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Prepare For A 'Magical' Night

Thousands Will Crowd Downtown For Annual Parade

by **Keri McAlpine**

The holiday season is on its way back to downtown Dade City and the Magical Night Christmas Parade is gearing up for another successful year.

More than 50 floats and marching units line up for the parade that winds its way through downtown to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., to Seventh Street and ending on Church Avenue.

Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce executive director John Moors said anywhere from 5,000 to 6,000 people come from all across east Pasco County to



The Magical Night Christmas Parade will take place in downtown Dade City on Dec. 2 starting at 7 p.m. *File photo*

Parade • Continued on Page 4A

Peace Breakfast To Host Law Enforcement

Format Shifts For Sunrise Of Pasco's Major Fundraiser

by **Joe Potter**

Sunrise of Pasco Domestic & Sexual Violence Center will hold its 13th annual Peace Breakfast next Thursday at Saint Leo University.

According to executive director Kelly Sinn, the focus of this year's breakfast will focus on how local law enforcement agencies can collaborate with Sunrise to lessen instances of domestic and sexual violence.

Now in its 13th year, Sinn said the format of this year's breakfast will break with tradition.



Chris Nocco

A panel consisting of Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco, Dade City Police Chief Raymond Velboom and New Port Richey Police Chief Kim Bogart will make a presentation.

Previously, survivors of domestic and sexual violence have shared their stories

Peace • Continued on Page 9A

Empty Spaces Make For Training Places

Law Enforcement Teams Find Realistic Setting

Story and photos by **Keri McAlpine**



Members of the United States Coast Guard came to Dade City on Nov. 17 from their base in St. Petersburg to train at the Dade Oaks apartment complex. They practiced entering and clearing rooms in the complex's old office building.

Walking through the abandoned Dade Oaks Apartments complex is like walking through a crime scene.

Doors lay haphazardly on the ground, separated from their hinges and some even in pieces from barricades being forced through them. Bits of glass crunch with every step as windows have been pulled out completely by the frame, or bear the sole marking of a canister being thrown through the top story of the building to release a mysterious gas.

Since September, more than a dozen law enforcement agencies have been using the abandoned buildings as a

Training • Continued on Page 3A



Roughly 300 representatives from NCAA Division II women's cross country wait to take off from the starting line for the national championships at the St. Leo Abbey Course Saturday morning. *Photo by Richard K. Riley*

Cross Country Championships Held In St. Leo

by **Dave Walters**

Nearly 600 of the nation's top runners took on the Abbey Course at Saint Leo University on Saturday,

for the 2016 NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships.

The men's 10K championship race was won by Vincent Kiprop of

Missouri Southern, and Adams State won the team title.

The women's 6K championship race

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Dade City Arrests

Pot Possession Near Dorm Leads To Arrest

Adam K. Birky, 20, of Clearwater, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 12 on charges of possession of marijuana with the intent to deliver and possession of marijuana within 1,000 feet of school grounds. Contact was made with Birky in reference to a drug violation in progress inside of a dorm room operated by Saint Leo University. He had reportedly walked out of the room where campus security was located in attempt to leave the scene. Upon contact, the odor of unburnt marijuana was detected coming from his person. Also, a large bulge that looked like some kind of container was observed in Birky's shorts. Birky said "no" when asked if he possessed anything illegal. After being detained he told officers he had marijuana on his person. A search of his person revealed what field-tested positive as 74.6 grams of marijuana. Post Miranda, Birky said he does not sell drugs but does bring it to his friends. He advised he purchased four ounces with a friend and that it was just shy of \$180 an ounce. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Laron D. Murray, 34, of 40027 Proud Mockingbird Road, Zephyrhills, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 11 on two counts of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer and one count of fleeing and attempting to elude a police officer. He was also cited for an expired registration. A traffic stop was conducted on a 2011 Chevrolet Malibu in reference to the tag being expired since June 2016. An officer activated his lights to stop the vehicle at the dead end of Blanton Street. Murray allegedly accelerated the vehicle he was driving past an officer who had got out of his patrol car to make contact with him and nearly hit the officer while doing so. He then allegedly accelerated towards a second patrol vehicle, causing the officer to take evasive action to avoid a collision. He continued to flee south on 17th Street at speeds of 65 mph with an officer following. The pursuit was terminated due to pedestrian traffic and children getting out of school in the area.

