oct. 13-14 event.

The News-Journal posted all the photos at News-JournalOnline.com and our photo staff made some difficult choices to boil it down to three.

The winners get Publix gift certificates of \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third.

Here are the winners and a little bit about each of them:

1st place: Sherry Cook
Palm Coast

Camera: Canon Rebel
Winning photo: “RCAF head on”

Sherry Cook felt good about her Wings and Waves photos,

especially the one her husband, Ron, picked for The Daytona Beach News-Journal photo contest.

“He just knew that it was going to be the one that was going to be picked,” said Cook, the head photo specialist at Walgreens, 5000 E. State Road 100, Palm Coast.

Cook took the winning photo Oct. 13, the first of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s two-day air show. Her photo features two jets from the Royal Canadian Air Force.

“It looked like they were going to hit, and that’s why we picked that one,” Cook said. “The fighter pilots were amazing.”

Cook, 36, who has been into photography seriously for the



Jimmy Chirillo

This “Canadian Snowbird” image placed second among reader-submitted photos in the contest.

MORE ONLINE

See more photos of Embry-Riddle’s Wings and Waves Air Show at news-journalonline.com

last six months, said she took about 850 photos at the show. She hopes to work her way up to becoming a professional photographer.

2nd place: Jimmy Chirillo
Holly Hill
Camera: Canon D 5000
Winning photo: “Canadian Snowbird”

It’s been quite some time since Jimmy Chirillo went to see an air show.

“Last air show I was at, I was probably 10 years old,” said Chirillo, who does Internet marketing work and photography.

Twenty years later, the Holly Hill resident would take a winning photo of the Canadian Snowbirds at the Wings and Waves



Mike Lucas

Placing third in the reader-submitted photography contest is this “Riding the edge” image.

air show in Daytona Beach.

“That was my favorite one of the group,” said Chirillo, 30, who estimates he took about 200 photos Oct. 13.

Aside from being his favorite, he said the winning photo also received more attention than any of the other air show photos he posted on his Facebook page.

3rd place: Mike Lucas
Daytona Beach
Camera: Nikon D 7000
Winning photo: “Riding the edge!”



LUCAS

open-heart surgery.

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Judge ‘flattered’ by online effort to keep him in Flagler

By FRANK FERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Like Flagler Circuit Judge Raul Zambrano? Then like a Facebook page asking that Judge Zambrano be kept in Flagler County rather than be reassigned to Volusia County.

Sixty-seven people have so far “liked” the Facebook page called “Flagler Wants to Keep Judge Z.” “ALL RISE!!! Take a

moment to thank judge z (sic) for his dedicated service to our citizens and to express to chief judge parsons (sic) this community’s displeasure at his decision to move such a valuable asset to flagler county,” reads the Facebook page.

It’s the first time Chief Judge William Parsons, who made the decision to move Zambrano, has seen this form of an appeal — a Facebook page dedicated to keeping a judge from moving.

“I don’t remember anything like that in the past,” Parsons said.

But the future for Zambrano remains in the DeLand Courthouse, starting Dec. 3.

Parsons said his decision to move Zambrano was done with the greater good of the 7th Circuit in mind. Providing Zambrano with more and diverse experience will help the circuit and help Zambrano gain leadership positions in the future, Parsons said.

“Our goal is to have judges exposed to divisions and to circumstances that will broaden their experience and let them work with different people and develop their leadership skills and knowledge of the circuit,” Parsons said Monday in a phone interview.

Zambrano said in an email Monday through a spokeswoman that he had not seen the Facebook page. “I do not have a Facebook account and have not seen it,” Zambrano said. “I was unaware that something had been started until this afternoon. If true, then I am flattered and once again thankful to the community for their support during my tenure here.”

Zambrano has gone beyond the bench during his tenure in Flagler County. He is a member of a committee working on creating a Safe Havens Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program for Flagler County parents needing supervised visits to see their children.

Zambrano received the OK from Parsons to continue working on the committee even after he is reassigned to Volusia County.

Zambrano has also spoken about the inadequacies of the county jail to the Flagler County Commission, which approved continuing a half-cent sales tax in part to fund expansion of the jail.

Zambrano is also a trumpet player and has played taps at Memorial Day ceremonies.

“He is a very capable judge,” Parsons said. “Obviously, he has made a substantial impression on the people of Flagler County.”

