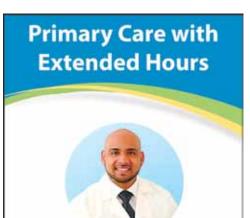


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March 2, 2017



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Trump's Tactics Trigger Protests

Demonstrators Hope Resistance Movement Will Grow



Anti-Trump protesters voiced their concerns about the president last Saturday in downtown Dade City.

Photo by Richard K. Riley

by Max Zimmerman

It was a beautiful day to be outside on Saturday, and for some a day to vent some frustration.

About 15 Dade City folks took to the streets to take a stand against President Donald Trump and his emerging policies.

The clutch of protesters worked both sides of Seventh Street at the intersection of Pasco Avenue, holding signs reading, 'Ban Bannon From NSC', 'Independent Investigation Of Trump' and 'God Is Love, Not Hate'.

The organizer of the anti-Trump rally was Cheryl Pence, who believes

Protest • Continued on Page 5A

70th County Fair Finishes Strong

School Day, No Parade Make For A Bumpy Start

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

The county fair has come and gone yet again, and organizers are both relieved and sad to see it go.

General Manager Clark Converse said this year's 70th annual fair, which celebrated 'homespun fun,' was not as fruitful as last year's record-breaking attendance, but overall it was a success.

An unfortunate start to the fair began on opening day, Feb. 20, because schools remained in session. In the past, county schools have had the day off so students could attend the fair as well as participate in the annual parade. The parade was cancelled this year for multiple reasons. Last Wednesday's rain and wind was also a downer for organizers. Converse said he

Fair • Continued on Page 7A



Grand Champion Steer was awarded to 10-year-old Jayden Pinkston, with breeder Chuck Combs. Pinkston was also awarded as the best rookie exhibitor.

Extending State Trail Has Obstacles



Mark Pinson, left, Robert Dammers and Paul Kurtz discuss how the plans for the new 301 Trilby-Dade City trail must include the Rural Protected Area and the many hills of the Brooksville Ridge that are in constant use of bicyclists.

*Photo by Richard K. Riley**

Challenges Outlined During Open House

by Joe Potter

Representatives from Pasco County and the Florida Department of Transportation fielded questions last week about proposed plans to lengthen the Withlacoochee State Trail to link up with the Hardy and U.S. 301 trails.

The trail corridor, which is part of the Florida Greenways and Trail System, currently traverses Citrus, Hernando and Pasco counties.

The southern terminus of the trail now

Trail • Continued on Page 8A

Pg. 3A - Bike Lane Loses Traction Pg. 10B - Student Becomes Eagle Scout Pg. 1B - Pirates Miss Opportunities Pg. 9A - 'Imported' Hot Dogs Draw Locals Pg. 1B - Boys' JV Tops Wesley Chapel Pg. 1B - Zephyrhills Tames Lady Pirates



Dade City Arrests

Officer Knocks Out Drunk After He's Attacked

Joshua Tomas Maldonado, 24, of 37319 Rose Ave.,



was arrested by Dade City police on Feb. 16 on a charge of battery on a law enforcement officer. Police made contact with Maldonado at 12:50 a.m. while he was lying in a field in the area of U.S. 301 and Pioneer Museum Road. He showed signs of being intoxicated. An officer provided Maldonado a ride

to his residence due to his condition. Maldonado then allegedly became verbally abusive toward the officer and rushed at the officer and head butted the officer in the left eye. The officer knocked Maldonado unconscious by punching him on the right side of his face. He was transported to Bayfront Health Dade City for medical clearance and was then booked into the Pasco County Jail.

William Earl Rhodes, 46, of Lacoochee, was arrested by Dade City police on Feb. 15 on charges of violation of a domestic violence injunction and driving while license suspended or revoked. A witness told police he had observed Rhodes and Rhodes' girlfriend arrive in a parking lot at U.S. 301 and Morningside Drive. The witness told the officer the girlfriend had an active domestic protection order against Rhodes. A records check verified the protection order and the officer further discovered that Rhodes' driver's license had been suspended since 2009. Rhodes entered a vehicle with the protected person and drove away. Police made a traffic stop and arrested Rhodes. He reportedly told police he knew his driver's license was suspended but wasn't aware that the protection order was still active. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Alberto Ramirez, 39, of 14633 19th St., was arrested



by Dade City police on Feb. 7 on a charge of possession of marijuana. Contact was made with Ramirez during a traffic stop. He spontaneously stated that he had marijuana. Three small baggies were located inside the vehicle. The baggies contained green leafy substances that field-tested positive for

marijuana. Ramirez was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Richard Allen Hokanson, 41, of Lakeland, was



apprehended by Dade City police on Feb. 6 on a charge of violation of a domestic violence injunction. He allegedly sent several text messages to the victim after having been ordered to not have any contact with the victim. He reportedly admitted to having sent the victim several text messages in violation of the

injunction. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Kimberly Ann Rising, 49, of 31912 Decker Lane, was arrested by Dade City police on Feb. 6 on a charge of retail theft. Rising allegedly concealed merchandise valued at \$49.61 while inside Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301. After being detained she reportedly admitted to having concealed the items in her purse. Post Miranda, she again reportedly admitted to having taken the items. She was released with a notice to appear in court.

