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Pasco Goes For Trump

Oakley, O'Neil, Bilirakis, Amendment 2 Are Big Winners



Ron Oakley, the newly elected Pasco County Commissioner in District 1, looks at the online results with Spencer Brass, Tanner Rhoden, Jeremy Little and Dylan Glisson during Oakley's victory celebration at the Dade City Womens Club.

Story and photos by Dave Walters

In a record-setting turnout, Pasco voters painted the county red with Republicans claiming every partisan race on the ballot.

According to Pasco County Supervisor of Elections Brian Corley, this year's turnout was at least 25,000 votes more than the presidential elections in 2012 and 2008. The voter turnout was at 72.6 percent, or 244,037 votes cast on Election Day, and through early voting and absentee ballots.

Pasco County made its voice heard in the Presidential election with Donald Trump earning 141,943 vote to Hillary Clinton's 89,998 by 10:40 p.m.

Election • Continued on Page 3A

Explorer Post Welcomes New Members

Some May Eventually Become Police Officers

Story and photos by Joe Potter

The Explorer Post #353 at the Dade City Police Department has experienced a resurgence of interest among youngsters in the area, Det. Peter Emerson said Monday.

The purpose of Explorer Post #353 is to give participants an opportunity to learn about law enforcement and to develop positive relationships with police officers.

Some of the students may also be interested in forensics, which is the gathering of evidence used to help solve crimes, said Brian Uppercue, DCPD's public information officer.

Emerson, who has been advisor to the DCPD Post since 1997, said the post's membership had declined somewhat in the past few years but it now has 10 active members.



Shown from left in front are Mia Granados, Haileigh Pennington, Anthony Burgos and Gabriela Abernathy. In back, from left, are Officer Rob Tungate (Advisor), Executive Assistant Terri Reed (Advisor), Brandi Lawson (Squad Leader), Jonathan Samelton (Squad Leader), Kaitlyn Kinston and Detective Peter J. Emerson (Advisor).

Exploring is an interactive, work site-based career education program of Learning for Life, an affiliate of the Boy Scouts of America. Emerson said

people ages 13-20 may participate in the program.

Explorer • Continued on Page 5A



Around 800 Volkswagens of every shape, color and size are spread out across the Pasco County Fairgrounds every year in November. Photo by Max Zimmerman

Bugs Swarm Into Town This Weekend

by Keri McAlpine

The Florida Bug Jam motors into Dade City this weekend, and that can only mean one thing: all games of 'punch buggy' must either take a hiatus or go full throttle. (Does anyone play that game anymore?)

For 28 years now, Volkswagen lovers from across the country, and even the globe, have been travelling to Pasco

Bugs • Continued on Page 7A

First National Bank Of Pasco Marks 30 Years

Local Bank Celebrates Anniversary With Continued Growth

Story by Keri McAlpine



Guests were able to take their plates and drinks into a conference room to sit and mingle with others. Photo by Richard K. Riley

During the last 30 years, First National Bank of Pasco has been a financial fixture in East Pasco County.

On Nov. 3, the bank opened its doors to about 70 customers, local political figures, and Pasco County residents to celebrate their success and longevity. Guests were able to pick from a conference table full of colorful sandwich, fruit and veggie

First National • Continued on Page 5A

INSIDE: Pg. 3A - Pasco News Publications Hires New Editor Pg. 7A - Public Works Director Hired Pg. 1B - Another Winless Foe To Battle Winless Pasco
Pg. 6A - University Holds Alternate Reality For Election Pg. 1B - Bulldogs Sink Pirates In 'War' Pg. 1B - Pasco Outkicks Wiregrass In Girls Soccer

CRASH



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Dade City Arrests

This Isn't The Punch And Judy Show

Melvin Tucker, 46, of 14128 Wilson St., was arrested by Dade City police on Oct. 28 on a charge of domestic battery. Tucker and the victim were reportedly in an argument over Tucker thinking that the victim had cheated on him. The victim stated that Tucker became upset and punched her in the mouth. She advised that he split her lip and cracked a tooth. The officer did observe the victim to have a front chipped tooth and bloody lips. Tucker was observed with blood on his right hand and fingers. Tucker was taken to the Pasco County Jail. He and the victim have a child in common.

