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Families Evicted From Lazy Breeze

Owner Had Months To Clean Up Mobile Home Park

Story and photo by **Joe Potter**



Several dilapidated mobile homes in Lazy Breeze Mobile Home Park look like they've been abandoned for some time.

Nine families residing at Lazy Breeze Mobile Home and RV Park were notified on June 15 that they must vacate their trailers by June 30.

The Pasco County park is located at 38101 Willingham Drive and is owned by Rob and Stacy Works.

Rob Works hand-delivered the eviction notices to the families and mailed copies of the notices to their addresses.

The eviction notices said the landlord may be entitled to sue any resident who isn't out by July 1 for double rent, possession and all costs and attorneys, and/or all legal fees, unless keys are returned and the premises are vacated and all

Evictions • Continued on Page 6A

Three Locals Competing For Miss Florida

Courtney Graham, Katy Sartain, Courtney Nathe Vie For Title

by **Keri McAlpine**

After a year of pageants, appearances and performances, beauty queens from across the state will soon convene in Lakeland for the 2017 Miss Florida pageant.

Courtney Graham, Miss Gainesville; Katy Sartain, Miss Orlando; and Courtney Nathe, Miss Largo, who are all from the Dade City area, will take the stage together hoping to win the crown.

Nathe and Sartain have previously



Courtney Graham



Katy Sartain



Courtney Nathe

Pageant • Continued on Page 8A

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Stars And Stripes Honored At Ceremony

Pasco County Celebrates Flag Day

Story and photos by **Emily Kochanski**



Nearly 300 flags were collected for disposal on Flag Day last week, prompting members of the American Legion to consider holding a second burning ceremony later in the year.

Every year, Flag Day is honored to recognize the history behind the iconic stars and stripes of the United States flag. On June 14, members of the American Legion Post #15 in Dade City and American House Zephyrhills honored the flag and all it stands for by engaging locals with some patriotic fanfare.

At 10 a.m., the American Legion invited members of the community to join them in paying tribute to the American flag. County Commissioner Ron Oakley, District 1, city commissioners Jim Shive and Nicole Deese Newlon, and Bob Hatfield from the office of U.S. Rep. Gus

Flags • Continued on Page 9A

INSIDE: Pg. 3A - Meet The Dade City Attorney Pg. 7A - Brick Farmhouse Antiques & Coffee Shop Opens Pg. 1B - Gomez Fighting For Family
Pg. 6A - Local Artist Holds Gallery Show Pg. 1B - Detective Ryan Oakley Receives Award Pg. 1B - Free Summer Lunches Provided

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Dade City Police Report

Woman Charged With Possession Of Crack Cocaine

Danielle M. Forr, 28, of 36624 Thomas Jefferson Road, was arrested by Dade City police on June 10 on charges of possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia and allowing an unauthorized person to drive. Police conducted a traffic stop on a car that had been driven by a person whom they knew did not have a valid driver's license. They had switched drivers and Forr was driving when police stopped the vehicle. She was arrested after reportedly telling police she knew her boyfriend's license was not valid but she let him drive because he was more familiar with the area. Her boyfriend was also detained on the scene. Approximately 1.5 grams of crack cocaine was located inside Forr's purse along with a crack pipe. Post Miranda, she said her drug problem had started up north and that she does have a pill problem. She reportedly added that she does want help with her addiction and that her drug of choice was prescription pills. Forr was booked into the Pasco County Jail and Dorough was released with a criminal citation.



tected coming from the area where they were sitting. When asked if they had been smoking, all three individuals reportedly admitted they had just smoked marijuana. A burnt marijuana cigarillo was discovered sitting on the table. Ficchi allegedly attempted to conceal a small bag containing a white powdery substance as two officers approached him. The substance field-tested positive as .4 grams of cocaine. He was also reportedly found to be in possession of 2.2 grams of marijuana and a metal pipe with marijuana residue, police said. Post Miranda, Ficchi reportedly denied owning the cocaine but admitted the marijuana and pipe belonged to him. Ficchi was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Zhoemy Yoziris Garcia Duran, 25, of 37414 Rose Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on June 5 on a charge of possession of marijuana – more than 20 grams. Duran-Garcia was reportedly sitting with two friends at a park table in Naomi Jones Park, 38122 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., at 11:57 p.m. The park had closed at 10 p.m. An odor of burnt marijuana could be detected coming from the area where they were sitting. When asked if they had been smoking, all three individuals reportedly admitted they had just smoked marijuana. A burnt marijuana cigarillo was discovered sitting on the table. Duran was told during a post-Miranda interview that her car that was parked at Naomi Jones park would be towed. A clear plastic bag containing 36.2 grams of what field-tested positive as marijuana was found underneath the driver's seat during an inventory of the car. Duran



reportedly told police the marijuana was hers and it was for personal consumption. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Miguel Sixtus-Rosales, 20, of 21023 Kensey St., was arrested by Dade City police on June 9 on charges of possession of marijuana and driving while license suspended or revoked – no valid driver's license. Police stopped a car that Sixtus-Rosales was driving because the attached tag was not assigned to that vehicle. A records check determined he had no valid driver's license. He was reportedly found to be in possession of less than two grams of marijuana and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Sharon E. Roberts, 51, of 37215 Suwanee Way, was arrested by Dade City police on June 11 on a charge of aggravated assault and battery. Roberts and the victim were reportedly in a verbal argument that escalated when she allegedly bit the victim on his left hand. She then allegedly grabbed a weapon and pointed it in the victim's direction. Roberts was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



Shauna Richelle Hogue, 37, of Wesley Chapel, was arrested by Dade City police on June 7 on a charge of trespass after warning. She was allegedly sitting in a vehicle in the parking lot in front of 14821 Seventh St. after having been pre-



viously trespassed from that address. She was released after being processed and given a notice to appear in court.

