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Relay Raises More Than \$40,000

New Route Downtown Hailed As A Success

Story and photos by **Joe Potter**

Fourteen teams participated in the Dade City and San Antonio Relay For Life held last weekend in downtown Dade City.

Several 'virtual' teams also participated in the event which raised \$4,361.40, from 12 p.m. on March 11 through 12 a.m. on March 12, said Gina King Granger, chair of the event.

"We may be small but we are mighty," Granger said during the opening ceremony referring to the amount already raised despite fewer teams and participants.

A \$55,000 goal was set for 2016 and



Relay • Continued on Page 6A

Hope is what the 2017 Dade City and San Antonio Relay For Life was all about.

County Numbers Improved In 2016

Pasco Undergoing Rapid Change This Year

Staff Report

Pasco County this week publicly released its annual performance report for fiscal year 2016.

The yearly snapshot updates the status and results of action plans and initiatives outlined in the county's FY 2016 Business Plan.

The report indicates that, while property values have yet to rise to the heady days of 2008, the median home sales price increased by 6.7%.

Elsewhere, the unemployment rate fell to 4.8%; personal income grew by 5.5%; and Pasco County realized a 7.2% increase in taxable assessed value.

The perked-up economy has allowed Pasco to keep the millage rate the same.

"The changes and improvements we have been making over the past few years are paying off," said Marc Bellas, organizational performance management director for Pasco. "The improvements we're seeing in the quality of services we provide are reflected in the numbers – 93% of customer comment cards received in 2016 are positive."

Highlights of the FY 2016 report include an eye-popping 1.66 million online visits to Pasco County Libraries. Traditional library visits numbered 802,545.

Sadly, countywide 911 calls rose from 210,487 in FY 2015, to 242,967 last year; Pasco Fire Rescue service calls were up from 61,704 to 66,676. According to the report, the average Fire Rescue response time was 7 minutes,

County • Continued on Page 6A

Agency Hired To Study Hardy Trail Extension

**Consultant Claims
He Can Help City
Receive \$800,000**

Story and photos by **Joe Potter**



Dr. Randy Stovall, second from right, and John Moors, right, accept a proclamation from Dade City Commissioners on Tuesday designating March as Florida Bicycle Month in Dade City.

Dade City hired Local Public Agency Solutions of Tampa on Tuesday to oversee the city's efforts to obtain federal funding for the proposed one-mile extension of the Hardy Trail.

The city is applying for \$800,000 in funds from the Florida Department of Transportation to build an additional northern segment so the trail will run between Church Avenue and Lock Street.

Pasco County officials hope to eventually connect the southern end

Trail • Continued on Page 7A

INSIDE: Pg. 3A - To Hell And Back In WWII Pg. 5A - Slow Progress On CRA Plan Pg. 10A - Bakery As Natural As Can Be Pg. 1B - Pasco Performs Well At Track Pg. 1B - Pirates Baseball Puts It Together Pg. 4B - Group Has Rocking Time

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Dade City Arrests

Police Are Not Fooled By Sleight Of Hand

Joseph Hunt, 32, of 14307 21st St., was arrested by Dade City police on March 4 on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Hunt was stopped for allegedly disregarding a stop sign. Hunt was observed holding a baggie of small pills in his right hand in an attempt to conceal them. The pills were identified as Alprozalam 2 mg. Hunt reportedly did not have a prescription for the pills. Hunt said he got the pills from a friend. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Drevon Shavez Brockington, 18, of 14010 Blake St., was arrested by Dade City police on Feb. 2 on a charge of possession of marijuana on school grounds. He is a student at Pasco High School and was reportedly observed to have a strong odor of marijuana on his person. A small plastic baggie containing two Ziploc bags were found during a search by administrators. The contents of the baggies field-tested positive as two grams of marijuana. He was released with a notice to appear in court.

Anthony Guido Irizarry, 19, of 36124 Lodgepole Pine, was arrested by Dade City police on March 1 on a charge of retail theft. Irizarry allegedly removed a pregnancy test, valued at \$6.97, from its original packaging while at Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301. He then allegedly concealed the item on his person and passed all points of sale without paying for the item. Store loss prevention personnel recovered the stolen item

and Irizarry was issued a notice to appear in court.

Xavier Rashad Anderson, 30, of Tampa, was arrested by Dade City police on Feb. 21 on a charge of resisting law enforcement without violence. Anderson was a passenger in a vehicle upon which police conducted a traffic stop. The vehicle reportedly stopped in an unsafe location on the U.S. 98 Bypass. The driver was instructed to proceed to a safer place for the stop. However, the driver disregarded several commands to stop – conveyed by the police vehicle’s public address system – and ran a stop sign and attempted to flee. The vehicle stopped because of an engine malfunction and the occupants ‘bailed out’ and ran away on foot. Anderson reportedly disregarded several verbal commands to stop and was apprehended during a foot pursuit.