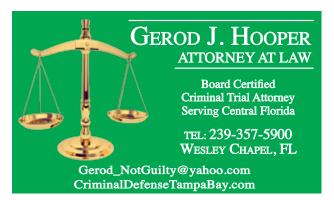
Victor Garza Sr., 47, of 14703 Treeleaf Lane, was arrested by Dade City police on Feb. 4 on a charge of petit retail theft. Garza allegedly concealed two vehicle headlights while at Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301, and left the store without paying for them. The theft was captured on the store's surveillance video. When he was contacted at his home address, Garza reportedly admitted, Post Miranda, to having taken the headlights.



Desiree Nicole Banks, 31, transient, was apprehended by Dade City police on Jan. 31 on a Pasco County warrant charging her with failure to appear driving while license suspended or revoked. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Antonio Reese, 34, of 13608 Embassy Park, was apprehended by Dade City police on Feb. 14 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with failure to appear - driving while license suspended or revoked. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

The information provided in the Dade City Police report is taken from public record. All parties are considered innocent until proven guilty.



Dade City CRA Plans Public Workshop

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) will host a community input public workshop today at City Hall in the Commission Chambers at 38020 Meridian Avenue on March 2 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The workshop will provide an overview of the CRA, its purpose, history and accomplishments and initiate a conversation with participants about what they would like to see included in the updated Community Redevelopment Plan and their vision for downtown Dade City.

Contact Michael Sherman at (352) 523-5048 for information.



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FDOT's Bike Lane Proposal Loses Traction In Council

City Balks At Idea Of Losing Two Lanes Of U.S. 301

by Joe Potter

A proposal by the Florida Department of Transportation to reduce U.S. 301 from six vehicular lanes to four lanes from Pond Avenue to north of Pioneer Museum Road received mixed reactions from city commissioners on Tuesday.

The proposed bicycle lane project would also include a portion of the U.S. Highway 98 Bypass.

U.S. 301 currently has six 11-foot-wide travel lanes with an average median lane of 14 feet. Six-foot-wide sidewalks are located on both sides of the roadway.

FDOT plans to put designated 7-foot-wide bicycle lanes on both sides of the roadway.

The department proposes to do this by restriping U.S. 301 to create two 12-footwide travel lanes on both sides.

All of the proposed improvements

would be reversible and there would be no reconstruction of curbs and no repaying of the roadway would be involved.

FDOT says the changes would improve connectivity to the U.S. Highway 98 Bypass because it would eliminate merging lanes that motorists currently have to navigate. It would also make driving conditions safer for motorists, said FDOT Project Manager Pia Cormier.

A right northbound turn lane would be developed onto Pioneer Museum Road. Jim Guidry, who owns the affected property, is agreeable to the dedication of right-of-way for the turn lane to be built, Cormier said.

Should U.S. 301 be narrowed, there would be two lanes northbound and two lanes southbound. The inside southbound lane would go directly onto the U.S. Highway 98 Bypass. The outer lane would continue to go on straight through town.

Commissioner Scott Black didn't think the city would gain much by the proposal. He said his primary concern was keeping the road accessible. Black doesn't see how anything could be gained by reducing the north/south artery from six to four lanes.

He believes there would be more traffic congestion and a greater potential for accidents if U.S. 301was narrowed.

Dade City is anticipating growth to occur on the north side, Black said, and making that section of U.S. 301 "appears shortsighted."

"Where is the demand for this?" he

There is a lot of pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the sidewalks so that creates a demand for dedicated bicycle lanes, FDOT's Cormier said.

Black suggested that the owners of the Dade City Business Center could donate right-of-way along the east side of U.S. 301 so a turn lane could be developed without so drastically affecting traffic flow.

Mayor Pro Tem Eunice Penix asked why this area was being considered instead of Route 35A. She said improvements to 35A had been discussed for several years but no improvements have been made to that route. The roadway runs from Branchborough in

Polk County to Dade City.

Heavy trucks heading northbound on U.S. 301 need to be able to decelerate as they prepare to turn to go into the main entrance to the DCBC, said Harold Sample, who was representing Jim Guidry, owner of the business center. Trucks that are exiting the DCBC from the south use the intersection of U.S. 301 and Lock Street, Sample said.

City Manager Billy Poe suggested a workshop be held where the public could attend and provide their input about the proposed changes.

"We appreciate your interest in Dade City," Mayor Camille Hernandez told Cormier. "We want to be team players."

Hernandez said she doesn't think the city wants to scrap the FDOT proposal, noting that bike lanes are a good idea but said the plans need to be redrawn.

"We're agreeing that we would like to see U.S. 301 stay six-lanes but we would like to see bike lanes added," Black said.

Cormier and representatives of WBQ Design & Engineering Inc. who made the presentation, agreed to make revisions and resubmit the proposal to the city.

Christian Edge Presents Coffee For A Cause

On March 11, the Christian Edge Coffee House, located at 20942 U.S. 301, north of Dade City, will host a one evening event at 7 p.m. called Coffee for A Cause. The band Rustic Road Crossing will provide entertainment with their country, bluegrass and gospel music

All proceeds from this event will help fund the Roger Durden Kaminski Scholarship, established through the Pasco Education Foundation. Roger was involved in education for 35 years in both Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. While he only lived in the Lacoochee area for 17 years, he quickly became passionate about the youth in the area. He wanted to see them succeed in life and

overcome obstacles blocking their way.

It is estimated that only 20 percent of students from the area graduate from high school, with very few attending any kind of post-graduate school. It was Kaminski's goal in life to see more students go further with their education. Therefore, this scholarship will be available for those high school graduates from the tricommunity areas of Lacoochee, Trilby and Trilacoochee who desire to pursue further education through college or a trade program.