A 14-year-old female Pasco High School student was arrested by Dade City police on May 26 on a charge of disorderly conduct. The student allegedly began cursing at an officer who had been sent to the lunchroom to escort the student to the principal's office for disciplinary action. She also allegedly refused to follow directions when the officer instructed her to go to the principal's office but went in a different direction and had to be redirected. She allegedly put her hands up in an attempt to defeat being redirected and began cursing loudly, attracting attention from staff members and guests. Police eventually had to place her into handcuffs. She was later released to the care of a guardian with a notice to appear.

A 17-year-old male Pasco High Schools student was arrested on May 8 on a charge of possession of marijuana on school grounds. He was allegedly found to be in an unauthorized area (behind the baseball storage building) smoking an unknown product. Officers who approached him reportedly detected an odor consistent with marijuana. The student was reportedly found to be in possession of two Swisher Sweets brand packs which contained a green leafy plant. A field drug test returned positive results for marijuana. He was released to his parent with a notice to appear.

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

Salvatore Louis Ficchi Jr., 27, of 16731 U.S. 301, was arrested by Dade City police on June 5 on charges of possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Ficchi was reportedly sitting with two friends at a table in Naomi Jones Park, 38122 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., at 11:57 p.m. The park had closed at 10 p.m. An odor of burnt marijuana could be de-



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27 YEARS IN THE SAME LOCATION



City Commissioner Scott Black, left, and Police Chief Ray Velboom, right, talk to City Attorney Nancy Ann Stuparich last week. Photo by Richard K. Riley

Meet The Dade City Attorney

Has More Than 30 Years Experience

by Joe Potter

Nancy Ann Stuparich of the Vose Law Firm has been serving as Dade City attorney since April following the resignation of Karla Owens.

The former city attorney took a fulltime position closer to where she lives.

The city attorney's job in Dade City is a part-time position.

Stuparich has been associated with the Winter Park-based Vose Law Firm for nearly one year.

She attends city commission meetings and other city meetings and advises city leaders on legal issues. She will also defend the city in the event anyone files a lawsuit against it.

Stuparich is a Tampa native who graduated a Panther from Plant High School.

It also turns out she is a Seminole and a Gator.

Stuparich earned a bachelor's degree in government and international affairs as well as her master's degrees in urban and regional planning and public administration from Florida State University.

Stuparich earned her law degree at the University of Florida and has gone on to gain more than 30 years' experience as an attorney.

The city put out a request for proposals after Owens resigned, which resulted in the selection of Vose law firm to represent the city.

Florida Highway Patrol Targeting Aggressive Drivers

Passenger vehicles and tractor trailers share Florida's highways every day, but too often aggressive driving habits result in deadly crashes between the two.

The Florida Highway Patrol is conducting a Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks safety campaign through June 29. The campaign is aimed at educating motorists about the dangers of aggressive driving around large trucks and reducing commercial motor vehicle related crashes.

FHP offers these tips for driving around large trucks:

- Stay out of the No Zone: Be aware that large trucks have large blind spots (also known as "No Zones");

- Pass trucks with caution: Pass on the left side for maximum visibility and maintain a constant speed;

- Do not cut trucks off: Be sure to leave plenty of room when you pull in front of a truck. Large trucks simply cannot stop as quickly as cars;

- Practice patience around larger vehicles that are not traveling at the same speed as your vehicle;

- Do not drive distracted: Anything that takes your full attention off the road, even for a second, could be deadly. This includes texting, changing the radio station, talking to passengers and more;

- Dial *FHP (*347) if you witness aggressive or dangerous driving.

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East Pasco Events

June 23 – Eight Secrets to Weight Loss – Held from 1-2 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills' Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Reservations required by calling (813) 779-6476 for this free program.

June 24 – Family Field Day – Held from 12-3 p.m. at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road. Sack races, relay races, bounce houses, face painting, music and food will be featured at this free, family friendly event. Non-perishable foods, clothing, shoes and toiletries will be accepted to support Bright Hope and Sunrise of Pasco County. Call (813) 586-4769 or visit www.IColorMeAbstract.com for information.

June 29 – Guns and Coolers Bash – Hosted by Ducks Unlimited and Al's Famous Pizza, funds raised will go towards wetlands preservation. Doors open at 6 p.m. at 11931 Curley St. in San Antonio. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at the pizza shop. Raffle prizes include six different guns, seven YETI coolers and a Swarovski optic scope. Call Steve at (813) 503-5094 or Heath at (813) 714-3837 for information.