Murray continued to flee and was last seen heading east on Florida Avenue. He had previously been arrested on an unrelated charge and officers recognized him when he later passed by them at a slower speed. He was taken into custody at 37134 Grassy Hill Lane and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Damion Michael Absher, 21, of 37540 Auric Terrace, Zephyrhills, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 10 on charges of possession of marijuana—20 grams or less, tampering with or fabricating physical evidence and driving while license suspended or revoked with knowledge. Absher was detained when an officer who had knowledge of his suspended license saw him operating a red 2006 Hyundai on the public roadway. Another officer had recently stopped Absher for driving with a suspended license and speeding. Upon arriving at the county jail, the officer discovered marijuana on the floorboard when Absher exited from the police vehicle. Absher reportedly attempted to destroy the marijuana by rubbing it into the vehicle's floor.

Tamonjamin Maurad Williams, 32, of 37534 Oakview Circle, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 11 on charges of driving while license suspended or revoked with knowledge and possession of marijuana (more than 20 grams). A traffic stop was conducted when Williams was operating a 2002 gray Mitsubishi when an officer recognized him as have a suspended driver's license. Upon conducting the traffic stop, Williams exited the vehicle and reportedly began to walk away. He complied with orders to get back in the car. A strong smell of marijuana was detected coming from the vehicle. Williams admitted his license was suspended and said he was only trying to get home from work. A search of his person revealed about 21.3 grams of marijuana inside a tennis ball container, which did presumptive test positive. He was taken to the Pasco County Jail.

The arresting officer requested a high bond because Williams allegedly said he would fight and run next time he had dealings with police.

A 15-year-old male was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 14 on charges of leaving the scene of a crash with property damage and no valid drivers license. Officers responded to Howard Avenue and Seventh Street in reference to a hit and run. The victim identified the defendant as the person driving the vehicle that struck her own vehicle. An officer reported to the defendant's residence and made contact with him. Post Miranda, he admitted to driving the vehicle in question at the time of the crash and to leaving the scene because he was scared. A computer check revealed the defendant had never had a driver's license.

Hakeam Gabb Michel, 19, of 36909 Rodekalya Circle, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 12 on a charge of possession of marijuana. Contact was made with Michel at his campus housing address, owned and operated by Saint Leo University. Campus security notified law enforcement that Michel and his roommates were in possession of marijuana in their apartment. An investigation did find Michel to be in possession of a marijuana joint weighing 1.5 grams. Michel was issued a notice to appear.

Trudy Patraila Davis, 38, of 20646 Blanchette Court, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 7 on charges of retail theft and possession of marijuana. Davis was observed by Wal-Mart loss prevention concealing several packs of hair bands in her purse, along with one bottle of deodorant. Davis reportedly passed all points of sale without paying for the items. After exiting the store, located at 12650 U.S. 301, Davis was observed removing a bag of a green leafy substance from her bra and attempting to conceal it behind her legs. The substance did test positive for marijuana.

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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Training • Continued from Page 1A

training facility.

Once police training wraps up at the apartments off of 14th Street, the city intends to demolish the buildings by January and then turn the property into a retention area for storm water and recreation.

However, until then, the Dade City Police Department has every intention of using the property to its fullest.

Agencies from all over Pasco County and others in Sumter, Hernando, Hillsborough and federal agencies have utilized the space to create realistic scenarios to train their officers.

No real weapons are allowed during training – fake bullets, wooden guns and other simulated munitions are used to keep a situation as accurate as possible without causing a safety issue.

The ten-acre plot contains 69 unique apartment units along Acorn Loop north of the city center. Buildings are either one story or two stories and can contain anywhere from one to four



Below the shattered window, a burn mark can be seen from a law enforcement agency that utilized the space to practice with a fire tool for entering buildings.

bedrooms. The variety of floor plans is one of the reasons the Dade Oaks training site has been so popular. Dade City Sergeant James Walters said no two units are the same,

“They won’t know where the hiding places are and how many rooms and how many doorways and closets and bedrooms,” Walters said. “To be able to work through those layers ... that’s why this is so advantageous. It replicates reality.”