Marco Antonio Salazar, 21, of 15300 Pinellas Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on Oct. 29. He was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of para-

phernalia. Officers responded to the area of Marion and Withlacoochee avenues in reference to a male shooting a gun. Salazar told officers that he was not shooting a gun or doing drugs. He verbally gave consent for a search of his person. A blue plastic baggie in his right front pocket contained what field-tested positive as 1.2 grams of marijuana. He was issued a notice to appear in court.

James William Sutter, 26, of Land O'Lakes, was arrested by Dade City police on Oct. 19 on an active Pasco County warrant for failure to appear – leaving the scene of an accident, and for an active Hernando County warrant for failure to appear – leaving the scene of an accident. Sutter was taken to the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrants.

Michael David Watson, 57, of 14136 11th St., was arrested by Dade City police on Oct. 27 on an active Pasco County warrant for violation of probation – aggravated assault. Contact was made with Watson at his home. He was taken to the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

Larry Lewis Sr., 48, of 14446 Delmar St., was arrested by Dade City police on Oct. 30 on an active Hernando County warrant for violation of probation – retail theft. Contact was made with Lewis after he fled from police. He was taken to the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

Tyler Austin Romine, 19, of Wesley Chapel, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 1 on two active Orange County warrants for violation of probation – possession of marijuana and VOP – driving under the influence. Romine was taken to the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrants.

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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27 YEARS IN THE SAME LOCATION

Pasco News Publications Names New Editor

Reporter Keri McAlpine Is Promoted

Staff Report

Nov. 1, 2016 is likely a date that Keri McAlpine will remember for quite some time.

It was on that recent Tuesday that McAlpine covered her first major political story when Hillary Clinton breezed through Dade City, and it was also the day she transitioned from reporter to editor of Pasco News Publications.

A native of the Sunshine State, McAlpine began reporting for PNP a

year ago, six months after graduating from Boston University. As she pursued her Journalism major she worked at the school's newspaper, magazine and radio station after interning at a London-based publishing.

As editor of Pasco News, McAlpine assumes the role previously held by publisher Chris Drews. Her organizational and social media skills are expected to smooth out production wrinkles and reach out to a wider audience both online and in print.

A little more than a year ago,

McAlpine walked into the Pasco News office and impressed Drews with her earnest interest.

"I like being the token young person," McAlpine said, referring to the rest of the editorial staff, which has decades of newspaper experience to lend her as well as deep insight on the workings of local government and business.

McAlpine's parents live in Tallahassee and she has two older brothers. She sees herself getting into travel writing in the future but for now her journeys will take her through East Pasco County.



Keri McAlpine

Election • Continued from Page 1A

on Tuesday.

"Things went exceedingly well" in the balloting Corley said, as his staff continued to process votes. "It's pretty exciting and there are some great races that really brought out the voters."

One of the big races in Pasco was the County Commission District 1 seat, which Ron Oakley won handily by defeating non-party affiliate candidate Dimitri Delgado, 151,849 votes to 66,503.

In a celebration gathering at the Dade City Woman's Club, Oakley had a spring in his step that he didn't have four years ago when he lost in the Republican primary for the same seat.

"For days I've been getting goose bumps thinking about serving the people of Pasco County," a tearful Oakley said after his victory was clinched. "I could have packed it in after the time we lost, but I fell in love with public service. I picked up the pieces and went after it again.

"I can't be any happier than I am right now and the people of Pasco County are

going to be rewarded for it."