July 4 – Sparklebration – Held at Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52 with gates opening at 4 p.m. Parking is \$5 and entry for adults is \$5. Children 12 and under are free. Live music, watermelon eating contests, food vendors, games and a nighttime fireworks display will be featured. A kids zone offers a \$10 all you can play wristband. Call the Fair office at (352) 567-6678 or visit www.pascocountyfair.com for more information about Sparklebration.

July 8 – Farmers Market – Held in the San Antonio City Park from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Offering fresh produce, hand-crafted wine, yard art, plants, jams and jellies, dog treats, honey and bee products, repurposed glass items, dried herbs and herbal products and baked goods. Hot dogs, popcorn, coffee and sodas available for purchase. Vendor spaces are available for \$25. Contact Winnie Burke at (352) 437-5161 or rotarysanantoniofl@gmail.com for information.

July 12 – Stronger Bones, Safer Homes – Tips for preventing home injuries so you will stay out of rehab. Held from 1-2 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills' Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for information and required reservations.

July 15 – Christmas in July – An art walk hosted by the Dade City Merchants Association in downtown Dade City from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. rain or shine. Appreciate

artists from the sidewalk to the shops as well as children's sidewalk art. Sales and promotions will be featured at participating shops signified by a pink flamingo. Visit the Merchants' Facebook page for a list of artists. Call (352) 424-0601 for information.

July 15 – Mud Endeavor "Under the Lights" – The course is illuminated with neon lights, so as you endeavor mud and obstacles, you experience a mud run like nothing you expected. Held at 6 p.m. at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52. Visit www.mudendeavor.com for information and to register.

July 17 – Mental Health First Aid Course – A free course for adults held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Saint Leo University's Student Community Center Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardroom C. at 33701 S.R. 52. The course will focus on recovery, resiliency and the belief that those experiencing mental health challenges can and do get better. Free parking is available in surface lots and in the campus garage. Contact marina@befreelake.org or (352) 383-2099 for information.

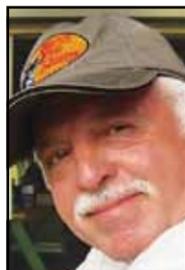
July 19 – How to Really Start Your Own Business – This Pasco Hernando SCORE free business seminar will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St. The seminar will touch on key issues for starting a business and discuss insurance, legal requirements and information sources. Visit pascohernando.score.org and click on the Seminar Calendar to register. Call (727) 842-4638 to register.

July 25 – Air Potato Management Workshop – Designed for those seeking to control the invasive air potato plant. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences will provide air potato beetles as door prizes (no guarantee everyone will receive). Air potato beetles are an effective method of control without harm to other species. Pre-registration and pre-payment of \$15 per person are required. Call (352) 518-0156 for information. Held from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Pasco County Extension Office. 36702 S.R. 52.

July 29 – Backpack Bash 2017 – This event offers free backpacks and school supplies in a family friendly atmosphere including bounce houses, balloon painting, face painting, music, food and health awareness resources. Held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Turning Point Church, 14312 17th St. Contact CCCMinistries@aol.com or visit www.TurningPointDadeCity.com for information.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

AMVETS Not Just For Veterans

Many people think several military and fraternal organizations here in east Pasco County are private and you have to become a member in order to check them out. As most of you know, there is always something going on almost every day at each and every one. I am not sure about what it takes to become a member of most, but I can speak about the nonprofit organization AMVETS.

Short for American Veterans, AMVETS is the largest and oldest veteran's service organization. It was founded on July 23, 1947 when then President Harry Truman signed Public Law 216, which granted a Congressional Charter to AMVETS.

Years ago, I was the co-announcer of the Magical Night Christmas Parade in Dade City with my good friend Joey Wubbena. Between both of us we knew just about every organization and person represented in this parade. At one parade I saw a group I wasn't familiar with and I came to find out they represented AMVETS. After the parade someone from the group invited me to come and check them out. I asked one of my friends Gordon Hyde, a Vietnam

veteran, to check it out with me.

Upon arrival, we signed in as guests and immediately felt like family. After visiting several times and enjoying great fellowship, good food and some awesome music, we both decided to join. Even if you didn't serve in the military you might have a blood relative who did. AMVETS has different groups within it like The Sons of AMVETS and the Auxiliary for women, just to name a few. You can come as a guest as often as you like provided you sign the guest book. You will probably find something that really interests you and hopefully will come back again and again as many do.

If you like to play BINGO then come on Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m. Every Tuesday Karl Sapp, a great country artist, plays from 4 to 7 p.m. You can dance or just listen as you enjoy an adult beverage. You can play corn toss on Wednesdays. On Thursday they have a meat raffle from 4 to 7 p.m. Fridays are the famous fish dinners from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. If you don't like fish they have shrimp or chicken tenders. Friday night is country music from 7 to 10 p.m. and Saturdays is anything but country from 7 to 10 p.m. Oh, and the dance floor is open both nights. Sundays is e-bowling beginning at 1:30 p.m.

