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Weather Is Fair For Antique Faire

Sunday Crowd Was Better Than Last Year

by Staff Report

Attendance was good on both days of the Antique Faire and Market that were held in downtown Dade City on Saturday and Sunday.

The turnout on Saturday was very good, said Margaret Angell, president of the Dade City Merchants Association.

Merchants and vendors had been concerned that customers might stay away because of Hurricane Matthew having brushed the area on Friday, but Angell said the weather cooperated and shoppers came to town ready to spend time and money.

"We were grateful for the sunshine

Faire • Continued on Page 5A



Jonelle Wiley, owner, Dade City Magnolia House, Emma Wiley, daughter, Kim Capps, Antiques on the Main Street and Marissa Siller, sales, Magnolia House, were all decked out in celebration of the second annual witches ball during the Antique Faire held Saturday and Sunday. Photo by Richard K. Riley

City Moves On Medical Marijuana

Hearing Set For Oct. 25

Story by Joe Potter

Dade City commissioners laid the groundwork Tuesday for a yearlong moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries should Amendment 2 pass on Nov. 8.

Commissioners unanimously approved advertising the proposed ordinance for a public hearing and possible adoption on Oct. 25 at 5:30 p.m.



Karla Owens

Amendment 2 is a proposed law that would authorize the sale of medical marijuana for 10 specific debilitating conditions: cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, post-traumatic stress disorder, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Chron's disease, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis.

The amendment requires approval

Marijuana • Continued on Page 2A



Members of the Pasco Middle School drum line performing in front of Dan Cannon Auditorium at the 2016 Country Jam last Saturday. Proceeds from the event will benefit the school's band program and help them buy new instruments. Photo by Keri McAlpine

Country Jam Plays On Despite A Smaller Crowd, Concert Raises Thousands

by Keri McAlpine

Line dancers rejoiced last weekend during the second annual DC Country Jam.

Almost a dozen musical acts travelled just down the street or from as far as Tennessee to perform at the daylong concert, benefitting the Pasco Middle School band and its 110 students.

Jam • Continued on Page 8A



About 40 people attended this year's Old Timers Picnic, held Oct. 8 at the Pasco County Fairgrounds. The picnic celebrates those who have lived in Pasco County for at least 20 years, and has been held since the 1920s.

Old Timers Picnic Spotlights Pasco Residents

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

Despite the addition of several conflicting community events over the past couple of years, the Old Timers Picnic has stayed resilient for generations.

The picnic invites anyone who has lived in Pasco County for more than 20 years to come together and eat a good meal inside the Clayton Building at the Pasco County Fairgrounds.

About 40 folks attended and were able to mix and mingle before their picnic lunch was served at noon. Bouquets of orange and yellow flowers, fall leaves and baskets decorated the various tables in the room.

Billy Burkett, past president of the Old Timers Picnic committee, has been a part of the event for his entire life. He said it started with his grandmother in the 1920s, and it has continued ever since.

Different members of his family, including his father, have headed up the planning committee before him. About three years ago, he handed the reigns over to his son, Tim Burkett, after serving as president for about 30 years.

"They've been doing a great job with it," Billy Burkett, 86, said of the new management. "It's always been important

Old Timers • Continued on Page 6A

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ACCIDENT

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Dade City Arrests

Robbery Results In Several Charges

Jorge Yull Rodriguez Jr., 34, of 14920 Blanton St., was arrested by Dade City police on Sept. 27 on charges of armed robbery, contempt of court – nonpayment of child support and violation of probation – burglary of an occupied structure/conveyance - felony. Rodriguez entered Walgreens, 12807 U.S. 301 at about 2:45 a.m. and was seen by store employees placing merchandise in his backpack. A manager and another employee both tried to determine if Rodriguez was going to pay for the items as he started to walk out of the store. Rodriguez allegedly removed a knife from his pocket, opened it and kept it at his side until he exited the store. An employee stated she was in fear for her life. The events were confirmed through witness interviews. Once detained, a folding knife was found in Rodriguez's right front pants pocket, and the merchandise was located in his backpack. A computer check revealed an active Sumter County warrant for his arrest.



