

# Community Health Fair



March 26  
9am

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# Dade City News

Serving Dade City • San Antonio • Saint Leo

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Your Hometown News Source • [dadecitynews.org](http://dadecitynews.org)

March 22, 2018

## San Ann Festival Could Move

### Foundation Says Rattlesnake Event Running Out Of Room

by Joe Potter

The Thomas Promise Foundation's board will meet next week to decide where it will hold the 2018 Rattlesnake Festival.

The foundation took control of the festival in 2017 after the event's former backers were no longer able to keep it going, primarily because of the necessary volunteers needed to run the event.

The foundation's board initially decided last week to move the festival from the San Antonio City Park, where it has been held for the past 50 years, to the Pasco County Fairgrounds, which is 4.4 miles northeast of the city.

Board members informed city commissioners of that decision in a March 15 letter. The 2017 festival was so

successful that the foundation was able to provide 43,000 meals to undernourished children from its proceeds, the letter said.

Festival parking was a challenge during 2017, as has been the case for a number of years.

Board members said in their letter it was apparent they would soon run out of room for the festival if it continued to grow.

But Wade Thomas and Joe Simmons of the foundation hinted they might reconsider that decision at their next board meeting, which will be held next week.

They first raised some issues about a contract the city had provided the board for the 2018 festival. They said

*Festival • Continued on Page 3A*

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## Family Gathers In Remembrance

### The Legacy Of Wallace Jordan Lives On

Story and photos by Emily Kochanski

Wallace Jordan, a 38-year-old African American from Lacoochee, was brutally killed in 1957 and the reason for the attack was never determined and justice was never delivered.

The Jordan family came together Saturday in Stanley Park, the site of Jordan's death, to honor his short life and tell his story at the first ever Wallace Jordan Family Legacy Day.

In addition to reuniting distant family members, the event also celebrated the finalization of an independent biopic that film producer Frank Burns made about



Filmmaker Frank Burns asked all who attended to wear purple and gold, colors that reflected the high esteem they hold Jordan in to this day.

*Jordan • Continued on Page 7A*

## Every Dog Has His (Or Her) Day

### A Howling Good Time At Agnes Lamb Park

by Emily Kochanski

There's always something to do in Dade City, even for the town's four-legged residents. Pooches gathered Saturday for the ninth annual Dog's Day in Dade City and the canines crowded into Agnes Lamb Park for the four-hour event.

Pasco residents showed up to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a whole new way by showing off their canine companions in a wagon parade, canine challenge, costume contest, and joined them in an ice cream/yogurt eating contest.

"The [ice cream and yogurt] contest has been a big hit in the past," laughed Lucy Avila, the event's coordinator. "The human eats the ice cream and the dog has a special yogurt. They can only use their tongues; they can't use their hands, or paws, or anything else."

Attendees also had the chance to show their pup some love with a yummy treat from some local vendors. They could even bring home a new furry friend from one of several animal rescue



Numerous dogs arrived primped and decked out in their best St. Patrick's Day garb.

Photo by Emily Kochanski

*Dogs • Continued on Page 6A*

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# Dade City Police Report

## Homeless Man Faces Drug And Theft Charges

**Marcus Andrew Adams**, 30, transient, was arrested by Dade City police on March 8 and charged with possession of methamphetamine and retail theft. Police responded to Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301, regarding a shoplifting complaint. Adams allegedly removed an item valued at \$26.63 from its packaging, concealed it and left the store without paying for it. Approximately 3.9 grams of confirmed meth was found when police looked inside Adam's backpack to see if he took any other items. Post Miranda, Adams reportedly admitted taking the item.



**Jackie Lee Cox**, 53, of 13330 Fort King Road, was apprehended by Dade City police on Feb. 28 on a Gulf County warrant charging him with two counts of grand theft auto. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrants.



Dade City police arrested a 16-year-old student at Pasco High School on Feb. 23 and charged her with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest with violence. The student allegedly caused a disturbance while riding on a school bus and received a disciplinary notice from the bus driver. The student allegedly refused to be escorted to an administrator's office and used loud and vulgar language toward administrators. She also

allegedly disregarded commands by the school resource officer to calm down and shoved him when he tried to block her as she was walking down a sidewalk. She then allegedly pulled away as the officer was attempting to place her in wrist restraints. The officer had to eventually force the student to the ground so she could be taken into custody because she allegedly continued to resist him and back-up officers who responded to the school to help him.