This group gives back to the community and helps veterans and to me that's what it is all about. They would love to welcome you so why don't you check them out?

The AMVETS is located at 4645 Airport Road in Zephyrhills. Stop in and get a calendar of upcoming events or check them out on Facebook at AMVETS POST 550. You can also give them a call at (813) 780-8180 for more information.

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Commentary



The Rest Of The Story

Dave Walters

Movie Man Will Live On In Memories

When you think of your childhood, you can probably pinpoint a wonderful memory or two featuring a family outing to the drive-in movie theater.

For us in east Pasco County, those memories come from taking the family to the Joy-Lan Drive-In in Dade City. Whether you were from Zephyrhills, Dade City, Ridge Manor, Crystal Springs, Wesley Chapel or beyond, a Friday or Saturday night at Joy-Lan was part of the fabric of your family's memories.

Wednesday marked the 88th birthday of the late memory maker Harold Spears, esteemed owner of the Joy-Lan Drive-In and the Silver Moon Drive-In of Lakeland.

Originally founded in 1950, Joy-Lan is one of less than 10 drive-ins remaining in the state, including the Lakeland theater.

Spears kept a dying breed of entertainment alive for all of us and fortunately, we took advantage of his passion for the movies.

We backed our car, truck or SUV into

the space. We put the speaker into the window or drained our battery listening to the feed on the car radio.

I'm sure many of you unfolded your outdoor chairs, put the cooler next to you and made a family night out complete with drinks and snacks. No matter what you may have brought to the party, you always hit the concession stand for a favorite item.

It could have been a hot dog, ice cream, nachos, but everybody purchased their bag or bucket of popcorn. There

is nothing like hot popcorn and a movie and you didn't have to be in a theater to enjoy.

There's something about being out under the stars with a movie playing on the giant screen. For a kid, that screen

was the biggest TV they ever saw. It was larger than life.

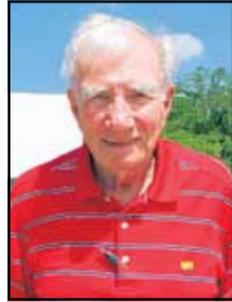
So was Harold Spears.

The lives he impacted through his theaters is a number I can't even fathom. For us in in east Pasco, the place we found joy with our families was ironically called Joy-Lan.

His obituary said he was a devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to many. What it fails to mention is that Harold brought families closer together. He brought the traditional family outing back and shared it with a new generation.

I'm sure he knew exactly what he was doing and he did it because he loved people and he loved the movie business.

Thank you, Harold.



Harold Spears

Expect The Unexpected

'Bump In The Road' Presentation Well-Received

Story and photo by Emily Kochanski

When someone is faced with an unexpected change, they are often uncertain of how to handle it. Thankfully, best-selling author Mary Jane Cronin has all the answers.

Cronin paid a visit recently to American House, a Zephyrhills assisted living facility, to impart her wisdom to its residents and staff.

Cronin's hour-long presentation of *Bumps in the Road* expounded on the positive ways one can overcome a difficult life change, such as retirement, illness or loss. She was inspired to write about such matters after the sudden loss of her son.

"I was devastated. He was 16 years old," Cronin said. "I was afraid, I was panicking. As a result, I sat and wrote letters to heaven ... and through my writings, my first book came out."

Cronin has been writing since early 2000 and has produced four books. All of the wisdom she imparts in her books comes from personal experience. The loss of her son and her work as a counselor at hospice for 10 years were the basis for her first two books.

Her latest book, "Unexpected Change," has become a best seller on Amazon and provided the basis for her lecture at American House.

Residents listened intently as she listed off ways to deal with the grief that often follows a change. Cronin recommended early planning, assembling a support system, journaling, breathing exercises, and, most importantly, laughter. She also took her audience step by step through a meditative process designed to alleviate stress.

"When I Left hospice and went



Mary Jane Cronin engages her audiences, leading them in exercises directed at eliminating stress and follows up her points with relatable, quirky examples.