The diversity of agencies that have shown up in Dade City to utilize the property is a statement to what Walters said. A dozen members of the United States Coast Guard trained at the site Nov. 17, which Walters said confused him at first until further consideration.

“We’re just practicing entering

rooms. We do law enforcement on ships, but entering a room is the same whether you’re on a boat or a house,” said Skyelr Baird of the Coast Guard. “This is an awesome training facility.”

Dade City Police Chief Ray Velboom said after talking to several officers, they told him it was some of the best training they ever had.

The DCPD trained alongside the Zephyrhills Police Department for several weeks at the complex.

“It’s pretty exciting. Your adrenaline is running,” Velboom said. “People are running at you and shooting at you – we try to make it as realistic as possible. There’s still furniture in some of the apartments, it stinks and it’s very realistic.”

This is not the first time Velboom’s

officers have been able to train in an empty space. They also got permission from the city to train in the old city hall building last year, as well as in Pasco Middle School before it was remodeled.

“We’ve been very fortunate ... that we have a city and a community that supports the efforts whenever we do these trainings,” Walters said.

During the summer, police officers typically train in schools since the students are out for the summer. However, since Dade Oaks is being demolished in January, those training do not have to worry about any destruction on the property.

“The intention is not to be a wrecking ball, but the fact of the matter is that sometimes doors have to be forced; sometimes windows have to be broken for various reasons; and sometimes walls need to be breached,” Walters explained. “Ideally, under any circumstance, any training is as real as possible. So, anytime you can remove the restrictions, it brings a new element, and we can do that here.”



Dade City police Sergeant James Walters points out bullet holes from when officers used a shotgun to breach a door at the empty Dade Oaks apartment complex.



While walking through the one and two story apartments, bullet casings from blanks can be seen scattered across the floor and staircases from when officers were training in the rooms.

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East Pasco Events

Nov. 25 – Black Friday Sale – Gulfside Hospice's Thrift Shoppes will be offering discounts of 25 percent off storewide. The Gulfside Zephyrhills Furniture Shoppe will also have select showcase items at 25 percent off. Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppe locations are: Dade City Thrift Shoppe, 37925 Sky Ridge Circle, (813) 782-7200; Zephyrhills Thrift Shoppe, 36524 S.R. 54, (813) 788-5461; and Gulfside Zephyrhills Furniture Shoppe, 36504 S.R. 54, (813) 715-2895. All stores are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Black Friday. Shoppers are also encouraged to bring in gently used donations.

Nov. 25 – Drop-N-Shop – The Saint Leo University women's basketball team hosts a children's camp for parents who are looking to do their holiday shopping with ease. Those interested may bring their children to SLU in the Marion Bowman Activities Center from 8 a.m. to noon for children ages 4-14. Activities include basketball, baseball, crafts, and time in the pool. Cost is \$40 per child per camp, with a family discount for \$10 off if a second child attends. SLU is at 33701 S.R. 52 in Saint Leo. Contact Dominic at (352) 588-7344, or Dominic.DiRaimo@saintleo.edu for information.

Nov. 25 – Black Friday Turkey Trek – Join the friends of Colt Creek State Park for ranger-guided hikes beginning at 9 a.m. Regular park admission fees apply. The hikes will be geared to all levels of hikers, and hikers will meander through pine flatwoods, around cypress domes, and bottomland forest. The park is located at 16000 S.R. 471 in Lakeland. Call (863) 815-6761 for information.

Dec. 1 – SLAMbration – At 7 p.m., Saint Leo University will present SLAMbration in the Selby Auditorium in Lewis Hall. The public is welcome to an evening of slam poetry, featuring the Slam Poetry Club and special guests, SASS (soprano, alto, second soprano) a Saint Leo choral group. This event is free. Parking is available in the campus garage, and in the evening is also often available in surface lots. The campus is at 33701 S.R. 52 in Saint Leo. Lewis Hall is the first building on the right upon entering through the main entrance. Contact Tessy Jaques, at slampoetryclub@saintleo.edu for information.