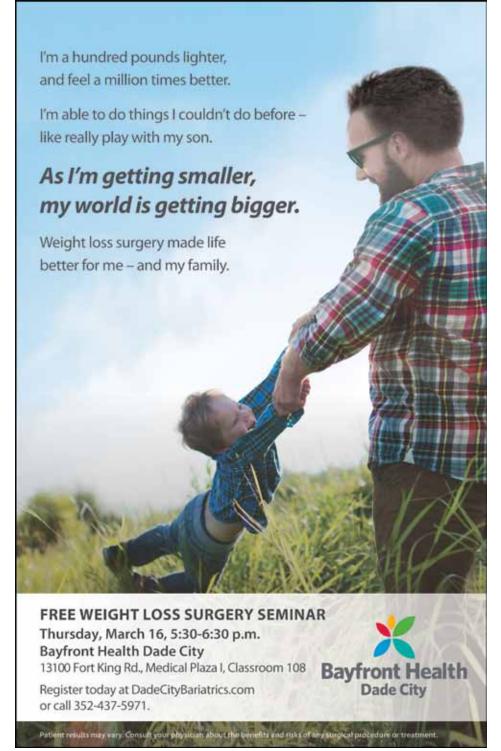
So come out, have a good time and help a great cause. Contact the Christian Edge at (352) 583-5786 for information.



Rustic Road Crossing will perform at the Coffee for a Cause fundraiser at Christian Edge Coffee House, 20942 U.S. 301, on March 11 at 7 p.m.







East Pasco Events

March 2 - Women and Work -Madonna Wise will speak at the Florida Pioneer Museum & Village as part of a series centered around the museum's Smithsonian grant. Wise will discuss women and work - the changing nature of women's work throughout the twentieth century and a look at women in our own Pasco County. Contact Stephanie Black at Curator@pioneerfloridamuseum.org for information. Held at 6 p.m. at 15602 Pioneer Museum Road.

March 4 - Resist Trump Rally - Held in the courthouse square in downtown Dade City, from 2-4 p.m. Bring your signs and join us to make these important statements. Call Cheryl at (352) 446-2010 for information.

March 4 - Benefit BBQ - The Lacoochee Eagles will be hosting a barbecue to benefit their Relay for Life team. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. Held from 4-7 p.m. at the Dade City Moose Lodge, 17107 U.S. 301. Cost for dinner is \$8 and includes pulled pork, beans, potato salad, roll and tea or lemonade. Desserts sold separately for \$1. Call (352) 524-5600 for tickets and information.

March 4 - Farmworker's Health Day - Premier Health Care is honoring Farmworkers Health Day by providing dental screenings, health screenings and medical care based on eligibility. This event will also provide transportation, community resources and giveaways. Held from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Dade City Family Health Center, 14027 Fifth St. Call (352) 518-2000 or (727) 645-4185 for information

March 4 - Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

- The Dade City Kiwanis Club presents an eat-in or take-out chicken dinner at the American Legion Hall in Dade City, 37745 Church Ave., from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tickets are \$9 per ticket. Tickets are available for purchase at the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, 14112 Eighth St. Call (352) 518-002 for information.

March 4 - Market Place - Fresh produce, garden accessories, home decor, soaps, honey, jewelry and so much more. Pet friendly event held in Hibiscus Park from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact Lucy Avila at (352) 521-5858 or lucyavila707@gmail.com for information.

March 4 - Cruise In - Free event featuring DJ Starvin' Darvin and a hula hoop contest for kids. Come on down with your prized car/truck, or just with the family to check out all the wonderful antique and specialty cars. Enjoy lunch at one of our many exceptional restaurants, and shop in out antique and specialty shops. Held in downtown Dade City from 1:30-5:30 p.m. Contact the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce at (352) 567-3769 for information.

March 4 - Blood Drive - Held in conjunction with the Cruise In in downtown Dade City from 1-5:30 p.m. All donors receive a free OneBlood umbrella and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, iron count, temperature and cholesterol screening. Donate and help save a life.

March 4 – Little League Opening Day - Dade City Little League is celebrating 66 years. Come by Burks Park, 13220 Gene Nelson Blvd., for a pancake breakfast at 8 a.m., opening day

ceremonies at 9 a.m. and moving into challengers game, t-ball, softball and legacy games throughout the day. Kids activities wrist band \$5 and includes bounce house and other games. Pilled pork dinner is \$10 with drive through option.

March 4-5 - World War II Commemorative Weekend - The weekend will include Allied and Axis uniformed reenactors, authentic camps and equipment, mechanized military vehicles, weapons demonstrations, food vendors and each day a battle between Allied and German Forces at 2 p.m. Held at the Dade Battlefield, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

March 5 - 90th Anniversary Celebration - Join Rodney B. Cox Elementary School as they celebrate 90 years of educating children in the community. Held from 2-4:30 p.m. at the school, located at 37615 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Tickets are \$7, and includes lunch, beverage and dessert. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. The celebration will feature live entertainment, a memory walk, silent auction and local vendors. Call (352) 524-5100 for information.

March 6 - Antique Appraisals - The Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppe in Dade City, located at 37925 Sky Ridge Circle, will be hosting a certified antique appraiser from 10 a.m.-noon and again from 1-4 p.m. Antiques, collectibles and other items can be appraised for \$5 each, or three items for \$12, with a limit of three items per person. Call (800) 561-4883 for information.