Patricia Ann Stewart, 56, of 38942 Old Sparkman Road, was arrested by Dade City police on March 1 on a charge of retail theft. Stewart allegedly concealed items valued at \$70.72 while at Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301, and left without paying for the items. Loss prevention personnel escorted her back inside and recovered the stolen items. Stewart was trespassed from the store and issued a notice to appear in court.

Crystal Lynn Sanchez, 32, at large, was arrested by Dade City police on March 1 on charges of criminal mischief and of possession of drug paraphernalia. Police stopped a vehicle Sanchez was driving on 21st Street because of an outstanding traffic violation. After Sanchez was arrested, a K-9 conducted an exterior sniff of the vehicle and alerted to the possible presence of narcotics. A search resulted in the discovery of a toiletries bag resulted in the discovery of a pipe/grinder. The pipe field-tested positive for trace amounts of marijuana. Post Miran-



da, Sanchez said she wanted a lawyer. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Theresa Joyce Griner, 60, of 36020 Lake Pasadena Road, was arrested by Dade City police on March 1 on a charge of retail theft. She allegedly concealed items within her purse while at Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301, and left without paying for them. The stolen items were recovered and she was issued a notice to appear in court.

Timothy Jeremiah Brazell, 19, of Ridge Manor, was arrested by Dade City police on March 1 on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Brazell was a passenger in a vehicle police had stopped because its driver was wanted for a traffic violation. A K-9 conducted an exterior sniff of the vehicle and alerted to the possible presence of narcotics. A search of a blue backpack led to the discovery of a green leafy substance. A digital scale and a black zipper bag with numerous small Ziploc bags were also found inside the backpack. Post Miranda, Brazell admitted the bag was his. Brazell was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

A 17-year-old student at Pasco High School was arrested by Dade City police on Feb. 24 on a charge of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. He was observed parked off campus with several other male students. He was located by an officer and escorted onto campus. Numerous items that contained small clear plastic bags with a leafy green substance inside were found when administrators searched the student and his book bag. The substances field-tested positive for less than four grams of marijuana that was packaged for distribution. The student also had \$130 in cash in his wallet. He denied distributing marijuana on school grounds and refused to provide supplier information. He was booked into the Pasco County Juvenile Assessment Center.

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



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27 YEARS IN THE SAME LOCATION

To Hell And Back In WWII

Daughter Gives Account Of Dad's POW Suffering

Story and photo by Joe Potter

Joe Vaillancourt hated the Japanese for many years after having been one of their prisoners of war during World War II.

Pat Vaillancourt, a motivational speaker from Largo, captivated an audience at American House Zephyrhills for more than an hour last week as she talked about her father's experiences.

Her dad was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and was held in POW camps for 3 1/2 years before being liberated after Japan's surrender on Aug. 15, 1945. Vaillancourt was captured in April of 1942 when Japanese forces overran the Philippines.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of the United States forces in the Pacific, had three different 'takes' filmed of the famous "People of the Philippines, I shall return," statement that he made when American forces retreated from the Philippines. "He had a bit of Hollywood in him," Pat Vaillancourt said wryly.

Her mother didn't learn her dad had been captured until she received a telegram in February of 1943. "Communications were slower back then - they didn't have Google or Twitter," the speaker said.

Her father hated the Japanese so much that one day when he was in his 80s he pushed an unlocked Japanese SUV into a retention pond after he had a little bit too much to drink, Vaillancourt said. His explanation of why he did it, combined with his family's offer to pay for any damages caused to the vehicle, kept him from being arrested.

Her father worked as a typographer for The Daily News in Lawrence, Mass., for many years before retiring. He passed

away when he was in his mid-90s.

His daughter said he surprised his family in 1994 when he bought a new Toyota Camry, claiming that he didn't want to live his life filled with hate.

Her father was treated brutally during the war.

Joe Vaillancourt was among the nearly 80,000 American and Filipino POWs who were forcibly marched more than 60 miles from Bataan to Camp O'Donnell.

Approximately 13,000 men perished during the "death march," Vaillancourt said.

Many of the POWs died of heat exhaustion or were bayoneted. The Japanese had orders to not waste a bullet on any of them, she said.

The POWs had to learn how to survive while being held in captivity. Vaillancourt's father told her that each POW would have four or five other people around him that he could trust and that they would look after one another. Her father also learned the Japanese language and could understand what the guards were saying.

