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Table Set For Boots And BBQ

Children Who Benefit From Fundraiser Will Entertain

Story and photos by **Keri McAlpine**

Every year the Boots and BBQ fundraiser pulls in thousands for the Lewis Abraham Boys and Girls Club in Lacochee. As the club's main fundraising event each year, the money raised from the dinner and auction on May 4 will go directly to the Lacochee club to help offset daily operating costs. This year's event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Dan Cannon Auditorium.

Club board member Ron Deese said last year's BBQ raised a record high of

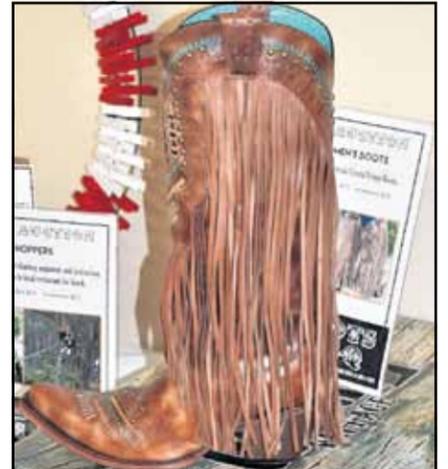
more than \$70,000 since its inception 14 years ago, but the event typically brings in an average of \$30,000.

"We want to encourage people to come out and have a really great time while supporting the boys and girls club in Lacochee," said Jennifer Pearson Yingling, director of annual giving for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay.

The usual barbecue dinner with all the fixin's will be served, featuring the "world famous" grits and macaroni and cheese made by Lacochee club director Cassie Coleman. This year's dinner will be served at multiple food stations, as opposed to its usual banquet style serving, Yingling said.

The May 4 fundraiser will eliminate

Boots • Continued on Page 5A



A fashionable pair of boots was one of the hot ticket silent auction items at last year's Boots and BBQ fundraiser event.

First National Bank Expands West

Story and photos by **Keri McAlpine**



First National Bank of Pasco President and CEO Steve Hickman thanks the crowd for attending the April 20 ground breaking ceremony for the bank's newest branch, set to open in October.

More than 20 golden shovels and white hard hats were lined up in an empty field in Lutz last week, waiting patiently to get a project started. First National Bank of Pasco, originally founded 30 years ago, has been operating out of three locations in the Dade City and Zephyrhills areas. The bank's newest branch location in Lutz is the first expansion in 25 years.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held with FNBP's board members, employees and other local figures on April 20 at its future location at 23613 S.R. 54.

"This is our first opportunity to grow the bank with a new branch in 25 years," said President and CEO Steve Hickman, a statement that was followed by cheers from the observing crowd. "Now we're moving further west into this area and we couldn't be more excited about that."

The ceremony also revealed the bank's new logo. The Dade City and Zephyrhills stores have also seen a recent redesign in the past several months.

"It's really a new era for our bank. So, it's a whole new brand, a whole new strategy and we can't be more excited than to start it right here," Hickman said.

Everyone partaking in the ceremony introduced

Bank • Continued on Page 6A

National Day Of Prayer Next Week

by **Joe Potter**

National Day of Prayer observances will be held in Dade City and San Antonio on May 4.

The pastors of eight area churches will gather on the north side of the Historic Pasco County Courthouse during the Dade City observance.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hour-long event that will open at 8 a.m. with worship music and conclude with the singing of "God Bless America," said Monty Montieth of San Antonio.

Prayer • Continued on Page 8A



INSIDE: Pg. 3A - Owens Leaving Dade City Pg. 9A - Sunrise Holds Tea Reception Pg. 1B - Pasco Seniors Flatten Fivay
Pg. 8A - Local Runs Boston Marathon Pg. 1B - Pasco Takes Sumter To Limit Pg. 1B - Girls Win Tennis Regionals

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Dade City Police Report

Persistence Does Not Always Equal Valor

James E. Dees, 33, of 37544 Howard Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on April 15 on charges of aggravated domestic battery – serious injuries and false imprisonment - adult. Dees and the victim became involved in a verbal dispute at their residence over food. Dees calmed down but said the victim would have to go to the store with him. Dees allegedly kept her from getting out of the truck by keeping the doors locked while he was driving. Dees allegedly grabbed the victim by the hair and forced her to stay inside



the truck when he stopped at a red light. She had asked several times to be allowed to get out of the truck. Dees then allegedly drove to various locations in Dade City and Pasco and Hernando counties. Dees exited the truck in Hernando County and the victim jumped into the driver's seat and drove away. Dees jumped into a trailer that the truck was towing and the victim drove to the former location of the Dade City Police Department on Pasco Avenue. After she got out of the truck, Dees allegedly struck her in the right arm with a piece of metal, causing her to have slight red- dening. Also, her clothes were dirty and she had minor injuries on her hand that

appeared as if she had been in a fight. Dees was arrested and taken to the Pasco County Jail where he was also being held on three active Pasco County warrants for failure to appear – petit theft, resisting a merchant and violation of probation.