**Evelyn Jo Hayes**, 36, of 38101 Willingham Drive, was apprehended by Dade City police on March 5 on a Hernando County warrant charging her with failure to appear – grand theft. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



**Ruben Fernandez**, 35, of 37023 Highlands Bluff, was apprehended by Dade City police on March 2 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with violation of probation – driving under the influence. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



**Mabel Padilla**, 48, of 7141 Orchard Drive, Zephyrhills, was apprehended by Dade City police on March 5 on a Seminole County warrant charging her with violation of probation – grand theft. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

**Edward Hodges Jr.**, 37, of Naples, was apprehended by Dade City police on March 3 on a Lee County warrant for nonpayment of child support. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail with a cash purge of \$490.



**Rojelio Juarez**, 54, of 15101 Byron St., was arrested by Dade City police on March 11 and charged with retail theft. Police responded to Walmart, 12650 U.S.

301, regarding a shoplifting complaint. Juarez allegedly concealed four packages of sinkers, valued at \$5.98, and left without paying for them. Post Miranda, he admitted to having taken the sinkers. Juarez was identified through the driver's license he used to purchase a fishing license. He was released with a notice to appear in court.

**William Romero Rivera**, 37, of 6032 12th St., Zephyrhills, was apprehended by Dade City police on March 2 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with violation of probation for – grand theft and a Hillsborough County warrant charging him with VOP – burglary. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrants.



**William M. Derosse**, 32, of Wesley Chapel, was apprehended by Dade City police on March 16 on two Pasco County warrants charging him with violation of probation – driving while license suspended or revoked/habitual and VOP – failure to appear. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail after the warrants had been confirmed.



**Roberto Navarro Lopez**, 58, transient, was apprehended by Dade City Police on March 12 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with failure to appear. Lopez, who uses the alias Joe Delarosa, was also arrested on a warrant charging him with grand theft. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail after the warrants were confirmed.



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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# Tribby Celebrates Community History



Scott Black, left, receives a collection of articles, photos and memories from members of the Croft family, a foundation family of Tribby during the last century. The presentation was made as part of the 13th annual Tribby Homecoming Picnic, which was held on Saturday at the home of Charlotte Tomkow Whittington's on Hunter Hill. Photo by **Richard K. Riley**

## Fire Destroys Vacant House

### Staff Report

Pasco County Fire Rescue responded to a house fire Tuesday at 8:20 a.m. in the 15300 block of Lee Ave.

A large column of smoke was observed as firefighters approached the scene, said Corey Dierdorff, a public information officer for PCFR.

A vacant wooden single-family home was fully engulfed when firefighters arrived.

They had to battle the blaze while protecting two nearby homes that were in danger because of the heavy smoke and flames.

It took firefighters about 20 minutes to bring the fire under control, Dierdorff said.

No injuries were reported and firefighters succeeded in protecting the two nearby homes.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

### Festival • Continued from Page 1A

it didn't address many of the issues, including parking, that were raised at a January commission workshop on the festival.

Some residents who spoke at the meeting said parking space is available and they would help foundation members to find it if they chose to keep the festival in San Antonio this year.

"Unfortunately, the wording you have in this contract allows the parks commissioner or the streets commissioner to shut down the festival and it couldn't reopen until a meeting of the city commission was held," Simmons said.

City Attorney Gerald Buhr said such language was necessary in case a situation arose that jeopardized the health, safety or well-being of city residents. However, a Rattlesnake Festival has never been shut down by

the city before.

"I definitely don't want to see the festival leave San Antonio," Mayor Rick Anderson said.

"This application process is part of our effort to make things more standardized for you and others who want to hold events here. I would personally like for this festival to be reconsidered before moving it to Dade City."

Mayor Pro Tempore Elayne Bassinger agreed.

"If you move it to the fairgrounds, it's no longer the San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival. You are going to lose the community element of it by moving it there," said parks commissioner James Markley.

He suggested calling it the Pasco Rattlesnake Festival or something else.

Simmons said the Thomas Promise Foundation hasn't officially made a decision yet to relocate the festival.

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## East Pasco Events

**March 26 – Community Health Fair** – The Edwinola, 14235 Edwinola Way, will be hosting a community health fair starting at 9 a.m. Health screenings will be available by select vendors including Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, Bayfront Health Dade City, Agency on Aging, Florida Medical Clinic and more local skilled nursing facilities, health agencies and pharmacies. Call (352) 567-6500 for information.