The POWs learned the rituals the guards observed and obtained food and medical supplies from the black market at the time of day the guards went inside for a while, she said. Also, the POWs or black marketers would hide food or medicine in their groin area when coming into camp because that was one area the guards wouldn't search.

"That's how we got the expression, 'You don't know what's coming down the road,'" Vaillancourt told the audience.

Her father was eventually held at Camp #17 at Fukota, Japan, only 35 miles from Nagasaki. He and fellow POWs saw the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, and didn't know what



Pat Vaillancourt with a notebook full of information about her father and other servicemen who were Japanese prisoners of war during World War II following a March 8 presentation at American House.

had happened, she said. He initially thought a large ammunition depot had been destroyed. But he and the other prisoners soon realized it was something significantly greater when they saw the enormous mushroom cloud that formed over the fated city where 40,000 people were instantly killed.

Vaillancourt told the group that the Japanese did not have a concept of surrender during WWII. This was because they operated under the Bushido code that was ingrained in them from childhood. They would rather die than surrender.

Some of the guards became friendlier

towards the POWs after the second atomic bomb was dropped but several of them committed ritual suicide rather than surrender.

None of the POWs at Camp #17 were exposed to radiation because the wind was blowing away from their camp. That wasn't known at the time and Joe Vaillancourt and other POWs were cautioned about starting families after they returned home. Doctors told them there was a chance their children could have birth defects.

"I turned out pretty normal," Pat Vaillancourt said, laughing.

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East Pasco Events

March 17 – Women Celebrating Women – Held from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Florida Museum, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road with guest speakers Jane Castor and Paula O’Neil.

March 18 – Paulie Palooza – The fifth annual music and vendor festival benefitting Gulfside Hospice will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the new Zephyrhills Community Event Venue, located at 5200 Airport Road. Live bands will perform and the festival will also feature local vendors, silent auctions and drawings. Cost is a \$5 wristband donation, and food will be available for purchase. Guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chair. Contact Ashley Thibedeau at (727) 845-5707 or Ashley.thibedeau@ghppc.org, or visit [Facebook.com/GHPPC](https://www.facebook.com/GHPPC) for information and vendor and sponsor opportunities.

March 18 – Trilby Homecoming – Plan to join us for our 12th annual Trilby Homecoming Picnic. It will be great to see everyone again and also make new acquaintances. Longtime, former, and new Trilby families and friends are always welcome. Picnic starts at 10 a.m. with a covered dish dinner at high noon, held at Charlotte Tomkow Whittington’s Hunter Hill property, 36315 Tomkow Lane in Dade City, west of Trilby. Bring your family’s old Trilby photos and stories and a lawn chair and a covered dish and share a good visit with us. Call (352) 523-5772 for information.

March 18 – Spring Vendors Fair – Presented by Hillbilly Farms, 10325 U.S. 98 in Dade City, the home of gluten free baked and dry goods. Stop by from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and shop for jewelry, candles, honey, makeup, pet care, crafts, coffee and more. Live entertainment will feature Jeremy “E” and a special Elvis tribute show from 12-1:30 p.m. Yard sales welcome and vendors needed. Contact monthlyvendorevents@gmail.com for information.

March 18 – Dogs’ Day in Dade City – The eighth annual event will be held at Agnes Lamb Park, 14200-14246 Ninth St., from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendor spaces are available for a fee of \$30 or \$10 for non-profits. Contact Lucy at (352) 424-4872 or visit dogsdayindadecity.com for information and event details.

March 18 – Household Hazardous Waste and e-waste Collection – County residents can safely dispose of household hazardous waste and recycle their electronics during this event. Free to Pasco residents, however \$5 charge for each television, computer monitor, computer tower or laptop. A \$10 charge applies for televisions 36 inches or larger. For a full list of items that can be dropped off visit bit.ly/2mx7K0h or call (352) 521-5116. Held at Pasco High School Stadium, 36850 S.R. 52 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

March 19 – Incredible Wild Edibles – Join us as we put on a gourmet wild plant and game cooking show and then allow you to sample all the dishes. Participants are asked to bring their own place setting to sample foods. Cost is \$3/vehicle or annual park pass plus \$5/person; 12 and under free. Held from 6-8 p.m. at Dade Battlefield, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

March 20 – Restored Hope Golf Tournament – The second annual tournament will be held at Lake Jovita

Golf and Country Club, 12900 Lake Jovita Blvd. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Golfers are still needed, so come out and support this nonprofit that assists those in need by helping families and individuals in the Dade City, Zephyrhills and surrounding East Pasco communities with basic needs. Cost is \$100 and includes golf, cart, lunch and prizes. Contact (352) 437-4815 or diggerpiliz@aol.com for information or to register.