Jahiro Josue Funez-Linare, 19, of 39211 Fifth Ave., Zephyrhills, was arrested by Dade City police on April 18 on a charge of fleeing to elude police. Funez-Linare allegedly tried to evade an officer who was trying to stop him by disregarding the police car's emergency lights and siren, running stop signs, driving at excessive speeds and driving in a reckless manner. He reportedly abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. Funez-Linare was arrested after he and the owner of the vehicle came to the police department to claim it. He admitted post Miranda that he was driving the vehicle while police were pursuing it.

Ruby Tucker Adams, 79, of 38720 Island Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on April 21 on a charge of disorderly intoxication. Contact was made with Adams in a public right of way at Tuskegee Avenue and Railroad Street. She was told she was not allowed to drink alcohol in public and an officer asked Adams to give them the bottle from which she had been drinking. She reportedly sat the bottle down, picked up her walking cane, and told police to "reach for it." She allegedly drew the

cane back to swing it at the officer when they reached for the bottle. When the officer grabbed the cane, Adams allegedly grabbed the officer.

Donald Richard Fudge, 67, of 12405 Dade City Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on April 21 on a charge of trespass after warning. Fudge allegedly entered Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301, after having been trespassed from the business in August 2016. He was processed and released and was advised that he was still trespassed from Walmart.

Miguel Angel Valdiva-Antonio, 37, of 38101 Willingham Drive, Lot 11, was arrested by Dade City police on April 7 and charged with driving without a valid driver's license. Police stopped a Jeep the defendant was driving because of an equipment violation. He reportedly told police he has been in the United States since 2004 and he had never obtained a driver's license. He was issued a citation and ordered to appear in court.

Jennifer Renea Self, 46, of Spring Hill, was apprehended by Dade City police on April 19 on a Pasco County warrant charging her with failure to appear. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail after the warrant was 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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Owens Leaving Dade City

City Attorney Retires, New Legal Firm Hired

Story and photos by Joe Potter

Dade City has hired the Vose Law Firm of Winter Haven to provide legal services as its longtime city attorney prepares to retire.

Karla S. Owens gave the city 60 days notice in late February that she would be resigning this Friday. Owens has been city attorney for the past 13 years. The Dade City job is part-time and Owens is now working fulltime for the City of Palmetto, where she and her family reside.

Nancy Stuparich, a partner in the Vose Law Firm, attended Tuesday's commission meeting. Stuparich is one of three members of Vose who will be

working for Dade City on a contract basis. Commissioner Nicole Deese Newlon, an attorney herself, moved that some changes be made to the preliminary contract that Owens had negotiated with Vose on the city's behalf. Commissioner Scott Black seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Owens' last day is April 28 and Vose began providing services to the city on Wednesday.

"This is a good deal," Owens said, "because the city will get the services of three attorneys at the price of one."

Commissioners presented Owens with a plaque recognizing her for her years of service to the city.



During Tuesday's regular meeting, City Commissioners presented Rodney C. Cox Elementary School Principal Claudia Steinacker with a proclamation marking the school's 90th anniversary.



City Commissioners recognized Karla Owens during Tuesday's meeting for her 13 years of service as city attorney.

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East Pasco Events

April 27 – Veteran Benefits Information – Attention all veterans. An informational meeting on VA benefits will be held at the American Legion Post #15 at 37745 Church Ave. at 6 p.m. Learn about your benefits and how to file a claim. There will be service officers from both the American Legion and the DAV there to set up appointments and assist you in filing a claim.

April 29 – Lacochee 5k School Color Run – This annual fundraising event for community families will benefit the school by helping to provide field trips, update technology, purchase specific classroom materials and provide staff incentives. Held from 9-11 a.m. at 38815 Cummer Road in Lacochee. Contact Latoya Jordan at (352) 524-5600 or ljordan@pasco.k12.fl.us for information.

April 29 – Free Diabetic Education Class – If you were recently diagnosed with diabetes or struggles with managing your diabetes, then this certified education class will help you. Presented in a group setting by Bayfront Health Medical Group. Held from 10-11 a.m. at 13100 Fort King Road, Medical Plaza I, Classroom 108. Call (352) 567-6763 for information or to reserve your space.