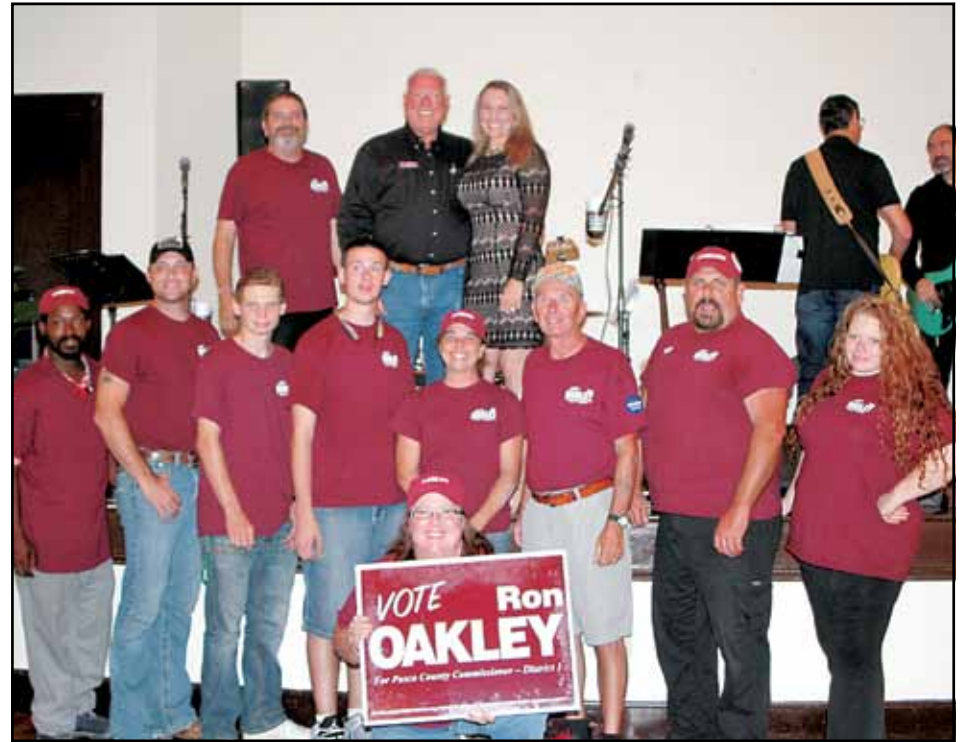
Other big winners in the county were Clerk of the Court and Comptroller Republican Paula O'Neil who easily dispatched her opponent Roberta Cutting. O'Neil received 169,395 votes to Cutting's 53,096.

Also claiming victory was Gary Joiner who took the Property Appraiser's seat by defeating Dade City Democrat Jon Larkin 143,640 to 84,918.

In other commissioner races, Republican incumbent Kathryn Starkey will retain her seat with a 140,999 to 85,686 victory against Barry Horvath. Fellow incumbent Jack Mariano took 96.3 percent of the vote against write-in candidates.

Pasco County supported U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio's reelection with 56.6 percent of the vote, and retained Congressman Gus Bilirakis with 68 percent of the tally.

Pasco County voters resoundingly passed the Amendment Two for medical marijuana with 170,585 yes votes (a whopping 71.4 percent) compared to 68,359 against the measure.



Ron Oakley took center stage to thank his supporters at an election night victory party at the Dade City Womans Club.

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East Pasco Events

Nov. 10 – Business Expo – Saint Leo University and the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce host their annual business expo from 4-7 p.m. at Dan Cannon Auditorium at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52. Meet and network with numerous local businesses and more than 60 local exhibitors. This event is free and open to the public. Call (352) 567-3769 for information.

Nov. 11 – PHSC Veterans Day Event – The HOPE program, part of the East Campus Community Awareness Series, will include a salute to the flag followed by a panel discussion that will focus on military experiences and the transition back to civilian life. Local veteran and resource organizations will be in attendance. The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. by the library flagpole, 36727 Blanton Road. Call (352) 518-1224 for information.

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Pinning and Celebration – Held from 8-9 a.m. at Bayfront Health Dade City, 13100 Fort King Road. Open to the public. Participating veterans please PSVP by calling (352) 518-1087.