March 21 – Southfork Entertainment Series – Southfork Mobile Home Park presents Rich Wilson performing musical memories, a show featuring a variety of musical styles to please everyone from pop to country to gospel and everything in between. Show starts at 7 p.m. with tickets at \$7.50 each. Call Tom at (937) 645-9064 for information. Southfork is located at 10808 U.S. 98.

March 23 – Women’s History Month Celebration – Saint Leo University’s School of Arts and Sciences will present guest speaker Shana L. Haines at the university’s Women’s History Month celebration from 5-7:30 p.m. The community is welcome to this free event. Haines will discuss “How to Live Free in This Black Body: African American Women Negotiating Citizenship from Jim Crow to Black Lives Matter.” The celebration will be accessed via Video Teaching and Teleconferencing (VTT), at TECO Hall, School of Business Building, 33701 S.R. 52 in St. Leo. Contact Dr. Eileen O’Brien at eileen.obrien@saintleo.edu for information.

March 25 – Darby Harvest Country Store Community Sale and Market – Come see what our vendors and neighbors have to offer. There are a number of local vendors selling their products and we also have an area for yard sale type items. If you want to have yard sale and unable to have at your residence, this is for you. Space is free. Held at 31116 Darby Road. Call (813) 526-6631 for information. Event is free and open to the public.

March 26 – United States Marine Corps Band – A performance featuring the United States Marine Corps Band will be held at 3 p.m. in front of the Historic Courthouse in downtown Dade City. Bring a chair or blanket and the whole family to enjoy this unique experience. Call the Dade City Chamber of Commerce at (352) 567-3769 for information.

March 28 – Southfork Entertainment Series – Southfork Mobile Home Park presents Ireland’s Happy Man, Cahal Dunne, for a performance featuring his Irish humor and music. Show starts at 7 p.m. with tickets at \$7.50 each. Call Jim at (352) 206-2754 for information. Southfork is located at 10808 U.S. 98.

March 29 – Presentation from Holocaust Survivor – The public is invited to hear author and Holocaust survivor Pieter Kohnstam present “Narrow Escape: A Flight to Freedom,” at 10:30 a.m. in Saint Leo University’s Student Community Center Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardrooms, located at 33701 S.R. 52. Admission and parking are free. Kohnstam was a childhood friend of Anne Frank. His family and the Frank family were neighbors in Amsterdam before the Franks went into hiding from the Nazis in 1942. Contact Megan Orendorf at (352) 588-8401 or Jennifer.orendorf@saintleo.edu for information.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

It’s Time For A Change

Daylight saving time has once again kicked in. You know how the saying goes, “Spring forward, fall back.” I understand how that works but I think that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.

One of the reasons that retailers like it is because it gives customers an extra hour to shop before it gets dark, in other words it comes down to one simple thing, money.

I dread changing the clocks that are not classified as ‘smart’ ones. Some of them often require various skills to get them to move forward or backward. It is never a simple project in some of the older vehicles I have. Computers, smart phones, fitness devices such as Fitbit or other smart devices have all of the time changes figured out for the most part.

One of the disadvantages I have experienced is it messes up my sleep pattern. I pretty much go to bed and wake up at the same time every day. It doesn’t seem like one hour would make a difference but it does.

My dog Pooh doesn’t like the time change either. He gets his chicken at around 4 p.m. every day. Why should he have to stress out because of the time change? Oh, he also likes to go to bed at a certain time and can’t figure it out when he is ready and Jenny and I tell him that

it’s not time yet. Like a smart device he is a smart dog and knows what time these things are supposed to happen no matter what.

I started doing some research and it really screws up a bunch of things, such as infants on a feeding schedule. You do all that work to get them on a schedule and then it’s time to make a change. Darker mornings with kids waiting at the bus stop makes early morning driving a time to really be wide awake after losing an hour sleep.

What about farmers and those milking cows? One of the reasons for DST was to conserve energy but this has not been totally proven. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that it is cool in the morning and hot in the afternoon. With it being daylight later my air conditioner runs longer so how is this saving energy? Maybe this was a plot by the utility companies to tell us we would be saving money with the time changes. I am not buying that theory for sure.

Now, this might be fake news but I just read that studies show there is an increase in road accidents and heart attacks after clocks are set forward in the spring. In addition to all of this airline schedules, train and bus schedules and so much more have to be adjusted twice a year. It is a waste of manpower and costs a whole lot of money.

This is what I think. Let’s leave the time alone and do away with daylight saving time. We will adjust accordingly. This confusion that continues year after year is not making things better but it is in fact causing problems all over the place.

