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KHAAZ BAAT 8312 WINDSOR BLUFF DRIVE TAMPA, FL 33647



Venvi Art Gallery In Tallahassee Unveils **'DANCE OF HUES'** SOLO EXHIBITION BY BRINDA PAMULAPATI MAY 17-JUNE 16

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$E \ V \ E \ N \ T \ S$

WHO'S WHO

Khaas Baat is a monthly publication that has been in circulation since August 2004. Issues are direct mailed to subscribers and also are available at South Asian grocery stores and restaurants. It presents exclusive, informative and relevant news about the Indian American community in Florida to its readers.

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EVENTS

TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER

MAY 1: GSTB SENIOR DAY; organized by Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay; India Cultural Center, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.; \$10; lunch and entertainment; for information, call Mahesh Modha at (813) 476-1540.

MAY 3: "BARFF;" Hindi play starring and written by Bollywood actor-screenwriter Saurabh Shukla; India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; 7:30 p.m.; tickets discounted for Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay members; for information, call Mahesh Modha at (813) 476-1540.

MAY 4: GALA; organized by Sankara Eye Foundation USA (SEF); India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; SEF USA performs 400,000 free eye surgeries at its 26 eye hospitals in India; drinks, dinner and live music to celebrate SEF USA's 25 years; to receive complimentary tickets, call Dilip Krishna at (704) 281-8048, dilip.krishna@giftofvision. org or Arvind Rajan at (973) 979-0492, arvind.rajan@ giftofvision.org

MAY 10: INDIAN CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL

CONCERT; organized by Shruti School of Music; Suddhashil Chatterjee on santoor, KV Mahabala on sitar, and Shankh Lahiri on tabla; 7 p.m.; Hindu Temple of Florida auditorium,

5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; \$30 per person, \$15 for students with ID and 12 years or younger; visit www.shrutifoundationtampa.org

MAY 11: TAMPA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

CULTURAL FESTIVAL; Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N. Ashley Drive, Tampa; noon to 9 p.m.; free; arts, crafts, music, food; for information, visit www.tampa. gov/asianpacificfestival

MAY 11: MUSIC NIGHT DANCE; concerts by Maya and Biju; organized by MACF Tampa (Malayalee Association of Central Florida) for its committee 2024 inauguration; free; Knai Thomman Social Hall, 225 N. Dover Road, Dover; for information, call (201) 665-3737. **MAY 12: "FAFDA JALEBI;"** comedy play directed by Nimesh Shah, organized by Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay in honor of Mother's Day and Gujarat Gaurav Diwas; India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; two shows: for senior members at noon with lunch at 2:30 p.m. and second show at 6 p.m. preceded by dinner at 4:30; Kathiawadi food will be served; free for GSTB members, \$30 non-members; RSVP required; for information, call Mahesh Modha at (813) 476-1540.

MAY 12: "THAMIL OSAI;" choral ensemble conducted by film music composer James Vasanthan; also, Praveen Kumar presents standup comedy "Family Man Returns;" celebrate Mother's Day with Tamil music and literature; presented by Sakthi Yogalaya; Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Community Center, 2620 Washington Road, Valrico; 4 p.m.; for information, call (804) 300-7141 or email sakthiyogalaya@gmail.com

MAY 14: HANUMAN CHALISA; second Tuesday of month; Vishnu Mandir Tampa, 5803 Lynn Road; 7 to 9 p.m.; for information, call Deo Gajadhar at (813) 817-9714.

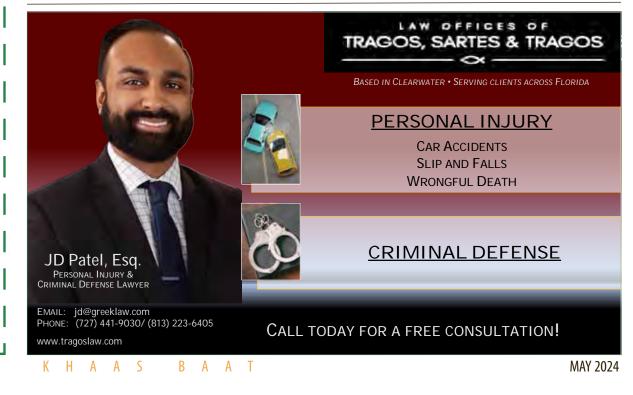
MAY 15: ICC SENIORS GET-TOGETHER; India Cultural Center, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; free seminar, lunch and entertainment; only for 65 years and older; for information, text email address along with your name to Bhikhu Nayi at (631) 560-2718 to receive details about seniors gathering every month; or call Mahesh Modha at (813) 476-1540.

JUNE 2: IN THE JOY OF OTHERS WALK/RUN; organized by BAPS Charities; Al Lopez Park, 4810 N. Himes Ave., Tampa; 8 a.m. to noon; \$10 per person registration at www.BAPScharities.org/walkrun2024Tampa

JUNE 21-22: 6th ANNUAL MATRIMONIAL MEET & MATCH; organized by Hindu Matrimonial USA; for Hindu, Jain and Sikh singles from age 25 to 45 years; register at www.hindumatrimonial.org or call (769) 241-0675.

JUNE 25-26: "REALIZE YOUR TRUE SELF;" spiritual discourse with Deepakbhai Desai; organized by Dada Bhagwan Foundation Adalaj; free; India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; for details, call 1-877-505-DADA, ext. 1015 or email tampa@us.dadabhagwan.org

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FOOD ALLERGY AND FOOD INTOLERANCE

By DR. VENKIT IYER, MD, FACS



Restaurants often ask you about your dietary restrictions such as food allergy or intolerance. Restaurant owners want to avoid complaints or claims following such misadventures. Two recent laws enacted by the government include FASTER act (Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education and Research Act) and Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act are aimed to provide protection for people with food allergy/intolerance. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates six percent of U.S. population has food allergies, and 15-20 percent has various food intolerances.