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony – State Rep. Danny Burgess will be the guest speaker for Saint Leo University's annual Veteran's Day ceremony at the university campus, 33701 S.R. 52. It will be a special day to honor those who have served, or who are currently serving, our country. The public is invited to attend. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. on the loggia outside of the School of Business Building. There will be light refreshments. Contact Lora at (352) 588-8482 or lora.laverybroda@saintleo.edu for information or special accommodations.

Nov. 11-13 – A Totally Awesome Musical – Arts in Motion proudly presents *Back to the 80s: A Totally Awesome Musical* at Pasco Middle School, 13925 14th St. Contact (352) 834-1246 or visit www.artsinmotionpasco.com for tickets and information. Show times are Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at both 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Adults are \$15, seniors are \$12, and students grades K-12 are \$7.

Nov. 12 – East Pasco Farm Share – State Representative Danny Burgess (R-38) will be hosting this year's East Pasco Farm Share event from 9-11 a.m. at the Dade City Business Center, 15486 U.S. 301. Call (813) 780-0667 for information.

Nov. 12 – Salvation Army Kettle Kickoff – The East Pasco Salvation Army Kettle Kickoff will be held from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse in downtown Dade City. Live music and choirs will be featured. Organizers are looking for bell ringers. Call (352) 521-3126 for information.

Nov. 12 – Harvest Festival – Lifestyle Church of God in Lacoochee will be holding a harvest festival with face painting, food, car smash, hayride, and games. A drawing to win a Yeti Cooler package will be available with tickets for \$10. This event is free and open to the public. Held from 12-3 p.m. at 21345 Sanderson Road in Lacoochee. Call (352) 583-3354 for information.

Nov. 12 – Folk Music and Heritage Festival – The Fourth Annual Frank Thomas Folk Music and Heritage Festival will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

at Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Florida folk music, folk crafts, living history, writing and photography contests, crafts for kids and adults and food will be featured. Admission is \$6 per vehicle up to eight people or \$4 per person (walk in or bicycle). Visit crackerheritagefestival.weebly.com for information.

Nov. 12 – Mullet and Music Festival – Join the Pioneer Florida Museum for our first Mullet and Music Festival, held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 15602 Pioneer Museum Road. Fried and smoked mullet dinners will be served from 10 a.m. until we run out of fish. Live music all day, a beer and wine garden, smoked mullet competition, mullet head competition and a mullet toss will be featured. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for children, and those age 5 and younger are free. Free parking. No pets, and bring a lawn chair. Call the museum at (352) 567-0262 for information.

Nov. 12 – St. Joe Fall Festival – Bring the family for live music, games, slides, face painting, arts and crafts booths, jewelry, art, woodwork, Christmas gift items and more. Free Admission. Free Parking. Held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 32145 St Joe Road. Visit www.stjoeffallfestival.com or call (352) 588-3641 for information.

Nov. 12 – Book Signing and Princess Party – Local author Mary Adele Cluck will be presenting her book *Princess Alana and her Magic Dolphin* at the Angel Tea Room, 37847 Meridian Ave., from 2-4 p.m. Tickets are \$9 and include a Princess Tea/ Prince Tea for youngsters or a Cream Tea (Scones and Tea) for adults. Tickets may be purchased by calling Angel Tea Room at (352) 518-5683. Seating is limited.

Nov. 12-13 – Bug Jam – Volkswagens assemble! The 28th Annual Bug Jam is back at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52 in Dade City. Volkswagen car show, swap meet and parade. General admission is \$10 per day or \$15 for both days. Children 10 and under are free with a canned good. Gates open for spectators at 11 a.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday. Parking is \$5. Campsites open at 4 p.m. on Friday. Visit floridabugjam.com for a full list of events, entertainment and information.

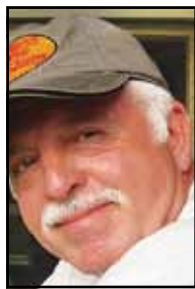
Nov. 15 – Mistletoe Market – Annual holiday craft market held at the Dade City Woman's Club on Palm Avenue from 5-9 p.m. Hand made crafts, wreaths, poinsettias and so much more will be available. Free and open to the public. Contact the Dade City Garden Club at knous13@aol.com for information.