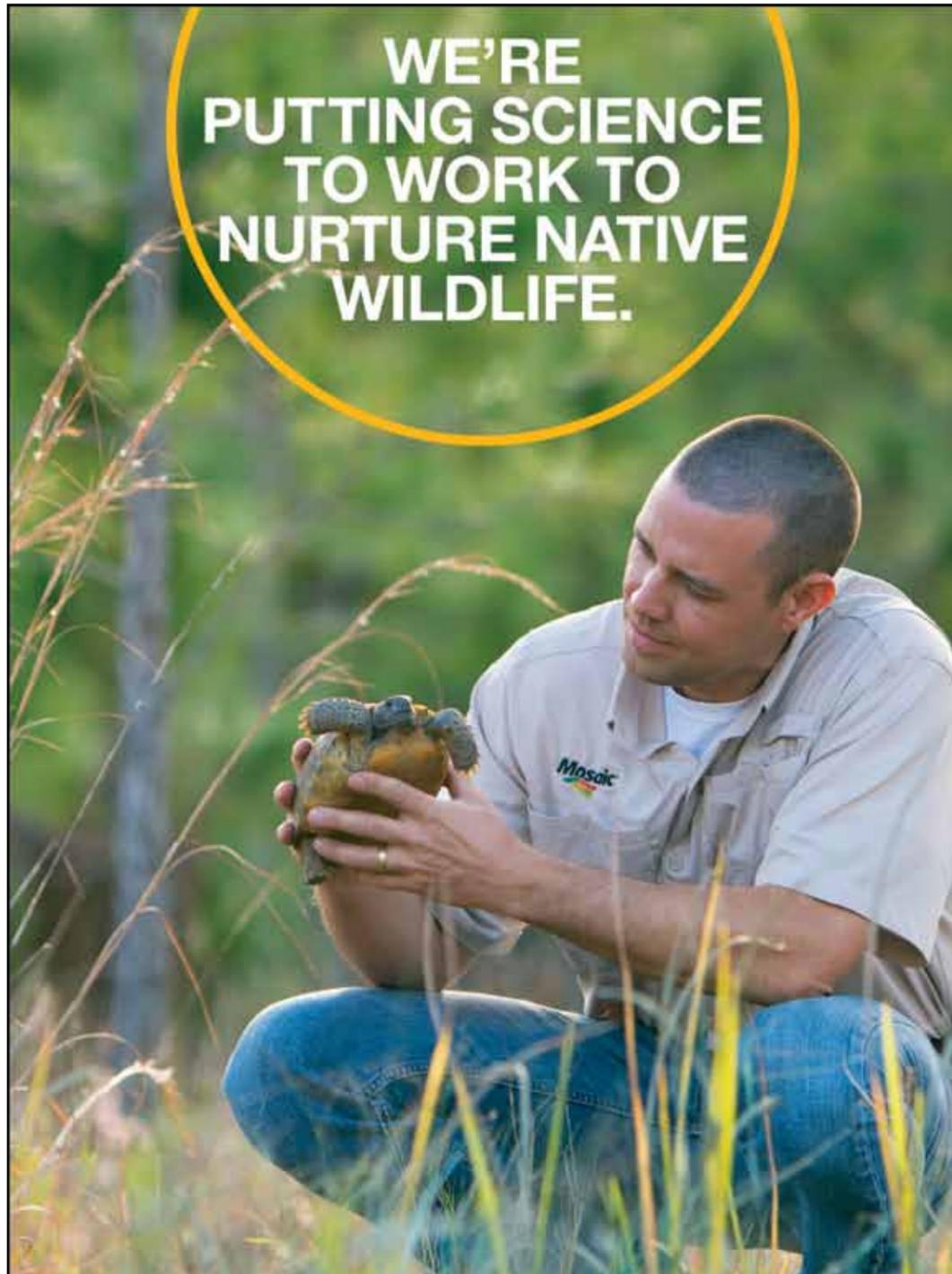
into private practice and started these presentations, I was originally focusing on caregiver needs," said Cronin. "My goal was to invite family members of the residents to come and learn skills on how to take care of themselves."

Cronin's audience at American House was very receptive. At the end of her presentation, she gave a copy of her latest book to each resident who attended, hoping they will continue to utilize her wisdom on a regular basis and share what they learned with others.

"I would say not to sweat the small stuff but, the thing is, when you're going through a bump in the road, it's not the small stuff," Cronin said.

"I think the important thing is to know that you can overcome it. You just have to take a deep breath, look at your options, and work toward getting over that bump."

To learn more about Mary Jane Cronin, visit her website at www.comforting-arms.com or check out her other books, available at www.maryjanecronin.com/book-store.html



Every day, Mosaic puts science to work right here in our community. Our team of biologists and ecologists is dedicated to ensuring the protection and stewardship of Florida's native wildlife through the most advanced relocation techniques and prime habitat development. By working with local environmental groups, Mosaic has preserved and created thousands of acres of natural habitats throughout our region for nearly 300 types of native wildlife. Grant, Mosaic ecologist and authorized agent, works to ensure wildlife like the Florida gopher tortoise thrives in reclaimed xeric upland habitats.

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



Local Artist Holds Gallery Show



Artist Jamie Dye, right, with her daughters, Casey Scalzo and Rikki Donovan of Zephyrhills in her Gallery 16601 north of Dade City. Photos by Richard K. Riley



Rylee Hand, 2, of Dade City, and her mother, Ashley, scrutinize one of Dye's paintings hanging in the gallery.

Dade City Local Jamie Dye held an art show alongside the grand opening of her gallery last Friday evening. Gallery 16601 is aptly named for its location at 16601 U.S. 301 next to Corvette Generation. Held from 6 to 8 p.m., the gallery welcomed dozens of art enthusiasts to

peruse original hand painted art as well as rustic and refurbished furniture. Dye has been painting for the past seven years and works as an operations supervisor at the County Clerk's Office in Dade City. Visit the Gallery 16601 Facebook page for more information.

Evictions • Continued from Page 1A

possessions are removed.

The action will result in at least 12 residents of the park becoming homeless, all of whom are members of just two of the families who will be affected.

Genesis Holdings, which operates as Lazy Breeze, was cited through 2016 with more than 600 code enforcement violations and faced up to \$230,000 in fines.

