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Check inside for a Special Preview section of the 2017 Pasco Pirates football season, including schedules, rosters, Pirates news and more!



# Dade City News

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Volume VII • Issue 2

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## Pasco County Citizens Sound Off

### Town Hall In Dade City Features Some Tough Questions



Congressman Gus Bilirakis, state Rep. Danny Burgess, state Sen. Wilton Simpson and state Sen. Tom Lee came together for the East Pasco Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday night in the auditorium at Pasco Middle School.

Story and photos by **Dave Walters**

In an effort to step forward and give their constituents answers to the tough questions, four local legislators representing Pasco County turned out Tuesday night for a Town Hall Meeting at Pasco Middle School.

With nearly 100 people in the audience in the school's auditorium, Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-12th Dist.) and state Rep. Danny Burgess (R-38th Dist.) joined state Sens. Wilton Simpson (R-10th Dist.) and Tom Lee (R-20th Dist.) to field questions with topics ranging from Obamacare to the environment and medical marijuana to opioid addiction.

Burgess, who has taken part in the East Pasco Town Hall meeting for the last three years, was energized watching democracy at work.

That spirit was evident as 16-year-

**Meeting • Continued on Page 8A**

## Local Singer Enjoys Idol Moment

### Weston Johnson Proud To Represent Dade City

by **Emily Kochanski**

Since its much-desired return to television was announced, American Idol and its judges have been scouring the country for the best of the best to sing their hearts out for the upcoming season.

The Aug. 12 Tampa Bay Idol competition drew more than 1,000 people but producers listened to only the first 400 hopefuls. Pasco County was well represented, but just one lucky winner, Weston Johnson, hailed from Dade City.

To top it off, Johnson was one of 67 chosen for a 'front of the line' pass to the American Idol tryouts held in Orlando.

"It's an honor to have won [a ticket]," Johnson said. "I'm very proud of being from Dade City and happy to have represented what the state of Florida stands for."

Unfortunately, Johnson didn't make the cut during the Aug. 17 Orlando auditions where more than 4,000 auditioned. However, he did not let the rejection deter his love of music.



'Music is such a great way to channel what you're going through. To me, it's such a fantastic outlet, and it really allows you to bare your soul.' – Weston Johnson *Photo Provided*

**Idol • Continued on Page 8A**

## Dade City Car Show Will Be Shifting Gears

by **Joe Potter**

People bringing their classic rides to Dade City on Sept. 2 will have a couple of options on how they can display them, Ronnie Setser said Monday.

A cruise in format has been held for the past several years for the show that is held the first Saturday of each month around the historic courthouse square.

People came when they wanted and left when they wanted and didn't have to pay anything to show their vehicles, said Setser.

Next month's show, the inaugural one of the season, will be different. The event has been renamed the Dade City Car Show and it will be held from 3-7 p.m.

People who wish to have their vehicles judged in various trophy categories will need to register them and pay \$10 per vehicle, Setser said. The first 50 people registering will be granted the best parking spaces and will receive dash plaques.

A ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. during which trophies will be presented with categories ranging

**Cars • Continued on Page 4A**

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# Dade City Police Report

## Woman Faces Down Alleged 'Armed' Teen Robbers

A 13-year-old male was arrested by Dade City police on July 27 on a charge of robbery with a firearm. A male and female victim were approached from behind by two male juveniles on July 26 at 11:56 p.m. while they were walking south along 17th Street. Both juveniles allegedly said, "Give me everything you got." One of them then allegedly produced an unknown semiautomatic handgun, racked the slide back and pointed the gun at the female victim. The male victim had run away in an attempt to distract the two juveniles. The female victim told the suspect who was pointing the gun at her she had just called 911. Both suspects then ran north away from the area. A suspect was identified from word on the street

following the robbery attempt and the two victims positively identified him as the person who had been involved in the armed robbery. An Airsoft semiautomatic BB pistol was recovered. The suspect spontaneously said, "Yeah, I robbed those people." Post Miranda, the teenager said, with his mother present during the interview, that he had committed the offense.

**Dewan Maurice Flores**, 24, of Orlando, was arrested by Dade City police on July 11 on a charge of possession of cocaine. Flores was a backseat passenger in a vehicle that had been stopped on the



U.S. 98 Bypass for reckless driving. Flores allegedly had a battery charging port in his right front pocket. The port contained a white substance that field-tested positive as cocaine. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

**Hughie Jimmy Johnson**, 64, of 36921 Church Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on Aug. 8 on a charge of false imprisonment – domestic. The victim told police he had locked her in a small room in their residence for three hours because she had smoked cigarettes in the residence. She said he refused to let her out. This action allegedly deprived the victim of basic needs, resulting in her defecating on herself. Johnson reportedly told police he had locked the victim in a room for a "long time." He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



keep the defendant from causing damage to the house and vehicles. The teenager was taken to the Pasco County Juvenile Assessment Center.

**Joshua Oal Lones**, 31, of 18414 Lawrence Road, was arrested by Dade City police on Aug. 11 on charges of possession of paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. Lones was stopped at 2:58 a.m. for allegedly riding his bicycle on the wrong side of the road and riding it without lights. He was reportedly found to be in possession of a glass pipe of the type that is commonly used to smoke drugs. Lones allegedly admitted he used the pipe to smoke drugs and it field-tested positive for methamphetamine. Lones was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



**Christopher Vincent Johnson**, 23, of Tampa, was apprehended by Dade City police on Aug. 9 on a Hillsborough County warrant charging him with three counts of failure to appear – false information to pawn broker/petit theft. Johnson was arrested when police responded to a suspicious person complaint in the 13000 block of Third Street. Johnson was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



**Ashley N. Hardwick**, 28, of 6803 Forbes Road, Zephyrhills, was apprehended by Dade City police on July 31 on a Pasco County warrant charging her with failure to appear – trespass. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



A 15-year-old female was arrested by Dade City police on July 17 on a charge of battery after she allegedly hit her grandmother in the face with a fist. She and her grandmother had been arguing about trying to take her belongings. The grandmother was hit when she tried to

*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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# Paving A Future

## Multiple Road Projects In The Works

Story and photos by Max Zimmerman

If you think east Pasco County is being rebuilt you're not far off.

A Monday night Transportation Summit revealed just how much the landscape is changing when officials noted nearly half a billion dollars is being spent on road construction projects in east Pasco alone.

Data from the summit updated the much-publicized big projects underway, such as reconstructing state roads 54 and 52, but attention is also being paid to 'smaller' endeavors that have needed attention for some time.

Pasco County Administrator Dan Biles said the numbers are a bit of a moving target, but current project costs are estimated to be \$426,393,465 worth of work to be done east of U.S. Highway 41.

At the top of the list are State Road 54, from Curley Road east to Morris Bridge/Eiland Boulevard (\$92,608,260), and the State Road 52/Clinton Avenue Extension (\$89,879,480). The new 52 is due to be completed in two years.