Parsons said he formulated the plan for moving Zambrano to the circuit civil division in DeLand. Zambrano’s division of criminal, juvenile delinquency and juvenile dependency in Flagler County will be taken over by Circuit Judge J. David Walsh.

Walsh is a former chief judge and a “certified mentor” and

SEE JUDGE, PAGE 4C

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Local leaders to carry papers to benefit charity

By SKYLER SWISHER
BUSINESS WRITER

DAYTONA BEACH — Daytona Beach Mayor Glenn Ritchey braved rain, sleet, snow and mad dogs to deliver the news back in the 1950s.

On Nov. 10, the 72-year-old car dealer will return to his paperboy roots. This time, though, his efforts will be to benefit homeless children, rather than to buy the BB gun he hoped to have when he was 13.

“The need is tremendous,” said Ritchey, who, in addition to being mayor, is president and CEO of Jon Hall Automotive Group. “We, unfortunately, in this day and age have children living in cars.”

Ritchey is among the many prominent people in the community who will participate in News Carrier Hall of Fame Day on Nov. 10, a fundraiser created by The Daytona Beach News-Journal. Each participant worked as a news carrier before going on to become a leader in the community.

During the event, former carriers will meet at 7:30 a.m. at

Dunkin’ Donuts locations around town and will be given a supply of newspapers to sell around the community.

Proceeds and donations will benefit Food Brings Hope, a local charity effort launched six years ago to provide meals, rewards for academic success and opportunities to participate in sporting and cultural programs to homeless and economically disadvantaged students.

“We are very grateful to The News-Journal for choosing Food Brings Hope for the recipient of the News Carrier Hall of Fame fundraiser,” said Forough Hosseini, the founder of Food Brings Hope. “Through the News-Journal’s efforts, the plight of the homeless, especially the plight of homeless children and teenagers, will be brought to the public’s attention.”

The day before News Carrier Hall of Fame Day, The News-Journal will publish a special section featuring each of the former carriers and information

SEE PAPERS, PAGE 4C

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COOK



CHIRILLO



RITCHEY



HOSSEINI

Pair bring different ideas to Flagler Dist. 2 race

By JULIE MURPHY STAFF WRITER

Political newcomer Abby Romaine says she will "work for developers and not with them" as she prepares to face off against Republican Frank Meeker for the Flagler County Commission District 2 seat.

All registered Flagler County voters, regardless of where they live, will have to decide when they go to the polls whether to vote for a first-timer or one with political experience to fill the seat.

There is no incumbent candidate because Milissa Holland, who currently holds the position, has resigned to run for the state House District 24 seat.

A seat on the County Commission is a four-year position that pays \$48,061 annually, determined through a state formula based on the county's population.

Romaine, 40, is running without party affiliation but has been endorsed by the Democratic Party in Flagler County. She is a political analyst on the America's Radio News network who says she is not a politician but "a public servant with public policy experience."

"My goal is to put people before politics," she said during a recent interview.



MEEKER



ROMAINE

where he gets campaign funding from.

"Not everything is in a vacuum," he said. "I've covered 18 counties in what I do. I've been involved in the permitting of projects like Walmart and Grand Haven. Those professionals are outside of the county, and you ask them if they'll support you. They know you and your reputation, and they do."

Meeker stands on his "knowledge, proven experience and conservative leadership," and believes maintaining the budget is the biggest issue the county faces.

"If property values drop, then the other part of the equation has to change," he said. "I will look at the money centers in the budget. Look at the big areas that soak up the most money and that's where you'll see the big savings. Capital projects is one of the big areas."

Romaine's priority, if elected, will be economic development and job creation.

"We need jobs here, and I don't believe economic development and natural preservation are against each other," she said. "This is paradise. The world is your oyster."

She said she would work to implement a five-step economic plan that includes stewardship of the county's natural resources, attracting more retiring Baby Boomers, tourism marketing toward retirees, luring financial and insurance industry services, and creating an aviation technology corridor.

"We need to leverage the talents that we have here," Romaine said. "We've got the brain trust right here with Embry-Riddle and NASA to the south."

"There are 75 million baby boomers who will be retiring, but many of them will go on to start small and mid-size businesses. They can do that right here."

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News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Bikers pack Main Street on Saturday as they enjoyed clear skies and cooler temperatures in Daytona Beach for Biketoberfest.

BIKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

general manager, referring to revenues his hotel generated this past weekend. "That was a combination of Biketoberfest and the political event."

The Hilton is immediately adjacent to the Bandshell where the Romney-Ryan rally was held.