March 7 - Bingo at The Brass Tap - The Brass Tap is located at 37916 Pasco Ave. All proceeds from Bingo go to American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Call the Brass Tap at (352) 437-4887 for times and information.

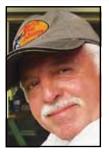
March 9 - Spring Bird Walk - Join our park ranger as we bird on the trails of Dade. We will look for both resident and migrant birds. Please bring a pair of binoculars if you have them or borrow from the park. Cost is \$3/ vehicle or annual park pass. Held from 9-1:30 a.m. at Dade Battlefield, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

March 10 - Spring Yard Sale Rosecastle of Zephyrhills Assisted Living and Memory Care is having an early Spring Yard Sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Come shop housewares, toys, clothing, electronics, jewelry, vintage finds and more. The event is free and open to the public. Grab a lunch to go from the grill for \$3. All monies raised will go toward the Thomas Promise Foundation's Operation Backpack. Call (813) 783-8100 or visit www. rosecastle.life for information.

March 11 - Dog Day in the Park -Bring your dog or just yourself and join us at the park for our annual Dog Day in the Park. The event will include a canine scent work demonstration, agility demonstration, obedience/ rally demonstration, Sumter County Sheriff's Canine Unit demonstration, public dog talent show, Good Canine Citizen test administered on site, food vendor and more. Cost is \$3/vehicle or annual park pass. Held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Dade Battlefield, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

For more events visit www.pasconewspublications.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

Great American Race Kicks It Off

Drivers started their engines for the 59th running of the Daytona 500 this past Sunday at the Daytona International Speedway and kicked off the NASCAR season.

This first contest of the season is referred to as the Great American Race. Retired driver Jeff Gordon was driving the pace car this year, a 2017 Camaro ZL1 with a top speed just short of 200 miles per hour. If it was up to Zephyrhills Police Chief David Shears I am pretty sure he would much rather have a Ford leading this group of drivers. The drivers have been ready to race for quite some time now and, as a fan, I can relate to getting the racing fever again.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. had to sit out the last 12 races of the Sprint Cup Series last year because of a concussion caused by a wreck at Michigan International Speedway in June. His physician has cleared him and there appears to be no reason why he can't once again compete. From the sound of the crowd during driver introductions it was pretty clear why he is still referred to as America's favorite driver. His starting position was on Row 1. I can't help to think that every lap that he takes he remembers exactly where his dad, Dale Earnhardt Sr., lost his life on this track on Feb. 18, 2001. As a result of that accident numerous safety features have been added to the racecars to make them much safer.

Sprint has ended their sponsorship of NASCAR and the races will now be called The Monster Energy Cup Series. Most are pretty excited with the change in sponsors and hopes are high that Monster will provide a shot in the arm and hopefully attract more fans to a sport that is changing. I liked NASCAR much more before The Chase because now if your favorite driver doesn't make it to the final group it just isn't as much fun. As a result I think attendance and viewers has been down.

I miss seeing David Reutimann from Zephyrhills in the lineup. I have followed him during his days at NASCAR. He is now the owner of Beak Built Chassis and doing well. I have been a supporter of the whole Reutimann family growing up spending most weekends at Golden Gate Speedway in Tampa. Buzzie, now 75 years old, is still racing and still winning.

Some things at NASCAR haven't changed and for that I am grateful. They still say a prayer before each and every race, someone always sings the national anthem, and patriotism is flying high at each and every race. Maybe it's time for some other professional sports teams to take a look. Maybe its time for all of us take a look. And maybe instead of continuing to take God out of our country we can actually start to put Him back where He belongs. Looking at the way things are going, now would be the perfect time.



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Commentary



The Rest Of The Story

Dave Walters

I love the news business. When I was a high school sophomore and saw my first by-line on the sports page of my high school newspaper, I was hooked.

That was all it took. From that point on, I was going to be a reporter. I have to say, I'm honored to have followed that dream and thrilled to still be doing it today.

What breaks my heart as a journalist is that my profession is becoming more

Anybody Can Immediately Publish Anything Anytime

"fake news."

Fortunately, you'll never see it in the pages of this newspaper, but the amount of online "fake news" is astonishing.

In my eyes, politicians and city leaders make news. Members of the business community make news. Criminals make news. Athletes make news. Anybody can make news. You crash your car on the way home from Publix, you just made news. You score the winning touchdown, you made news.

News was once a pretty simple business. That is not the case anymore because everybody is a publisher and can report their version of the news. Your

tarnished every day from the scourge of Facebook, Twitter or Instagram account is your publication. Your phone is your camera.

> You can post video of anything. You can go live on Facebook from anywhere. And that is not a bad thing. It's a good

> We all get a barrage of news, from the time we wake up until the time we go to bed. It's on our television and our phone. As we process what we read or hear, we have to decide what is real and what is bogus.

> That can be a difficult task, even for people who know news well. I find myself clicking on a story and getting a couple paragraphs into it before

I have learned if you don't like what I write, you just hop on your Facebook page and counter it. If the president of the United States can do it to media, then you are more than entitled to do the same.

I know journalism is under attack and some of it is well deserved. What makes it so frustrating to me is that people are duped by fake news as real news and that I have spent a 36-year career trying to make sure my reporting reflects the difference.

All I can ask is that you find the news sources you trust and stick with them. There are plenty of us out there who report the news with integrity.

Protest • Continued from Page 1A

Trump and his inner circle are a danger to the country.