**March 31 – Jelly Bean Fling** – Held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road. Stop by for vendors galore, food and live music and family friendly activities like making Easter bonnets, Easter egg hunts, face painting, touch a truck, barrel train rides and more. Visit and take a photo with Jasper the Easter Bunny. Call (352) 567-0262 or visit [PioneerFloridaMuseum.org](http://PioneerFloridaMuseum.org) for information. Admission is \$5 with free parking.

**March 31 – K9 Partners for Patriots Open House** – The Mobile Vet Center will be available at the K9 Partners for Patriots open house from 12-3 p.m. at 15322 Aviation Loop Drive. A veteran outreach program specialist will be onsite to provide readjustment counseling services. K9 Partners gives veterans and active military a second chance through the experience of training and caring for their own service dog. Visit [www.k9partnersforpatriots.com](http://www.k9partnersforpatriots.com) or [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov) for information.

**March 31 – Eggs in the Park** – Held from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. This free annual event is for children ages 0-12 and their families. The egg hunt starts promptly at 10 a.m. for all ages followed by several games and relays. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

**April 5 – Roy Hardy Fish Fry** – Dade City Kiwanis presents the annual fish fry from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from any club member. Menu will include fried fish, cheese grits, hush puppies, baked beans and cole slaw. Held in the parking lot of Badcock's Home Furnishings on Seventh Street. Drive thru or take out only. Contact Mike at (352) 437-5334 for information.

**April 7 – Car Show** – Held in downtown Dade City from 3-7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per car registration; trophies will be presented. Giveaways to the first cars registered. Activities for kids will also be featured. The public and car enthusiasts are encouraged to visit the fabulous shops and restaurants in Dade City. Call (813) 879-1616 for information.

**April 7 – The Market Place** – The monthly market place will be held at Hibiscus Park at Seventh Street and Bougainvillea Avenue from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The pet friendly event is free to attend, open to the public and includes live entertainment. Shop local vendors for a variety of products including honey, home décor, garden accessories, jewelry, bakery items, jellies/jams, homemade soaps and much more. Contact [lucyavila707@gmail.com](mailto:lucyavila707@gmail.com) or (352) 424-4972 for additional information or interested vendors.

**April 7 – Joe Kiefer Golf Tournament** – The 33rd annual tournament will begin at 11 a.m. at Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club, 12900 Lake Jovita Blvd. A shotgun start will be at 1 p.m. Cost per golfer is \$125 which includes golf, cart, practice, locker room access, lunch,

dinner and gratuities. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at (352) 567-3769 for information.

**April 7 – Community Shred-It Day** – Hosted by San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union, shred your unwanted documents with no expense from 9-11 a.m. at 7301 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills. Bring only what you can carry – up to two boxes per person no larger than 18x12x9 each. Remain with your documents until they're shredded. This event is free and open to the public.

**April 11 – Quality Beef Cattle Seminar Series** – The UF/IFAS Pasco County Cooperative Extension Service Livestock Program is offering a free seminar series to help cattle ranchers understand and apply Best Management Practices to ensure the highest quality beef and the highest quality pastures. Held from 6:30-8 p.m. at 36702 S.R. 52. Visit [bit.ly/2Dqll7V](http://bit.ly/2Dqll7V) to pre-register.

**April 21 – Kitten Shower** – Kitten season is the time of year where the Pasco County animal shelter sees many kittens come in that are anywhere from a few hours to a few weeks old. New foster families are invited to the shelter to receive training and education. Held from 1-3 p.m. at 19640 Dogpatch Lane, Building B in Land O' Lakes. Contact [educationoffice@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:educationoffice@pascocountyfl.net) for information and to RSVP.

**April 21 – Dade City Symphony** – The symphony's Spring concert will be held at the Pasco Middle School auditorium, 13925 14th St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the concert beginning at 7 p.m. Be sure to arrive early to get a seat. Sponsorship opportunities available. Visit [dadecitysymphony.com](http://dadecitysymphony.com) for information.

**April 24 – Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation** – Find out what it means to be a Big Brother or Big Sister in Pasco County and get a head start in the process. Held from 5:30- 7 p.m. at Wesley Chapel Honda, 27750 Wesley Chapel Blvd. Contact (813) 997-6881 or [debk@bbbstampabay.org](mailto:debk@bbbstampabay.org) for information.