He was booked into the Pasco County Jail with bond set at \$100,000.

Albert Charles Hart, 33, of 14741 12th St., was arrested by Dade City police on Oct. 4 on charges of possession of cocaine and violation of probation – driving under the influence. While being arrested for an active Pasco County warrant, a search of Hart's person revealed a carton of cigarettes. The box of Newport cigarettes contained a clear plastic baggie with a white substance, which field-tested positive for cocaine. Hart was taken to the Pasco County Jail.



Carson Hutchinson Brock, 23, of 12818 Ventana Court, was arrested by Dade City police on Oct. 2 on a charge of resisting arrest without violence. An officer ob-



served Brock ending a fight with another male at about 1:45 a.m. at Sixth Street and Meridian Avenue. Brock attempted to walk past an officer who had told him to stop. Brock ignored verbal commands and began to run from the officer. He was later detained by back up officers and taken to the Pasco County Jail.

John Zackrie Suber, 25, of Lacochee, was arrested by Dade City police on Sept. 26 on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked with knowledge. Contact was made with Suber at 38101 Willingham Drive as he was witnessed driving a stolen vehicle. It was later discovered that Suber was not the person who stole the vehicle. However, Suber told police he did not have his driver's license on him because it was suspended. He was taken to the Pasco County Jail.



Brandon Merle Roberts, 29, of 37920 Jordan Road, was arrested by Dade City police on Sept. 27 on charges of use of a false receipt and resisting arrest without violence. Contact was made with Roberts at Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301, after he allegedly attempted to use an old receipt to return a hydraulic jack he had not purchased. Roberts resisted arrest by pulling away from officers who told him to stop resisting. Video footage of Roberts taking the item, valued at \$49.88, off of the shelf and the old receipt were recovered. Post Miranda, Roberts did admit to trying to falsely return the item. He was taken to the Pasco County Jail.



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

Marijuana • Continued from Page 1A

of 60 percent of voters. An earlier attempt to pass a medical marijuana amendment failed in 2014, gaining support from 57 percent of voters that year. City Attorney Karla S. Owens said Tuesday that the state legislature might regulate where the dispensaries can be located if Amendment 2 passes. Should that be the case, local municipalities might not need to be involved, she added. However, Owens said, the legislature might not make its decision until late in its 2017 session, which begins March 7 and ends May 5. "We don't know what the legislature is going to do.

We also don't have time now to adopt an ordinance regulating where the dispensaries can be located," she said. Several municipalities have already adopted ordinances regulating where the dispensaries could be located should Amendment 2 pass. Owens said some other municipalities already have moratoriums in place and have not adopted regulatory ordinances. If Dade City's proposed ordinance were adopted, it would give the city time to decide how the land-use plan and zoning laws could be used to regulate where the dispensaries could be located.

"We need to give this some careful consideration and think about it," Owens said. It might not take a year for the state to make its decision so the length of the proposed moratorium could be shortened, Owens said. In other business Tuesday, commissioners: Announced that a public workshop on traffic calming would be held on Oct. 25 prior to the commission meeting also scheduled that day. Appointed Scott Black as the city's representative and Nicole Deese Newlon as alternate representative to the Ridge League of Cities.



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Sheriff's Office Collecting Food For Kids

The Pasco Sheriff's Office's annual Feeding Pasco's Kids food drive is now accepting both monetary and food donations.

The proceeds from this worthy cause will be given directly to local organizations whose mission is to provide support for homeless children and students. This year those recipients include the Pasco School system, the Salvation Army, Sunrise Domestic Violence Shelter in Dade City, God's Food 4 Life in Lacochee and The Thomas Promise Foundation in

Zephyrhills.

According to the District School Board of Pasco County, there are more than 915 homeless children in Pasco County alone. This includes those that are "doubled up," or living in another's household; living in shelters; or unsheltered. Unfortunately, Pasco Sheriff's deputies all too often see the results of malnourished children in our community, whether they are homeless or not.