"The thing that has been really disturbing is Trump's friendliness toward and association with Vladimir Putin of Russia; it frightens me to the core of my being," she said, adding how an independent investigation of the alleged connection is needed. A chorus of Democrats and a few high-ranking Republicans have called for just that in recent days.

"As we have gone through this first month I have become more and more frightened, especially now with him saying that the press is the enemy of the people," Pence said.

"I happen to be a believer in God and the Bible and it goes contrary to everything the Bible teaches that we are all human beings worthy of love and respect."

She fears the country is sliding toward "incipient fascism" or anarchy.

Pence got the idea of the anti-Trump rally from Indivisible, a website linking like-minded people in a nationwide resistance movement. She has formed Indivisible East Pasco County AMP ("America Minus

Pence also believes Bernie Sanders would have done a better job of attracting "uneducated white male" voters who voted for Trump.

"Bernie's politics are right down my alley," she

Reaction to the rally appeared to be evenly mixed as honks of approval were countered with "Make America Great Again" shouts from passing vehicles.

A stray pedestrian calmly addressed the group as she negotiated the crosswalk with, "Why don't we investigate Obama, the biggest crook on the face of the earth?"

A trio of thirty-something's from Ohio (admitted Trump supporters) posed for a couple of goodnatured photos with the group.

Chuck Forrester, who has no party affiliation, joined the group primarily to take a stand on Medicare.

Having recently retired, his experience with the federal program has been positive.

"Instead of having some sort of crazy plan and

convoluted thing [Obamacare], why don't we have Medicare for all," and pay for it by raising the amount of Social Security withholding from paychecks, he posed. "I think health care should be a right, not a who can afford to have health care'," the recently retired Forrester said.

While he wasn't happy with some of President Obama's positions, Forrester said the past president "was a respectful person ... it wasn't all about himself, it was about the nation."

A simultaneous rally took place at Zephyr Park in Zephyrhills. About a dozen citizens gathered there to protest the alleged Russia connection and Trump's stance on immigration and civil rights.

Fern Williams brought her signs and her opinions to the rally to express her fears for the country.

"Every day, there is something against the people," she said. "There's talk about increasing our nuclear weapons. That's insane. It's not so much for me. I don't have that long to live. I'm scared for my children."

– Dave Walters contributed to this article.

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We are proud to announce that Dr. Michael Weiss will be joining Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Physician Group on February 20, 2017!

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The Benedictine Sisters with their supporters.

Photos by Richard K. Riley

Blessings Of Green

On Feb. 25, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida hosted the Blessings of Green Dinner and Dance. The event began with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and entertainment at 6:30 p.m. at Tampa Bay Country Club in San Antonio. A bit of Irish fun was had by all, as everyone enjoyed Irish step dancers, a presentation on aquaponics and an Irish costume contest.



The Sarasota Step Dancers presented an Irish "Academy of Dance" at the Benedictine Sisters event last weekend.



Lynn Hayward of the San Antonio Credit Unionwas the winner of the most unique and best costume.

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Fair • Continued from Page 1A

would have rather closed the fair that day, but the gates remained open because of scheduled events.

Even so, attendance picked up on Friday, which yielded the fair's highest attendance for a Friday. Although final numbers are not yet determined, Converse estimated that day's attendance was up by as much as 15 percent in Friday history.

"We were a little concerned, but the weekend was strong enough that we survived and we came out in reasonably good shape overall," Converse said. "I'm pleased that we did as well as we did after getting off to that bad of a start."

New entertainers were popular, and the annual steer sale possibly had its best year to date as far as sale prices, according to beef committee member David Greim.

On Thursday evening, the Albert A. Barthle Livestock Pavilion was stock full of curious viewers and interested buyers for the steer sale. Children from across the county work throughout the year to raise their steer as best as they possibly can, all leading up to that one special evening. Leading up to the sale, the steers were inspected and the children had to present their animals and their knowledge of them to judges. About a dozen awards were handed out for the different groups, ages and categories.

Grand Champion Steer was awarded to Jayden Pinkston, with breeder Chuck Combs. Pinkston was also awarded as the best rookie exhibitor. The 10-year-old is a fourth-grade student at Academy at the Farm, and when it was time to show her steer, which more than quadrupled her in size, she was as confident as could be.

Only once or twice did she have to dig into the dirt to keep the massive animal walking around the ring to show. Her steer tipped the scales at 1,194 pounds and wound up being sold for \$10,000. The grand champion is always sold for



The Boots and Roots Foundation presented a check donation of \$10,000 to the Pasco County Fair to promote local agriculture during last week's steer sale.

the most money, with no other sale being allowed to surpass that amount. Chad "Cracker" Johnson from Chiefland was the auctioneer for the evening.

After the sale, Pinkston said she was a little nervous, but could not pinpoint exactly why. She acknowledged the difficulty of managing such a large animal, but said she felt "good" about the whole experience, especially considering it was her first time.

Reserve Grand Champion Steer was awarded to Zach Backilinie, with breeder B&B Farms. His steer weighed in at 1,136 pounds and was sold for \$4.25 per pound.

Before the start of the steer sale, members of the Boots and Roots Foundation presented a check donation of \$10,000 to the Pasco County Fair.

Stephanie Stephenson presented the award on behalf of the foundation, a non-profit founded in 2015 that aims to support local agriculture, outdoors and sportsman community.

