MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2012 | SERVING BREVARD COUNTY SINCE 1966 | FLORIDATODAY.COM

BECOMING

A FOSTER

» Considering

becoming a foster

parent? Informa-

tion sessions are

hosted the third

month at Devereux, 1600 Sarno

Road, Suite 214,

Melbourne. For

upcoming times

and dates: (321)

parenting is also

tion on foster

available at

VIDEO

today.com

brevardfp.org.

752-4650; informa-

Lydia Joyner

talks about

her film at florida

Thursday of every

PARENT

INSIDE



Endeavour in new home

The retired orbiter reaches the California Science Center.

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Reporter studying up CNN veteran Candy

Crowley to moderate presidential debate.

PAGE 4A



Specter dies

Former U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, 82, played a pivotal role in Supreme Court nominations.

PAGE 3A

Barge hits the beach

A freight barge washes ashore near Cocoa Beach Pier.

>> PAGE 1B



WEATHER

Partial sun today, 55 H: 86 L: 70



Today's deal. \$50 value for \$25! **All products** available at SharperImage.com

All Brevard



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\$1 Retail. For home delivery pricing, see page 2A.



Lydia Joyner, right, with Suzi Bradshaw, owner of Island Oasis Hair Salon, is working on a film about her life in Brevard foster care. TIM SHORTT/FLORIDA TODAY

Teaming up to foster hope

Agency, advocate share success stories

By Britt Kennerly FLORIDA TODAY

Given the circumstances of her early years, Lydia Joyner thinks she's lucky to be alive. Pursuing a career she loves. Married for 10 years and the mother of two happy, healthy chil-

By the time Joyner was 7, she'd been abused and placed in the foster care system in Brevard County. She bounced from one foster home to another, never feeling anchored or wanted and, sometimes, running away. When Joyner was 10, her mother, a drug

addict diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, committed suicide after being released from jail.

She (Joyner) had pretty significant loss and trauma, abuse."

PATRICIA NELLIUS, CEO, Brevard Family Partnership

And yet, even as the 31-year-old writer and filmmaker talks about the inner strength and community support that sustained her during the worst days, Joyner stresses the future as she advocates for children in foster care.

The Merritt Island High graduate has teamed with Brevard Family Partnership to encourage more people particularly professionals such as school teachers, firefighters and doctors - to consider becoming a foster parent, and to share her story of hope with children in the system.

The agency, which manages foster care and

See FOSTER, Page 6A

confusion? Nonprofit can help SHINE answers

Medicare

seniors' health insurance questions

By Britt Kennerly FLORIDA TODAY

After her mortgage and health insurance payments are made, 75-year-old Bernice Beck has a few hundred dollars left every month for all of her other ex-

She's recently had car trouble. And a broken washing machine. Sometimes, to save money, the Palm Bay woman uses less than the recommended dosage of an eye medication.

So, as the Medicare annual en-rollment period, AEP, opens to-day, Beck says she's "absolutely thrilled" that with a few changes, her health insurance cost will go down and she can get several months' worth of free eye drops.

Beck learned how to make that happen through Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders, SHINE, which assists beneficiaries with Medicare questions, changes and enrollment. AEP runs through Dec. 7. Medicare is the program that most older Americans rely on for health insurance coverage.

There's a glut of information to

See SHINE, Page 3A



Leota Borbash of Indian Harbour Beach, left, gets Medicare info from SHINE's Cathy Casabianca. **BRITT KENNERLY/FLORIDA TODAY**

Skydiver may have broken sound barrier

'Fearless Felix' lands safely after 24-mile fall

By Juan Carlos Llorca **Associated Press**

ROSWELL, N.M. — In a giant leap from more than 24 miles up, a daredevil skydiver shattered the sound barrier Sunday while making the highest jump ever — a tumbling, death-defying plunge from a balloon to a safe landing in the New Mexico desert.

Felix Baumgartner hit Mach 1.24, or 833.9 mph, according to preliminary data, and became the first man to reach supersonic speed without traveling in a jet or a spacecraft. He achieved the speed after hopping out of a capsule that had reached an altitude of 128,100 feet above the Earth.

"When I was standing there on top of the world, you become so humble, you do not think about breaking records anymore, you do not think about

See SKYDIVE, Page 2A



The capsule and attached helium balloon carried Felix Baumgartner 24 miles up before his record-breaking jump Sunday above Roswell, N.M. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AF

ELECTION 2012

Obama, Romney hunker down to prep for Tuesday debate

President's advisers say he'll be more aggressive and energized this week

By Steve Peoples Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Mass. -As Mitt Romney's campaign claimed new momentum in the race for the White House, President Barack Obama's political advisers on Sunday promised the incumbent would unleash his more aggressive side in Tuesday's debate to prevent their Republican rival from delivering another "magical and theatrical performance."

Obama and Romney hunkered down in private debate preparation for much of the day.

"He knows Mitt Romney had a better night at the first debate," Obama spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki said of the president. "The American people should expect to see a much more energized President Obama."

Ed Gillespie, senior adviser to the Romney campaign, said the GOP candidate would be prepared regardless of Obama's adjustments: "The president can change his style. He can change his tactics. He can't change his record."

Obama spent the day with aides in swing state

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