Dec. 2 – Christmas Parade – The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and Bayfront Health Dade City present the 2016 "Magical Night Christmas Parade." Dozens of floats, entertainment acts, bands, seasonal displays and, of course, our special guest from the North Pole, Santa Claus.

Dec. 3 – Christmas on the Florida Frontier – Step back in time to a simpler era of celebrating Christmas. Join us as we make and play with homemade toys, create cornhusk dolls, do soap carving, dip candles and more. Held from 3-8 p.m. at Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Admission is \$5 per vehicle up to eight people or \$2 per person (walk in or bicycle). Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

Dec. 3 – Alpaca Open House – Come join us at our Alpaca Open House from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. See alpacas and learn what we do with the fiber. The alpaca products are a great gift idea. There will be refreshments available for purchase. Visit www.sweetblossomalpacas.com or email dpettis11@yahoo.com with questions. Alpaca Farm is located at 37543 Pappy Road in Dade City. We are not open to the public except for the open house.

Dec. 3 – Ridding Your Lawn and Landscape of Pesky Weeds – Learn what you can do to rid your yard from a variety of unsightly weeds at this free seminar from 9-11 a.m. at Clayton Hall, Pasco County Extension Office, 36702 S.R. 52. Call (352) 518-0156 for information.

Dec. 3 – Arts and Crafts Fair – The Country Crafters will host their 3rd Annual Arts and Crafts Fair from 9 a.m.-2 pm at the Country Aire Manor clubhouse, 10249 Highway 98. Shop locally, avoid the crowds and find unique gifts not available in chain stores. Door prizes will be given away hourly. Call (315) 868-1574 or email ecbblb@hotmail.com for information.

Dec. 3 – Reindeer Run – The 10th annual Lake Jovita Reindeer Run is back. Registration is at 7 a.m., Run/Walk begins at 8 a.m. Cost is \$40 to register. Register online at www.active.com or forms can be found in the Lake Jovita Fitness Center. All proceeds benefit Sunrise of Pasco Domestic and Sexual Violence Center. Contact Kelly Sinn at (352) 521-3358 or ksinn@sunrisepasco.org for information. Lake Jovita is located at 12900 Lake Jovita Blvd.

Dec. 3 – Cruise In – Free event featuring DJ Starvin' Darwin and a hula hoop contest for kids. Come on down with your prized car/truck, or just with the family to check out all the wonderful antique and specialty cars. Enjoy lunch at one of our many exceptional restaurants, and shop in out antique and specialty shops. Held in downtown Dade City from 1:30-5:30 p.m. Call (352) 567-3769 for information.

Dec. 3 – Market Place – Held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hibiscus Park in Dade City. Fresh produce, garden accessories, home decor, soaps, honey, jewelry and so much more. Pet friendly event. Contact: Lucy Avila at (352) 521-5858 or lucyavila707@gmail.com for information.

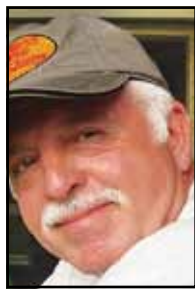
Dec. 3 – Winter Festival – Centennial Middle School STEM Magnet School is presenting this event, featuring arts and crafts, fresh produce, wreaths and decor, bounce house, games, prizes and more! Vendor opportunities available. Held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 38505 Centennial Road in Dade City. Contact Centennial Middle School at (352) 524-9700 for information.

Dec. 3 – Herrmann's Christmas at the Barn – Featuring unique and unusual goods and holiday décor, and anything else we can fit in the barn. No credit cards accepted. Visit us on Facebook at Herrmann's Barn Sale. Held at 31131 Pasco Road in San Antonio from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Call (813) 714-8704 for information.

Dec. 4 – Christmas in the Park – Start your holiday season by attending the Founders Garden Club of San Antonio "Christmas in the Park" event at 7 p.m., at San Antonio City Park, 32819 Pennsylvania Ave. Please join us for the lighting of the Christmas Cards and entertainment featuring a sing-a-long for the children accompanied by Dennis Devine. A drawing for a variety of gift baskets will be held. Raffle tickets can be purchased at City Hall and vendors around town. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Complimentary refreshments and coffee will be served. Admission is free. You may want to bring a folding chair. Contact Donna Swart at (352) 588-3631 for information.