Last year, the department collected nearly 5,000 food items for needy Pasco

children. The collection process to support the food drive will remain the same. Monetary donations are accepted, and non-perishable boxed or canned food items, such as instant potatoes and canned vegetables, are also needed. Please do not donate any food in glass containers, which break easily.

There are donation boxes placed in the lobbies of Pasco Sheriff's Office buildings throughout the county. A number of area churches have also agreed to have boxes located in their buildings to assist in the

collection of food. Monetary donations can be made by check or money order to Pasco Sheriff's Charities, with Food Drive in the "For" line. They can be mailed to Food Drive Donations, Pasco Sheriff's Charities, 8700 Citizen Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34654. All donations must be received by Friday, Dec. 9.

If you would like to donate or have any questions about Feeding Pasco's Kids, please contact the Sheriff's Community Relations Office at (727) 844-7759, Monday - Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters Wanted in Pasco County

This holiday season, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay is hoping people will give of their most precious commodity - their time.

With more than 50 children in Pasco County on the waiting list for a Big Brother or Big Sister, the organization has streamlined its enrollment process. The organization conducts orientation and training sessions in neighboring Wesley Chapel that, when completed, advances the potential volunteer 90 percent through the enrollment process.

The 90-minute informational sessions "really expedite the enrollment process," said Deb Kristol-Irwin, Director of Partnership Development for Pasco County.

"In the past getting interviewed and trained could take a couple of months," Kristol-Irwin said, adding that, once completed, a volunteer only needs to complete a personal interview to be done with the process.

Adult mentors, referred to as "Bigs", can choose between several programs. There is a school-based program, where the Big visits his or her "Little" one hour a week at their school or during their afterschool program. Or they can choose the community-based program, sharing a minimum of 8 hours per month with their Little doing fun activities or enjoying the many event tickets that BBBS provides.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

The success of the program is impressive, with 99 percent of the children in the program last year staying out of the juvenile justice system, and 97 percent being promoted to the next grade level.

"The need for mentors is so great, and the amount of time per month is so small," says Kristol-Irwin.

To learn more about becoming a mentor, plan to attend one of the following orientation and training events from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Wesley Chapel Honda, 27750 Wesley Chapel Blvd., on Oct. 18, Nov. 29 or Dec. 13.

Visit www.bbbsstampabay.org for a complete list of orientation dates and locations. Contact Deb Kristol-

Irwin at (813) 997-6881, or DebK@bbbstampabay.org for information.

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East Pasco Events

Oct. 14 – Academy at the Farm Golf Tournament – Sign up for the 4th Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Academy at the Farm. Held at Lake Jovita Golf Course. Registration begins at 11:45 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Dinner, raffles and awards will follow the tournament. Cost is \$500 for a foursome and \$150 for individual golfers. Includes 18 holes of golf, cart fees, range balls, dinner, beverages, and contest entries. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Call Academy at the Farm at (352) 588-9737 or the tournament chairman at (352)-999-0783 for information.

Oct. 15 – Benefit Fundraiser – In August 2016, Robert Michael Johnson was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. We are searching for a donor, as well as raising funds to help Mike and his family. We will have someone at the benefit to do swabs to find a potential donor. There will be raffles, 50/50, entertainment, corn hole tournament and more. Contact Brittany Harrelson at (813) 965-7026 for information or to register for the corn hole tournament. Held at VFW #4238, 12735 VFW Road.

Oct. 15-16 – Rattlesnake Festival – In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Annual San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival and Run will be a two-day extravaganza from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday in San Antonio City Park, 12202 Main Street. The festival kicks off at 8 a.m. on Saturday with the 38th Annual 5-mile and 1-mile Rattlesnake Run. Registration may be made at www.RattlesnakeRun.com. Guided family bike rides, educational snake lectures, wooden gopher races, alligator show and mechanical bull rides. Visit www.rattlesnakefestival.com for information and a full list of events and times.

Oct. 15-16 – Native American Flute Gathering and Arts and Crafts Show – Held at the Withlacoochee River Park, 12449 Withlacoochee Blvd., from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. both days. Dock Green Silverhawk, a long time resident of Plant City, will be hosting his 13th annual “Silverhawk Native American Flute Gathering.” Visit www.silverhawkflutegathering.com for information. Come experience the hauntingly beautiful voice of the Native American style flute and stroll through vendors. Massage booth, great food and camping are available. Call (813) 763-2118 for information.