**April 28 – Vegetable Gardening Basics** – Attend this Free UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension seminar to learn about how to choose a location for a garden, what makes good soil, when to plant different vegetables, and how to control common vegetable garden pests. Held at the Dade City Watson Park Community Garden, located at North and Main Avenues, from 9-10:30 a.m. Bring gloves, water, a hat and sunblock. Visit [bit.ly/veggiegardening](http://bit.ly/veggiegardening) to register or contact (352)521-1255 or [esantiagomez@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:esantiagomez@pascocountyfl.net) for information.

**May 17 – Rotary Bowl** – Dade City Noon Rotary Club's eighth annual Rotary Bowl will be held at Pin Chasers, 6816 Gall Blvd. Check in and a happy hour will begin at 4:30 p.m. Practice time will start at 5 p.m. and the bowling will begin at 6 p.m. Sponsorship opportunities are available with a May 10 deadline. Register for 18 lanes of bowling golf, auction and raffles and prizes. Complimentary dinner and soft drinks will be served and a cash bar will be available. Contact (352) 585-3762 or [premiumtitleinc@gmail.com](mailto:premiumtitleinc@gmail.com) for information.

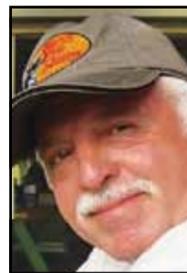
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For more events visit [www.pasconewspubs.com](http://www.pasconewspubs.com)

## Commentary



Photo courtesy of The Cowboy Channel



### First Things First

Greg First

## Brothers, Kin To Share Reality

The Bellamy Brothers probably don't know me but I have been following their careers for a very long time. It all started back in the mid 1970's. I owned a record and tape store in Zephyrhills called Canopy Records and one day a pretty lady stopped in and asked if we could put a 45 RPM her sons recorded in the store. She was hoping a bunch of people would buy it. The name of the song was "Let Your Love Flow," and her boys were the Bellamy Brothers.

Everybody in this area probably knew or at least heard of Howard and David Bellamy and their family. Their dad played country music himself and their mom, Frances, worked at Pasco High School for about 25 years in the cafeteria. She also spent some time behind the wheel of good old No. 5, a Pasco County school bus. The boys were raised right here in the east Pasco town of Darby and went to PHS. Their mom was their biggest fan and promoter. You could see the pride in her eyes when she talked about her family. It didn't take long for the song to go to #1 on the Billboard Music Charts. I was pleased when she kept

bringing me more records because they were selling out as fast as she would bring them.

The Bellamys have a lot a history in this area. Many years ago I remember them playing at the San Antonio Rattlesnake Roundup with their dad. As of today they continue to play their brand of music to old and new music fans all over the world and are still selling out venues large and small wherever they go.

Now comes the next chapter of their lives with a reality TV show Honky Tonk Ranch, filmed at their 200-acre ranch and recording studio in Darby and on the road as they continue to tour. The whole Bellamy family is involved including the dogs, Waylon and Willie, along with a whole bunch of friends along the way. "As far as everyone knows, we're just a nice normal family," David Bellamy said on the Honky Tonk Ranch website. "But there's a lot of chaos to control and there's no hiding from the cameras once they're rolling."

Honky Tonk Ranch debuts Sunday, April 8, at 8:30 p.m. on the Cowboy Channel and according to their website it's available on nearly every cable and satellite provider.

Thinking back to the day Frances Bellamy came into my record store with those 45 rpm records and now looking back at the Bellamy Brothers career with 20 No. 1 hits and more than 40 million albums sold, it looks like there is no end in sight. I'm pretty sure their mom and dad are looking down from heaven and smiling. These guys are living the dream of doing what they enjoy and working hard at it. Keep up the good work and thanks from all of us. You have made us really proud.

## Pasco News Publications

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# Suwanee Lakeside Zoning Change Is Approved

## Fewer Homes Will Be Built Near Pasco High School

by Joe Potter

Commissioners agreed by a 4-1 vote to approve a zoning change requested by Suwanee Lake LLC for nearly 130 acres of property it owns on Thomas Jefferson Road.

The zoning was changed from Dade City PD-H1 (Planned Development-Housing-1) to PD-R (Planned Development-Residential). Commercial uses may be allowed in PD-R districts primarily to serve the needs of the residents in the development.