What is the difference between food allergy and food intolerance? Many of us tend to lump them together. However, they are two different types of problems. In food allergy, the immune system of the body reacts shortly after consuming certain food, mistakenly identifying the proteins in the food as an offensive agent. Immunoglobulin called Ig-E binds to the allergen and sets up a reaction. This response can be mild, moderate or severe on different people. Mild symptoms are rashes or hives, itching and tingling. More severe symptoms can be swelling of tongue, lips, face, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, shortness of breath. Very severe symptoms of anaphylaxis can also occur, resulting in drop in blood pressure, loss of consciousness, shock and even death.

The main food items that cause such food allergies are called the big nines - milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soy, wheat and sesame. Diagnosis is made regarding the history of allergic symptoms from childhood. Confirmation is done by allergy specialists who conduct skin tests, blood tests and controlled food challenges.

Treatment is by structured desensitization from childhood, use of antihistamines and sometimes corticosteroids. Epinephrine injection (Epi-pen) is used in severe reactions. More recently in February 2024, FDA approved Xolair (Omalizumab) for treatment of food allergy. A monoclonal antibody, given as a subcutaneous injection it binds to the immunoglobulin E (Ig-E) first, thus preventing the allergen getting to it.

For the affected individuals, it is important to be aware of food allergies and avoid such food items using extreme caution. Special attention to food items, preparations, and supplements are needed, particularly during parties and in restaurants. Allergenic items can get mixed in the food inadvertently. Better to be careful than be sorry.

Food intolerance on the other hand, is difficulty in digesting certain foods leading to varying discomforts. A very common form is lactose intolerance, where milk and other diary products are not digested due to deficiency of lactase enzyme. Another frequent condition is gluten intolerance, where gluten found in wheat, rye, barley and oats is poorly tolerated. It can be in a simple form of non-celiac gluten intolerance or in a more complicated long-term autoimmune disorder called celiac disease. In celiac disease, the immune system mistakenly considers gluten as an invader and destroys the lining of the small intestines. Fructose intolerance, histamine intolerance and intolerance to food additives such as sulfites and monosodium glutamate (MSG) are other types of food intolerances.

Symptoms of food intolerance can be abdominal symptoms of bloating, gas, diarrhea or constipation. They may also experience skin rashes, headaches, nasal congestion, fatigue or anxiety and depression. In the more serious celiac disease, one can develop malnutrition, malabsorption, vitamin deficiencies, anemia, osteoporosis and stunted growth in children.

Treatment of food intolerance is mainly by avoiding intake of such trigger food items. Slow desensitization can be tried. Lactase enzyme as supplement can be taken for those with lactose intolerance or probiotics.

In the case of gluten intolerance, it would be necessary to find out if it is nonceliac or celiac disorder is the cause. Consultation with a gastroenterologist or allergist, blood tests and small intestinal biopsy should clarify the situation. Celiac disease will need more aggressive long-term care and nutritional management to prevent malnutrition and related consequences.

Overall, food allergies and food intolerances can significantly affect the wellbeing and health of an individual. Some of the aftereffects can be serious with long-term complications. It is better to diagnose them early on and take preventive steps. With ongoing vigilance and management strategies, one can expect to live reasonably well.

Dr. Venkit S. Iyer, MD, FACS, is a retired general and vascular surgeon. He has authored six books: "Decision making in clinical surgery" first and second editions; "Aging well and reaching beyond," "The Clinic," "Geriatrics Handbook" and "Iyer's story book for children." They are available through Amazon or from the author. His website venkitiyer.com has necessary links and contact information.



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IMMIGRATION

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR SPOUSES OF H-1B AND L-1 VISA HOLDERS

By DILIP PATEL



This month, we will discuss employment authorization for spouses of H-1B and L-1 temporary workers. First, we will provide some basic background and then provide some updates and helpful pointers.

The H-4 spouse of an H-1B worker is generally not entitled to employment authorization. However, if green card processing for the H-1B worker has reached the stage where an I-140 Petition has been approved for the H-1B worker, their H-4 spouse is allowed to apply for employment authorization. The Employment

Authorization Document is commonly referred to as the EAD and the approval category is shown as C26 on the card.

The spouse of an L-1 worker is issued the L-2 status. Historically, L-2 spouses could work in the U.S. but only if they applied for an EAD and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) approved and issued the EAD. In 2021, USCIS clarified that L spouses are considered employment authorized based on their valid L-2 nonimmigrant status. Since 2022, USCIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) began issuing Forms I-94 with L-2S code for L spouses (to distinguish from children of L-1's who were also issued L-2 classification). An unexpired Form I-94 reflecting L-2S is acceptable as evidence of employment authorization for spouses. However, while L-2 spouses are no longer required to apply for their EADs, if they elect to do so in order to have U.S. issued photo identification, they are eligible to obtain one by filing an application on Form I-765.

The big issue in 2021 and 2022 was that USCIS took a long time to process the EAD causing hardship to many H-4's and L-2 spouses (or their employers when the applications were for renewals). Previously, when extension and or EAD applications were included with applications for the L-1 or H-B worker, all would be processed at the same time. However, after 2021, the spouse applications were separated and processed separately, causing long delays.

Lawsuits were filed and in January 2023 a settlement was reached in a case called Edakunni, et al. v. Mayorkas (referred to as the Edakunni Settlement). Under the settlement, USCIS agreed to adjudicate the Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, and Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, for H-4 and L-2 derivatives along with the underlying Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, when those forms were properly filed together, regardless of whether they are filed under standard or premium processing.

The following are important considerations to be aware of following the Edakunni settlement:

The term "bundle" refers to USCIS processing multiple forms together as a package. USCIS will only bundle Form I-539 and Form I-765 (where applicable) for H-4 and L-2 derivatives, when they are packaged together with the underlying Form I-129 and filed at the same time and in the same location. Therefore, all bundled forms, along with supporting documentation and fees should be placed in the same envelope or package. Each filing fee should be made out separately.

Bundling can occur regardless of whether the underlying Form I-129 is filed under standard or premium processing. When bundling is possible, this will greatly improve I-539 and I-765 processing times for H-4 and L-2 derivatives.