FDOT District 7 Secretary David Gwynn delivered details on the projects by way of a slide presentation most of the upcoming work is taking place south of Dade City,



Interested residents peruse a county transportation map Monday evening indicating present and future road construction east of U.S. 41.



Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Moore, left, and County Administrator Dan Biles were on hand Monday to answer questions during the Transportation Summit at Pasco-Hernando State College at Wiregrass Ranch.

but there were a few rural projects of note.

Two intersections on Curley Road, one at St. Joe Road (\$2,423,000) and the other from Drake Estates Way to Old St. Joe Road (\$90,250) are slated for improvement and resurfacing.

As well, Scharber Road heading to St. Joe Road (\$962,640), and Jessamine Road from St. Joe Road to James Road, (\$1,449,600), are scheduled for resurfacing.

An emergency fire signal (\$369,448) is planned for the U.S. 301/State Road 575 intersection in Trilacoochee.

Southeast of Dade City, resurfacing is set for Old Lakeland Highway, from Lynbrook Drive to Ottis Allen Road (\$683,750).

The difficult intersection of Handcart Road and Eiland Boulevard is slated for improvement and signalization (\$366,510).

Wire Road will be resurfaced from County Road 54 in Zephyrhills all the way

to U.S. 301 (\$1,500,000). No timetable has been set for that project.

Also included in the overall picture is the continued creation of the Withlacoochee Trail connector (\$5,455,503), which also isn't due for completion until 2021.

All these projects cost a lot of money and as county commissioner Mike Moore pointed out, it takes time for each of them to come to fruition, as there are design and planning stages that need to be funded at different times.

A chunk of that money comes from the federal government.

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (12th District) also attended the summit at Pasco Hernando State College at Wiregrass Ranch and expressed confidence that an infrastructure package that was promised by President Trump during the 2016 campaign will gain approval from Congress.

"It's a priority for the president, it's a priority for Congress ... we got to get it done, for obvious reasons," Bilirakis said.

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## East Pasco Events

**Aug. 24 – 3D Printing Demo** – For all ages, join us as we demonstrate 3D printing on our own FREEFAB 3D Monolith Printer. Held at the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St. Call (352) 567-3576 for time and information.

**Aug. 26 – Moore-Mickens Open House** – Come help celebrate an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony held at 10:30 a.m. at the Moore Mickens Education and Vocational Center, located at 38301 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Join the excitement with guided tours and refreshments. Call the school at (352) 518-8008 or Marilyn at (352) 807-5691 for information.

**Aug. 26 – Nature Detectives Day for Kids** – This special event sponsored by the Dade City Garden Club, invites kids to become true nature heroes by learning the importance of butterflies and moths. Lots of fun activities and giveaways. Seats are very limited for this special program, call to register. For grades 1-7. Held at Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St. Call (352) 567-3576 for information.

**Sept. 1 – First Friday** – The Dade City Merchants Association invites you to enjoy a charming evening out with that someone special in a family and pet friendly environment. Refresh from the work week and explore the many offerings of our downtown merchants and restaurants from 5-9 p.m. Slowly wander through downtown; drinking in the sounds of local musicians as you sit back and enjoy a leisurely carriage ride. Visit the Merchants Facebook page for more information.

**Sept. 2 – Dade City Car Show** – Held from 3-7 p.m. in downtown Dade City and operated by Ronnie Setser. Car registration is \$10 per car; trophies will be presented and giveaways will be presented to the first 50 cars registered. Activities for kids will be featured. Attendees and car enthusiasts are encouraged to visit the fabulous shops and restaurants in Dade City.

**Sept. 7 – City Park Bench Dedication** – The San Antonio Founders Garden Club will dedicate and bless a new park bench in San Antonio City Park in honor of the 23 original founders who took over the beatification of the park in 1961. The public and families of the original founders are invited to attend at 10:30 a.m. at 32819 Pennsylvania Ave.

**Sept. 7 – Lions Club Sight Program** – The Zephyrhills Lions Club, located at 5827 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills, will be accepting applications for its Sight Program from 9-11:30 a.m. Applicants must bring required documents, which can be found on [www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills). The program is open to all Pasco County residents in need of basic eye care. Contact the clubhouse at (813) 788-1441 for information.

**Sept. 9 – 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](mailto:rotarysanantoniofl@gmail.com) for information.

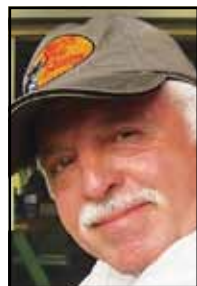
**Sept. 20 – Free Small Business Seminar** – Learn how to start a new business successfully. We will discuss the idea, testing the idea and protecting the idea. We will review key issues for starting a business: finding good people, structuring the business, understanding cash flow, finding the money and the business plan. Held from 1-3 p.m. at SMARTStart Dade City Entrepreneur Center, 37837 Meridian Ave., #309. Visit [pascohernando.score.org](http://pascohernando.score.org) to register.

**Oct. 14 – Clays for the Community** – Put on by the Boots & Roots Foundation, the fourth annual event will be held at 2 p.m. at Tampa Bay Sporting Clays, 10514 Ehren Cutoff in Land O' Lakes. Profits from the event will help give back to local agriculture, outdoors and sportsman communities, focusing on youth, people in need and other local charitable organizations. Dinner is served at 5 p.m. Visit [www.bootsandroots.org/registration](http://www.bootsandroots.org/registration) for registration information and prices, and competition rules.

**Oct. 14 – Dentistry from the Heart** – Free dental care will be provided at this second annual event, held at Premier Community Healthcare, 37944 Pasco Ave. from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. No appointments necessary. This event is first come, first served. Community members 18 and older without access to dental care may choose one of the following: one filling, one extraction or cleaning services. First 100 patients guaranteed to be seen. Call (813) 971-1688 for information.

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

## Commentary



### First Things First

Greg First

## It Came, We Saw, It Left

Well, the solar eclipse has come and gone. It seems like people everywhere have made a really big deal out of this, probably because it was a really big deal. No matter what side of the political spectrum you sit on this has really pulled all sides together. This celestial happening provided a common goal that won't occur again for seven years.

Glad to see the major cable news channels took a break from politics for a few hours to bring us live coverage. Hopefully it will last for days but I seriously doubt it.

I want to give a big shout out to the Weather Channel. This network totally had their act together. We need more things like a solar eclipse to refocus trending stories that seem to have taken over the mainstream media.

I do say mainstream media because the *Zephyrhills Free Press* is definitely not a part of that. We don't really care about winning awards and patting

ourselves on the back. We do care about staying focused on this area and always keeping you up to date on the good things happening right here where we live. Oh, we do have the famous Page 2 that seems to be one of the most popular pages.