Nov. 17 – Holiday Craft Class: Natural Ornaments – Join us to make your own special holiday ornaments out of pine needles, cereal rye and palm and palmetto fronds. Cost is \$3 per vehicle or annual park pass plus \$5 per person; Kids 12 and under free. Held from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell.

Nov. 19 – Stuff the Bus – The Volunteer Way and Pasco County Public Transportation are inviting the community to help "Stuff the Bus" with food at the Walmart located at 12650 U.S. 301 in Dade City. Help us by donating non-perishable food items for our neighbors who struggle with hunger this holiday season. Call Martha at (727) 815-0433 for information.

For more events visit
www.pasconewspublications.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

9-Mile War Was Much More

The outcome of the 9-Mile War featuring the Zephyrhills Bulldogs and the Pasco Pirates last Friday night at W.F. Edwards Stadium in Dade City did not affect the standings of either team as they now compete in different districts.

On the field the Bulldogs came out on top this time and will have bragging rights until next year when these two teams will meet once again probably in Zephyrhills. Aside from what happened on the field both communities have a lot in common and are very supportive of each other.

The Rotary Clubs in Dade City and Zephyrhills got together before the game and enjoyed a nice meal and had the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of one another. This has been an annual event for years prior to the big game. Much of the normal before the game chatter was happening about whose team was going to come out on top. Many friends and family were standing side by side during the game and cheering for the team of their choice.

In this area many of us have mixed families, meaning members of the same household are cheering for opposing teams. My family is no exception.

As most of you probably know my wife Jenny and both of my kids went to Pasco High School and I attended Zephyrhills

High School. It happens on the college scene as well. Many families have some pulling for the Florida Gators and others for Florida State University. And just as with the college-level rivalries, it doesn't matter what the record is going into the game because if you win it you've won it all. After a few hours — and in some cases days or longer — everybody seems to get over it and gets back to normal in anticipation of next year's meeting.

Win or lose the bands always have a great time.

The Bulldog band and the Pirate band always seem to enjoy each other during their performances and have always shown respect for one another at the game. The talent that both of these schools have in that department is awesome and these kids play their hearts out. I commend the leaders of both schools and appreciate the dedication and hard work that is put in to make these programs the best that they can be.

I was in band and played the saxophone during my high school years and thought I was really good until I tried out for the United States Air Force band after enlisting. That is when I got a reality check and decided I probably should have practiced a whole bunch more during those years.

The cheerleaders and the fans are always pumped during the East Pasco 'war' and school spirit really shows. That is the way that it should be. There is only so much that our kids can learn from textbooks and attending class.

School pride, being a good sport and the way you act toward one another are some of life lessons that begin at home and are reinforced at school. Making the right decisions, saying no to drugs and so much more comes from within. Each of us is responsible for our own actions on and off the field. In my opinion from what I saw on Friday night both schools get an 'A' on this one.

Keep up the good work.

Letter To The Editor...

How Do You Want Your Pain?

Greg,

I'm so sorry about your back pain, especially if it happened to be from a compression fracture (First Things First: There's Nothing Worse Than Back Pain 11.3.16).

My history includes having six big babies without any epidurals (and the last baby weighed 10 lbs., 2.5 ounces); six and a half years of kidney stones; two different compression fractures of my spine; for the last two years an arthritic left knee; And for the last year, bad pain in my neck from arthritis and degenerative discs, for which I had to

have Physical Therapy. Most recently a very bad fall that resulted in very bruised ribs, a black eye and bent up glasses

The thing about the labor pain is that there is a good result at the end of the pain (One of my labors was 22.5 hours) ...

I ought to be able to give you a definitive answer about different kinds of pain, that might help you, but it's hard to do. I probably would have to say that back pain being constant might win that battle. Sorry, Jenny.