The option to bundle should encourage applicants to keep principal and derivative expiration dates the same when possible. For example, consider the following scenario:

You and your H-4 derivatives have status which expires in July 2025. You plan to change H-1B employment. Your proposed new employer is working on an H-1B change of employer filing and will include an extension for you to June 2027. An extension is not yet required for the H-4, but it is recommended to do so to keep the expiration date the same for everyone. However, with bundling of the I-539 and I-765 only being available when those forms are filed together with the underlying I-129, it is essential to keep expiration dates consistent between the principal and derivative.

Where your spouse H-4 expires first, review whether there are any changes to the conditions of your employment that might justify an amendment, allowing bundling to occur. The change need not be material. The need for this review is especially relevant when an H-4 derivative will need to apply for or renew H-4 work authorization. Given that the employer must pay for and sign the Form I-129, the employer must be willing to proceed with such a filing. Consider the following scenario:

Your H-4 spouse status and EAD expires in July 2024 but your H-1B status does not expire until July 2025. The H-4 derivative is in danger of losing their job if the H-4 work authorization is not approved around July 2024. If your employer is willing to file an H-1B amendment now, the I-129 can be filed with premium processing, and the I-539 and I-765 can be bundled with the I-129 and approved by July 2024.

You should be aware that USCIS processes and timeline continually change. Seek the advice of an experienced immigration attorney to ensure that you and your dependents always maintain status.

Dilip Patel of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, a board-certified expert on immigration law, can be reached at (813) 222-1120 or email dilip.patel@bipc.com





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FLORIDA NEWS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE PHILANTHROPIC ENDEAVORS FOCUS ON MEDICAL FACILITIES

PAGIDIPATI FAMILY GIFTS \$50 MILLION TO ST. JOSEPH'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Story provided by St. Joseph's Hospital

St. Joseph's Children's Hospital Foundation recently announced a \$50 million gift from the Pagidipati family of Tampa to support the future of pediatric health care in the Tampa Bay community. Tampa business leader and philanthropist Sidd Pagidipati, along with his brother Rahul and sister Srujani, make this transformative donation to honor their parents' legacy as health care providers, their 50th wedding anniversary and their 50th anniversary of coming to the United States. The Pagidipati's generosity is one of the largest donations in Tampa Bay history and one of the largest gifts to health care in Florida. The gift will support the new, specially designed pediatric facility for St. Joseph's Children's Hospital.

When the new children's hospital facility opens, it



Tampa business leader and philanthropist Sidd Pagidipati holds his children, Aria and Aren, while announcing the \$50 million donation. Pictured left to right: Ishan, Ami Pagidipati, Arjun, Rahul Pagidipati, Aria, Sidd Pagidipati, Aren, Dr. Rudrama Pagidipati and Dr. Devaiah Pagidipati.

will be named "Pagidipati Children's Hospital at St. Joseph's" in recognition of the generosity of the Pagidipati family. The new hospital building is scheduled to open by 2030, further enhancing the pediatric services provided by BayCare, already the leading health care provider for children in West Central Florida.

"When you see what happens at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital every single day, you

cannot help but be moved to contribute to the future of our region's children," said Sidd Pagidipati. "St. Joseph's is already one of the nation's best children's hospitals, and my family is excited to help ensure pediatric care remains second to none for our children and for our neighbors' children for decades to come." Sidd's father, Dr. Devaiah Pagidipati, a Harvardtrained pediatric anesthesiologist, and his mother, Dr. Rudrama Pagidipati, a pathologist, have shown a life-long commitment to practicing medicine and running businesses focused on improving health care in our local communities. The couple recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and 50th anniversary of coming to the United States.

Sidd Pagidipati has built a career running various medical-related businesses, including starting a Medicare Advantage HMO with his father, and

Giving back to the community was instilled in Jugal Taneja, president and treasurer of the Taneja Family Foundation,

from a young age. His father emphasized the importance

of generosity and encouraged his growing family to pay it

In 2010, Jugal and Manju Taneja together founded Belcher

Tragedy struck the family in 2015 when Jugal and Manju's

Pharmaceuticals, a company headquartered in Florida that focuses on innovating the development of complex

son Mandeep was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He

passed away in 2018. While Mandeep's life could not be

founding Better Health Group. His wife, Dr. Ami Pagidipati, is an endodontist, business owner and dental school adjunct professor.

Joining in the celebration of the gift in their parents' honor is Sidd's brother and sisterin-law, Rahul and Dr. Neha Pagidipati, and sister, Srujani Pagidipati, as well as Sidd and Ami's two children, who were both born at BayCare hospitals.

HISTORIC GIFT FROM TANEJA FAMILY FOUNDATION SURPASSES \$120 MILLION IN TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO TGH

Story provided by TGH

Tampa General Hospital (TGH) recently celebrated more than \$120 million in charitable contributions over a two-year period to advance its vision to transform health care through innovation. The latest gift toward the \$120 million milestone came from the Taneja Family Foundation and is the largest in the foundation's history.

Tampa General leadership, community leaders and members of the Taneja family broke ground on the Taneja Surgical, Neuroscience & Transplant Tower, a medical pavilion in the heart of Tampa Bay, where patients will have access to best-in-class providers, the latest research therapies and state-of-the-art technologies. The tower

bears the Taneja name in honor of the Taneja Family Foundation's contribution to the TGH Foundation.

Construction is expected to be completed in 2027, which will then serve as home for Tampa General's surgery, neuroscience and transplant service lines.

Jugal and Manju Taneja at groundbreaking of the Taneja Surgical, Neuroscience & Transplant Tower at TGH.

plant Tower at TGH. saved, the Tanejas chose to pay it forward and invest their resources in others in need of specialized care.

forward.

"We have lived the American Dream, and now we want others to have that same chance at life," said Jugal Taneja on behalf of himself, Manju and the family. "What better way to pay it forward than to give greater access to world-class care for those who need it most?".

genetic medications and antibiotics.