So on Monday, I decided to make a solar eclipse viewer from a cereal box that once contained Cheerios. I got the instructions from a YouTube video and it was pretty easy. I did a couple of test runs checking out the sun and it worked perfectly. Some of my friends purchased glasses made especially for the event and some even travelled out of Florida to get a better look. Some purchased welding masks that probably have already been returned for a full refund.

My homemade viewer worked really well but the awesome, incredible live coverage and photos on TV were the best.

To see the awesome power of God in this display of His work makes me speechless. In some parts of the country even the animals stood in awe. The really great thing is some of the wonders we have seen in the past and what we are currently seeing are just a small preview of the great things to come for those who believe.

The last solar eclipse that appeared exclusively in the United States, from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast, was in 1918, and the first since 1979 to be visible in the extreme northwest of the U.S.

If you missed Monday's event, fret not, because another total solar eclipse will be visible in the United States on April 8, 2024, but you'll need to drive a bit to get the full effect. The one due seven years from now will stretch from Texas to Vermont.

### Cars • Continued from Page 1A

from best hot rod to best interior and from best engine to best custom paint job.

The \$10 fee is not mandatory to show a vehicle, Setser said. People who simply wish to cruise in and show their vehicles won't have to pay the fee. It will only be charged to those who wish to participate in the awards presentation.

One of the reasons for this change is to help keep people in the historic downtown business district longer while they are showing their vehicles, Setser said, as folks tend to stay longer when there an awards presentation is held.

The people who register their vehicles will also receive goodie bags from area merchants. The bags will contain incentives for attendees to spend time in area restaurants and shops. They will also receive a complimentary copy of a magazine about area car shows.

"The whole idea is to get the downtown businesses to stay open later," Setser said.

Out-of-town vendors have been allowed to sell their wares at previous car

shows but now only Dade City businesses will participate to keep the money in town.

There will be more to the car show than just cars, trucks and other vehicles.

Music will include rock and roll music, a little bit of country, and oldies from the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

Hula-hoop contests and other events will be held to keep children busy while their parents or older siblings look at the vehicles.

"This is going to be a well-run, self-contained program," Setser said.

The Dade City Merchants Association is organizing the Dade City Car Show and will be responsible for promoting it through advertisements, said Margaret Angell, the association's president.

Setser has operated various car shows in the area over the past several years.

He has hosted the Kumquat Festival Car Show for 17 years and prior to that was involved in car shows in Zephyrhills for more than 20 years.



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Florida Hospital Zephyrhills staff and physicians, members of the Greater Zephyrhills and Greater Dade City Chambers of Commerce as well as community members participate in the official ribbon cutting of the hospital's newly renovated emergency department on Aug. 16. Photos Provided

# Revamped ER Reopens

**FHZ Service  
Handles An Average  
Of 95 Patients A Day**

by Keri McAlpine

After 18 months and \$5 million, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills has finally finished the construction and renovations of its new and improved emergency services department.

A VIP open house and ribbon cutting ceremony was held Aug. 16, where outgoing hospital President and CEO Randy Surber thanked everyone for attending including hospital board members, City Manager Steve Spina and state Rep. Danny Burgess.

"The outcome has just been absolutely tremendous. It's something I think the community is going to be extremely proud of," Surber said.

Appetizers were served while a video presentation took visitors on a virtual guide through the new facilities. As the ER

is active, an on-foot tour was not possible.

After the virtual tour, guests gathered in front of the ER lobby entrance for an official ribbon cutting with the Greater Zephyrhills and Dade City Chambers of Commerce.

Dr. Seta Ruiz, director of the emergency department and clinical decision unit, said the ER has been nice and busy following the completed renovations. The positive results can be seen in the attitude from staff and patients.

"I do think the patients are getting a different feel from the ER – a soothing environment ... we were in a cramped area for a very long time and now we can spread out," Ruiz said.

Last year the hospital had more than 35,000 emergency room visits, and the renovation will help to keep operations efficient, according to Ruiz.

The ER remained open throughout the year and a half construction period, causing a lot of headaches on all sides, according to Emergency Department Medical Director Dr. Alexander Garcia.

"I think the privacy for the patients is



The newly renovated ER lobby at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, designed with the hope to welcome patients in a calm and soothing environment.

key. Now we have more privacy for the patients," he said.

Garcia mentioned the improved fast track and results waiting rooms as areas he sees having the most positive affect for patients.

"We want to thank the community for

being patient. The ER staff, the physicians, everyone here is really excited the construction is over," said FHZ Director of Marketing Susan Frimmel.

Visit ERNewLook.org to learn more about the ER renovations and details on the improvements.

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# Retirement Plans For City Employees Changing

## Personnel Will Now Be Covered By State System As Opposed To National

by Joe Potter

A split city commission agreed Tuesday to have Dade City's employees participate in the Florida Retirement System.

Dade City withdrew from the FRS in 1996 but five city employees and two commissioners remained with it; others opted for the Nationwide Retirement Plan.

City Manager Billy Poe recommended taking another look at the FRS because of dissatisfaction with the Nationwide plan that currently covers most city employees.

"We have employees who are on a different plan who probably wouldn't benefit from going on the Florida Retirement Plan," commissioner James Shive said.

"It's a great plan – a sound plan – that would be good to get into," Shive said regarding the FRS.

Mayor Pro Tem Eunice Penix, a retired schoolteacher, said she is on the FRS and thinks it is a good plan.

But Mayor Camille Hernandez delivered some pushback.

"This is a very serious thing," Hernandez said. "I know that our existing plan is not a very good one, but I continue to be concerned about the sustainability over time of being able to give employees three percent raises and keep up with the healthcare costs.

"I know that the plan we have now is not the best one but I want to be fair to the new hires who will be coming on." Hernandez explained the benefits that are currently available through the FRS could be changed in the future by state legislators.

Should the city choose the FRS, Hernandez said, she wants to make sure they are willing to make a commitment to it for the long haul.

Hernandez emphasized she would like for the city to look at other options in addition to the FRS before making a decision. If the plan were changed, she would like to see it phased in over three

to five years.

Commissioner Nicole Deese Newlon said some people she has talked to have expressed concerns about the FRS being underfunded. She added she now believes the state legislature has taken steps to see that it is in better financial condition so her concerns are a bit alleviated.

"I still remain in support of moving to the FRS," Newlon said.

Commissioner Scott Black voiced strong opposition to the proposed change.

He prefers the city having a privately designed benefit plan upon which the city would have more control. He emphasized the state, not the city, would control how the FRS is handled.

"When the legislature changes this it's going to affect our new hires. It's not a case of if, it's a case of when," Black said. "You are going to have some gross inequities among our own employees. If we have control of our program we can provide better for our employees on an equal basis."