You have my sympathy for your back pain, Greg, and do be careful not to overdo it again.

Margaret Herrmann Beaumont

Pasco News Publications

Dade City News • East Pasco Senior News • Zephyrhills Free Press

Publisher

Chris Drews
cdrews@pasconewspubs.com

Editor

Keri McAlpine
keri@pasconewspubs.com

Reporters

Joe Potter
jpotter@pasconewspubs.com

Accounting

Linda Wood
lwood@pasconewspubs.com

Design

Edwin Pitts
pasconewspubs.design@gmail.com

Dave Walters
walters@pasconewspubs.com

Max Zimmerman
mzimmerman@pasconewspubs.com

Sales

Stephanie Stephenson
pasconewspubs@gmail.com

Public Relations

Greg First
gfirst@pasconewspubs.com

Sports

Mark McLeod
Jeff Hupp

Dade City News | www.dadacitynews.net

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First National • Continued from Page 1A

platters, while washing it down with iced tea and adding a pastry for dessert.

“In today’s banking environment, 30 years means a lot,” said FNB President and CEO Steve Hickman, who has been with the bank since August 2011. “We’ve changed the entire strategy of the bank. It used to be a residential lender only, and now we’re doing commercial lending and supporting the growth of Pasco.”

In addition to enjoying lunch and mingling, guests at the anniversary celebration were able to tour the newly finished renovations at the Dade City location at 13315 U.S. 301.

The downstairs lobby and upstairs offices and conference rooms have received more than a facelift and the color scheme has been reimagined. Lower ceilings, more windows and a better use of space have allowed employees to be more comfortable and happy while working, according to Suzie Swailes, CRCM. Old “funky” wallpapers and out of date furniture have been replaced with a more modern and streamlined look.



Bob Hatfield from the office of Congressman Gus Bilirakis, left, Johnathan Till, legislative aide to Rep. Danny Burgess, Steve Hickman, president and CEO of First National Bank of Pasco, County Commissioner, District 1, Ted Schrader, Mike Wells, Pasco County Property Appraiser, and County Commissioner, District 2, Mike Moore at the 30th anniversary celebration of First National Bank of Pasco.

“I wanted to freshen up, add color, and get people talking about the bank add some pizzazz, give it some notoriety, again,” Hickman said of the changes.

“It was a tired brand and I’m working at re-branding the bank so it’s a whole new strategy to take the bank to the next level.”

A.P. Gibbs, Chairman of the Board, said he is a fan of the new look the bank has acquired. For him, the changes speak to the bank’s success and ability to stay forward thinking.

“It was time to update it. It had been here 30 years without any remodeling ... and I think we did a good job,” Gibbs said.

The bank currently services more than 14,000 retail customers.

For the first time in about 20 years, First National Bank will be opening a new branch in Lutz at State Road 54 and Livingston Road. With three branch locations currently in Dade City and Zephyrhills, this fourth branch is a development westward into the county. Hickman said the move would not only benefit the bank, but the county as a whole.

“We’re a Pasco County bank and our focus is the growth of Pasco County,” he said.

Explorer • Continued from Page 1A

At least one former Post #353 member has gone on to be a law enforcement officer and another member is was a DCPD dispatcher but now works in Pasco County’s communications center.

Explorer members must attend school and maintain at least a C average, Emerson said. They must also be of good moral character and not have any felony arrests. “We prefer that they not have any arrests,” Emerson said.

Some members of Post #353 are the sons or daughters of prior members.

Haileigh Pennington is a second-generation member. Her mother, Tonya Pennington, was a member of the post in 2002-2003.

“I enjoyed it greatly,” Pennington said. “It had a huge impact on my views for life. It gave me a lot of respect for people.”

She said Haileigh had decided on her own that she

wanted to join the post. Mom accompanied her daughter to Monday’s meeting that was held at the DCPD.

Mike Simpson, who retired from the Tampa Police Department, was the featured speaker at the meeting and presented a program on the history of the American flag that touched on several points of etiquette regarding the flag. These included how the flag should be displayed, how it should be raised and lowered, and the proper way to dispose of tattered flags.