Works previously told the *Dade City News* such a large judgment would have bankrupted Genesis Holdings and would have resulted in the people living in the park's 42 units to have to move out. Many of them would not have been able to find a place to live, Works previously said.

Genesis Holdings was fined \$17,000 by Pinellas-Pasco County Judge William

Sestak on Dec. 20, 2016, and assessed \$1,494 in court costs for 34 county code enforcement violations.

The business was given until March 20 to fix up the non-complying units at the park. It could not be immediately determined if residents were being evicted because Genesis Holdings had not met the deadline.

Connie Platte, Lazy Breeze's office manager, said Works would have to make all official statements about the park.

"I don't do anything but collect the rent," said Platte, who previously lived at Lazy Breeze.

"This is bulls---," she then said. "This isn't the Taj Mahal. The people who live here pay their rent."

Works would have to confirm that

nine families had been evicted, Platte said.

He was not available for comment at press time.

The families who spoke to the *Dade City News* initially thought a higher number of families – between 12 and 20 – had received eviction notices based upon conversations they had with their neighbors.

One of the families being displaced only moved into Lazy Breeze two weeks ago. The former Dade City residents had been living in Pennsylvania for the past two years and didn't know about the park's checkered past. They paid their \$600 rent for one month as well as fees to have their utilities connected.

The family, which consists of a woman, her fiancé, his cousin, and three children,

ages 6, 12 and 13, receives money only at the middle of each month. A family member said they will not have any funds when they move out in less than two weeks, and added they may have to live in a tent until they raise enough money to find other accommodations.

Members of a second family, which has lived at Lazy Breeze for six months, face a comparable situation. Their \$600 monthly rent comes out of a disability check a family member receives in the middle of each month.

The second family, which consists of a grandmother, daughter, son-in-law and three children, ages 10, 6 and 5, may also resort to living in a tent. A family member said they have no other place to go and will have no funds to aid in the transition.



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Brick Farmhouse Antiques & Coffee Shop Opens

Sales Brisk During Businesses' First Day

by Joe Potter

Great coffee, quality antiques, free WIFI and a welcoming atmosphere greeted customers who streamed into The Brick Farmhouse Antiques & Coffee Shop when it opened on Saturday.

"It's been very busy ever since we opened," said owner and operator Christina Lycans. "There were six cars waiting for us in the parking lot. That was awesome."

Ample parking is available in a city-owned parking lot immediately west of the building's 14220 Eighth St. location.

"I love coffee and antiques," said Lycans, who is a fourth-generation Dade City native and business owner.

It took her about six weeks of preparation before opening for business. Most of the work consisted of building custom tables and getting matching chairs

to create a days-gone-by look in the high-ceilinged lobby area.

Lycans serves Farmer Brothers coffee, which is roasted at facilities in Northlake, Texas. Farmer Brothers provides coffee, tea, spice, culinary and equipment solutions to local businesses, foodservice, national chains and everything in between, according to the company's website.

Tony Bryant, Lycans' father, works for Farmer Brothers.

Hot, iced and blended coffee is available along with lattes. Flavors range from mocha to hazelnut and from cherry almond to caramel. Lycans said various other flavors may be tried throughout the next month to gauge what customers prefer.

Brick Farmhouse also sells frappes, soft drinks and treats to go along with them such as muffins and biscotti.



Rachel Watson, left, and Jessica Burke of Dade City learned of the grand opening from Facebook and came Saturday morning to check out the new addition to their community.

Photos by Richard K. Riley

Six vendors rent spaces inside the building to display their antiques. Lycans also has some antiques of her own for sale.

"I have a passion for antiques and vintage items," she said.

The Studio, an enclosed room off the main lobby, can be rented for baby showers, club meetings, Bible studies or similar events. It seats approximately 12 people.

There will be an open mic on Fridays and Saturdays and live music will be featured at least twice a month.

Lycans plans to partner with Saint Leo University to hold student nights beginning in the fall, which will feature open mic, poetry readings, trivia and other activities.

Craft classes, including wreath making and rock painting, will also be taught at Brick Farmhouse.

Lycans previously owned and operated

Serendipity, an antique store on Fifth Avenue in Zephyrhills, but sold that business to her mother-in-law before opening Brick Farmhouse.

The building where Brick Farmhouse is located previously served as a stable where horses were kept for guests of the Edwinola Hotel, which opened in 1912. Other uses included housing the Coleman & Ferguson Hardware Store and serving as a secondary chapel for Coleman & Ferguson Funeral Home.

The picturesque lines of the building and its history were two of the things that attracted her to it, Lycans said.

Business hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Call (352) 467-4096 or visit brickfarmhouse.com for more information about The Brick Farmhouse Antiques & Coffee Shop.



The Brick Farmhouse Antiques & Coffee Shop had a Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony with owner Christina Lycans, on the left side of the scissors, and Chamber Board Member Frank Notarianni, on the right.