TGH TO ESTABLISH DR. JAGADAMBA AND KRISHNA CHIVUKULA MEN'S HEALTH CENTER WITH \$6.5 MILLION GIFT

Tampa General Hospital (TGH) has revealed plans for a new center focused on men's health made possible with the generous contribution of Dr. Jagadamba and Krishna Chivukula to the TGH Foundation.

The Dr. Jagadamba and Krishna Chivukula Men's Health Center, named in recognition of the couple's \$6.5 million donation, is a complement to the highly successful USF's Pamela Muma Women's Health Center, which opened in 2019. The Dr. Jagadamba and Krishna Chivukula Men's Health Center will provide seamless, coordinated, comprehensive primary and preventive care for male

patients, just as the Muma Center focuses on women's health. Tampa General is currently evaluating locations and developing plans for the new



Tampa General Hospital

center. Construction on the Dr. Jagadamba and Krishna Chivukula Men's Health Center is expected to begin in the next couple of months, with plans to open in 2025.

"Personal wellness and life longevity are of utmost importance to us. With this investment, we're encouraging others to seek care at Tampa General and benefit from the world-class providers available right here in our own community," said Dr. Jagadamba and Krishna Chivukula. Krishna Chivukula is Chairman of the Board and Founder of INDO-MIM, a leading global supplier of Metal Injection Molded products with locations in the U.S., India and

Europe. Dr. Jagadamba Chivukula is a retired neonatal physician. They recently moved to the Tampa Bay region from Princeton, N.J.

K H A A S B A A T

8



K H A A S B A A T

THE EVOLVING ROLE OF PARENTING – PART TWO

By ROBERT A.G. LEVINE



In my last article, I provided "how to" tips for parenting of students who have not yet reached high school. Today, I'd like to offer suggestions for guiding students throughout their high school years.

The first thing to remember is that biological maturation comes in stages, and while high school starts with adolescence, it finishes in early adulthood. In other words, your child is changing, so your parenting should evolve, too.

(By the way: as a general rule, girls and boys mature differently. While girls mature in a straight line, boys

mature significantly during grade 12. Be ready for different wants and needs when the ultimate college choice is made in the last two months of high school.) Through grade 8, the parental role has been a mélange of benevolent dictator, support person and role model. In grade 9, the dictator role should continue, but only for one year. Because high school is larger, more stressful, and quite different

from what came before, avoid adding more changes. Instead, guide them as much and as well as possible. However, let them know there is "light at the end of the tunnel." Tell them that after grade 9, your respective roles will change.

Grade 10 is usually the time to shift parental responsibilities away from dictating. At this age, students start to sense that they are ready to do more for themselves, but they don't know what to do, or how. That's where the parental role shifts to mentoring. However, remember that your job is not to do their work, not to place flowers at their feet, and not to create their path for them. Starting in grade 10, advise and support, but do not force them or hover over them.

At the stage, many of you are probably thinking: if I don't stay firm, they might fail, and failure could destroy their chances at a top college, successful career and great life.

Nope! The opposite is true.

Nobody is perfect. The colleges do not expect perfection. In fact, they are suspicious of supposed perfection. As one dean of admissions told me years ago: "I'm going to be intrigued by an interesting person who probably is not perfect. In fact, I'd be very skeptical of someone who tries to look perfect ... I've never met that person!"

Colleges actually want to see that applicants have faced great challenges, even failure. Why? Because a good college will challenge its students to do their best, and they want to know how your child will respond to challenge. Just look up the words "college admissions grit" on the internet and you will see how important this is.

As a parent, you want your child to be challenged now – while you are available to help pick them up after they fall – not later in college, when the support structure is not as personally invested in their fate.

"Failure" is actually an opportunity to learn. One of my friends, a brilliant tutor, said it quite well. "Bob, I love failure. It's the only time when our brains automatically try to learn. We always want to know what we did wrong, how to fix it, and how to avoid problems in the future. We can't help but learn from failure."

Personally and professionally, I am not worried about failure. I'm focused on your child's growth. Like a potted plant that never leaves its pot, your child cannot grow to their full potential if you do not provide a growth environment. Being a hovering, helicoptering "dragon parent" ensures a lack of growth. All they can be is an inferior example of your version of success. Let them maximize their own potential.

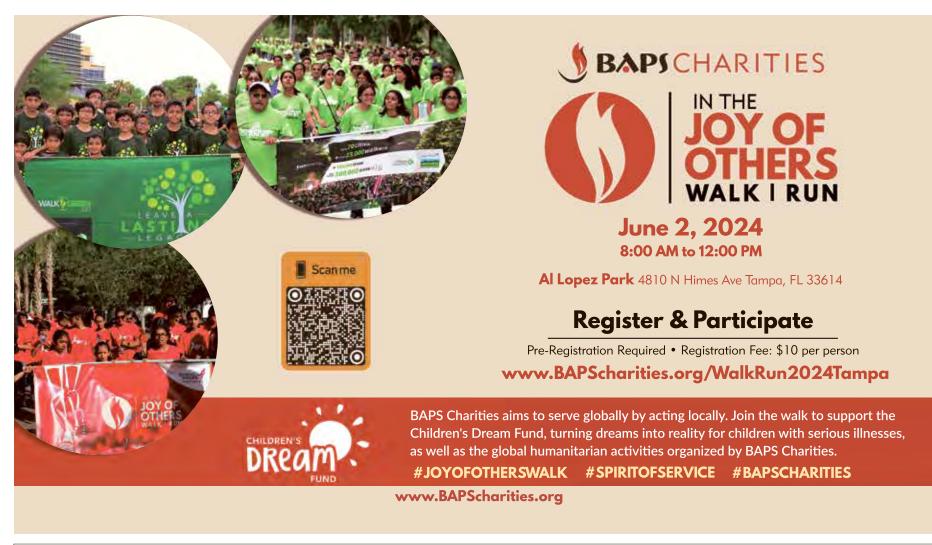
However, this approach requires "buy in" by your student, too. Communicate that you will give them more space, but in return they need to give you more information. Focus on improving your interactions. When responding to an issue, speak like you are talking to a close friend, not to a child. If you want them to act like an adult, treat them like an adult.