It’s time for a change and if it requires a vote mine would be to make this mess go away. That would be one less thing we have to worry about and my dog and me could sleep a whole lot better.

Event to Honor Leaders, Heroes

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) announced he will be holding the second annual Heroes Among Us event to recognize the men and women who make communities in Florida’s 12th District special.

Heroes Among Us will honor those who are dedicated to volunteerism, good deeds, and going above and beyond to serve others.

“We all know that the Tampa Bay Area is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. It’s time we recognize the individuals who help

make our community so special,” Bilirakis said. “If you know somebody who makes a positive difference for others, I encourage you to nominate them to receive a Heroes Among Us award.”

Nominations for Heroes Among Us can be emailed to Tucker O’Brien at tucker.obrien@mail.house.gov. Submissions should include the nominee’s name, email address, phone number, and reasons why he or she should be recognized. The deadline for nominations is March 31.

Our Website Has Changed!

We can now be found at dadecitynews.org

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Slow Progress On Revising CRA Plan

Nearly Half Of Districts' Area Pays No Property Tax

by Joe Potter

City officials are about one-third of the way finished with a revision of the plan under which the Community Redevelopment Agency operates.

The CRA is an organization that helps to improve conditions in a 1,700-acre area in central Dade City that has been identified as slum or blighted.

There are actually two CRA districts in downtown Dade City. The first was created in 1998; the second, much smaller, district was established in 2009. They are both scheduled to phase out at the end of 30 years [2028 and 2039, respectively] but could be extended by Dade City City Commission.

Members of the city commission also convene as members of the CRA Board.

The task of the board is to find ways to help encourage investment in the

districts so improvements may be made there. The agency can then benefit from the increased tax values of properties within the districts when designated improvements occur.

Those funds are put into a special account used to help stimulate additional improvement within the districts. The funds may pay for infrastructure or be used for grants that offset improvements made by property owners within the district.

The CRA tries to tackle projects that will give the agency the most bang for its buck, said City Planner Michael Sherman.

Forty-five percent of the CRA is currently not generating any taxes at all, Sherman said. That is because 20 percent of the property within the CRA is institutional and consists of schools and governmental buildings that don't pay



John Jones, of the consulting firm hired by the City, explains how the 25 residents and staff will make suggestions on how to renovate the community with targeted funds at the March 2 Community Redevelopment Agency workshop. Photos by Richard K. Riley



Julie Hale, Jean Ward-Jones, Diane Tsacrios and Lucy Avila, all of Dade City, look over a map of downtown Dade City while discussing ways to improve it.

taxes. Another 20 percent of the property is either vacant land or developed property that has been abandoned.

Thirty-five percent of the CRA consists of residential property while one percent is retail and the other nine percent fall into other categories. These properties are the only ones on the tax rolls.

Property valuations began going down nationwide during the Great Recession that began in December of 2007 and ended in June of 2009, and they have yet to recover locally, city officials said.

There are places within the CRA that are ripe for development, Sherman said, and that the districts have "good bones," however, something must be done to encourage investors to spend money in the targeted districts, he added.

Some suggestions voiced during a

recent workshop included improving street lighting downtown, and doing more to control the nagging stormwater runoff that floods the city center when it rains. Many downtown streets frequently flood on those occasions because of the aging sewer system's inability to efficiently clear the water from the area.


Other ideas included providing better parking options for downtown; attracting new businesses that keep the city's sense and feel; having a movie theater and a civic center; providing more musical events; and developing a water park for children.

Additional workshops will be held before recommendations are made to the city commission for their consideration.

Work on the plan may be finished in June.

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Relay • Continued from Page 1A

brought in just under \$50,000, Granger had previously said. The same goal was set for this year.

Fundraising efforts of various teams earlier in the year had already raised more than \$30,000. Before Saturday's event, the money raised was ahead of the last year's total, Granger said.

Relay For Life is the primary fundraising method used by the American Cancer Society in its efforts to find a cure for the disease that afflicts millions of people each year.

A survivor's brunch was held at 10

a.m. at the American Legion Hall in Dade City, where Shane Salyer, a junior at Pasco High School – and a two-time cancer survivor by the age of 12 – shared his incredible survival story with those in attendance.

The Relay kicked off at noon with Courtney Graham singing the "National Anthem" and Greg First leading the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation.

Cancer survivors made the first lap around this year's new route that had them going down Meridian Avenue from Fifth Street to Seventh Street. They then turned down Sixth Street and made their way to Pasco Avenue before coming back



Survivors walk the first lap of the day on Saturday, leading the pack in support of finding a cure for cancer.