"Tonight, we are proud to announce our Education Sponsorship of \$10,000 with the Pasco County Fair. With this sponsorship, we will be rewarding every middle and high school exhibitor who has excelled academically with a 3.5 GPA or higher across the beef, swine and plant shows," Stephenson said. "We are happy to say that this will affect over 100 exhibitors or projects at this year's Pasco County Fair."

Boots and Roots members were dressed in blue shirts and assisted the steer exhibitors in the ring and behind the scenes during the steer sale.

Pasco High School senior Courtney Graham sang the national anthem followed by Makenzie Meyers who delivered a prayer before the sale commenced.

Other first prize awards were given out to the following, and were presented by Bill Barthle, chairman of the beef committee, and Cassandra Nathe, Pasco County Cattlemen's Sweetheart.

– Christopher Jones was awarded with the best overall exhibitor.

– First place for carcass results went to Weston Oakley with Bloxsom Cattle as the breeder.

 The Herdsman award went to Zephyrhills Senior FFA.

Other winners Thursday nigh included:

Ethan John for 4H Junior Heifer Record; Emily Jennings for 4H Intermediate Heifer Record; Morgan Blommel for 4H Senior Heifer Record.

Savanna Kumor for FFA Intermediate Heifer Record; Bailey McKendree for FFA Senior Heifer Record;

Weston Oakley for 4H Junior Steer Record; Brock McKendree for 4H Intermediate Steer Record; Case Hamilton for 4H Senior Steer Record;

Colton Nichols for FFA Intermediate Steer Record and Courtney Graham for FFA Senior Steer Record.

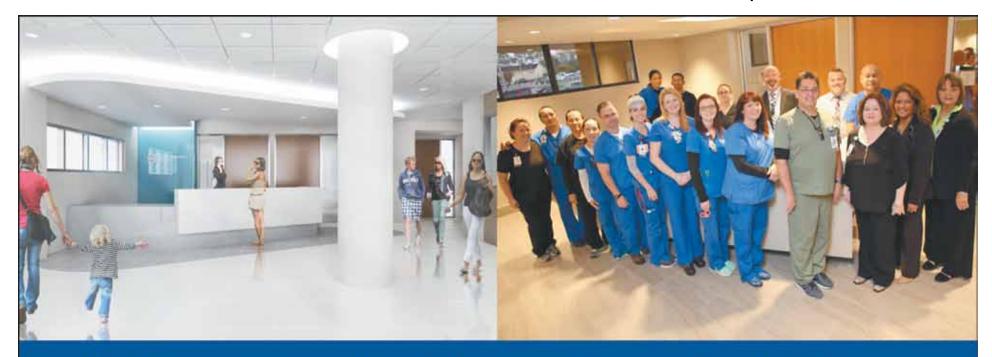
In knowledge tests, Christopher Jones finished first in the Junior category; Emily Jennings won first in Intermediate; and Bailey McKendree finished first in the Seniors category. The winners were awarded ribbons and will receive a prize check in the mail.

Peyton Russel won first place in raffle sales for a Yeti Cooler filled with other Yeti products. She pulled the winning raffle ticket in the barn prior to the steer sale.

The board for the Pasco County Fair will meet next week for a wrap up meeting, and then plan for the 2018 fair in April, starting the whole process over once again.



Reserve Grand Champion Steer was awarded to Zach Backilinie, with breeder B&B Farms. His steer weighed in at 1,136 pounds.



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Trail • Continued from Page 1A

ends at the historic Owensboro Junction on the west side of U.S. 301, about five miles north of Dade City.

Plans are in the works for the trail to connect with an approximately six-mile long trail, the so-called U.S. 301 trail, that runs between Dade City and Zephyrhills. The northern terminus of that trail is at Dade City Avenue and the southern terminus is at Kossik Road in Zephyrhills.

Nick Myers of AECOM, the company providing consulting services to Pasco County, said three things need to happen inorder to link the Withlahoochee trail to Zephyrhills.

First, about a one-mile connection needs to be made between the 301 trail and the northern end of the existing Hardy Trail in Dade City. The acquisition of easements will be the largest obstacle, Myers said. This is because much of the land between the two trails is privately owned.

There is currently no cost estimate or probable



Paul Kurtz, AECOM consultant, describes how the public can express their ideas regarding the planning of the Withlacoochee trail between Trilby and south of Dade City. Justyna Buszewski, transportation planner for the Pasco Metropolitan Planning Organization, looks on.



Jim Edwards, transportation planning manager of the MPO introduces the consultants who will help with the planning of the U.S. 301 Trilby - Dade City trail.

Photos by Richard K. Riley

time frame on when that part of the project would be completed.

Second, Dade City is currently in the design phase of having the Hardy Trail, which it owns, extended one mile from Church Avenue to Lock Street.

Work on completing what Myers called "the missing five-mile link" between the Hardy and the Withlacoochee trails can't begin until work on the Hardy extension has been completed.

The third part of the project is connecting the north end of Hardy to the south end of the Withlacoochee trail and various routes are being explored to connect the two, Myers said.

Pasco County is going to focus on using as much publicly owned land (state, county and local) as possible to prevent having to pay private property owners for easements for the trail, he said.

Several people who attended last week's open house held at City Hall said they prefer the route between Dade City and the Owensboro Junction to "be as far away from U.S. 301 as possible," Myers said.

Having the bike trail run parallel to U.S. 301 is "quite problematic from a number of perspectives," Myers said, including that the roadway is heavily travelled and significant drainage issues would have to be overcome in having the trail near the highway.