Oct. 16 – Sunday Concert – Piney Grove Baptist Choir will rock the monastery! Be there to feel the power. Reservations are not required. Refreshments served after the concert, and free-will donations welcome. Held at 12138 Wichers Road in Saint Leo. Contact the Benedictine Sisters of Florida at (352) 588-8320 for information and start time.

Oct. 18 – Free Excel Workshop – Come to this free workshop presented by Access Computer Training, LLC and Career Source Pasco Hernando. Fully equipped with computers and Microsoft Office. Seats are limited and class registration is first come first serve. Held from 1-3 p.m. at 15000 Citrus County Dr., 3rd floor. Call (855) 953-2764 or visit careersourcepascohernando.com/events for information and to register.

Oct. 21 – Diabetic Education Class – If you were recently diagnosed with diabetes or struggle with managing your diabetes, then this certified education class will help you. In a group setting offered by Bayfront Health Medical

Group, 13933 17th St., Suite 101. Held from 12-1 p.m., this class is designed to help one take charge of their diabetes. Call (352) 567-6763 to reserve your space.

Oct. 22 – Dade City Symphony – The Dade City Symphony presents “On the Move,” a free evening of entertainment for all ages. Exciting music from your favorite genres including cartoons, Disney movies, Bib Band, Latin, patriotic, soundtracks and more. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at the Pasco Middle School Auditorium, 13925 14th St. General seating only. Visit dadacitysymphony.com for information.

Oct. 22 – Reunion of the Decades – The Pasco High School 2016 reunion of the decades will be hosted by the class of 1976 from 6-10 p.m. at Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club, located at 12900 Lake Jovita Boulevard. Cost to attend is \$45 per person. Music by The Bus Stop Band will allow for plenty of dancing. A buffet and cash bar will be available. Deadline to reserve is Oct. 20. Please send check to: Reunion of the Decades, P.O. Box 241, Dade City, FL 33526. Contact 76Pasco@gmail.com for information.

Oct. 22 – Card Making Class – The Pioneer Florida Museum is offering classes where you will learn how to make Holiday Cards. Please pre-register since class size is limited. Cost is \$10, includes materials for the class and museum admission. Held from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the museum, located at 15602 Pioneer Road in Dade City. Call (352) 567-0262 for information.

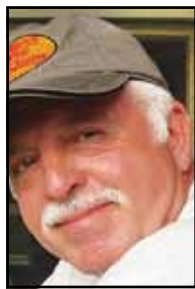
Oct. 24 – Candidate Forum – The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will host a Candidates Forums for the upcoming general election. The forum will be held at the East Pasco Adventist Academy, 38434 Centennial Road in Dade City. The forum will be moderated by representatives of the local media. A “meet and greet” will be held from 6:30-7 p.m. with the forum beginning at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend and will be given the opportunity to submit questions to the moderators for consideration. Contact John Moors at (352) 567-3769 or jmoors@dadacitychamber.org for information.

Oct. 27 – U.S. 301 Bicycle Pedestrian Trail Grand Opening – Please join us for the U.S. 301 trail grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. Bike to the event, or take a bike ride on the trail that connects the historic cities of Zephyrhills and Dade City. Held at 10 a.m. at Grace Baptist Church, 10011 U.S. 301 in Dade City. Call (727) 847-8140 for information.

Oct. 28 – Benefit Concert – Artist for Humanity presents a musical theater benefit concert for Habit for Humanity of East and Central Pasco and the Cornerstone Center for Women. Silent auction proceeds will benefit the San Antonio children’s playground fund. Admission is \$20 per ticket and includes gourmet desserts, tea and coffee. Tickets available through event hosts, at the Habitat for Humanity office (Lynan Professional Building across from Pasco High School), or at the door. Corporate sponsorships & donations gladly accepted as well. Held from 7-10 p.m. at San Antonio Community Church, 31251 S.R. Visit www.facebook.com/events/1107390992684584/ for information.