People lining the side of Meridian Avenue applauding survivors as they completed the first lap at Saturday's Relay for Life.

up again to meet at Meridian Avenue.

Teams participating in this year's Relay included Academy at the Farm's National Junior Honor Society, Bayfront Health Dade City, Blanton Blasters, Dade City Walmart, Fab 5 & Friends and the Lacochee Eagles. Other teams included Off the Chart Media, Rotary Club of Dade City, S.O.C.K.S. (Students Organizing Cancer Crazy Socks), Sallybrating With A Cause (And A Little Paws), Sharing Hope For A Cure, TC Walkers, Pasco County Housing Authority, Team DaVita and Travelers Rest for a Cure.

Fundraising for the 2017 Dade City and San Antonio Relay began on Sept. 1, 2016, and runs through Aug. 31, 2017.

Relay sponsors included Lynan, Inc.,

Gude Paving, Lynch Cotton & Lynch, Abbey Course, Amanda Sattler, Bayfront Health Dade City, Bingham Realty Inc., Dade City Auto and Equipment Parts, Saber Healthcare Group, and the Adair family. Also sponsoring were, DaVita Kidney, Premium Title Inc., Black Eye Pea, Nicole Deese Newlon, San Antonio Garden Club, Simmons & Beall, Inc., Thurow Law, Town & Country RV Resort, Off the Chart Media, Suncoast Ink Custom Apparel, and the GFWC Dade City Woman's Club.

The total amount raised for this year's relay won't be known until the books are closed at the end of August.

Granger praised the work of the event leadership team and their commitment to creating a fun and exciting event.

"Although we will ask relay participants to complete a formal post-event survey at our wrap-up party next month, the consensus was very positive regarding the change in the event layout," Granger said.

No matter which campsite location each team had, they could see what was happening throughout the event and Granger hailed their participation in various games.

"The activities committee knocked it out of the park regarding all the new, fun games that relayers could participate in for spirit points," Granger added.

The wrap-up party will be held at the Dade City Woman's Club on April 12 at 6:30 p.m. The top teams and individual fund raisers will be awarded prizes as well as teams that showed the most spirit and best campsites.



Sally Campbell of Sallybrating For A Cause received a Relay Comfort Pack for earning the most spirit points prior to Saturday's relay.

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County • Continued from Page 1A

21 seconds. Countywide EMS calls numbered 49,655.

Animal services reported 2,532 furry friends were adopted in FY2016 – 346 more than the previous year. Nearly 540 of those animals were ones that were reunited with their owners.

The county recorded public transportation ridership at 824,291.

The FY 2016 Annual Performance Report is available online by visiting www.pascocountyfl.net/annualreport.



Eleanor Nichols of Webster, John Nichols III of Ridge Manor, and Bobbie Yancy of Dade City, all members of Lacoochee's LifeStyle Church of God, load the county provided dumpster at The Christian Edge.

Photos by Richard K. Riley

Lacoochee Is Keeping It Clean

On March 11, community members and helpful residents volunteered to keep it clean in the Trilby and Lacoochee area as part of the Great American Cleanup. The nationally designated cleanup day is held in March or April every year, as a spring cleaning effort to keep the environment, and its inhabitants, healthy and clutter free. The county has been participating in the annual cleanups for two decades, which are sponsored locally by Keep Pasco Beautiful.



Carl Waldron of Dade City came to Mosstown Road in Lacoochee to help the Trilby/Lacoochee area with their part of the Great American Cleanup.

Trail • Continued from Page 1A

of the Hardy Trail with the recently constructed U.S. 301 trail that runs from Kossik Avenue in Zephyrhills south to Dade City Avenue in Dade City.

After the Hardy Trail is extended, Pasco County officials also want to connect the northern terminus of the Hardy Trail with the southern terminus of the Withlacoochee State Trail. The state trail currently ends at Owensboro Junction, which is approximately five miles north of Dade City.

It is likely to cost \$800,000 to extend the Hardy Trail for one mile.

"It is free money. It is basically paperwork," said Lawrence Taylor, Local Public Agency Solutions' founder. "But if you don't do the paperwork properly your money will be at risk."

Taylor retired from the Florida Department of Transportation after 33 years of service during which he oversaw the use of federal money for transportation projects.

He said the trail extension project could be ruled ineligible for federal funding if the guidelines are violated.

The trail extension is a project of Dade City's Local Planning Agency (LAP). The consultant said he could also help the city recertify LAP, which must be accomplished every two years.

Local Public Agency Solutions was the low bidder for providing the consulting services with a bid of \$42,900.

It was determined that 38 percent of the Hardy Trail is within a Community Development Redevelopment district that the city established in 1998.