Finally, when college applications roll around, try to leave your child alone. They are already stressed and won't respond well to your added stress. Support them, but do not control or nag them. All of our highest achieving students have the same recommendation for parents: "Leave us alone!"

Let's not fight with our kids. Instead, let's allow them to grow by nurturing them and training them, not as dictators, but as role models and supporters.

Robert LeVine is the founder and CEO of University Consultants of America, an independent educational consultancy assisting students around the world with applications to colleges, universities and graduate schools. For more information, call University Consultants of America, Inc. at 1-800-465-5890 or visit www.universitycoa.com







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MOTORING

THOUGH AN SUV, 2024 BMW X5 M COMPETITION IS A SPEED DEMON!

Test-drive stories by NITISH S. RELE motoringtampabay@gmail.com

So what if it is a midsize luxury SUV or to use the BMW term Sports Activity Vehicle? You can still take it to the track if you purchase the insanely quick X5 M Competition! Or just cruise the highway! That's right, this high-performance SUV is road and track worthy! And with a massive power train to boot, the Bimmer is super-fast: 0 to 60 in 3.7 seconds with top speed of 155 or 177 mph with the M Driver's Package!

A new 4.4-liter twin-power turbocharged V-8cylinder engine blasts off 617 horsepower @ 6000 rpm and 553 pounds-feet of torque @ 5500 rpm. It is aided by a 48-volt battery placed in the transmission casing. Essentially, the electric motor with 12 hp and 147 pounds-feet of torgue acts as a starter-generator. The X5 is mated to a standard and flawless 8-speed auto gearbox, which is even more fun with transfers via the steering paddle shifters.

The standard adaptive M suspension is specially tuned to enhance nimbleness and poise when pushing pedal to the metal. Active M Differential distributes drive torque evenly to the rear axle for more control and stability. You can personalize settings for engine, transmission, steering, suspension, brake and M xDrive as per your taste, style, liking! And the M Servotronic electric power steering with variable sport has a solid and communicative feel, keeping the SUV straight and watchful at sharp turns and curves.

Slim LED headlights flank the familiar twin kidney grille with BMW M emblem and matte black surround. Twin exhaust tips in black chrome, 4 inches in diameter, are a standout along with red brake caliper wheels. As soon as we stepped into the airy and well-appointed cabin, our eyes fell on the massive BMW curved display (12.3inch digital instrument display and a 14.9-inch infotainment touch screen). Further adding to the rich ambiance were touches of carbon fiber trim. Red accents for the

2024 VOLVO V60 PLUG-IN HYBRID MORE THAN JUST A WAGON!

Who says wagons belong to the past? It's true you can count the wagons, primarily made by Audi and Mercedes-Benz, at your fingertips. And then there is Volvo with the V60 and larger V90.

Based on the popular T8 S60 sedan, the 2024 V60 Recharge plug-in hybrid is fitted with a 2.0-liter inline-4 turbocharged and direct-injection engine. It is paired with two electric motors backed by an 18.8 kWh lithium-ion battery to produce 455 horsepower and 523 pounds-feet of torque. Essentially, the V60 can go 41 miles on purely electric. Add an 8-speed auto gearbox and the start-stop feature (engine stop when the vehicle halts) to the mix and you have substantial savings in fuel as well as weight to produce an exceptional wagon.

Our test drive was equipped with the Polester

Engineered (PE) upgrade, which translates into immediate and enhanced engine/throttle response and steadfast gear accuracy for an exhilarating drive. A partnership with Ohlins, a Swedish suspension technology brand, means road bumps are felt minimal and the driver is in complete control at sudden or quick turns on the road. Car racing enthusiasts, this is your dream ride!

Up front sits a high-gloss black mesh grille hosting not just the familiar Volvo iron mark but also the Polester Engineered motif, surrounded by horizontal LED headlights and a PE strut bar. Walk around the wagon and the PE signature goldcolored brake calipers and tire pressure monitor caps will pique interest. The gold theme continues as you step into the cabin with the metal color evident also on the seatbelts. Conveying an upscale aura is a 12.3-inch instrument panel and



X5 M COMPETITION Tires: P295/35ZR21 front: 315/307R22 rear Wheelbase: 117 inches Length: 194.8 inches Width: 79.3 inches Height: 69.4 inches Fuel capacity: 21.9 gallons **Mileage:** 13 city, 18 highway Base price: \$122,300 Web site: www.bmw.com

VOLVO V60 RECHARGE

Wheelbase: 113.1 inches

Length: 187.4 inches

Width: 75.4 inches

Height: 56.6 inches

Weight: 4,500 pounds

Fuel capacity: 15.9 gallons

Combined gas: 31 mpg

Price as tested: \$72,925

Web site: www.volvo.com

Base price: \$71,250

Combined electric: 74 MPGe

Tires: 235/40R19

M buttons on the solid leather steering wheel and gear selector are eye-catching, as is the ambient light bar across the dashboard. Other niceties include multizone auto a/c, power front heated/cooled Merino leather seats with M logo on the backrests, panoramic moon roof, head-up display, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Standard safety features include dual front and side airbags, front knee and side curtain airbags are standard along with dynamic stability and traction control, four-wheel antilock brakes, electronic brake distribution, rearview camera, front/ rear park distance control, active braking assist (lane departure warning, blind spot monitor/detect, rear-cross traffic alert, city collision mitigation), forward collision warning, daytime running lights and tire pressure monitor are standard. Weighing almost 5,500 pounds, the BMW X M Competition is German engineering at its finest. And fastest. And every once, if you can, switch on the track mode (road and sport also offered) and take the speedy machine for a gutsy drive!



Nappa leather seats, tailored sport tilt/telescopic steering wheel and gear shifter. Volvo Sensus infotainment, with a distinct vertical 9-inch display touch screen, is essentially made up of four tiles: navigation, media, phone and user-defined. Activate one and watch it expand while keeping the other tiles visible for future use. Fairly new for 2024 is a Google built-in Assistant, Maps and Play store. Standard amenities include two-zone auto a/c, charcoal headliner, Bowers & Wilkins sound system, panoramic sunroof and head-up display.