April 29 – Dade City Symphony – A free performance by the Dade City Symphony, held at the Pasco Middle School auditorium, 13925 15th St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.dadecitysymphony.com for information.

April 29 – Coach Butto Golf Tournament – The first ever Coach Butto golf tournament benefitting the Rodney B. Cox Elementary School P.E. program will be held at the Abbey Course in Saint Leo, 33640 S.R. 52. Cost is \$40 per person with a \$10 add on for a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Call (813) 713-6144 for information.

April 30 – Open House – Holy Name Monastery will be holding an open house for the new retreat wing from 2-4 p.m. at 12138 Wichers Road in St. Leo, just south of State Road 52. Refreshments will be served.

May 3 – Open House and Ribbon Cutting – Happy's Home Centers Inc. will be holding an open house from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. with a ribbon cutting at 12:30 p.m. at 12870 U.S. 301.

May 4 – National Day of Prayer – Come by the historic Dade City courthouse square for a special prayer service starting at 6 p.m.

May 4 – Boots and BBQ – Join us for a boot-scootin' good time at the Dan Cannon Auditorium from 6-9 p.m., benefitting the Lewis Abraham Lacochee Boys & Girls Club. Live entertainment, delicious BBQ with all the fixin's and an auction will be featured. Put on your best duds and support the youth. Tickets start at \$75. Contact Jennifer at jyngling@bgctampa.org or call (813) 769-7536 for information.

May 5 – First Friday – Join the Dade City Merchants in historic downtown Dade City for First Friday, held every month from 5-9 p.m. First Friday is a family night where you'll meet neighbors, meet new friends, listen to multiple musicians and can dine in local restaurants. Over 20 retail stores will be open during the extended hours, many serving light refreshments. Visit the Dade City Merchants' Association Facebook page for information.

May 6 – Dade City Little League Golf Scramble – Come support the Dade City Little League, have fun golfing, win prizes and more. Registration deadline is May 4. Scramble starts at 1 p.m. at the Abbey Golf Course, 33640 S.R. 52 in San Antonio. Individual registration is \$30 or \$150 for a team. Call (813) 778-2342 or (352) 588-2016 for information. Sponsorship opportunities available.

May 6 – Women Build – Local women are invited to grab their hammers and volunteer during Habitat for Humanity's annual Women Build Week. Men are also welcome. No construction skills or tools are necessary. To volunteer or donate to this project, please contact (352) 567-1444, volunteer@habitatpasco.org or visit www.HabitatPasco.org. Held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 37812 Beth Street in Dade City. Pre-registration required.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

There's No Place Like Home

I think there are many advantages growing up in a small town. My extended family was just about all of east Pasco County. When you did something good most of the community knew about it and when you did something bad they knew about that, too. Looking back I think it has made me a better person.

I think living in a small town makes you a more accountable person. I am not saying I was a saint during my earlier years. Every now and then I had my share of problems and I was warned more than once from members of the community who really cared about me. My mom and dad were very involved and they knew everybody and everybody knew them.

When I was in school they still had corporal punishment. Getting called out of class and asked to report to the principal's office or the dean of boys was not usually a good experience. I remember once Stanley Kendrick, the dean of boys, called me to his office. I can't remember what I did wrong but he gave me two options. The first option was to take three whacks with a custom wood paddle that he proudly displayed on his wall. If I didn't like that choice the second option was to call my dad. I opted for the first option. I would rather take the punishment at school

because if my mom and dad found out that I couldn't behave for a few hours while at school the punishment could have been worse. I am not talking about time out in my room and there was no safe zone for me to go to.

Another time one of my best friends Kirk DuPree from Dade City and I decided to race from Dade City to the overpass bridge in Zephyrhills. Kirk beat me at the last second but the Zephyrhills Police Department was on our tail. Kirk decided to turn and I went straight down U.S. 301. The police followed Kirk. They had a law back then that if law enforcement lost sight of your taillights they couldn't pull you over. I decided to circle around and saw Kirk was pulled over so I decided to stop and run my mouth. The officer told me to leave and I kept it up until I ended up at the police station. Police Chief Bill Eiland greeted me and after getting a stern lecture and warning he did call my dad. That was not the first time I was warned. You can pretty much guess the rest of the story.

I love living in this area and appreciate all of my friends, many of whom are lifetime ones I still see everywhere. I guess you could say we are all related to each other as citizens of these wonderful communities. With social media we can really stay in touch and when we hear that one of us is hurt or in trouble we all try and rally around them.