"No matter what you do, you're not going to know what's going to happen down the road," Shive said. "I don't think it's really going to be that much of an inequity."

Penix moved and Shive seconded to approve FRS as the city's retirement plan.

"This is forever and forever and when employees are not satisfied with it there is no way to get out," Black said.

The measure passed by a 3-2 vote. Commissioners Newlon and Shive and Penix voted in favor of participating in the FRS. Mayor Hernandez and commissioner Black voted against it.

City employees who are hired after the FRS was adopted will be covered by the plan. Employees who are on the Nationwide Plan can remain on it or use the time they have accrued in it to be covered by the FRS, Poe said.

In other business Tuesday, commissioners unanimously approved Ja'Bari Bernard Mention's request to be a member of the Dade City Youth Council.

## Battery Suspect Sought Violent Incident Reported

Staff Report

Pasco County Sheriff's Detectives have issued an arrest warrant for Ruben Salinas-Gonsales for aggravated battery, domestic battery by strangulation, sexual battery, false imprisonment and tampering with a witness.

The charges are a result of an incident that occurred during the weekend in Dade City. Salinas-Gonsales, 20, may have fled to the Sumter County area.

Crime Stoppers of Tampa Bay is offering a reward of up to \$3,000 for information that leads to the location and arrest of Salinas-Gonsales. Anyone with any information regarding this fugitive and who wants to be eligible for a cash reward is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS (8477), report anonymously online at [www.crimestopperstb.com](http://www.crimestopperstb.com), or send a mobile tip using the P3 TipsMobile application. Crime Stoppers must be contacted first in order to be eligible for a cash reward.

For more information regarding the specific case, contact the Pasco Sheriff's Office, Public Information Office.

Tips may be delivered to Crime Stoppers Law Enforcement Program Coordinator Master Deputy Kelly McLaren at (813) 442-9300, or by email at [kmclaren@hcsotampa.fl.us](mailto:kmclaren@hcsotampa.fl.us).



Salinas-Gonsales

## Bilirakis Fights Opioid Epidemic

by Max Zimmerman

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention more than 90 Americans die every day because of an opioid overdose. It's been termed as a crisis, an epidemic, and Florida is grappling with the damage and desperate for ways to stem the tide.

Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL 12th Dist.), underscored that alarm when he visited Land O' Lakes to discuss the situation in a roundtable with about 40 healthcare providers, advocates and recovering addicts.

"As I am sure you are aware, more people are dying each year from opioid overdose than from car accidents," he said in his opening remarks. "The statistics are staggering and truly tragic."

Bilirakis had the director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Michael Boticelli come to Pasco County as part of the congressman's effort to get funding for Florida to combat the epidemic.

Bilirakis, known for his devotion to military veterans issues, spoke about his achievements in Washington.

"My PROMISE Act [passed] last year, which requires the use of best prescribing practices. It was passed in honor of a veteran from Wisconsin, Jason Simcakowski, who overdosed on opioids while at a VA hearing. Too many opioids are being prescribed to our heroes as the first line of treatment for PTS (Post Traumatic Stress) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)."

On Tuesday night in Wesley Chapel, Bilirakis said better training for VA doctors who prescribe opioids is

also in order.

The congressman told Wednesday's group that he was also behind the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act that was signed into law, reauthorizing grant programs and promoting the availability of naloxone for first responders.

Bilirakis said he was encouraged when President Trump declared the opioid epidemic as a national emergency but Trump has yet to sign the necessary paperwork to release funds to fight it. The congressman hopes it will "come by the end of the month".

It has been widely reported that in the late 1990s, pharmaceutical giants convinced the medical community that prescription opioid pain relievers were not addictive, prompting healthcare providers to confidently prescribe them to control pain. In 2015, the CDC reported more than 33,000 Americans died from opioid overdose, which included prescription opioids, heroin, and illicitly manufactured fentanyl, a synthetic opioid reportedly 10 times the strength of morphine.

Bilirakis advocates alternative therapies for veterans.

"One size does not fit all when it comes to the mental health needs of our veterans and my [PROMISE] bill not only addresses prescribing practices, but also paves the way for the VA to provide alternative and complementary treatments to Veterans," he said.

However, one alternative he does not care for is medical marijuana.

"I've talked to physicians about it and maybe short term it can help people but it's very detrimental in the long run."



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# Bright Lights, Big City

*Blackwood Products Dance At Joffrey In NYC*

by **Emily Kochanski**

This summer has marked the rise of many talented east Pasco youth; some act, others sing, but the latest rising stars are dancing darlings.

Seventeen-year-old dance students Victoria Neukom of Dade City, and Hannah Knight of Zephyrhills, each received scholarships to the prestigious Joffrey Ballet School in New York City.

Neukom has been dancing since the age of three and by age five was taking classes at Blackwood Studios in Dade City.

“Even before I was put into dance classes, my grandma would turn on music and I would dance around the room,” recalled Neukom. “I can’t remember a time I wasn’t excited to go to dance.”

Neukom received a 90 percent tuition scholarship for the Joffrey experience, where she is currently studying in a two-week program. The school has become her home away from home.

“The teachers here are incredible people and so inspiring,” Neukom said of the school. “New York feels so right ... I feel like I belong here.”

When Neukom returns to Florida she will begin classes at the Marshall Ellis Dance School in Orlando for some intensive training.

Similarly, Hannah Knight began dancing at Blackwood Studios at an early age. She received a 60 percent tuition scholarship for Joffrey’s summer intensive program.

“Being at Joffrey makes you feel like you are in an actual dance company in New York City,” said Knight. “It’s super cool to experience what it would feel like as a working professional dancer.”

After her time at Joffrey is completed, Knight is looking forward to returning to the Meridian Avenue studio full time.

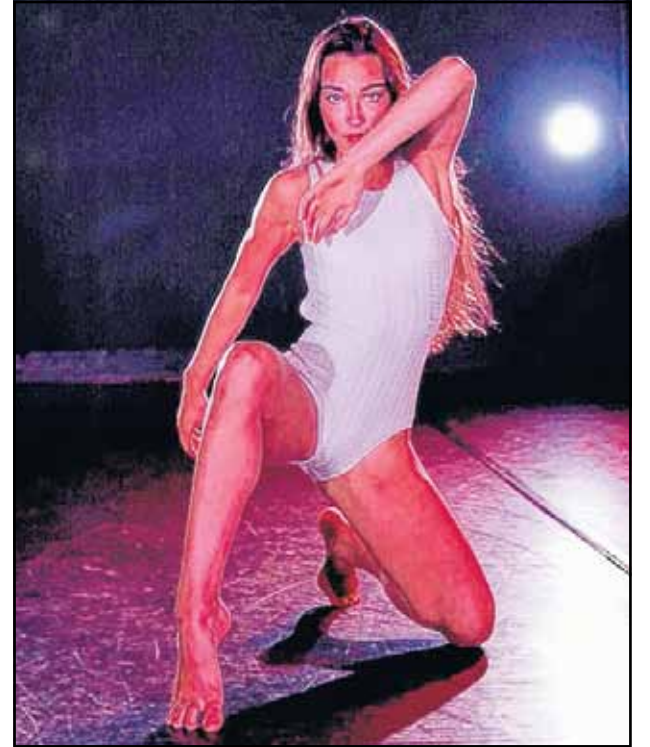
“Blackwood is like one big family,” Knight said. “There’s truly no place like it.”