Yes, it's a wagon but don't for a minute believe that your pricey ride will be slow. The all-wheel-drive vehicle can take off 0 to 60 mph in a mere 4.4 seconds. Apart from incredible nimbleness, the V60 boasts an extravagant cabin and no-frills capabilities. Volvo's long safety list makes it a no-brainer!

12



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TAX RECORDS: WHAT CAN YOU TOSS AND WHAT SHOULD YOU KEEP?



By TEJAL DHRUVE

Generally, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has three years to audit a tax return, from the later of the due date of the return or the date you file. You can also file an amended return within this time frame if you overlooked something. Here's what you need to know about keeping financial records involved in your tax returns.

Federal tax records

Despite the three-year guideline, many tax advisors recommend retaining copies of your finished tax returns

indefinitely to prove that you filed. Even if you don't keep returns indefinitely, at least keep them for six years after the returns are due or filed, whichever is later.

It's a good idea to keep the records that support items on your individual tax returns until the three-year statute of limitations runs out. Examples of supporting records include canceled checks, charitable contributions receipts, and documents showing your mortgage interest payments and retirement plan contributions. These documents may also support an amended tax return if you find you overlooked something.

So, which records can you throw away today? Generally, based on the three-year rule, you'll soon be able to throw out most records associated with your 2020 return if you filed by the due date (which was extended to May 17, 2021, due to the pandemic). Extended 2020 returns could still be vulnerable to audit until Oct. 15, 2024.

Also, some tax issues are still subject to scrutiny after the three years. If the IRS suspects that income has been understated by 25% or more, the statute of limitations for audit rises to six years. If no return was filed or if fraud is suspected, there's no limit of time for the IRS to launch an inquiry.

Certain records that support figures that may affect multiple years, such as carryovers of charitable deductions, should be saved until the deductions no longer have effect. Also, don't toss out records that support deductions for bad debts or worthless securities that could result in refund claims. You have up to seven years to claim them.

State tax records

The previous guidelines are geared toward complying with federal tax obligations. Contact the office for information regarding your state's statute of limitations. Plus, states generally have the right to resolve their own issues related to federal tax

returns that have been audited. So, hold on to records related to an IRS audit for a year after it's completed.

Real estate records

Retain real estate records for as long as you own a property, plus three years after you dispose of it and report the transaction on your tax return. Throughout ownership, keep records of the purchase, home improvements, relevant insurance claims and refinancing documents.

These documents help prove your adjusted basis in the home, which is needed to figure any taxable gain at the time of sale. They can also support rental property or home office deductions.

Investment account statements

To accurately report taxable events involving stocks and bonds, you must maintain detailed records of purchases and sales. Records should include dates, quantities, prices, dividend reinvestment and related expenses. Keep these records for as long as you own the investments plus additional time until the statute of limitations for the relevant tax returns expires.

The IRS requires you to keep copies of Forms 8606, 5498 and 1099-R until all the money is withdrawn from your IRAs. It's even more important to retain records of all transactions relating to Roth IRAs, in case you're ever questioned.

Purge with caution

Old tax records take up space and could lead to stolen identities if not properly disposed of. But purging too soon may leave you without a defense if the IRS has questions. When in doubt, hang on to records a little longer than you think is necessary. Contact the office with questions.

Tejal Dhruve, CPA, LLC, a full-service tax and wealth management firm with offices in Wesley Chapel, Florida, and Dublin, Ohio, can be reached at (614) 742-7158 or email info@dhruvecpa.com

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MAY FORECAST

By PANKAJ KOHLI



ARIES / Mesha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Mars) -(March 21-April 20) Mars Sign – Stars covered Ashwini, Bharani, Krittika (1st Part) Hard work of the past can pay off now; financial growth from workrelated areas can be seen. Exercise control and refrain from any addiction. Chances of professional growth, positive job changes, promotions are possible. Domestic happiness, material comforts and all worldly pleasures are likely too. Expect good news. People are happy being in your company. Stay away from overindulgence in every activity. Suitable: Colors: White, Green, Orange and Red Days: Sun, Wed, Fri, Sun Precaution: Prayer for

Moon, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu are helpful.

TAURUS / Vrushabha (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (April 21–May 21) Venus Sign - Stars covered Krittika (last 3 parts), Rohini, Mrigashira (first 2 parts) Beware of skin eruptions such as pimple growth or pot marks on the face. Domestic as well as business affairs may be turbulent. Frustration in the mind may reflect in physical exhaustion, sour relationship or instant spurt of anger. Monetary expenses can be high; father's health is concerning. Suitable: Colors White, Green, Copper, Yellow, Orange & Red Days: Sun, Wed, Fri & Sat. Precaution: Remain happy! Propitiate: Prayers offered for Jupiter, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu are highly beneficial.

GEMINI / Mithuna (Air sign, ruling planet is Mercury) - (May 22–June 21) Mercury Sign - Stars covered Mrigashira (last 2 parts), Ardra & Punarvasu (first 3 parts) Virtues may shine, bringing good financial gains and personal success. Planetary conjunction could also help to remove negative currents. Health is alright if proper timely precautions are taken. However, take care of domestic happiness as there might be undercurrents. Professionally, time is alright. Business travel will be helpful for career growth. Suitable: Colors: White, Green, Orange and Red Days: Sun, Wed, Fri, Sun Precaution: Prayer for Moon, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu are useful.

CANCER / Karaka (Watery sign, ruling planet is Moon) - (June 22–July 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Punarvasu (4th part), Pushya, Aslesha Scheming colleagues may create stress, avoid arguments and fights. Popularity in social circle grows yet brings in controversy. Avoid confrontation of any sort with government or law enforcement agencies. Dental cavities may be troublesome. Money and income growth is seen from multiple channels, good time to invest. Suitable: Colors White, Yellow and light Green Days: Mon & Friday Precaution: Have faith in self. Propitiate Mars, Saturn and Rahu and Ketu.