Commissioners also reduced the number of housing units the developer can build on its property bordered on the west by State Road 52 between Adair Road to the south and Thomas Jefferson Road to the north.

Suwanee had previously been approved for 325 units but will now only build 302 units. Nicole Deese Newlon cast the dissenting vote. She said she was opposed to Suwanee's request because she believes their original zoning ordinance expired in 2016.

Newlon didn't like some terms of the agreement, including the ability for Suwanee to transfer ownership, lot sizes and setbacks the size of sidewalks, and access to the development.

In other business, commissioners discussed a possible use for the historic Atlantic Coastline Railroad Depot on the U.S. 98 Bypass.

The city-owned building has been vacant for more than two years. Some of Dade City's government offices operated out of the depot while the new City Hall

was being built. Habitat For Humanity also rented space in the building for a time.

City Manager Billy Poe Jr. had previously been asked to prepare a request for proposals so people who were interested in renting the building could tell city officials how they planned to use it and what rent they would be willing to pay.

Mayor Camille Hernandez said Joy Lynn, a 25-year resident of Dade City, is interested in using the depot for the Dade City Heritage Museum.

Lynn, who for several years has been operating a museum in the summer months in Fayette County, W.Va., is selling that museum and coming home fulltime.

A draft proposal for the Dade City Heritage Museum says it would provide benefits to the city and the region, including education, tourism and economic and social benefits.

Hernandez said Lynn would like to make a presentation to commissioners during next Tuesday's meeting regarding the proposed heritage museum.

Newlon asked why this should be done since the request for proposals has not been prepared. She also questioned whether it was fair to consider Lynn's request on March 27 as she has informed those who were inquiring to reply to the request for proposals.

After additional discussion, Mayor Pro Temp Eunice Penix moved and Commissioner Jim Shive seconded to hear Lynn's presentation. This was approved 4-1, with Newlon casting the dissenting vote.

# Exhibit Celebrates Sports

## 'Mudcat' Grant To Video Chat With Fans

by Keri McAlpine

The Pioneer Florida Museum & Village opened its doors for visitors Saturday to view a new Smithsonian Exhibition on display titled, "Hometown Teams". The exhibition pays homage to sports in America and the impact they have on the country's culture and people's lives.

For the grand opening, the mascot for the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team, ThunderBug, was on site to greet visitors and walk with them through the different displays.

"Everybody was excited to see him and take photos and go through the exhibition," said Stephanie Black, the museum's executive director.

People can view countless artifacts and pieces of memorabilia from jerseys, lockers, old magazines and even Wheaties cereal boxes featuring famous athletes.

There are also interactive elements for the exhibition, including trivia and games set up on iPads.

"It celebrates not only the athletes but the spectators who go out and support their teams," Black said.

The exhibition will be on site through April 28, including during the March 31 Jelly Bean Fling.

Several special events are scheduled during the exhibition while it remains in Dade City.

Today local author Madonna Wise will give a presentation on "Girls' sports prior to Title IX" at 6 p.m.

Former Major League Baseball pitcher and Lacoochee native James "Mudcat" Grant will be celebrated on March 24 starting at 2 p.m. There will be a special display set up with Grant memorabilia and Julious Grant will make a presentation. A video conference



Tampa Bay Lightning's ThunderBug, museum volunteer Lucia Castillo, and Mike and Anita Price check out the displays at the Smithsonian exhibit titled "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America." Photo by Richard K. Riley

with Grant himself, who now lives in California, is also scheduled so he can answer fans questions.

Guest speaker Steve Noll from the Department of History at the University of Florida will present on "Hometown Teams". If visitors wear their favorite team jersey or T-shirt they will receive 25 percent off admission.

Normal entry into the museum is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 students, and entry is free for active military and children under five. Admission during the Jelly Bean Fling is \$5 per person, with no charge for active military and children under five.

More events may be added to this schedule. Visit [www.PioneerFloridaMuseum.org](http://www.PioneerFloridaMuseum.org) or [www.facebook.com/PioneerFloridaMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/PioneerFloridaMuseum) for updates and more information. The museum is located at 15602 Pioneer Museum Road.

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**Dog's Day is the perfect event for pooches and the people who love them to bond.**

*Photo by Emily Kochanski*

**Dogs • Continued from Page 1A**

organizations, including Animal Welfare and Rescue, Australian Shepherds Furever and the Florida Cocker Spaniel Rescue, to name a few.