For more events visit
www.pasconewspublications.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

It's Time To Quit Watching TV Until After The Election

Thank God that there is less than a month until the general election. After watching the second presidential debate on Sunday night I have to admit that it was almost as entertaining as watching the Bucs play their kind of football. Trying to say something positive about Jameis Winston and the Bucs probably would be as hard for many of us as the last question that Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were asked during the town hall forum on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis.

The question lit up the internet like a Christmas tree and came from one of the attendees and not the moderators – Anderson Cooper from CNN and Martha Raddatz a correspondent with ABC News. The candidates were asked, “Regardless of the current rhetoric would either of you name one positive thing that you respect in one another?”

To me it looked like both running for the top spot bit into a lemon when they heard the question. Clinton said that she admired Trump’s children and Trump said that Clinton was a fighter and doesn’t give up. It seemed like they had to reach deep to come up with these simple compliments. This election will go down in history as one of the nastiest ever. The part that gets really crazy is when the focus groups get together and decide who they think won.

Depending on who you listen to it was clear as mud as both sides declared that they won big time.

I like to watch sports on TV and the agencies that place the political ads know that I am not alone. It seems like they have invested a king’s ransom in placing presidential ads at every break during all sporting competitions. In addition to these events I don’t think a commercial break goes by on any station on any program that a negative ad doesn’t pop up that causes me to make another run to the refrigerator or simply hit the mute button and tune out. Think of all that could be helped with the amount of money that is being spent. Where are all those donors when a need or crisis develops?

One last thing and it has to deal with the many polls out there. You can always find a poll that will agree with what you believe. I don’t think that any poll amounts to a hill of beans or will influence most voters in any way. When it is all said and done it is not the polls that will win the election. This has been an interesting time in the politics of our country and a lot is in the balance. Your vote will make a difference for possibly generations to come. Here’s hoping that the Electoral College and the popular vote are on the same track. It has happened in the past where the popular vote was snatched by the Electoral College.

Four presidents were elected without receiving a majority of the popular vote. They were George W. Bush, Benjamin Harrison, Rutherford B. Hayes and John Adams. They won the presidency through the Electoral College. Another president, John Quincy Adams, was elected by the U.S. House of Representatives in 1825. This was done because none of the four candidates in the 1824 presidential election received enough Electoral College votes.

With all of us standing around and scratching our heads and wondering what will happen next let’s hope that this is not something that the American people are going to have to deal with. The results could be catastrophic.

The Pumpkins Are Coming

Ridge Manor Community United Methodist Church is celebrating its 11th year holding the Pumpkin Patch. The pumpkins are scheduled to arrive on Oct. 14 around 4 p.m. People are welcome to help unload the hundreds of pumpkins that will be delivered by semi.

The patch opens at 10 a.m. on Oct. 15 and will be open Mondays – Saturdays from 10 a.m. until dusk. The patch will be open on Sundays from noon until dusk.

There will be a variety of pumpkins in all shapes and sizes that are priced to fit anyone’s budget. Smaller pumpkins are

\$.75 -- \$2 while bulk pumpkins start at \$4. There will also be a variety of decorated gourds.

Photo ops will be setup around the patch so you can take pictures of children.

The annual Fall Festival will be held Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be plenty of activities for families to enjoy.

For information, call the church office at (352) 583-3700. This wonderful celebration of the Harvest will be held at 34350 Cortez Blvd. (State Road 50) in Ridge Manor.

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Dade City News



Judy Christian, center, owner of The Shabby Hen's Nest on Seventh St., had the store filled with customers and lookers all day Saturday, and most of the time on Sunday. Photos by Richard K. Riley

Faire • Continued from Page 1A

both days and that it didn't rain although it was hot," Angell said.

Sunday's attendance was slightly lower than Saturday's, but better than

most years of the Antique Faire.

She added that merchants are still turning in reports for how many items they sold but that it is already evident that the event "was a good economic boost to the downtown".



Ten vendors were packed into Larkin Alley between Top Drawer Antiques and Antiques on Main Street. They complimented the normal 10 antique dealers and other stores in downtown Dade City and were set up on both Saturday and Sunday.