"We were so close to being sold out (before the political rally was announced) that we made room for the two candidates and the media," Reader said, adding that Secret Service members and Romney-Ryan campaign staffers also stayed at the hotel.

Other area hotels, including The Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach Shores, also performed better this year than they did last year.

Even without a bump in business from the Romney-Ryan rally, The Shores still managed to fill up its 212 rooms both Friday and Saturday nights and raised its rates for the weekend roughly 13 percent over last year, said Susan Keaveney, the hotel's marketing manager.

Room bookings generated both by Biketoberfest as well as Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Wings & Waves air show in Daytona Beach the previous weekend have combined for a strong month for The Shores, she said.

"We are pacing ahead (of last year) for October," Keaveney said. "Some of this is attributed

to groups (renting rooms). Some of that is attributed to Wings and Waves, and some of it is Biketoberfest."

Biketoberfest was also kind to local campgrounds.

"We had a great event," said Brian O'Dwyer, co-owner of two KOA campgrounds and a recreational vehicle campground in the Daytona Beach area. "When you get weather (like we had on Saturday and Sunday), they're just happy bikers."

Both O'Dwyer's 98-site Daytona/Speedway KOA campground and his 350-site Daytona Beach KOA sold out for the event, and rates held steady from last year, O'Dwyer said.

However, business was not strong enough to warrant opening the Racetrack RV campground, O'Dwyer said.

"We need a minimum number (of reservations) to open (Racetrack RV)," O'Dwyer said. "We just didn't get it. So, we didn't open."

Racetrack RV opens for major events such as the Daytona 500. But the recession hurt Biketoberfest business and demand for RV sports hasn't been great enough to justify opening the facility for the past two years, O'Dwyer said.

In Flagler County, the Topaz Motel/Hotel on South Ocean-shore Boulevard in Flagler Beach has been treading water businesswise during the past few Biketoberfests.

"I hope things get better next year," said Mike Patel, the 58-room hotel's owner.

Business has been flat for the last three of the past four Biketoberfests, Patel said. After the financial crisis in 2008, business dropped significantly and, aside from solid bookings during the 2011 event, hasn't improved much.

"We had a few cancellations (this year) and a few walk-ins," Patel said. "Overall, (business) was about the same as last year."

Patel said the hotel averaged about 60 percent occupancy from Thursday to Sunday.

DeLand businesses benefited from a confluence of events over the weekend, including a jazz festival, an Eagles cover band concert at the Athens Theatre and the MainStreet DeLand Association's first autumn bike rally.

Coupled with Biketoberfest, these events ensured that Woodland Boulevard, a major artery through downtown DeLand, was lined with motorcycles Saturday night.

"We had hundreds of bikes," said Jack Becker, executive director of MainStreet DeLand. "(The events were) a good boost for the downtown businesses."

Many of those bikes were in front of Bill & Frank's Brick-house Grill in downtown DeLand.

"We were much busier than a normal Saturday," said Frank Jennings, co-owner of the restaurant, adding that business was up by 10 to 15 percent. "(The events) brought more people downtown."

which Lucas said led some to think it was altered.

Lucas, 40, began enjoying photography as a hobby about two years ago, and said he's learned most of his skills from watching several hundred YouTube videos.

"I started with a little point-and-shoot, and I got very good responses on my photos," Lucas said. "I am definitely going to frame this one."

He estimated he took about 200 photos at the Wings and Waves air show, which he was seeing for a second time.

TOP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

On Oct. 13, he captured a winning photo of two United States Air Force jets flying so closely that they were nearly touching,

Off-duty officers fatally shoot naked woman

SPRING HILL — State officials are investigating the fatal shooting of a naked woman shot by two off-duty officers at a party in Spring Hill.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office identified the woman Monday as 42-year-old Inga Marie Swanson.

A Sheriff's Office statement says Swanson was acting irrationally at the party Saturday and was asked to leave. That's when authorities say she returned to the home and confronted an off-duty deputy and off-duty police officer with a firearm.

The statement says the officers "reacted to the threat by discharging their firearms."

The officers are on administrative leave as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigates.

Jury recommends death in slaying

FORT LAUDERDALE — A South Florida jury has recommended death for a man convicted of killing a Nova Southeastern University professor.

Randy W. Tundidor was found guilty in May of first-degree murder and other felony criminal charges in the killing of professor Joseph Morrissey in April 2010. Morrissey was Tundidor's landlord and was stabbed to death after a break-in at his home. The home was then set on fire while the victim's wife and son were in a nearby bedroom.