When someone is in need we step up to the plate. When somebody needs prayer we pray.

When we talk about a family reunion it is usually at Bulldog Stadium in Zephyrhills or W.F. Edwards Stadium in Dade City on a Friday night. What a great place to see hundreds if not thousands of our friends.

East Pasco County has certainly grown and continues to grow but the small hometown feeling can still be found. That's one thing I hope never changes.

BBQ Restaurant On Track

Staff Report

City staff members are negotiating with Greg Pennington who is interested in opening a new barbecue restaurant in the historic train depot.

Pennington's company, Backyard BBQ, has offered to pay \$700 a month to rent the depot at 14218 U.S. Highway 98 Bypass.

The depot was built in 1912 by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (now CSX) and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 15, 1994.

Its location makes it an ideal spot for an eatery, Pennington said.

Greg and Sharon Pennington currently operate a successful barbecue truck locally.

Pennington was the only person who responded to a request for proposals the

city advertised to see what prospective tenants might be interested in renting the building.

The depot has been vacant for more than a year. It had housed part of the city's governmental services while the new municipal complex was being built.

Prior to that, Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco County had leased space there.

Pennington told city commissioners on April 11 that the smokers he uses for his barbecue would be placed outside the building. It is anticipated it would take six weeks for him to get the restaurant up and running.

Pennington plans to offer other items besides barbecue, including full-service breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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Boots • Continued from Page 1A

live entertainment as the acoustics in the venue have made it difficult for guests to talk and mingle, Yingling said.

Instead, children from the Lacochee club will attend the event for the first time ever to perform routines and songs they have choreographed.

Yingling said it will be a special evening because even though many of the event's guests and donators have been to or toured the club, they may not have gotten a good sense of whom it is they're helping.

"I think they're [the children] excited ... I can't say this enough - they are hands down some of the best kids I've worked with in my 20 years working with the Boys and Girls Club," she said. "I am over the moon excited that we're going to, for the first time, have the opportunity for our guests to have a little club experience."

About 80 children attend the club daily



Members of the Pasco Sheriff's Mounted Posse serving BBQ and all the fixings to hungry guests at last year's Boots and BBQ event.

for after school programs and meals, according to Lacochee club director Cassie Coleman. Not only are organizers excited for the guests to meet the children, but for the children to see and meet those who make their club experience possible.

"They have ownership in their Boys

and Girls Club. They're not naive to the fact that people are supporting it. We talk to them about it," Yingling said. "We think it's important to tell the kids that somebody has bought into you so we need you to buy in to a great future with opportunities."

In addition to the children performing on stage, artwork from the children will be on display.

After their performances, kids will be taken home for bed time, given it will be a school night.

A DJ will be set up to provide music after the children have performed. Raffles, chance games and 50/50s will also be featured for everyone who's feeling lucky.

Yingling said Monday she is receiving an influx of donated auction items, both for the silent and live auctions that will take place during the three-hour event. Auction items are still being accepted and sponsorship opportunities remain available.

Tickets this year are limited but still available for \$75 per individual or \$100 for a pair.

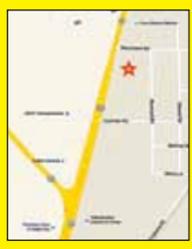
Contact Yingling at (813) 785-3496 or jyingling@bgctampa.org for information on tickets, auction items or sponsorships.