LEO / Simha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Sun) - (July 23-Aug. 22) Sun Sign – Stars covered Magha, Purva Phalguni, and Uttara Phalguni (1st part) Daily cash flow can dip; laziness and inertia set in. Academic results may not be so positive. Victory in legal battles is likely. Genetic organ-related problems, fighting and arguments without reason and unnecessary tensions can be seen. Some may seek finances from seniors in the family. Loss of material benefits might accrue. Suitable: Colors Red, Orange, Days: Sun, Tue, Wed. Precaution: Propitiate Saturn, Jupiter, Rahu and Ketu.

VIRGO / Kanya (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Mercury) (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Mercury Sign – Stars covered Uttara Phalguni (last 3 parts), Hasta, Chitra (first 2 parts) Positive real estate developments are seen for some, temporary rental arrangements possible too. Excellent time for career growth, promotion or job change; people who move out from family businesses need to think twice. Despite higher earnings, the possibility of more expenses cannot be ruled out. Take care of skin eruptions. Suitable: Colors Green, Yellow, and White. Days: All Precaution: Propitiate Sun, Mars, Mercury and Saturn.

LIBRA / Tula (Air sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) Venus Sign – Stars covered Chitra (last 2 parts), Swati, Vishakha (first 3 parts) A good time is passing as transition of planets is quite favorable. Social status and influence can increase; good recognition, financial gains and overall positive time and rich gains for some. Backache, stomach, liver, skin, intestinal problems may be troublesome. Influential contacts develop proposing joint working and great partnerships. Watch expenses: money wastage on unnecessary things cannot be ruled out. Suitable: Colors White, Black, Yellow, Green and shades of Blue. Days: All Precaution: Propitiate Sun, Mercury, Rahu and Ketu.

SCORPIO / Vruschika (Water sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) Mars Sign – Stars covered Vishakha (4th part), Anuradha, Jyestha Beware of tonsils or throat problems. This month prompts us to be cautious and watchful of all our actions. Domestic and finances need to be watched carefully, do not overspend or overindulge in any activity. Professionally, you are advised to move cautiously in your job or business. Careful investments may result in long-term savings and profits. Marital or business alliances should be avoided. Suitable: Colors White, Green, Red & Orange. Days: Sun, Tue and Wed. Precaution: Propitiatory prayers for Navagraha will be helpful!

SAGITTARIUS / Dhanush (Fire sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Nov. 23–Dec. 21) Jupiter Sign – Stars covered Moola, Purva Shada, Uttara Shada (first part) Marital discord and family atmosphere becomes better. Delay in land deals, property-related tension prevails, especially ancestral land. Much expense on vehicle or electronic appliances is seen. Children's study should be handled properly, they need support. Fasting on Thursday is advised. On health issues, some might face liver, ear, sinus and allergy complications, take care. Suitable: Colors Yellow, White & Green. Days: Sun, Wed, Thur, Fri. Precaution: Propitiate Jupiter, Rahu and Ketu.

CAPRICORN / Makara (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Saturn) - (Dec. 22– Jan. 20)Saturn Sign – Stars covered Uttara Shada (last 3 parts) Shravana, Dhanistha (first 2 parts) Growth in income in the near future for some! Keep away from confrontation with anyone. Confine to own activities, time to reflect on your career, relationship and dealings. Currently, you feel isolated and left out. Kapha-related issues, sinus congestion, throat, allergies, diabetes may affect some. Be extra careful while driving, do not gamble and work hard. Suitable: Colors Yellow, Red, White & Green Days: Sun, Wed, Thur, Fri. Precaution: Propitiate Jupiter, Rahu and Ketu.

AQUARIUS / Kumbha (Air sign, ruling planet is Saturn) – (Jan. 21–Feb. 19) Saturn Sign - Stars covered: Dhanistha (last 2 parts) Satabhisha, Purva Bhadra Pada (1st 3 parts) Planetary combinations may bring personal success, good luck and happy circumstances can be seen for some. Professionally, some are to gain much in regard to money and promotion. This is a great time for professional growth. Love and affection are present within you, so express and show it. Health and happiness are great. Windy (Vaata) and phlegmatic (Kapha) diseases, troubles in the legs, laziness, weakness due to over-exertion, mental affliction, and stomach troubles can erupt. Suitable: Colors Black, Blue, and Green, Red and Orange Days: Tue-Sun Precaution: Propitiate Jupiter, Rahu and Ketu.

PISCES / Meena (Water sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Feb. 20-March 20) Jupiter Sign - Stars covered: Purva Bhadra Pada (last part) Uttara Bhadra Pada, Revathi Gaining confidence & courage will continue for some time. Positive time for economic and financial growth! Hold on, if you are buying property, vehicle or household appliances, better deals seen in future. Good time for marital or new business alliances. Progress is slower than expected. Take care of your health, especially skin problems, problems related to Pitta (boils, ulcers, intestinal problems). Fast on milk and bananas on Tuesday and Thursday. Suitable: Colors Yellow, Green, Red and Orange Days: All. Precaution: Navagraha puja is highly beneficial.

For detailed horoscope analysis and chart reading, courtesy Pankaj-Astro Jyotish, call Pankaj Kohli at (905) 910-1441 or e-mail Pathofastrology@gmail.com



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ART

VENVI ART GALLERY UNVEILS 'DANCE OF HUES' SOLO EXHIBITION BY BRINDA PAMULAPATI MAY 17-JUNE 16

Venvi Art Gallery in Tallahassee announces the opening of "Dance of Hues," an exclusive solo exhibition by abstract artist Brinda Pamulapati. Featuring 28 original paintings, each a vivid exploration of color and motion, the exhibition will run from May 17-June 16, with an opening



reception on May 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. "Dance of Hues" explores the dynamic interactions between colors, embracing the spontaneity of the compositions that emerge when solely being guided by interplay and contrasting hues. It draws inspiration from the concept of movement and expression, in a way that is similar to dance. Instead of tangible objects, hues are the main focus of the display. Each piece portrays hues in varying poses that evolve and flow, similar to the fluidity of a dancer's body, creating visual rhythm and dynamism through the movement of colors. The canvas itself for her works is a stage for the varying colors to express harmony amongst contrasting hues, and also maintaining balance through artistic expression.