Both Neukom and Knight find great joy in their performance art, but dancing, at its core, is an extremely competitive and taxing sport.

“The hardest part about dancing is that it’s really hard



‘With dancing you can be not only yourself, but whoever you want to be,’ said Hannah Knight. She also loves to sing, write songs and play guitar.



‘Dance means so much more to me than I can explain,’ said Victoria Neukom. ‘It’s my backbone and keeps me driven and ambitious.’

*Photos Provided*

work,” said Knight. “It pushes your body a lot and makes your muscles ache. But pushing through the hardest parts and giving it everything you’ve got is the greatest feeling.”

“It’s also hard to memorize so many pieces and steps and corrections,” Neukom said. “But even though it’s hard, nothing will stop me from loving the art of dance.”

Dancing has been a huge part of their past, their present, and will remain so for their future as both young women dream of dancing with a professional ballet company. Neukom is considering auditioning for “So You Think You Can Dance?” while Knight is looking into taking on work in commercials.

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**Meeting • Continued from Page 1A**

old Pasco High School student Adam Filinovich asked the panel of legislators how they can ensure that democracy is strong and thriving in the United States.

“You do that by hosting town halls,” Burgess said. “You do that by always being visible and present in your community and to the people you represent and the people who elected you to serve them.”

“This is a tremendous opportunity for me to talk about state issues, federal issues and everything that matters to us. I think what we did today is break all kinds of barriers and stereotypes. We saw civil discourse.”

Filinovich, who was well-versed on the issues, used the town hall as a way to learn what local elected officials are thinking and let them hear from their constituents.

“It’s important for them to hear the opposing views to what they have,” Filinovich said, in challenging the lawmakers to explain their positions.

Education funding on the state level was a hot topic demonstrated by a question posed by Lisa Mazza: why are charter schools receiving funds and public schools are not being fully funded?

Burgess, a “proud product” of the Pasco County school system, explained that his support for the legislation came because it benefitted every child.



**Rep. Danny Burgess of Zephyrhills speaks during the Town Hall meeting on Tuesday night at Pasco Middle School as State Senator Wilton Simpson looks on.**

“The bill we passed had the highest level of funding in the state of Florida’s history with \$15.3 billion,” Burgess said. “This bill made the school districts share their millage with charter schools. I am a firm believer in school choice.

“At the end of the day, I look at whether it is in the best interest of all the kids – not whether they are public school kids, charter school kids or homeschool kids. Is this going to help children? We have over 100 failing schools in this state. That is a state of emergency.”



**State Sen. Wilton Simpson of Trilby addresses constituents during the East Pasco Town Hall meeting on Tuesday night in the auditorium at Pasco Middle School.**

Bilirakis was the focus of the majority of the fire from the audience regarding the failure of a Republican-backed healthcare reform bill as well as the deficiencies in care for veterans from medical facilities operated by the Veterans Administration. While the House passed their version of healthcare reform, the Senate failed to follow and the issue died.

Bilirakis, the vice chairman of the veterans committee, said more firings are coming for incompetent mid and



**Congressman Gus Bilirakis speaks passionately about the proper healthcare for veterans from the Veterans Administration facilities in our country.**

upper level VA employees in an effort to improve performance and care.

He also champions a variety of treatments and choice for veterans.

“One-size treatment for our veterans doesn’t fit all,” Bilirakis said passionately. “There are several alternative therapies that work. Veterans come to me every day about this and tell me they are lost. They just give a bunch of pills and offer them some counseling and send them home.

“That’s not how you treat heroes. This needs to change now.”

**Idol • Continued from Page 1A**

“I’ve had friends and family tell me that I’ve got to try it again,” Johnson said. “I’m going to keep playing music as long as I’m able, and if an opportunity arises, I’ll go wherever it takes me.”

Johnson has loved music since a young age, inspired by artists such as Garth Brooks, The Beatles, and, one of his favorites, Jimmy Buffett. He auditioned in Orlando with Garth Brook’s “The Dance,” a personal favorite and

his “go-to” Karaoke song.

“I’ve loved music as long as I’ve been cognizant enough to listen to it,” Johnson said. “There I was, three years old and singing along to Jimmy Buffet’s “Fruitcakes” album. There’s just so many talented artists who just encapsulate what music can do and how it can reach people.”

Johnson is currently involved with his own band, Black Label, which plays at several different venues throughout

the Pasco area. Johnson would love to someday pursue a career in music, whether it be singing, writing or producing. He encourages all aspiring artists to pursue their dreams and go wherever opportunities take them.

“Just don’t let the dream die,” Johnson said. “There’s a misconception that part of growing up is giving up on your dreams ... you may have to set more realistic expectations, but never give up on the dream altogether.”



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**October 21st  
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**October 22nd  
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# Church News

Email Church News to [church@pasconewspsubs.com](mailto:church@pasconewspsubs.com)

**First Baptist Church of Dade City** – Worship services are on Sundays at 9:15 or 10:45 a.m. and children’s services at 9:15 a.m. Nursery is available. A Spanish service is held at 1 p.m. Sunday and youth activities are at 5 p.m.

Bible studies are available Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.. For the children and youth: AWANA for age 4 through fifth grade and middle and high school activities are offered. Visit [www.fbcdadecity.org](http://www.fbcdadecity.org) or call (352) 567-3265 for information.

**Redeeming Grace Family Baptist Church** – Sunday services are at 4 p.m. with a fellowship meal following. Located at 37412 Church Ave. in the fellowship hall. We are a Christ-centered, family focused church. Contact (352) 424-4064 or [pastorjeremyrgfbc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjeremyrgfbc@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page for more information.

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church** – Established in 1883, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church is a parish community with a rich history and a great future. Located at 32832 St. Anthony Way in San Antonio. Our pastor, Fr. Garry Welsh, as well as our entire parish community, invite you to come and worship with us.

Daily mass is offered Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. and on Saturdays at 8:15 a.m. Our Saturday vigil mass is at 5:30 p.m. and our Sunday masses are offered at 7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Confessions are Saturday from 10-11 a.m. or by appointment.

Connect with us on Facebook @ [stanthonyofpaduasantonio](https://www.facebook.com/stanthonyofpaduasantonio) or visit [www.saopccfl.org](http://www.saopccfl.org) for more information.