Past "Dog's Day" events have funded several pet-related projects in Dade City, including a pet food pantry and a dog park. This year's event supplied all six of it's attending rescue organizations with a 35-pound bag of dog food to help feed those hungry canines still seeking their



**Sherry Parsons of Tampa prepares her Lhasa Apso pets, Georgie-Ann and Charley-Ann, for their presentation for judging.**

*Photo by Richard K. Riley*

forever home.

"A 35-pound bag of dog food is \$50; that's \$50 we can now use to save a dog," said Jamie Medvesky, an event coordinator with the Florida Boxer Rescue. "That was such a nice thing for them to do."

No bones about it, this year's event proved to be a fun time for pets and people alike, especially for Zephyrhills resident and first-time attendee Joanne Schmitter and her dog, Teddy.

"We just came out to have some fun,"



**Some pets were dressed to compete, others were just gussied up for a day on the town.**

*Photo by Emily Kochanski*

Schmitter said. "[Dog's Day] looked fun, and Dade City is such a great place."

"I just love seeing these dogs coming out here with their humans and having a fun time with them," said Avila. "It's all about giving the dog and the human time to socialize and for providing a fun event that allows that to happen."



**Joanne Schmitter was sure that her German shorthaired pointer, Teddy, would delight others in his snazzy pirate costume.**

*Photo by Emily Kochanski*



**Jhada Linton and Janae Cotner, center, perform with their 'trainers,' Tabela Phillips, left, and Tiffany Williamson, right; of the Dade City Animal Clinic.**

*Photo by Richard K. Riley*



**Mackenzie Brewer, Miss Pasco County Fair Outstanding Teen; Courtney Graham, Miss Pasco County; and Sally Campbell of Sallybrating With a Cause were judges for the costume event.**

*Photo by Richard K. Riley*

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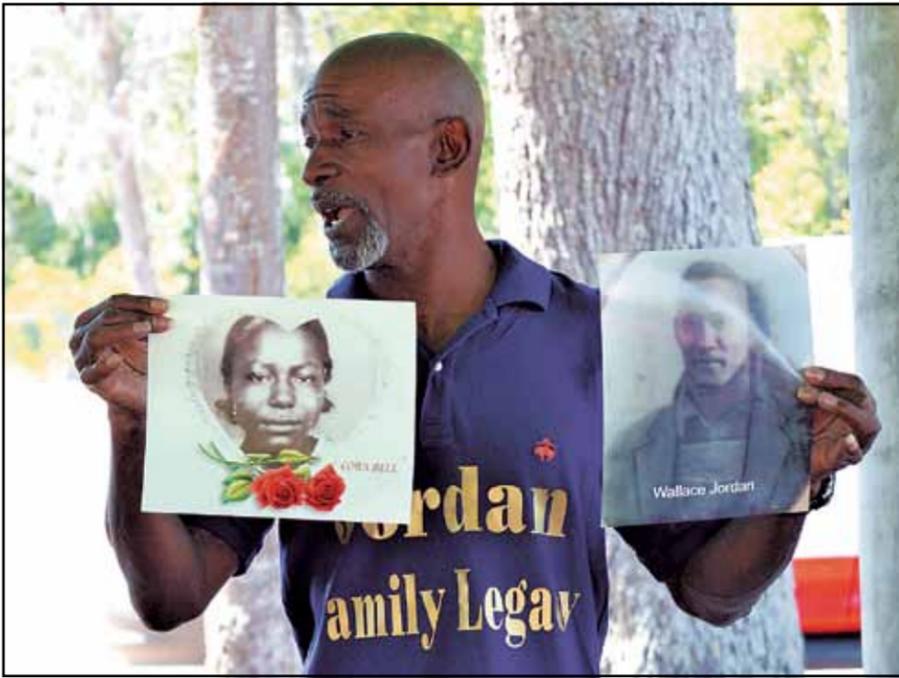
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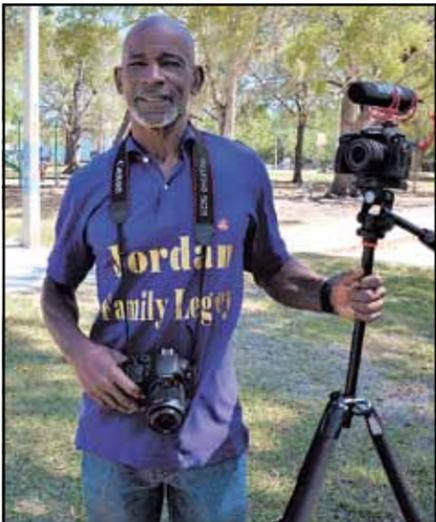
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'This is us,' Frank Burns reminded his beloved family as he presented pictures of Wallace Jordan and his wife, Cora Bell. 'This is where we come from. This is who we are.'