The final link between Dade City and Owensboro Junction will "really depend on the situation and how receptive property owners will be," Myers said.

Some people, including Myers, feel that having a bike trail nearby has a positive impact on property values.

Dade City Mayor Camille S. Hernandez said she was excited about the possibility of people being able to ride bicycles through the city along a system of trails. "We want people to be able to get on their bikes and have an enjoyable ride," Hernandez said.

Many people prefer long rides and will travel great distances to find trails that offer that opportunity, said Justyna Buszewski, a senior planner with the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The MPO is a Pasco County agency that is in charge of transportation matters including roads and trails.

Bicyclists can have a positive impact on tourism and economic development, Buszewski said.

"We want to make Florida a top destination for bicyclists," she said.

Input collected from last week's open house will be used to help the county prepare some alternate routes for discussion at future open houses on the trails project.

More information about transportation planning in Pasco County may be obtained by visiting the MPO's website at www.pascompo.net.





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Pasco County To Host Inaugural Reverse Trade Show

The Pasco County Purchasing Department is inviting Pasco County Purchasing Director. "This is a collaborative all local vendors interested in doing business with Pasco County government agencies to attend the first Pasco County Reverse Trade Show.

This unique event will be held today from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, located at 3032 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

"This is a terrific, time-saving event that allows business owners the chance to see how various agencies purchase goods and services and to learn how they can participate in future solicitations," said Tara Bohnsack,

effort among representatives from Pasco County, Pasco County Sheriff, Pasco County Clerk of Circuit Courts, Dade City, New Port Richey, Port Richey, City of San Antonio, City of St. Leo, and others."

The Reverse Trade Show (RTS) is designed to be a one-stop shop - allowing suppliers, contractors and other company representatives to meet with staff from several Pasco County government departments in one place. The RTS encourages more vendor participation, allows departments to see the latest products and helps

streamline the process for contractors and vendors who would like to do business with Pasco County government.

Small businesses, minority-owned businesses, womenowned businesses and disadvantaged businesses will find this event helpful in making contact with these agencies and networking with other companies.

Registration for suppliers is free and is requested, but not required, in advance of the event. Contact cdavis@ pascocountyfl.net to register.

Visit bit.ly/2gj1uRW to learn more about Pasco County's Purchasing Department.

Locals Drawn To 'Imported' Hot Dogs

Food Wagon Sets Up Near Government Center

by Joe Potter

People have been lining up for more than a month now at a daily hot dog wagon outside the East Pasco Government Center on Sixth Street.

"Our main goal is to provide a hot, convenient meal for people who are walking in the downtown area," said Deatrice Blossom. She and her husband, Reginald, a disabled veteran, own and operate the D&R Specialty Hot Dogs.

The Tampa couple's love of hot dogs inspired them to open their weekday business in Dade City after Reginald became disabled and was no longer able to work for the U.S. Postal Service. They needed to earn some money to help support their growing family, Deatrice

The stand carries an exclusive hot dog that is made fresh daily in Pennsylvania, frozen immediately, and shipped to them overnight to ensure freshness. Having lived in Pennsylvania for a few years Deatrice was familiar with the particular brand of hot dogs.

Customers have told her that the flavor

of the hot dogs she serves "explodes in their mouth," she said.

A hot dog, drink and snack costs \$5.50. The couple recently expanded their menu to include chili dogs and sauerkraut because they want to offer a variety of tastes to their customers.

Customer response continues to grow daily, Deatrice said, "because we are trying to do something positive for Dade City. Everyone is totally supportive of what we are doing."

She said the courthouse and other government employees are among the first in line daily to get their meal.

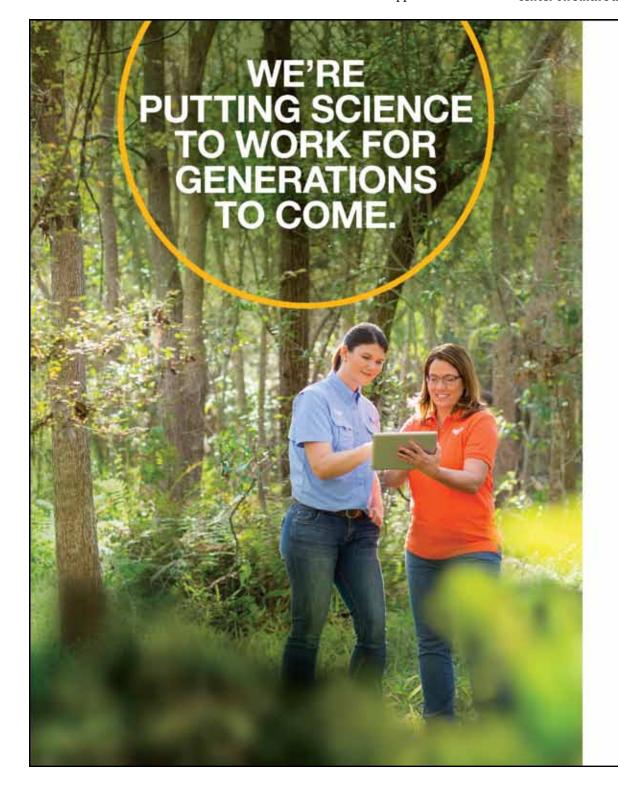
"We have had a lot of support from the Sheriff's Department ... [and] other organizations are also asking us to provide food," Deatrice said.

Lucy Avila, who organizes the annual Dog Days in Dade City, has asked the Blossoms to set their cart up at Agnes Lamb Park on March 18 when the Dog Days event is held there.