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Current president of the Old Timers Picnic committee Tim Burkett, left, stands beside his father and past president of the committee Billy Burkett. The Burkett family has been responsible for organizing the picnic for generations, since its inception.

Old Timers • Continued from Page 1A

for old friends even if they don't see each other but once a year, to get together and talk. It's just great to see the same people every year."

Awards were handed out after everyone finished their meals of fried catfish, hushpuppies, green beans, and a slew of other southern sides and desserts.

The picnic welcomes people from anywhere in Pasco County, however this year the people who travelled the furthest to Dade City to attend were only from neighboring Zephyrhills.

Roberta and Eugene Holtzower walked away with a bouquet of flowers for being married the longest, coming in at 64 years. Their 65th wedding anniversary is in the next couple of months.

Eugene Holtzower, 86, has lived in Pasco County for 70 years, and graduated from Pasco High School in 1949.

"I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed the lunch here today and the fellowship we had with the old timers," he said.

John Rickard, 89, won an award for oldest man present,

and Leona Hall, 101, won the award for oldest woman in attendance.

"I want to say that I didn't want to come, but I'm glad I did," Hall said smiling, making the room chuckle.

In past years, Billy Burkett said the picnic would bring a crowd of about 300 people, but Saturday's gathering was up against stiff competition. The Pioneer Florida Museum's Scarecrow Festival and the two-year-old DC Country Jam conflicted with the picnic's time slot, drawing away potential, and younger, guests. He believed Hurricane Matthew might have also had an effect on this year's small turnout.

"There are too many young attractions. It just kind of conflicts with everything. People probably hear 'old timers' and think it's just a bunch of snowbirds," said Billy's grandson, Wade Burkett. "I just love hearing stories of what Dade City was like before I was born," and meeting everyone who attends.

All in all, everyone at the picnic agreed that considering the circumstances, they were glad they got the turnout they did, and they intend to build it back up.

All of the officers on the planning committee were reinstated for another year.



A picnic lunch of fried fish, hushpuppies, green beans, and all the southern fixings was served at the Old Timers Picnic last Saturday.



Gail Burkett, left, presents a prize to John Rickard, 89, for being the oldest male in attendance at the Old Timers Picnic.



Leona Hall from Dade City was awarded a prize for being the oldest woman in attendance at last Saturday's Old Timers Picnic. At 101 years old, Hall said she was debating attending the picnic, but in the end was glad she did.

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Dealership Encourages Youth Soccer

Jim Browne Donates \$500, Equipment To Boys And Girls Club

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine



The Lewis Abraham Boys and Girls Club of Lacochee welcomed employees from Jim Browne Chevrolet Buick GMC last week who came to deliver new soccer equipment for the children.

After patiently sitting on the floor of the gymnasium, the children at the Lewis Abraham Boys and Girls Club of Lacochee finally got to stand up and play with their brand new soccer equipment.

Soccer kits containing silver, chrome-colored soccer balls, pop-up goals, corner flags and cones were dispersed to four different circles of children, depending on their age. The groups immediately began playing hot potato and different games using the new gear.

Jim Browne Chevrolet Buick GMC of Dade City donated the equipment and a \$500 monetary contribution to the club



Jim Browne of Jim Browne Chevrolet Buick GMC, center, with Cassie Coleman of the Boys and Girls Club of Lacochee, center right, and other Jim Browne employees and kids from the club were on hand on Oct. 5 as the dealership delivered a \$500 check as part of the Chevy Youth Soccer program.



Children who attend the Boys and Girls Club in Lacochee put on new t-shirts from the Dade City dealership.

on Oct. 5, as part of the national Chevy Youth Soccer program.

Club director Cassie Coleman said it was a surprise for the kids, and they immediately reaped the benefits of the soccer gear.

“They love soccer, that’s one of their favorite things to do,” Coleman said. “I’m always amazed and I’m always thankful for what Jim Browne does for our kids... it’s just great when people invest in our future like that.”

Coleman added that thanks to the donation, a lot of the children will have opportunities to practice their soccer skills outside of school.