**Jordan • Continued from Page 1A**

his grandfather's life and tragic death. "I was compelled by the stories that I'd heard from my mother and others in our neighborhood about the brutality that happened to my grandfather," Burns explained. "His death has been a tremendous burden on our entire family." Burns' film will depict the life and death of his grandfather, reenacted by a small cast of actors and a handful of Jordan family members. A few of the film's actors also attended the Legacy Day, including Stephanie D. Sanders, who portrayed Jordan's sister-in-law, Lottie. Over the years, there has been much speculation as to why such a heinous crime befell Jordan. The prevailing theory states Jordan merely gazed at a white woman and suffered the consequences.



Former Lacoochee resident Frank Burns plans to enter his completed work in numerous festivals. He also wishes to send a copy to the FBI in hopes they can help shed some light on this unsolved homicide.

His death continues to affect his family today.

"All of my life I've been told that my father was dragged out of the house, beaten, lynched, and then left on the railroad tracks," said Wilma Jordan, one of 12 children that Wallace left behind in the wake of his death. "It tore my family up. It's still torn up."

"Once Frank had told me a little bit more about his family, I just thought that it would be such an incredible thing to tell that story," said Sanders. "I've never known anyone directly who had experienced something like that, and so close to home."

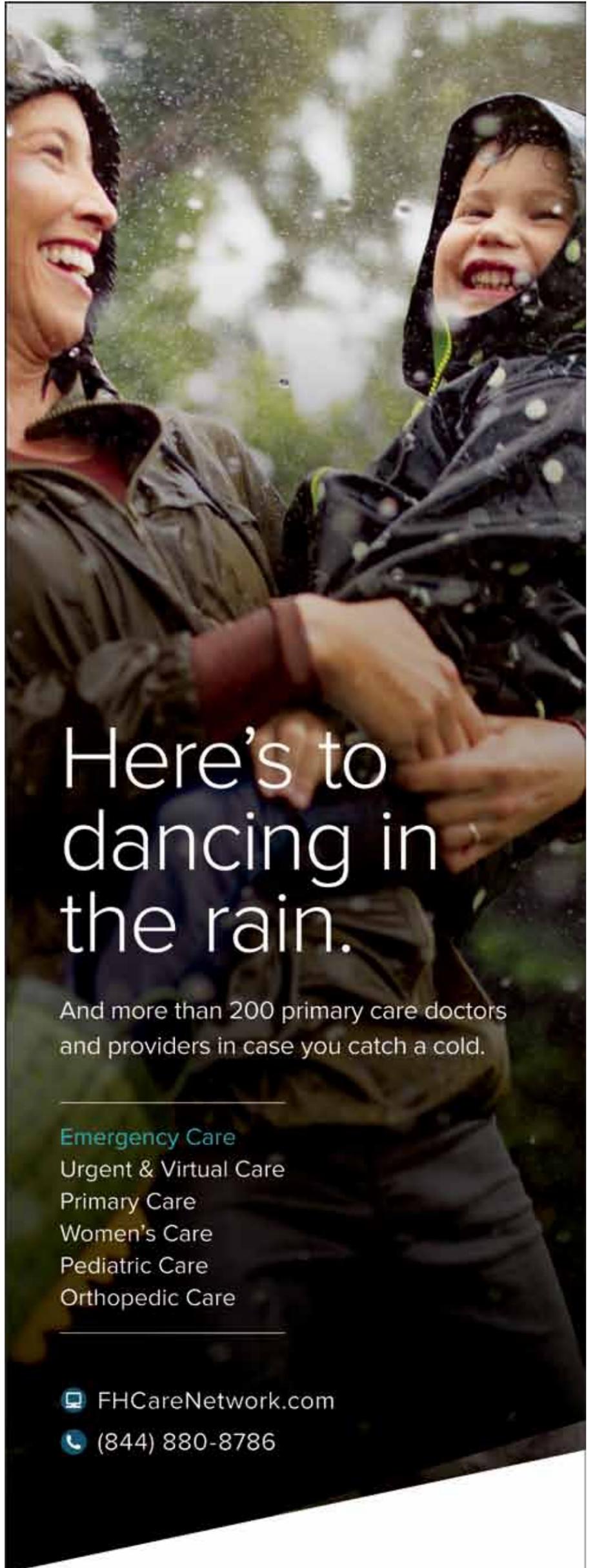
The Legacy Day began with a special blessing of the family, followed by a brief reflection on Jordan's equally brief life. Burns was then awarded a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, an honor he shared with the other members of his family. The document was signed by U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and presented by members of the African American Club of Pasco.