Simpson told post members that the flag should be considered as a living thing and should never be allowed to touch the ground. A flag that does touch the ground should be taken out of service, he continued.

Men who had been flag bearers during the Revolutionary War and the War Between the States would hold the flag aloft for as long as they could even if they were mortally wounded so someone else could

take it from them rather than have it fall to the ground, Simpson said.

Emerson explained that Explorer posts are set up in a paramilitary fashion similar to police departments with various ranks within the post.

Following Simpson’s presentation the Explorers went to the police department’s parking lot and learned the proper way to stand at attention and march.

The two top ranking members of Post #353 are currently Jonathan Samelton and Brandi Lawson. They are both squad leaders and each of them have been members of the post for about three years.

New members who recently signed up with Haileigh include Mia Granados, Gabriela Abernathy, Anthony Burgos and Kaitlyn Kinston.

Emerson, executive assistant Terri Reed and officer Robert Tungate are advisors to the post.

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University Holds Alternate Reality For Election

Candidates Appear To Be Less Dramatic Than The 'Real' Thing

Staff Report

The students at Saint Leo University recently completed their own version of the 2016 presidential election.

The Alternate Reality Learning Experience (ARLE) brought together nine classes from seven different programs at the university to hold a mock election, pulling out all the stops: students assumed roles of candidates, campaign managers, party chairs, strategists, policy advisers, and social media operatives.

The experience began last year by professors Frank Orlando and Jeff Borden.

Together, the groups staged a series of debates, campaign commercials, and interviews leading up to Monday night's debate and election.

The "Republican" nominee "Senator" Paul Friedman, played by junior Mark Saunders, came out victorious in a close race. After a five minute polling session following the hour-long debate held at the university, Orlando reported that more than 350 people cast their votes in the election.

Orlando said he was pleased with the turnout, which more than tripled the amount of attendees and votes compared to the 2015 inaugural year.

"It was an extremely close vote ... I followed the votes in real time, and the lead switched hands several times," Orlando said before revealing Friedman's

mock victory. "Keep in mind they did not have the questions in advance. So ... we did not have a CNN situation here."

Orlando praised both parties for their success throughout the alternate reality program.

Friedman was backed by his vice presidential candidate Catarina Castillo, portrayed by Amanda Miceli.

The presidential candidate for the "Democrats" was Marcus Howard, portrayed by senior Leandrous Chieves, and his vice presidential candidate Angela Johnson, portrayed by Sophie Metellus.

The vice presidential nominees participated in their own debate at SLU on Oct. 3.

Borden said the idea of the mock election and debates was to make it as authentic as possible. Complete backgrounds on the candidates were created which the students embodied during their campaign trail.

The winning candidate was 48 years old, was born in Las Vegas and was a Mainline Protestant. After suffering a troubled youth and getting involved with drugs in high school he cleaned up his act by joining the Air Force at age 18. His career then lead him to Congress, Senate and eventually to his presidential nomination for the Republican party.

His opponent, the "Democrat," was born in Annapolis, Md. in 1972. The first of his family to attend college, he



The candidates await the results with Dr. William J. Lennox Jr., president of Saint Leo University. From left, Angela Johnson (student Sophie Metellus), Democratic vice presidential candidate; Democratic presidential candidate Marcus Howard (student Leandrous Chieves); Dr. William J. Lennox Jr.; Republican presidential candidate Paul Raymond Friedman (student Mark Saunders) and Republican vice presidential candidate Caterina Castillo (student Amanda Miceli). **Photo provided**

graduated from Georgetown University in three short years. He successfully ran for the state of Maryland legislature and served as governor before accepting his role as presidential nominee.

The final debate left the rest of the room silent, save for the candidates and moderators, as both candidates bantered

back and forth regarding policies.

"I know I was sweating so I can't imagine how the candidates were feeling," Orlando said after the debate.

