

## Community News

# Publisher proposes early education for all

**Sue Brown**

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

**VERO BEACH** -- An assembly of community and business leaders gathered at the First Presbyterian Church's McAfee Hall for a Lunch & Learn hosted by the Kindergarten Readiness Collaboration, featured David Lawrence Jr., former Miami Herald publisher and early childhood education advocate.

In 1999 Lawrence retired as publisher of the Miami Herald to focus his efforts in the areas of early childhood development and readiness. As chair of The Children's Movement of Florida, he has worked tirelessly to put children at the forefront of state legislation.

Meredith Egan, COO of the United Way and past KRC board chair noted that those gathered for the luncheon are already invested in the movement.

"We all know that most children who start kindergarten behind will stay be-



**Cynthia Falardeau, Wanda Lincoln and Lisa Kahle** MATTHEW WICKHAM

hind. Research tells us that only one in seven children who are behind in third grade will ever catch up."

KRC was born to directly effect

change by leveling the playing field for all children during the first five years. The collaborative took a fragmented system and has created a centralized

hub of shared services and a network composed of early childhood organizations to develop a family engagement model that serves the most vulnerable communities in our county.

"We're a clearinghouse, a connector and an advocate," added Egan.

KRC executive director Dr. Nivea Torres had a candid chat with Lawrence focusing on his work with The Children's Movement and what he has learned along the way.

"The single thing that I care the most about, and work the hardest at, is parent skill building. Parents love their children, but frequently they don't know what to do," said Lawrence.

After a Q&A session, Torres shared a quote from Lawrence's book, "A single theme will endure to my last breath -- the exhilarating joy of service. You are certainly the embodiment of service," she added.

To learn more about the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative, visit [krcirc.org](http://krcirc.org).

# Downtown Friday a night of nations on June 28



**Beverly S. Paris**  
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

**VERO BEACH** -- Main Street Vero Beach, in conjunction with the Vero Beach Centennial, will be presenting its

Patrons will enjoy a Parade of Nations with flags and costumes from various countries. In addition to demonstrations of native or regional dance, Main Street representatives are looking into offering on-the-spot dance lessons for the crowd, tea tasting in the activities tent, and de-