"[His death] hurts a lot because it is a part of my life that I'll never know," said Loretta Burns, Jordan's granddaughter. "I never knew my grandfather. Sometimes I wonder what it would feel like to be in his embrace or just to hear his voice."

The Wallace Jordan Legacy Day concluded with members of the family releasing an assortment of balloons into the wind from the very spot where Jordan fell.

"We had six gold balloons for his six sons, six purple balloons for his six daughters, and two balloons for each set of grandparents," explained Burns. "One red balloon will also be released on behalf of the blood that he shed."

Burns hopes that his retelling of his grandfather's legacy will help bring some long-sought closure to the family that Wallace Jordan left behind.



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# Women Enjoy Habitat Project

*Labor Of Love  
Now In Its 11th Year*

by **Keri McAlpine**

Good vibes were radiating from the volunteers participating in last weekend's Women Build, with all donning smiling faces amid the clattering of hammering and buzzing of saws. The two-day build event is organized in early spring each year for Habitat of East and Central Pasco County.

This year's 11th annual Women Build was held Friday and Saturday at 38414 Roosevelt Ave.

The number of volunteers topped last year's total for both days, as women signed up individually or through local clubs including the Lake Jovita and Dade City Woman's Clubs. Teams from Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, San Antonio Lumber, the Habitat RV Caravaners; doctors' offices and law firms were also represented.

The Women Build began with a circle prayer led by a



After a morning of work, fitness instructor Kim Womack gives participants an opportunity to exercise and stretch before lunch.

local pastor, followed by a safety briefing.

Set up with hard hats and protective eyewear, women were split up into teams set with specific tasks. Some were responsible for hammering nails to secure the frame of the house while others were set up with an electric saw for securing doorframes.

Jere Ferguson of the local Habitat said it doesn't always happen, but the goal of the two-day Women Build is to have all four exterior walls built and up by the end of the second day.

"They're working really hard," Ferguson said. "It's always a fun event for us and it gets the community ready for the summer."

Cathy Burcar was volunteering on Friday for her first Women Build, which she signed up for through the Lake Jovita Woman's Club. She could be seen smiling and chatting with other women while taking a break from hammering nails into wooden frames.

"It's hard work, but it's fun. Pounding nails, you don't realize how much effort you've got to put into it," she said. "I have a coworker at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills who has applied for a Habitat for Humanity house. So, I kind of have her in the back of my mind when I'm doing this. When her house comes along we'll go build hers, too."

Experience in construction is not necessary to participate, but some women have built up construction knowledge from participating in the Women Build for years.

Lisa Knous-Green has been participating in Women Builds for 11 years and loves the comradery of the female-centered event.

"It's a lot of fun because these women who have never worked like this they get satisfaction," she said. "I have 10 brothers and I grew up on a farm, so I had a little bit of experience. Over the 11 years I really have learned a lot more than I knew before. But you can start without anything. It's an easy thing to pick up and help out with."

A homeowner is not yet assigned to the Roosevelt Avenue home, but future homeowners who are in the application process and are still earning their sweat equity hours with Habitat were on site off and on throughout the event.

"It's not a handout but it's a hand up because a homeowner also has to help with the houses ... in the



**Virnalisse Rodriguez, who has volunteered for Habitat sites as far as Baltimore, drills holes in the wall sill prior to its raising,**

*Photos by Richard K. Riley*

areas that need it the worst, Habitat steps in and helps out," Knous-Green said.

The Roosevelt home is the third house this year and 148th total to be built through Habitat of East and Central Pasco.

Ferguson said they still have four houses that need to be built before it gets too hot.

"We definitely need volunteers for construction. Once the snowbirds leave we lose 80 percent of our volunteers," Ferguson said.

Visit [www.ephahabitat.org/main](http://www.ephahabitat.org/main) for information on Habitat and how to volunteer.

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