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Photo by Richard K. Riley

Become A Big Brother Or Big Sister

Being a 'Big' often means including your Little in things you already like to do – going to a game, taking a bike ride or reading books. You can help change the lives of children facing adversity for the better, forever. The first step is to attend a Big Orientation & Training session with

Big Brother Bis Sister of Tampa Bay. Orientations will held at Wesley Chapel Honda, 27750 Wesley Chapel Blvd. on June 27 and July 25 from 5:30-7 p.m. Contact (813) 997-6881 or debk@bbbstampabay.org for information.

Pageant • Continued from Page 1A

competed as a Miss in the state-wide pageant, and so will be returning to a semi-familiar stage. However, Graham, a recent Pasco High School graduate, will be competing as a Miss for the first time, following her performance in the 2016 Miss Florida Outstanding Teen competition where she earned the place of second runner up.

The Miss Florida competition is part of the nationwide Miss America pageant, established in 1921. The young women will be competing for the crown, whose four points represent the four aspects of the program: service, scholarship, success and style.

This year's competition will be held from June 27 through July 1.

Graham earned the title of Miss Gainesville in December 2016. Although a first timer for the state competition, Graham said she has grown up in the Miss Florida organization, as she participated in its Sunshine Princess mentoring program. She always looked up to the older girls when she first started in pageants, Graham said, adding she is excited to have her chance for the Florida crown.

Graham has been living a healthy lifestyle, hitting the gym, practicing interview questions and keeping up with current events and politics to prepare for the competition. Her talent is no secret to Dade City residents, as she often frequents community events to sing. She will perform "How Great Thou Art" in next week's competition. Graham has also been managing her non-profit organization, Sharing Hope For A Cure.

"It's not about winning; it's about bettering yourself and being selfless and bettering other people in the process," Graham said. "I'm not nervous. I am extremely prepared, I feel, because I have worked really hard and I have a great support system behind me."

Graham will attend Saint Leo University in August to major in communications management.

Katy Sartain is a 2014 honors graduate of Pasco High School who is currently studying digital media production at Florida State University. On her webpage,

Sartain said she was "really humbled" following her participation in the 2016 Miss Florida pageant, where she was a top 15 finalist, preliminary interview winner and recipient of four scholarship awards.

Partnered with Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Sartain is always pursuing her Project Hope platform, aimed at enriching the lives of older youth in the foster care program. She also founded the philanthropic organization, Crown Candleworks, where all proceeds from the sale of candles go to a designated charity.

Courtney Nathe is competing for the second time as a Miss in her five years of pageants. She earned her title of Miss Largo in early February and said she is beyond prepared to take the stage next week.

"God has a plan. There's a reason I've been going through what I've been going through. It's in his hands now and I've done what I can, so I'm very, very excited," Nathe said.

Since Miss Florida focuses on fitness, a healthy lifestyle and a life of service, Nathe has also been hitting the gym regularly and has spent time with her own charity, SOCKS, or, Students Organizing Cancer Crazy Socks, Inc. The non-profit organization helps cancer patients feel a little more at home by providing fun and comfy socks to wear while in the hospital. After starting the organization in January 2012, Nathe said it has been a wild five years beside the organization.

"I've met a lot of amazing people and gotten lot of great experiences interacting with the cancer patients," she said.

Nathe is a rising junior at the University of Florida, majoring in classics with a focus on the Greco-Roman Empire.

An orientation was held recently for all Miss Florida competitors, allowing them to meet everyone and familiarize themselves with the program.

"I can't wait to see everybody back in Lakeland. All of the girls are absolutely wonderful and we are going to put on a heck of a show!" Nathe said.

Visit www.missflorida.org to vote in the People's Choice Award for one of the local competitors, and to buy tickets to attend the pageant.

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Flags • Continued from Page 1A

Bilirakis attended to reflect upon our nation's history. The ceremony was led by Edward Gorecki, the newly elected leader of the American Legion Post #15. "As a veteran and an American, it's

a day that we honor the flag in the courteous way," said Gorecki. "It irritates us when we see people destroying the flag, spitting on it, throwing it on the ground. But, unfortunately, some of us fought under that flag to give people that right to express themselves."

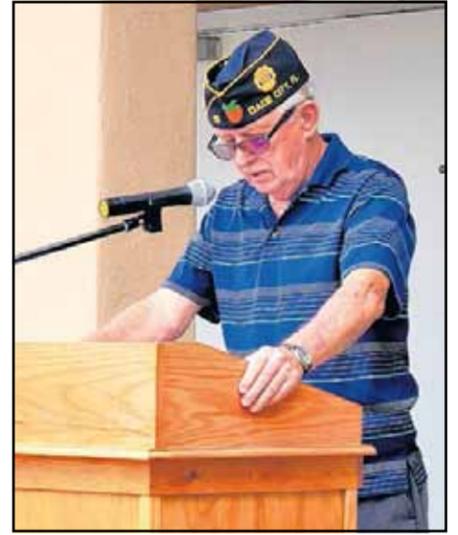
The event concluded with the disposal of worn and weathered flags collected from the community. Almost 300 flags were burned in the traditional fashion. Many may balk at the idea of burning a symbol of country, but Gorecki and his fellow veterans see it as an act of the utmost respect.

"That way we know it's destroyed properly," Gorecki explained. "It's not going to go to a landfill under a heap of garbage. Cremation is the way a veteran usually goes; the flag goes the same way."