Working primarily with acrylics, Pamulapati incorporates vibrant colors, unusual shapes, and rich textures into her art. Each color choice is deliberate, aimed at evoking emotional responses and challenging conventional e art therapy, uplifting the mood and What: "Dance of Hues" – Brinda Pamulapati, art opening Where: Venvi Art Gallery, 2901 East Park Ave., Tallahassee When: Reception on May 17 from 5 to 8 p.m.; on display from May 17-June 16

Website: www.venviartgallery.com



Artist Brinda Pamulapati with one of her works to be on exhibit.

Rambana has a background in curatorial studies from Sotheby's and interned with the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA). About Venvi Art Gallery: Venvi Art Gallery is at 2901 East Park Ave., Tallahassee. For more information, visit www.venviartgallery.com.

Figure 1: Circles Of Enigma

perceptions of color. "The vibrancy in the colors acts like art therapy, uplifting the mood and providing a festive outlook," says Pamulapati.

providing a festive outlook," says Pamulapati. Brinda Pamulapati's artistic journey began in India, blossoming under the guidance of world-renowned artist Jacob Pichhadze at the Yazi School of Visual Arts, Toronto. Over the past 15 years in Tallahassee, she has significantly contributed to local arts, influencing cultural programs and bringing fresh perspectives through her dual role as an artist and gallerist. Since founding Venvi Art Gallery in 2015, her engagement with the art market has deepened, enriching her approach to both creating and showcasing

Museum of Art. Curating the Venvi exhibition is Paloma Rambana, a Media Studies student at The New School in New York City.

art. She currently has her work on display at the Pensacola



L-R: Figure 2: Cadmium Echoes, Figure 3: Cerulean Rhythms, Figure 4: Crimson Echoes





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EVENTS

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY/APOPKA

MAY 5: HSCF NEW AGE GROUP PICNIC; bus trip to Pine Lake Retreat in Groveland; leaves at 9 a.m. from HSCF Community Hall, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry, returns at 6 p.m.; a/c bus, breakfast on board, lunch and games at Pine Lake Retreat; \$10 per person for annual paid 2024 members; \$30 non-members; RSVP hscfnewagegroup@gmail.com

MAY 10: "FAFDA JALEBI;" comedy play directed by Nimesh Shah, organized by Gujarati Society of Central Florida Senior Group; Olympia High School, 4301 S. Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando; \$20 society members, \$50 non-members; 7 p.m.; for information, call Jatin Amin at (352) 217-2805.

MAY 11: INDIAN HERITAGE DAY 2024; organized by Indian Horizon of Florida and Central Florida Indian Cultural Association; VFW Post 10147, 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka; 4 to 8 p.m.; \$10 per person, kids under 12 free; for information, call Hari Singh at (321) 662-1887 or visit www.indianhorizonfl.com

MAY 31: 3rd ANNUAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE; organized by Indian American Business Association & Chamber; topics include women in leadership, work/life balance, overcoming challenges; free for IABA members, \$30 non-members; Holiday Inn Express & Suites (Sea World), 10771 International Drive, Orlando; 6 to 9 p.m.; for information, visit www.iabausa.com

JUNE 8: INDIA FEST 2024; organized by Indian Horizon of Florida; arts and crafts, dance, music, food; Apopka Amphitheater, 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka; starts at 2 p.m.; \$10 per person; for information, call Hari Singh at (321) 662-1887 or visit www.indianhorizonfl.com

JUNE 8: GUYANA DAY APOPKA; organized by Indian Horizon of Florida; starts at 2 p.m.; Apopka Amphitheater, 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka; \$10 per person; for information, call Hari Singh at (321) 662-1887 or visit www.indianhorizonfl.com

FORT MYERS/NAPLES

MAY 12: MOTHER'S DAY PICNIC; organized by India Association of Fort Myers; Lakes Park, Shelter C1, 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers; 11:30 am. To 4 p.m.; free for association members, \$35 non-members; for information, visit www.iaftmyers.org **COCOA/MELBOURNE**

MAY 12: MOTHER'S DAY; organized by Indian Association of the Space Coast; F. Burton Smith Park, 7575 W. King St., Cocoa; noon to 6 p.m.; \$10 members, \$15 non-members; no fee for mothers; for information, email iascbrevard@gmail.com or visit www.myiasc.com

TALLAHASSEE

MAY 17-JUNE 16: "DANCE OF HUES;" art opening of Brinda Pamulapati, Venvi Art Gallery, 2901 East Park Ave., Tallahassee; reception on May 17 from 5 to 8 p.m.; on display through June 16; for information, visit www.venviartgallery.com **SOUTH FLORIDA**

(COOPER CITY/BOYNTON BEACH/CORAL SPRINGS)

MAY 5: "Gana Natya Narmma Sangamam;" presented by Kerala Samajam of South Florida; Cooper City High School Auditorium, 9401 Stirling Road, Cooper City; 6 p.m.; for information, call (954) 638-7225.

MAY 12: IN THE JOY OF OTHERS WALK/RUN; organized by BAPS Charities; 541 S.E. 18th Ave., Boynton Beach; 8 a.m. to noon; register at www.bapscharities. org/usa/tampa/walkrun2024miami

MAY 18: VAISAKHI; organized by Greater Punjab Cultural Society of South Florida; Coral Springs High School, 7201 W. Sample Road, Coral Springs; dance/song performances, kids fashion show, bhangra competition; to participate or for further details, email gpcs.fll@gmail.com

Disclaimer: Event details are subject to change. Please check with local organizers. Event submissions are free, e-mail information to editor@khaasbaat.com by the 20th.



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