**Fort Dade Baptist Church** – The church would like to invite you to bring your family and enjoy Family Movie Night. We will be showing “God’s Not Dead II” on

Sept. 23. Enjoy pizza at 6 p.m. with the movie beginning at 7 p.m.

Regular services are every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday school for children and adults worship is at 11 a.m. Evening service is at 6 p.m. and midweek Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Ladies Bible Study is held Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. The church is located at 14231 Old Mission Road. Call (352) 567-6183 for information.

**Ridge Manor Community United Methodist Church** – Regular services are held at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday at 34350 Cortez Blvd. in Ridge Manor. Call (352) 583-3770 for information.

**Temple Baptist Church** – Pastor Woodard will continue the study of the book of Luke in Sunday’s 11 a.m. worship service. He is presenting messages from the book of Jude at prayer meeting on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Temple Baptist is located at 37253 Clinton Ave. in Dade City.

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church** – Sunday service is at 9:30 a.m. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is located at 37015 Orange Valley Lane in Dade City, on the corner of Ft. King Road and Clinton Avenue. Call (352) 567-8424 or visit [www.shephillslc.org](http://www.shephillslc.org) for information.

Please consider donating canned goods and non-perishable items to our food pantry, which is open on the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-noon.

**New Jerusalem Church of God** – Sunday school is held at 10 a.m. with worship at 11 a.m. Prayer and Bible study is held Tuesday and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Daily prayer is held Monday through Friday at 12 p.m. A free food and clothing ministry goes year-round – call Pastor May Ross at (352) 567-9775 for information. All are

welcome. The church is located at 38442 Tuskegee Ave.

**Heart of Worship** – Heart of Worship is a family friendly non-denominational church located at 10628 U.S. 301 (at the Market Hill Shopping Center) between Zephyrhills and Dade City. Pastor Tony Disano is committed to his faith in God and preaching the Bible.

Sunday service is at 11 a.m. You are welcome to come early for a cup of coffee and a bite to eat. Bible study class is at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. We have a praise team and great music. Family fun night is the last Sunday of the month with activities for children and adults. There are graded school rooms for the children and teens as well as a nursery. All are welcome to attend. Visit [www.thehowchurch.org](http://www.thehowchurch.org) for information.

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church** – Father Krzysztof invites you to worship with us. We have our Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m., and Sunday masses are at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Bring the children and the entire family to break open the word of God and celebrate the Eucharist.

Daily Mass is Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. Our church and early childhood center are located at 32145 Saint Joe Road. Visit [www.sacredheartdadecity.org](http://www.sacredheartdadecity.org) and download the latest bulletin for information.

**Pasadena Baptist Church** – Located at 35845 Clinton Ave. in Dade City. Our regular worship times on Sundays: Sunday school at 10 a.m.; worship services at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Wednesday prayer meeting at 6:30 p.m. We also have 5th Sunday Singspiration, followed by food and fellowship.

Movie night is the last Friday of each

month. Everyone is invited, no charge, bring a snack and cold drink if you like. Movies are shown in the fellowship hall.


Also, our Pasadena Outreach is available for anyone who may need a little extra help. We offer, clothing, food, and household items. Pasadena Outreach is open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for clothing and household items and Saturdays from 8-10:30 a.m. for food.

**Darby Community Church** – Join us every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. for church service led by Pastor Chris Conti. Childcare is available for children ages six and under. Darby Community Church is located at 14745 Bellamy Brothers Blvd. in Dade City. Contact us at (352) 588-2440.


**Living Waters United Church** – The church is located at 15034 Hill Road. Regular Sunday worship is held at 10 a.m. Visit the Living Waters United Church Facebook page for information.

**Oak Ridge Missionary Baptist Church** – Join us for Sunday services at the following times: Sunday school at 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m.; Sunday evening worship service at 5 p.m.; and Wednesday evening prayer/worship service at 7 p.m. The food bank is open from 5-7 p.m. every third Wednesday. The church is located on Kersey Road (just off Coit Road) in Lacochee.

**Lifestyle Church of God** – You are cordially invited to attend Sunday school at 10 a.m. and worship services at 11 a.m. at Lifestyle Church of God, 21345 Sanderson Road, Lacochee. A Wednesday service is also held at 7 p.m. with a meal preceding at 6 p.m. Call lead pastors Paul or Melissa Kilcrease at (352) 583-3354 or like us on Facebook for more information.



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# Community & Club News

Email Club News to  
[clubs@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:clubs@pasconewspubs.com)

## Support Group for Grieving Adults

Adults who are grieving the death of a loved one are welcome to participate in an ongoing grief support group, offered at no charge by HPH Hospice. The group meets the second and fourth Monday of each month, from 3-4 p.m. at Humana, 7920 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills. No registration is required. An HPH bereavement counselor facilitates the group and one can attend as often as they'd like. Call HPH at (800) 486-8784 for information.

## East Pasco Networking Group

The next meeting will be held Aug. 29 and will feature Amber Mariano, Florida state Rep., District 36. The meeting will be held at The Village Inn, 5214 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills at 7:30 a.m. Contact Nils Lenz at (813-) 782-9491 or [nilslenz@gmail.com](mailto:nilslenz@gmail.com), or Vicky Jones at (813) 431-1149 or [donlvic1@yahoo.com](mailto:donlvic1@yahoo.com) or manager@palmtreeemhp.com for information or suggested topics or speakers you would like to hear. If you would like to speak, contact us now as there are only a few open dates.

## Pet Loss Support Group

Gulfside Hospice's team of bereavement counselors are offering a monthly pet loss support group, held the last Thursday of the month at the Gulfside Center for Hospice Care in Zephyrhills, 5760 Dean Dairy Road. The next meetings are Aug. 31 and Sept. 28. Call (727) 845-5707 for information.

## East Pasco Amateur Radio Society

Monthly exams for all levels of amateur radio licenses are available on the third Tuesday of every month. The test sessions are held at Saint Leo University, 33701 S.R. 52, at 5:30 p.m. Email [k4ex@arrl.net](mailto:k4ex@arrl.net) or visit [eparsonline.org](http://eparsonline.org) to schedule a test please or for more information.

## Centennial Eagles #4399

Activities open to members and guests: Sundays: Bar Bingo at 12 p.m.; Music with Karl Sapp from 4-7 p.m. Tuesdays: Pool Tournament at 7 p.m. Wednesdays: Nickel Bingo from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays: Bar Bingo at 7 p.m. Saturdays: Nickel Bingo from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Aerie meets the first and third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

The Auxiliary meets the first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. The club is located at 15924 U.S. 301 in Dade City. Call (352) 567-9755 for information.

## Kiwanis Club of Dade City

This service organization meets every Tuesday at noon at the American Legion Hall, located at 37745 Church Ave. in Dade City. Lunch is followed by a speaker on current topics of interest to the club. Kiwanis is a worldwide organization whose focus is on the children of the world. The Dade City club's primary focus is on helping the children of east Pasco County. Guests are welcome to come to a meeting and learn more about how we support children in our community.