The eventual goal of the couple is to purchase more hot dog carts in order to help other disabled people set up their own businesses and support themselves.



Deatrice Blossom staffs D&R Specialty Hot Dogs, in front of the East Pasco Government Center on Sixth Street.

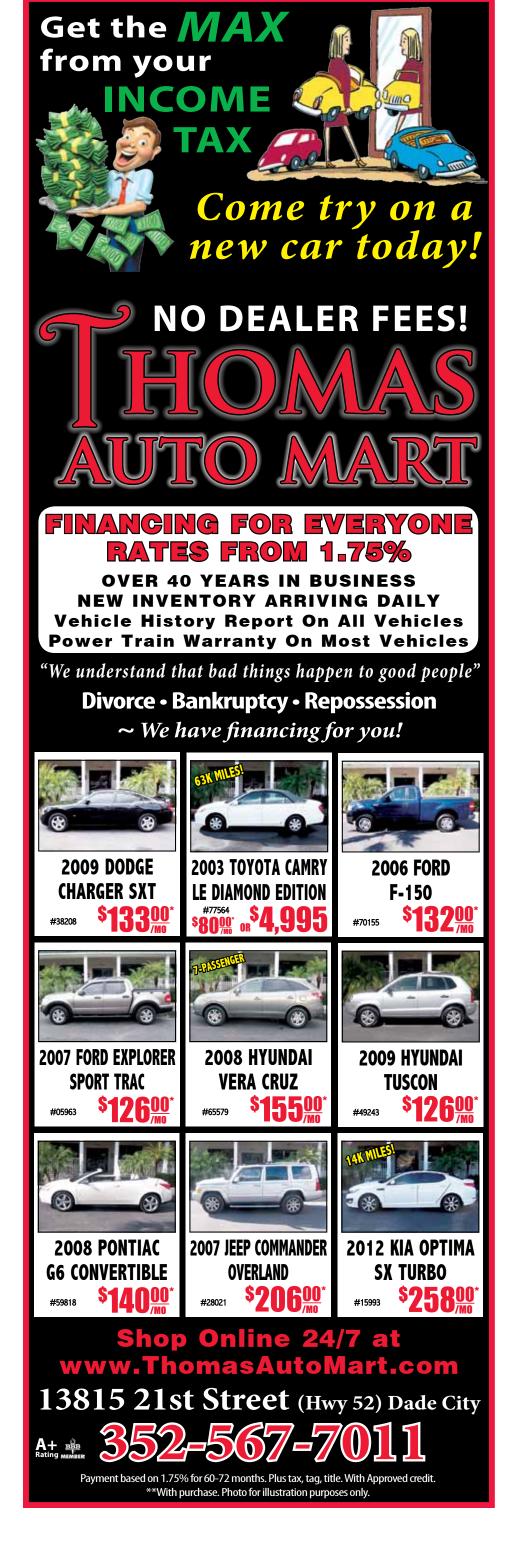


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To learn more about Mosaic's leadership in reclamation ecology, visit MosaicCo.com/Florida.



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Pasco High Sophomore Becomes Eagle Scout

San Antonio Commissioners Honor Evan Stallworth

Story and photo by Joe Potter

Fewer than five percent of all members of Boy Scouts of America attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

The San Antonio City Commission recently honored Evan Stallworth for achieving that rare goal.

He is the son of San Antonio Commissioner Eric Stallworth and Tracy Stallworth. Evan is a sophomore at Pasco High School where he is on the honor roll. He plans to work in the construction field after he graduates in 2019.

It took Evan about nine years to become an Eagle Scout.

He became a Cub Scout in 2007 while he was in second grade and has been a member of Boy Scout Troop 311, based in San Antonio, for five years.

An Eagle Scout must perform a service project that benefits his community in addition to earning the requisite number of merit badges.

Evan, 15, has 28 merit badges and had already been admitted to the Order of the Arrow as a Brotherhood member, and is a member of the Boy Scout's Honor Society.

He has also served as Troop Quartermaster, Order of the Arrow representative and Senior Patrol Leader.

When he has free time, he enjoys being outdoors and either hunting or fishing or camping.



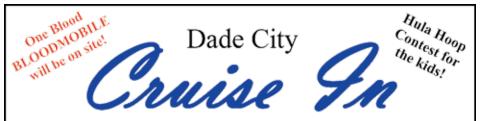
Eagle Scout Evan Stallworth with his parents, Eric and Tracy Stallworth, on Feb. 21 after being honored by the San Antonio City Commission.

Evan's service project consisted of making and installing Arlington National Cemetery-style flag holders for all the veterans interred in St. Anthony Cemetery and the Garden of Memories Cemetery, both of which are in San Antonio.

Scouts from Troop 311 decorate veterans' graves on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Evan said he was unhappy to see how many of the flags that were placed there did not stand straight and tall the way they should.

"I wanted it to look better when the flags were put up," he said on Feb. 21, explaining what motivated him to choose his service project, which took about a year to complete.

The Gulf Ridge Council Boy Scouts of America awarded Evan the rank of Eagle Scout on Sept. 15.



FREE event featuring DJ Starvin' Darvin Saturday, March 4, 1:30 –5:30 PM

Downtown Dade City

(around the Historic Pasco County Courthouse, SR 52 and US 301)



Cruise Ins are held on the first Saturday monthly (except July and August). Roads close at 1 PM. Please call 352.567.3769 for more information.







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