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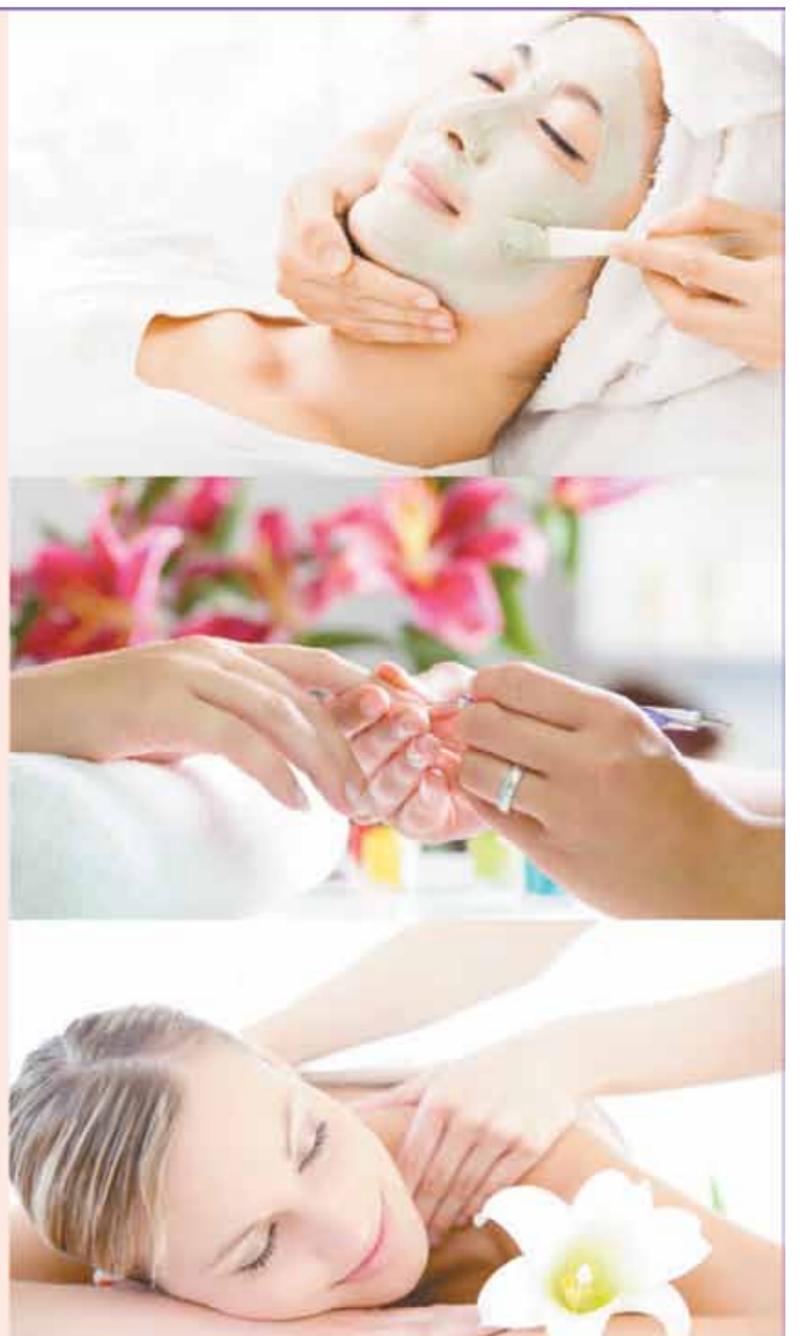
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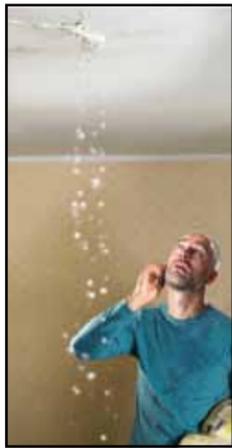
Behind the golden shovels, from left, stand FNBP VP Dwight Carson, FNBP Lutz Branch Manager Kathleen Balthazard, FNBP EVP Mike Mashke, FNBP Board Member John Henson, Pasco County Clerk of the Court and Comptroller Paula O'Neill, Diaz Fritz VP Chris Hoard, Diaz Fritz VP Tom Connella, Diaz Fritz Project Manager Wayne Ismark, Chairman Pasco County Board of County Commissioners Mike Moore, FNBP Project Manager Park Meyers, FNBP Board Chairman AP Gibbs, Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce Representative David Gainer, Diaz Fritz CEO Del Diaz, FNBP Board Vice Chairman Paul Midili, FNBP Board Member Chris Black, Wesley Chapel Chamber Executive Director Hope Allen, FNBP Board Member Glen Greenfelder, FNBP Board Member Ernest Peeples, FNBP Board Member Marlene Mann, FNBP CFO Kerry Westbrook and FNBP President/CEO Steven Hickman.



More than 20 golden shovels lined up at the first groundbreaking ceremony for First National Bank of Pasco in 25 years, held in Lutz on April 20.

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Bank • Continued from Page 1A

themselves and their relationship with the bank. Board members included those who have been around since the bank's formation in 1986 and one who had only been a member for three hours following the board's annual meeting held just before the groundbreaking ceremony.

In addition to FNBP associates, golden shovel holders included county employees, central Pasco oriented organization members and members of Diaz Fritz Group General Contractors, who will be constructing the bank.

"Welcome to central Pasco. We appreciate you being here," said Mike Moore, chairman of the Pasco County board of county commissioners. "It's great to see a small business of Pasco County thrive as yours has and it's great to see you staying within the county as your first expansion in 25 years."