While the American Legion was concluding their event and inviting guests inside for refreshments, American House Zephyrhills was just opening its doors to the public for their second annual Flag Day celebration.

Residents, staff and guests all adorned in red, white and blue gathered outside the facility's main entrance at 11:45 a.m. to watch the flag ascend. Afterwards, all were invited into the lavishly decorated dining room to partake in a patriotic lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers while local band Elwood's Trio provided some mood music.

Since the facility became American House, it has hosted a number of events sporting the "American" theme. Executive Director Virginia Rice loves to see the smiles such ceremonies bring to the faces of her residents and to members



Edward Gorecki has been a member of the American Legion for 14 years. This was his first year hosting the Flag Day event.

of the community.

"Flag Day is an American House tradition," said Rice. "Anytime we have a patriotic event, the Zephyrhills community embraces it with positive attendance."

Both events embodied the spirit of true patriotism. Just as the flag served as a source of inspiration for veterans as they fought bravely in grueling battles for our freedom, it acts as a symbol of hope for others in today's trying times.



Members of the American Legion present their retired flags for inspection to ensure they were safe to dispose of.

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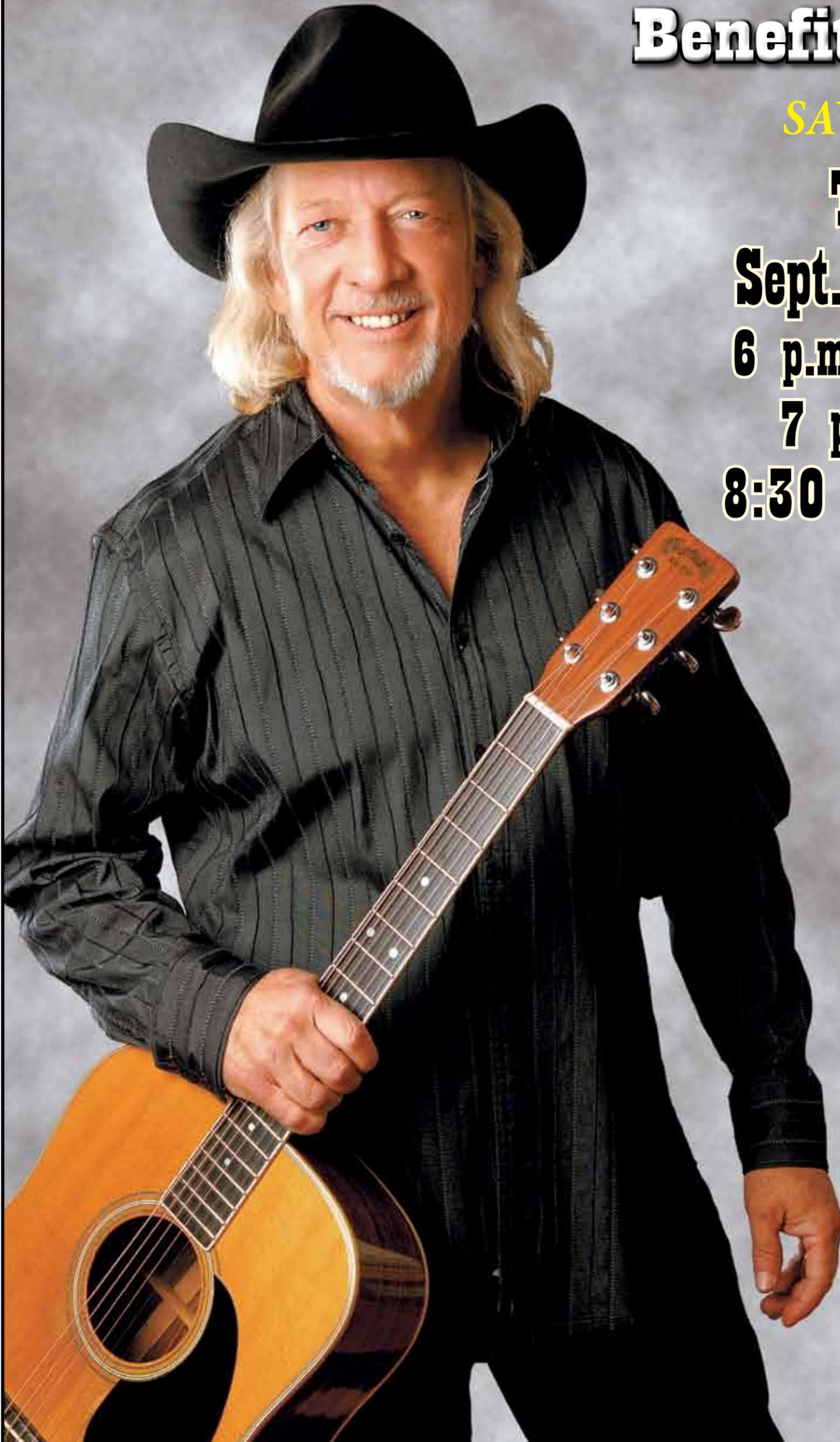
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