The CRA board met prior to the regular commission meeting where it approved funds to pay 38 percent of Local Public Agency Solutions' fees.

Commissioners approved using money from the contingency fund to pay the remaining 62 percent during their meeting, which also met Tuesday.



Members of the extended family of the late Joe McClain receive a resolution from Tuesday's Dade City Commission, expressing grief at McClain's passing on July 30, 2016, at the age of 88. McClain was a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1958-1962 and was general counsel for the Pasco County School District from 1972 to 2002 and for the Pasco County Clerk Jed Pittman from 1977 until his retirement.



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Dade City's Antique Fair Takes You Back



Jacquie Christmas, owner of the Little Red Barn at 14245 Seventh St. shows off an antique copper electric clothes washer she had for sale during the 2017 Spring Antique Fair & Market. The Dade City Merchants Association hosted the annual event throughout downtown Dade City last Saturday. Held all day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., shoppers were able to mingle through the shops for unique furniture, jewelry, clothes and vintage finds. *Photo by Richard K. Riley*

Paulie Palooza At New Venue

Music Fundraiser Gets Ready For Saturday



Members of local band Backwaters OWN playing some tunes at last year's Paulie Palooza held at Skydive City. This year the event will take place at the city's new venue at 5200 Airport Road this Saturday.

Story and photo by Keri McAlpine

Paulie Palooza is back for its fifth year, bringing back the same great local musicians for a full day of entertainment to benefit a good cause.

Because this year's event will be held Saturday at the new city venue on Airport Road, the Palooza will feature seven bands instead of the usual dozen or so. The hours are cut short this year because there is no outdoor lighting at the venue.

The first act will go on at 10 a.m. and the last at 5 p.m., and attendees can expect performances from Cold Iron, The Dade City Connection, David Teague, Backwaters Own, The Jase Randall Band, Ralph's RV and White RV.

"This a very wide diversity of local artists. Everybody who's going to be playing on the stage is from the community," event producer Paul Correia said.

"It's a great way of seeing local talent ... and it's for a great cause."

Each band has offered their talents free of charge for the fundraiser.

The Palooza debuted in 2012 when Correia created the fundraiser to benefit Gulfside Hospice. The care that his late father had received at the facility in 2011 inspired the son to annually thank the Dean Dairy Road hospice.

Previous Palooza's were held in conjunction with the Pasco Sheriff's Office's Ride for Hospice, and together the two raised about \$22,000 in 2016. This year, the sheriff's office has chosen a different direction and will not be hosting the equestrian event, Correia said.

Even so, Correia is hoping to raise around \$20,000 and if he can reach last year's total he would be pleased.

Paulie Palooza is free of charge but a \$5 donation is asked for a daylong wristband. Beverages and snacks will be available for purchase on the grounds.

Even though it is an outside event, Correia said he and other organizers are making sure to set up plenty of tents to provide shade for guests, and folks are encouraged to bring a lawn chair as seating will not be provided.

The annual event usually draws up to 1,000 people, and there is far more available space this year as it is being held at the city's new event venue at 5200 Airport Road. First christened by the Pigz in Z'hills BBQ and Blues Festival in January, this will be the site's second event.

Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce executive director Melonie Monson said Tuesday that the city has yet to agree on a name for the new venue.

Paulie Palooza will host seven local bands on the stage of the Florida Hospital Pavilion - a structure Correia himself helped to build through his contracting company, Sun State Aluminum.

For Correia, holding the Palooza at the new site is all part of contributing to the growth of Zephyrhills, and he hopes other events will follow suit.

"We're making Zephyrhills more of a destination place and throughout the year you can come in and use the services," Correia said. "We want to try and see if we can turn other charitable organizations to use the facility."

One Door Closes, Another Opens

Longtime Sunrise Employee Retires, New Employee Welcomed

A retirement party was held at the Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic & Sexual Violence Center administration office on Feb. 28 after Kelly Sinn, CEO of Sunrise, announced earlier this month that Terri O'Brien, director of community education, decided to retire after 27 years. O'Brien was instrumental in creating violence prevention awareness in our community and schools.

Many community members attended the celebration as the staff wished O'Brien good luck with her upcoming adventures. O'Brien says she is going to spend time with her family in Chicago, and enjoy helping her daughter plan her wedding.

Dottie Urbanik Nash, MSW, from Lincoln, Neb., has been hired and began on Feb. 27 as the new director.

While completing her bachelor of arts degree in the Women's and Gender Studies program at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nash also minored in sexuality studies, psychology and completed an undergraduate concentration in research methods.