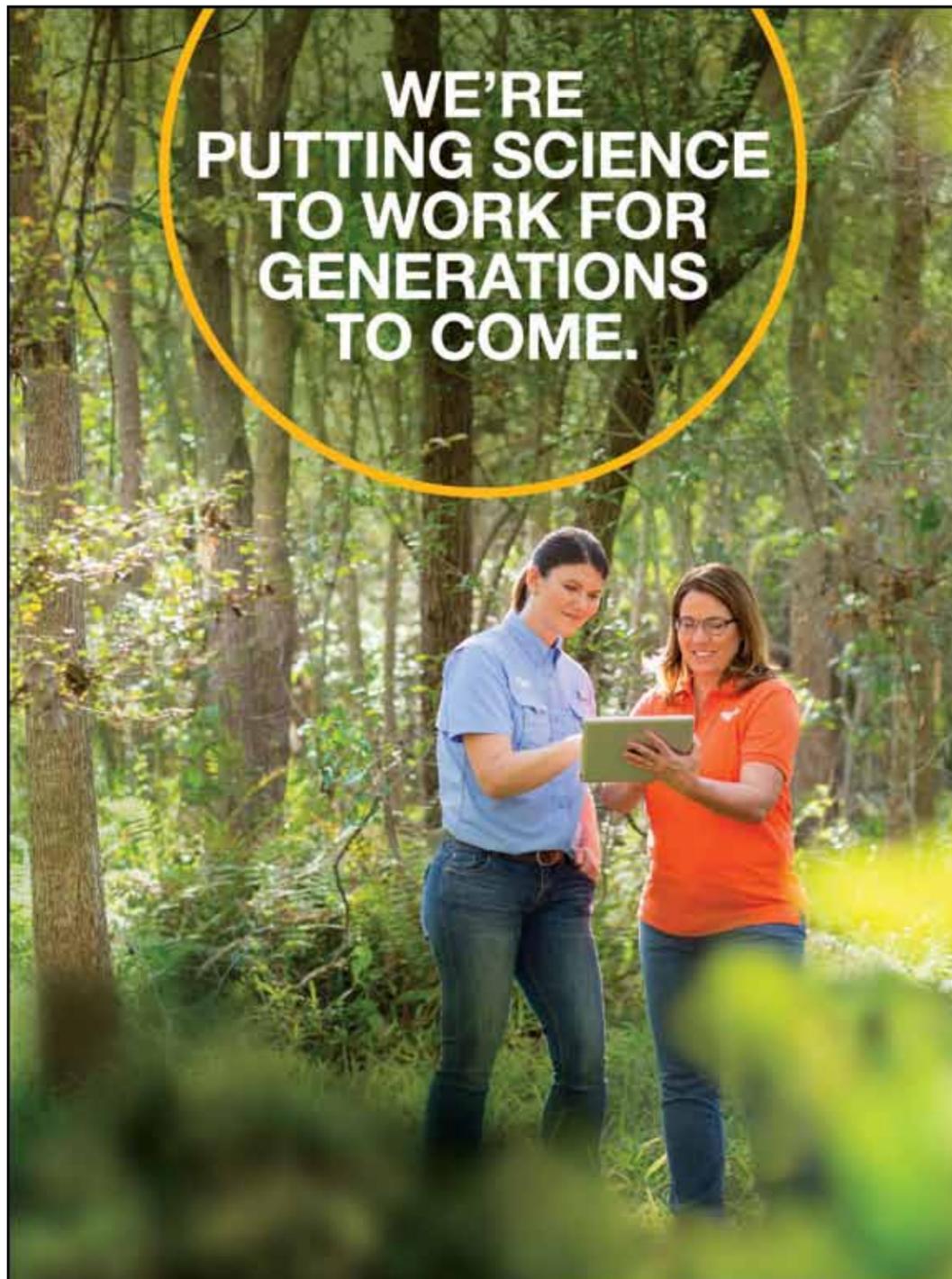
Hickman said construction on the 3,000-square foot facility is to start immediately, shooting for a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 1 this year.

After serving four years as a customer service

representative, FNBP's own Kathleen Balthazard was promoted to the role of area sales manager and will be the community liaison for the new branch.

"It's exciting to be a part of something so new in our industry," Balthazard said in a press release.

"Many banks are reaching out to millennials, but few have redesigned their interiors and their product offerings to have an even greater appeal among this demographic. I can't wait to step through the doors."



Every day, Mosaic puts science to work right here in our community. Our reclamation team and ecologists use the latest technology and scientific methods to reclaim formerly mined lands, creating natural corridors for native wildlife and even reviving streams that haven't existed for over a century. As a global leader in reclamation ecology, Mosaic is pioneering new environmental approaches to create vital habitats and land uses for future generations — both ours and nature's. Mosaic ecologists Laura and Michelle work to reclaim land like the perennial stream at Maron Run that provides habitat and food supplies for a diverse group of water-dependent species.