## Sunrise Rotary Club of Dade City

Sunrise Rotary Club of Dade City meets on Thursdays at the Hampton Inn, on U.S. 301 in Dade City, at 7 a.m. We are seeking potential new members that can bring fresh ideas to the club, serve the community and help eradicate polio. Come and join us for breakfast.

## Community Cycling Ride

Ride leaves from the parking lot next to 14112 Eighth St. in Dade City at 8 a.m. every Saturday and is approximately two hours long with a varying pace depending on skill levels. All skill levels are welcome. Contact Josh or Kaleigh Thornton at [wickedawesomeracing@gmail.com](mailto:wickedawesomeracing@gmail.com) for information.

## American Legion Post #15

Join Dade City Post #15 every Saturday night for Karaoke with Rick starting at 6 p.m. Saturday dinners are available from 5-7 p.m. Sing along, laugh and meet old friends. Music jams are every Wednesday night, but when the snowbirds go home, as many of our jammers are from the north, we will have to practice Karaoke for those who want to try new songs, just watch, or sing Karaoke for the first time in a friendly environment. Refreshments available for purchase along with a full-service bar.

Regular business meetings are conducted on the second Monday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend.

We are located in beautiful downtown Dade City at 37745 Church Ave. Join us in support of all veterans and hometown heroes. Call (352) 518-0021 for information.

## Chess Club

The Hugh Embry Library Chess Club meets Wednesdays from 5-7:30 p.m. every week. We have the boards and pieces so bring your winning attitude and chess clock if you prefer to use one. Meetings are held at the Hugh Embry Library Meeting Room, 14215 Fourth St. in Dade City. Contact Glen Thompson at [bookbollar@iCloud.com](mailto:bookbollar@iCloud.com) or call (352) 567-7449 for information.

## Zumba for College Scholarships

Every Monday and Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. Come dance for \$3 per class at La Onda Dance Club, 37518 Lock St. in Dade City. All proceeds go to graduating seniors college scholarships. Email [griveras@mail.usf.edu](mailto:griveras@mail.usf.edu) for information.

## Zephyrhills Lions Club

On the first Thursday of each month from 9-11:30 a.m. applications are accepted from Pasco County residents for basic eye care through our Sight Program. To qualify please see a list of required documents by visiting [www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills) or by contacting our clubhouse at (813) 788-1441. Clubhouse hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The clubhouse is located at 5827 Dean Dairy Road.

Come join our Tuesday and Friday night Bingo, the largest Bingo in East Pasco. Doors open at 3 p.m., first Bingo session begins at 6 p.m., second session begins at 8 p.m. so come for one session or stay all night. Our kitchen opens at 4 p.m. with a delicious array of freshly prepared foods and desserts. Daily specials, when available, are \$5.

## Overeaters Anonymous

Meetings are held at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 7333 Dairy Road in Zephyrhills on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Newcomers are welcome.

## Al-Anon Support Group

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems. There are local day and evening groups throughout the area that meet weekly. Call (352) 697-0497 or visit [www.nfldistrict5.com](http://www.nfldistrict5.com) for meeting locations/times and more information.

## Narcotics Anonymous

Information about various Narcotics Anonymous meetings that are held several days a week in East Pasco may be obtained by calling (813) 527-3853. Narcotics Anonymous can help those who have drug problems and who are willing to participate in the program. Narcotics Anonymous is not affiliated with any of the places at which its meetings are held.

## Tools to Quit

This program gives people support as they seek to break their tobacco addiction. It is a two hour session to guide the group members toward a successful quit attempt. Learn about Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) and receive free NRT. Call (813) 929-1000 for information on free tobacco cessation classes.

## Alcoholics Anonymous

If you have, or even think you may have, a problem with alcohol, call (813) 933-9123 (24 hours) for a local meeting or just someone to talk with.

## Military Order of the Purple Heart

Chapter #705 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is calling all combat wounded veterans to join us promoting patriotism, history, fraternalism and assistance. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at AMVETS Post #550, 4645 Airport Road, Zephyrhills. Life membership is available for all combat wounded veterans, their dependents and survivors, for \$50, payable in two convenient payments of \$25 each. Call Earl McMillan at (813) 782-3425 or email [emcmillan1@verizon.net](mailto:emcmillan1@verizon.net), or contact Guy Patterson at (864) 561-6644 for information.

## Senior Golf Group

Our senior golf group plays rotating courses each Wednesday in Pasco and Hillsborough counties year round. Meet new golfing friends and get a group rate. Call Walt Bockmiller at (813) 527-8211 for information.

## East Pasco Writers Forum

The forum meets in the clubhouse of Country Aire Manor, 10249 U.S. 98 in Dade City, every second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. Meetings are divided into three sections: 1) for critiques of original works brought by members and visitors, 2) for critiques of the voluntary monthly writing assignment, and 3) a lesson designed to help members and visitors improve their craft. Meetings last two to three hours. Lynn Merrell, a published writer and editor, leads the group. Call Merrell at (352) 583-0041 for more information or directions to the clubhouse.

## Bariatric Support Group

Bayfront Health Dade City's bariatric support group meets every other Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the hospital's Medical Plaza I, classroom 108, 13100 Fort King Road. Contact Dina Erickson at (352) 521-1170 or [Dina.Erickson@BayfrontHealth.com](mailto:Dina.Erickson@BayfrontHealth.com) for information.

## Tri-County Tennis League

Join to enter a fun filled tennis league playing in Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. Men's and women's leagues are available. You play matches locally home and away. Team play divisions are 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 open. Call Walt Bockmiller at (813) 527-8211 for details.

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# Obituaries

## Curtis Wayne Abney

ABNEY, Curtis Wayne, 30, went to His Heavenly home on Aug. 12, 2017. He was born on April 18, 1987. Before Curtis developed symptoms of having a disease, he loved being outdoors and enjoyed playing video games but hated to lose. He loved to listen to Christian country music and especially eating his Aunt Michelle's food. Curtis had a very distinctive laugh that everyone loved and the biggest smile that could brighten anyone's day. He adored his friends and caregivers as if they were his own family at both the Fort King location in Dade City and Apollo Beach Group Home in Apollo Beach. Curtis is survived by his father, Nathan Abney; paternal grandparents, Oliver Burton Abney II and Betty Abney; aunts on his mother's side of the family, Michelle (Robert) Varnadoe and Teresa Lynn Absher; an aunt on his father's side of the family, Gloria Jean Williams; uncles on mother's side of the family, Clay Absher, Scotty Absher (Debbie) and Ronnie Absher; uncles on the father's side of the family, Micheal Abney and Oliver Burton Abney III; and several cousins on both sides who loved him very much. He was preceded in death by his mother, Vickie (Prissy) Abney, who passed away in 2015; and by his nanny, Harian McDonald, who passed away in 2014. His family loved him so much and is going to miss his sweet presence. A memorial service was held Aug. 21 at Hodges Family Funeral Home's U.S. 301 Chapel.