Nash completed all 1,024 hours of her masters-level social work practicum work and research requirements in gender-based violence and crimes of power and control. She is a steadfast advocate for policy changes that reflect the needs of communities experiencing gender-based violence. Nash currently resides in Trinity with her three cats, an American Pitbull terrier and her beloved spouse.



Dottie Urbanik Nash, left, and Terri O'Brien. Photo Provided

Dogs' Day In Dade City



Connie Richtmeyer with her Yorkie, Rosie, and Suzanne Gagliolo with her poodle, Lily, meet in Dog Mania and Cats in preparation for this Saturday's Dogs' Day in Dade City from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event held at Ninth Street's Anges Lamb Park, was hosted by Dade City Animal Clinic. Photo by Richard K. Riley

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Cookies are one of the most popular items at Living Food Bakery. So much so they do not have time to develop new cookie recipes they are so busy keeping up with current ones.

As Natural As Can Be

Living Food Bakery Uses Farm-Fresh Ingredients

Story and photos by **Keri McAlpine**

When Vicky Lin moved to Florida from New York City, she was excited for the change. Her husband, Bernard, had started a new job in St. Petersburg cooking and baking. Even though Vicky decided she didn't care for the St. Pete area, she soon found a 17-acre farm in Dade City and immediately fell in love with it.

Today, she grows a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and raises animals on the farm and now her products are used in her new business venture: Living Food Farm Fresh Bakery and Café.

Farm products are displayed on the bamboo-decorated store shelves to go along with the murals painted by her daughters and the smell of freshly baked breads and cakes.

Goat's milk tiramisu, gluten-free pumpkin tapioca pie, lemongrass tea and sunflower tea are just a handful of products made fresh in the bakery, all from ingredients produced at her farm. The Lin farm is chemical free and all animals are hormone free and free range, considered the most important factor for the owners.

"Once you use any chemical the food doesn't taste right and it adds the bad stuff to your body," Vicky said. "Our cakes and breads are pretty much lighter than most American pastries. That's what we're trying to introduce ... healthier eating and healthier drinking."

Since their grand opening a month ago, the bakery has seen a steady influx of new and returning customers, eager to try out the latest concoctions and pastries.

Vicky brews two different hot teas every morning, and she and her husband are constantly working together to think of their next best idea. On Feb. 27, she said they were perfecting a new wheat bread with their favorite ingredient, moringa, which she was excited to put up for sale.

Moringa is Vicky's pride and joy. She came across the unique tree when she used to wander a farmers market in St. Pete on Saturday mornings. She was searching for new crops for her farm; for something unique and healthy to introduce to locals in Zephyrhills.

"The more I looked into it the more I thought I should plant this and I should introduce this to the world," Vicky said.

Now, the farm grows more than 200 moringa trees, which are harvested for their leaves. Two baby moringa trees can be spotted outside the entrance to the café at 38201 10th Ave. Now, Living Food uses moringa in everything they possibly can, including bread, cakes, tea and soup.

Aside from moringa products, which are some of the most popular on the menu, Vicky has seen a trend of chocolate lovers. Chocolate cake, mousse and chocolate



Vicky Lin is the co-owner of Zephyrhills' newest bakery and café, Living Food Farm Fresh.

bread is top hits at the bakery. Coffee is also served for those who want more of a kick in the morning, and select sandwiches are offered at lunch.

When it comes to the Lins, they are a team. A former fashion technical designer, Vicky is full of ideas. Bernard has grown up in the restaurant business, his parents having owned multiple restaurants since he was a child. He has since worked in Chinese bakeries, American bakeries, a Latin restaurant and a sushi restaurant, and he brings in different aspects and tastes from all of them in his unique recipes, his wife said.

"My husband is a genius baker. He literally takes my idea and makes it into real stuff. He's the doer, I'm the thinker," she said with a big laugh. "I always come up with these crazy ideas and he has to help me accomplish most of them."

The outdoor patio adjacent to the restaurant offers extra seating for anyone who wants to enjoy the fresh air and listen to the calm flow of the nearby fountain. Vines full of big green leaves are starting to grow across a trestle, which will one day produce passion fruit and passion flowers.

It will be another year before it produces fruit, but she has some of the same vines on her farm, which are likely to bear fruit in about six months. She plans to make juice from the fruit, a sweet concoction mixed with a little bit of honey.

A long-term goal for Vicky is to incorporate Chinese herb medicines into her pastries. Normally bitter and "disgusting" tasting, she wants to incorporate them in a way so they taste sweet, allowing consumers to experience their health benefits, she said.

Living Food Farm Fresh Bakery and Café can be reached at (813) 715-0622. Options for catering, weddings and parties at the store's 10th Avenue location are available.