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





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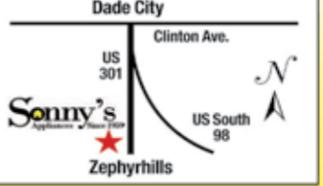
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'There Is Nothing Like It'

Late Start Renews Spirit Of Marathon Man

by **Dave Walters**

Dean Gray took off from the starting line of a race he couldn't imagine ever running but there he was, with nearly 30,000 others, running the Boston Marathon.

"It was unreal. I had friends who went and told me their experiences. You don't realize what you're getting into until you get there. You are just around so many people with so much enthusiasm toward running and racing.



Gray acknowledged even though the Boston Marathon medal is just metal and fabric, it represents the tradition, memories and friendships from his journey to the marathon. *Photos Provided*

"There is nothing like it."

Gray, 58 hasn't been training for the Boston Marathon for years; heck, he's only been actively running for a little more than a year.

He stepped up to the start line wearing bib number 17927, which coincided with his qualifying time. He came across the historic finish line at 6,443 in 3:27:44.

"People lined the roads from start to finish," Gray said. "It is the best feeling in the world to finish. You have to push yourself. When you see the finish line, you put your head down and go."

He made sure he shared his experience with his No. 1 fan and daughter, Brittany, who served as his cheerleader.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life and it was incredible to share that with her," Gray said.

He was looking for something to do to get in better shape and once he experienced his first 'runner's high,' he was hooked.

"I ran my first race and I got third place," Gray said. "I could not believe how great I felt to be competitive again."

He ran his first marathon at Walt Disney World with the hope of qualifying for Boston.

"If I'm running, I might as well have a goal," Gray joked.



Dean Gray finished at 3:27:44 in the 26.2-mile Boston Marathon on April 17.

But he didn't reach his goal. He finished the Disney race just past 4 hours and 30 minutes. He needed a time of 3 hours

and 40 minutes. He needed to shave 50 minutes from his time to make the historic Boston Marathon.

Then his life changed when he met 70-year-old Albert Wieringa, a veteran of five Boston Marathons.

Wieringa became Gray's coach and in a matter of 11 weeks, whipping him into shape to tackle a qualifying marathon in Wisconsin. The training worked, Gray's finish earned him a spot at the world's oldest marathon.

Wieringa was on the line as well and went on to win his age group coming across the line just two minutes behind Gray.

"New York is next," Gray said. "I'm happy with my performance, but I'm never satisfied. I will do Boston again and then New York."

Gray had plenty of support from his family along with Anytime Fitness in Dade City, West Florida Y Runner's Club, Fitniche Wiregrass and Southern Muscle.

"Couldn't have done it with support," Gray said. "Thanks to everyone."

Prayer • Continued from Page 1A

The pastors will be seated and rise to pray when their names are announced. Each prayer will be on a different topic and will last five minutes or less, Montieth said.

The participating churches include Heritage Bible Church, New River Church, Victorious Life Church, First Baptist Church of Dade City, New Walk Church, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, Living Waters United Church and the Glorious Church of God in Christ.

"The goal is to unify everybody and get as many denominations involved as possible," Montieth said.

"For Your Great Name's Sake" is the theme of San Antonio's first-ever national prayer day. It will be held from 9-10 a.m. at the San Ann Community Park at 12202 Main St.

According to Pastor Santiago Huron of Heritage Bible Church, the city's commissioners will be welcomed to open the program. The pastor's family will sing the Star-Spangled Banner.

Prayers will be offered for the government, church, family, the unborn, members of the U.S. military, and for schools and first responders.

Participants will include Joel Walters of The Bible Fellowship; Mike Holm of Calvary Chapel of Tampa; Dan Wade, Pete and Sue Hopping, Ana Huron, Dale Cook, Denise Fitzgerald and Brad Stevens of San Antonio Community Church; and Willie Roberts of Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

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Tea Reception Spreads Awareness

Sunrise Continues Conversation on Sexual Abuse

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

Community members gathered in their afternoon best last Thursday for a slightly unconventional tea party. Rather than focusing on normal day-to-day chatter, Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic and Sexual Violence Center used the tea and conversation to discuss what can sometimes be a difficult topic: sexual assault.

The aptly named Tea(L) and Crumpets event was held as one of the center's last events for sexual assault awareness month, which is represented by the color teal, often in the form of a ribbon. Chocolate teal ribbon candy sticks represented the cause as everyone's parting gift, going along with the teal outfits worn by almost all of the near 50 guests.