Jurors on Monday recommended death by lethal injection. The Miami Herald reports Broward Circuit Judge Cynthia Imperato will have the final say, but won't likely make a decision until early next year.

In August, Tundidor's oldest son pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree murder to avoid the death penalty.

FLORIDA WATCH

Couple sentenced in contract killing

TAMPA — A Tampa federal judge has sentenced a husband and wife to three, consecutive life terms in prison for the contract killing of the woman's ex-husband.

The U.S. attorney's office said Monday that a judge sentenced 34-year-old Cristie Bottorff and 42-year-old Jerry Bottorff for killing Thomas Sehorne in Hillsborough County. Both pleaded guilty in July.

Officials say Sehorne was killed in June 2007. On the day of his death, his widow, Cristie, moved in with Jerry Bottorff, and they married in 2008. Soon after Sehorne's death, his widow attempted to collect on Thomas Sehorne's \$1 million in life-insurance policies.

The Bottorffs said they solicited a friend to find someone to murder Sehorne. The friend and the man he contracted to kill Sehorne were also convicted.

Girl avoids jail in school stomping

FORT LAUDERDALE — A 16-year-old girl has avoided prison by pleading no contest to reduced charges for her role in a kicking and stomping attack on another teenage girl outside a South Florida middle school.

Kayla Manson entered the plea to a felony battery charge Monday before a Broward County judge. Prosecutors say she pointed out 15-year-old Josie Lou Ratley for Wayne Treacy, who was convicted in July of attempted first-degree murder in the 2010 attack that left Ratley with permanent brain injuries.

Treacy is being sentenced later Monday.

Manson must perform 250 hours of community service, write a letter of apology to Ratley and undergo psychiatric evaluation.

Treacy unsuccessfully used the insanity defense in his trial. The 18-year-old faces up to 50 years behind bars.

Escambia man latest to contract meningitis

TALLAHASSEE — An Escambia County man is the latest Floridian to contract meningitis from a tainted steroid shot.

State health officials said Monday that the 55-year-old man is the 18th person in the state to contract fungal meningitis. The nationwide outbreak of this rare disease is linked to patients seeking pain relief received contaminated steroid injections.

The injections all came from contaminated lots of steroids made by the New England Compounding Center in Massachusetts. An investigation of how the medicine became tainted is underway.

Three people in Florida have died from fungal meningitis after receiving the shots. Officials say the incubation period of the disease is seven to 81 days after receiving the shots.

Nationwide, 297 people have contracted meningitis in 16 states and 23 have died.

— Associated Press

PAPERS

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about the charity.

Ten percent of advertising sales generated by the section will be donated to Food Brings Hope.

"The Food Brings Hope effort is making a real difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens — homeless children," said Ron Wallace, The



WALLACE

News-Journal's publisher and a former newspaper carrier, who will participate in the fundraiser. "The goal of the News Carrier Hall of Fame is to raise money to help fund this much-needed program."

Participants will be given a personalized news carrier canvas bag and a ticket to The News-Journal's Wine & Brew Festival. The top fundraiser will receive the News Carrier Hall of Fame trophy.

Other former carriers include

News-Journal Editor Pat Rice, Ormond Beach Mayor Ed Kelley, Volusia County Elections Supervisor Ann McFall, and Larry McKinney, president and CEO of the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Ritchey, as a youth, delivered the Lexington Herald Leader newspaper in Kentucky. He awoke at 5 every morning and completed the two-hour route on his bike before heading off to class.

Sometimes, if he was running behind, his older brother would give him a ride, and he would toss papers from the car's running board.

"I got pretty accurate with throwing it," Ritchey said. He worked as a paperboy for two years, earning \$8.50 a week. That wasn't bad money in an era when it cost 25 cents to ride the bus and see a double feature at the movie theater, Ritchey said.

Working as a carrier, Ritchey's first job, taught him the value of responsibility, customer service and getting out of bed early in the morning.

All of those skills helped him in his business career.

"I'll never get over the smell of the newsprint," Ritchey said. "That brings back a lot of mem-

ories for me."

ories for me."

More information on making a donation to Food Brings Hope is available by emailing Beth Butera at Beth@Food-BringsHope.org. More information about the News Carrier Hall of Fame Day is available by contacting Lori Campbell Baker, the News-Journal's director of marketing and community relations, at lori.campbellbaker@news-jrn.com.

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