“Who knows, we might raise up a great soccer player here in Lacochee,” Coleman said.

Jim Browne was accompanied by his wife, Jill, his son, Joey, and the dealership’s general manager, Sam Rhineberger, to pass out the equipment. They also handed out Chevy Youth Soccer t-shirts to all of the kids.

“We are proud to be able to bring our community closer to the game and support the development of the kids in our community through the power of play,” said Jill Browne. “We really enjoy our relationship with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay.”

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Jam • Continued from Page 1A

"I want to get some instruments in their hands," said DC Country Jam president and Pasco Middle band director Kenny Mathis. "We're a Title 1 school; we have a lot of low income families. So if I can do my part, put an instrument in their hands so they can be in band and enjoy band, then by golly that's what we're going to do."

This year, the jam entertained about 700 folks; about 300 less than last year, but Mathis said he was still pleased with the turnout. He figured that Hurricane Matthew took some of the target crowd.

"We would have loved to have had a bigger turnout, but everyone said they wanted to come back next year – the bands and the vendors," said

Chris Shaheen, vice president of the Country Jam committee.

"We're going to do it bigger and better next year and try to help as many people as we can."

The concert ended up raising about \$12,000 after expenses, which is \$2,000 less than the inaugural Jam, according to Mathis. Most of the proceeds will go towards buying new instruments for the middle school band, which Mathis has been the director of since 2007.

"Instruments are very expensive," Mathis said. "For instance, a tuba is \$5,000, a euphonium baritone is \$3,000 ... it's just too much at one time for any little cheesecake or cookie-dough fundraiser."

Money will also be donated to the Pasco High School band, the PHS girl's soccer team and girl's

weightlifting team, as well as the FFA program at Pasco Middle School for their time volunteering at the jam.

"I want to thank all the sponsors, volunteers and the DC Country Jam board members," Mathis said. "Overall I thought everything went pretty smooth."

The all-day affair started at 11 a.m. with covers of easy listening tunes and rock music.

Concertgoers moseyed into Dan Cannon Auditorium for some air conditioning and live music in between visiting the kid's zone and food and drink vendors outside.

The country music kicked in at about 3 p.m., when Nashville native Dawn Beyer took the stage. From

Jam • Continued on Page 9A



Dade City local and former America's Got Talent contestant Johnny Shelton performed at the DC Country Jam last weekend to raise money for the Pasco Middle School band.

Photo Provided



Pasco High School alumnus Marcus Gullen sang and played guitar with his band, covering easy listening hits before the country music got started at Saturday's Country Jam.

Photo by Keri McAlpine

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Rock band Stonegrey signing autographs after their performance at DC Country Jam on Oct. 8. Photo Provided



Fast 4 Ward kept things lively during the afternoon at the DC Country Jam.

Photo by Max Zimmerman

Jam • Continued from Page 8A

then on, it was go country or go home.

Many of the acts were local faces such as Johnny Shelton, PHS alumnus Marcus Gullen, and Jesse and Noah Bellamy.

Mathis said that it's motivating for the middle school band students to see successful musicians form their hometown. A meet-and-greet area allowed fans to chat with the performers, and maybe snag an autograph and picture.

"We wanted to bring some of the hometown talent back to town too because it's about supporting the area," Mathis explained. "Dade City is a small town, and a lot of these kids don't get out of Dade City. So I've got to bring everybody else to them."

"It broadens their horizons. It lets them know that could be them on that stage one day."

Mathis said his favorite moments of the evening were when children got up on stage to sing and play drums with the musicians.

JT Curtis and the Florida Scoundrels closed the

night with a bang.

All of the musicians offered their talents free of charge to perform at the event. This year, DC Country Jam became an incorporated non-profit organization, so Mathis is hoping to expand the concert as the years go on. Holding next year's event outside festival style and bringing in bigger names from across the country is Mathis's next goal.

"I'm going to work my hardest until I retire, and after that we'll keep on going," Mathis said. "We hope to keep Country Jam here forever."

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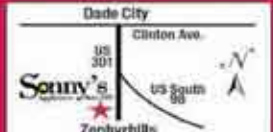
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