Teal tablecloths were home to whimsical, garden-themed centerpieces, created

by members of the Dade City Woman's Club, who also donated their building for the event. Angel's Tea Room in Dade City provided fresh tea and pots for pouring. After tea and brunch was served, Sunrise's Director of Outreach Amanda Markowitz and Green Dot Coordinator Aubrey Hall welcomed the guests, explaining how the event would proceed.

A Sunrise staff member was present at each table in the room to help guide conversation about sexual assault.

The event also focused on the services provided by Sunrise, and ways to make those services more available and known throughout the community.

After the table "breakout sessions," the conversation opened to the room when the moderators asked everyone to name examples of how individuals and Sunrise as a whole can help reach more people.

"We have a lot of survivors ... here

today, and they all already support Sunrise. So, we're hoping to get some folks in who don't know a lot about Sunrise so we can make sure they know where they can go if they have a family member or friend who's in trouble," said event organizer Vicki Wiggins.

Guests suggested billboards, being present at community events and different education opportunities with schools, teachers and churches. Members of local clubs and organizations offered to host speakers from Sunrise as well as provide free vendor space at upcoming events.

Once tea time cooled down, a special centerpiece made by Laurie Padavan was raffled off to a lucky winner.

Call Sunrise of Pasco's administrative office at (352) 567-1681 for information, how to get involved or volunteer. A 24-hour help hotline can be reached by calling (352) 521-3120.



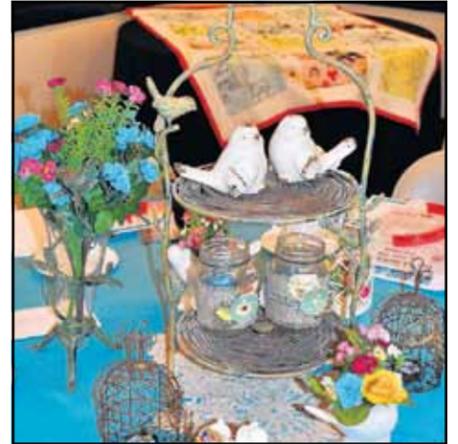
A whimsical centerpiece created by Laurie Padavan was auctioned off at the end of Sunrise's Tea(l) and Crumpets event.



Decade-old quilts made by residents of the Sunrise shelter were cleaned and brought out from storage and displayed at last week's sexual assault awareness event.



A table of community members and Sunrise employees enjoying tea and crumpets at Sunrise's event for sexual assault awareness month. Shown, from left, are Rebecca O'Brien, Judi Fisher, Samantha Sullivan, Rose Davi and Sandra Larios.



Members of the Dade City Woman's Club got creative to make tea party and floral themed centerpieces for Sunrise of Pasco's event, which aimed to create awareness of their services.



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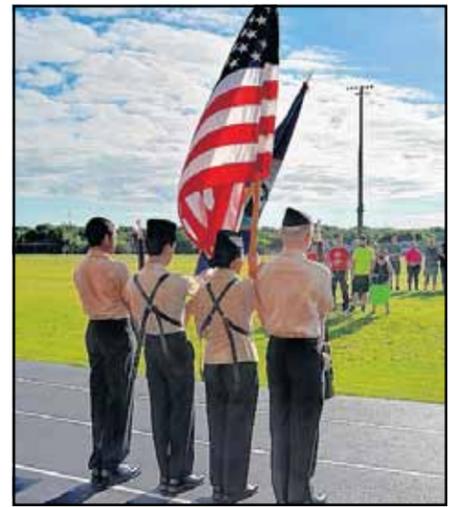


Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco and Special Olympian John Algood follow Special Olympian Andres Torres as the Torch Run began at the Pasco High School Track early Tuesday morning.
Photos by Richard K. Riley

Community Joins Law Enforcement For Torch Run

Annual Event Honors Special Olympics

Members of different branches of county law enforcement gathered at Pasco High School early Tuesday for the 2017 Law Enforcement Torch Run. The annual event welcomed community members to run or walk alongside approximately 50 Sheriff's Office employees, firefighters and other law enforcement officers in honor of the Florida Special Olympics. Participants raced from Pasco High School for 2.3 miles to the historic courthouse downtown. The Flame of Hope, carried by a special Olympian during the run, is passed on to different Torch Runs across the state, leading up to the opening ceremony of Florida's annual State Summer Games, which will be held in Lake Buena Vista starting May 19.



Members of the Pasco High School NJROTC Honor Guard present the colors on Tuesday at the start of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

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