Visit <https://tali.saintleo.edu/presidency/> to view the full presidential debate and read more in depth bios on the candidates.

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Public Works Director Hired

Story and Photo by Joe Potter

Joe DeBono was hired as Dade City's public works director on Oct. 25.

DeBono fills the vacancy created when the former public works director and engineer, Gordon Onderdonk, became Hernando County's engineer earlier this year.

A Cape Coral native, DeBono now earns \$70,000 per year in his new position.

DeBono earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Florida Gulf Coast University in 2012. He came to Dade City from Niagara Falls, Ontario, where he had worked for from 2013-2016 as the Wastewater and Biosolids Supervisor for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario, Canada.

As the public works director, DeBono will work under city manager Billy Poe and be responsible for supervising the different activities under the public works department. These might include banners, event application, public works (PW) fleet maintenance, (PW) facilities



Joe DeBono

division, PW parks and grounds, PW streets division, rentals, and sold waste/recycling services.

October Chamber Citizens Of The Month



On Oct. 26 the Dade City Chamber of Commerce announced their October Citizens of the Month, which included: Grace Rodriguez, Academy at the Farm; Xiaxia Pelto, East Pasco Adventist Academy; Nolan DiMaria, Saint Anthony Catholic School; Cynthia Schnabl, Centennial Elementary School; Fernando Garcia, Lacochee Elementary School; Chloe Rutherford, Pasco Elementary School; Jared Green, Rodney B. Cox Elementary School; Madison Gocsik, San Antonio Elementary School; Isabella Hicks, Centennial Middle School; Beautiful Hernandez, Pasco Middle School; Donovan Surut, James Irvin Education Center; and Kayleigh Heather, Pasco High School.

Photo Provided

Bugs • Continued from Page 1A

County to converse and swap stories with fellow VW enthusiasts. This year's two-day event will take place at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52, on Saturday and Sunday.

Last year about 800 Volkswagen bugs, buses and other models sprawled across the fairgrounds. Organizer Randy Yoho said people have come from as far as Japan or Germany to attend the legendary Bug Jam.

Last year was a record breaking year for Bug Jam attendance. Yoho said he is not sure if this year will beat it, but it will still be a great turnout, like always.

The VW car show will be held Sunday

with 62 different classes with judges walking the grounds, inspecting hundreds of groovy wheels, sparkling engines and classic rides. Fun games, live music, food and merchandise vendors and the VW swap meet will be featured both days.

Saturday will serve as a pre-car show party with a day packed full of different events including the traditional VW parade. The parade will begin at 2 p.m. and follow a police escort into downtown Dade City, where drivers will park and mingle before returning to the fairgrounds. Live music, food and craft beers will be available downtown.

Volkswagen Beetles take a lot of

maintenance to keep them running, Yoho said, and for VW owners, it's a way of life.

"It's a pretty mellow group. People are just having fun. They have an interest in the cars and that's what the bond is," Yoho said. "They come to see friends they've known for 20 years from coming to the Bug Jam."

Bugs on the Track is back at the fairgrounds, where VW owners can test their wheels on the specially designed dirt track. Big Storm Brewery will be providing refreshments throughout the day and Caribbean Chillers, a Jimmy Buffet tribute band, will take the stage at 7 p.m.

Not to mention one of the biggest Volkswagen swap meets on this side of the Mississippi will be held all day for car owners to find the perfect addition to their bug.

For out of town visitors, the Bug Jam poker run on Saturday morning will allow them to take their wheels for a spin throughout the back hills of East Pasco.

The fairgrounds open for the Bug Jam at 11 a.m. on Saturday and at 9 a.m. for the car show on Sunday.

Visit www.floridabugjam.com for information, a complete schedule of events, and how to register your Volkswagen.

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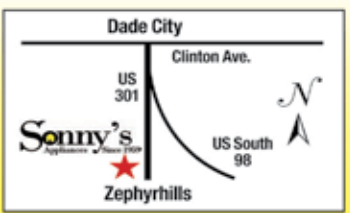
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