## Leland K. Bartle Jr.

BARTLE, Leland K., Jr., 70, of Zephyrhills, passed away Aug 12, 2017, in Zephyrhills. Mr. Bartle was born in Sandusky, Mich. on Jan. 16, 1947, to Leland Sr. and Esther (Munro) Bartle. Leland was test driver for Ford Motor Company for many years. He moved to this area 15 years ago from Michigan. He attended Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Dade City where he volunteered many hours maintaining the facilities and grounds. He was member of the Zephyrhills Masonic Lodge #198 and also Brown City Lodge #409, was a proud Shriner and enjoyed his role as Patches the clown and entertained at many events throughout central Florida. What spare time he had, Leland enjoyed cruising, camping, working in his yard and being Santa Claus. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 and a ½ years, Linda of Zephyrhills; children, Teresa (Ken) Waterman and Trevor (Mona) Bartle, both of Zephyrhills; siblings, Bill (Sheryl) Bartle of Beverly Hills, Gary (Debbie) Bartle of Brown City, Mich. and Connie (Jeff) Boone of Grand Haven, Mich.; father-in-law, Max Clapsaddle; three grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and one the way; and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 11 a.m. on Aug. 27 at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 37015 Orange Valley Lane, Dade City, FL 33525. Hodges Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## John Walter Brown

BROWN, John Walter, 88, passed away Aug. 10, 2017. It is with sadness that his family announces his passing. John was born on Sept. 19, 1928. John will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 65 years, Constance; and his children, Patricia (John) Taylor and Laura (Thomas) Terlop. John will also be



fondly remembered by his seven grandchildren, Eric, Andrea, Jordan, Richard, Nicole, Noelle and Brandon; his many great-grandchildren; and by his sisters, Helen Unruh and Betty Storey. His brother, Robert Brown and his son Glenn Brown predeceased John. A graveside service was held at Chapel Hill Gardens on Aug. 19. Hodges Family Funeral Home handled arrangements.

## Carole Sumner Croft

CROFT, Carole Sumner, 74, of Dade City went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Aug. 13, 2017, at her residence. Carole was born on Nov. 12, 1942, in Dade City to Claude and Mabel (Everidge) Sumner. She attended school in Dade City and was a 1960 graduate of Pasco High School. Later in life Carole attended Pasco-Hernando Community College and transferred to St. Leo College, completing her bachelor's degree in accounting and was dedicated and hardworking throughout her career. While attending college she was a proud member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the nation's oldest academic Honor Society. Carole was a member of the First Baptist Church of Dade City. Well known in the Dade City area, she was an extremely talented organist who played for many churches, weddings and other events. She loved flowers and grew trumpet lilies, caladiums, hibiscus, and crepe myrtles. Carole was a caring and compassionate wife, mother, grandmother, and friend who had a unique sense of humor, who loved the beach and seashells. Her parents and a granddaughter, Rhea Croft, preceded her in death. Her husband of 51 years, Frank Croft of Dade City, survives along with two sons, Mark (Brenda Beebe) Croft of Pinellas Park and Clark (Lynda) Croft of Brandon, Miss. and a daughter Laura (Lyle) Freijo of Dade City. Her sister, Evelyn Rowell of Dade City; eight grandchildren, Ashli Barrett, Franky Croft, Jacob Croft, William Croft, Alex Croft, Kira Freijo, Kacie Freijo and Carter Freijo; and a great grandson, Aadrien Barret, also survive. A graveside service was held Aug. 18 at the Dade City Cemetery. A memorial service celebrating Carole's life was held Aug. 18 at the U.S. 301 Chapel of Hodges Family Funeral Home. Those desiring to remember Carole with a donation in lieu of flowers are asked to consider the American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22202.



## Mark Perry Hendricks

HENDRICKS, Mark Perry, 64, of Dade City, passed away Aug. 17, 2017. He was born June 26, 1953, in Louisville, Ky., to Ralph and Kathryn Hahn Hendricks and worked as a business consultant. His wife, Alita A. Hendricks, survives along with a son, Jon Hendricks; a brother, David Hendricks of Merritt Island; a sister: Ann Sommer of Wasilla, Alaska; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Graveside services were held Aug. 19 at

Trilby Cemetery. Hodges Family Funeral Home handled arrangements.

## Robyn L. Herndon

HERNDON, Robyn L., 40, of Dade City, passed away Aug. 19, 2017, under the care of Gulfside Center for Hospice Care. She was born March 4, 1977, in Tampa to Herb and Becky Bishop. She graduated from the University of South Florida with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. Robyn worked as a Parent Involvement Assistant at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School in Zephyrhills. She was actively involved with the First Baptist Church Dade City. Her husband of 15 years, Hugh L. Herndon IV, survives along with two daughters, Mackenzie and Sydney Herndon; parents, Herb and Becky Bishop of Zephyrhills; and three brothers, Brad, Bob and Wade Bishop, all of Zephyrhills. Funeral services will be held Aug. 24 at 11:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church Dade City with burial to follow at Chapel Hill Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Robyn's memory to an educational fund for Mackenzie and Sydney. Hodges Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



## Harry S. Loftin

LOFTIN, Harry S., 90, of Wesley Chapel, passed away Aug. 20, 2017, in Zephyrhills. He was born April 21, 1927, in Waco, Texas, to Joel D. and Beth Saxon Loftin. He was retired from the U.S. Marine Corps and then worked in the public school system. Two sons, Joel and Teresa Loftin and Jim Kill; and three grandchildren, Kelsey Loftin, Anthony Rawson and Heidi Chapman, survive him. His wife, Helen Loftin, preceded him in death. Services will be held Aug. 25 at 12 p.m. at the Fifth Street Chapel of Hodges Family Funeral Home with burial to follow at Florida National Cemetery. The family will receive friends for viewing 30 minutes prior to service time at the funeral home.

*Obituaries are provided as a public service free of charge on a space available basis. If you would like an obituary included in the Dade City News please email jpotter@pasconewspubs.com or call (813) 783-1300. Obituaries may also be viewed online in the community section at www.pasconewspublications.com.*



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# Pets of the Week



HULK



Hulk is a sweet boy who seems to be very interested in meeting other dogs and we always encourage meet and greets. He loves to be scratched and the feeling of a comb. This boy has really come out of his shell and likes to bond with his people.

AUTUMN



Autumn is about 3 years old and a volunteer favorite. She loves to cuddle and is very affectionate. All pets are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped when they are adopted out. Please come to Pasco County Animal Services to meet Autumn.

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