For more events visit
www.pasconewspublications.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

What Is Up With The Vote?

I am so thankful to live in a country that has a democracy.

The voice of the people can actually be heard and as a result we can help to control the destiny of our country.

Our voting operates under the electoral college system. It was set up so that the people in every state can have a proportionate say so and the results are not controlled by super big states like New York and California. Folks upset with how the election was decided are signing petitions to change to a popular vote system and throw out the current one.

It doesn't work that way. The last I heard approximately 4 million people signed the petition. The way that we vote will not be changed for this past election but could be addressed in the future. It will however require a re-write of the Constitution, and that will be no easy task.

Can we please get on with our lives now? Most of the major media told us who was going to win by a landslide well before the election and they were all wrong,

and their credibility has been seriously damaged. Part of the reason some people are so upset is this major fail by the major media. Can we ever trust them again?

Today is Thanksgiving Day and a day to be thankful. Our country has been blessed with an abundance of everything. I have visited many third world countries and most of them have nothing. They do have each other and for that they are grateful. They have learned to help one another with the little that they have. You don't hear too much about politics over there. They are a happy people and rejoice for what God has blessed them with.

Many years ago Jenny and I adopted a young Haitian boy through Compassion International. It was rewarding to see this young boy grow up with a chance in life and an experience that we will never forget. Even though we never met him in person we communicated via mail. It was very humbling.

I am thankful for my family and friends. I am thankful that this radio guy was given the opportunity to try my hand at writing a weekly commentary in all three of our local newspapers on the way that I see things. From what I am hearing most of our readers can relate and we really have a lot in common. I am thankful for the great staff that we have that helps me out. I couldn't do it without them.

I guess what I am most thankful for is the day that Jesus came into my life. He has brought me blessings beyond compare and for that I will always be grateful. It is great to know that He has already paid the price for all of my sins in full.

I hope that each and every one of you has an awesome Thanksgiving day.

Parade • Continued from Page 1A

watch the parade.

"The best place to watch it of course is on Seventh Street because that's where all of the lights and Christmas decorations that the city has put up [are] and they look beautiful," Moors said. "It's definitely focused on kids, families and celebrating that wonderful season."

Not to mention, a very special guest will be flying in for the occasion.

"Santa called me from the North Pole to reconfirm that he was going to be here and he was excited as always, so we are ready to go," Moors said joyfully.

The parade will start at 7 p.m. sharp because Santa only has a brief period to visit Dade City before getting back to work for the Christmas rush, according to Moors.

There is no specific theme for the floats and the decorators are encouraged to stretch their imagination.

"There's some great creativity on these floats, it's astounding," Moors said. "We think that everybody is a winner. All 60 of them are number one in our books."

The magical Night Christmas Parade is the first event in a slew of holiday showcases in the city. The Dec. 10 Christmas Stroll put on by the merchants association is followed by Church Street Christmas on Dec. 23.

"It's just a fabulous way to showcase Dade City once again for something that is kind of different from the normal events we have during the day," Moors said of the upcoming events.

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Accounting	Design	Dave Walters walters@pasconewspubs.com
Linda Wood lwood@pasconewspubs.com	Edwin Pitts pasconewspubs.design@gmail.com	Max Zimmerman mzimmerman@pasconewspubs.com
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Commentary



The Rest Of The Story

Dave Walters

A Time Of Thanks, And Giving

Thanksgiving has and will always be one of my all-time favorite holidays. It's a perfect time to sit down and reflect on our lives and declare that we're thankful for all the comforts we're endowed with.

I have a big family with four kids and nine grandchildren and I am thankful for each one of them.

I am thankful they are happy, healthy, have roofs over their heads and food in their bellies.

It is way too easy to overlook

Thanksgiving and focus on Christmas. How can we help it with the way stores are pushing the Christmas season down our throats as soon as Halloween ends?

It is easy to forget the point of this (quite brief) Thanksgiving holiday season. Thanksgiving is not about taking school off (though that's nice), or about the glorious feast that many of us can't wait to eat (as delicious as that might be). It's certainly not about pre-Black Friday shopping or watching the football game, either.

Quite simply, Thanksgiving is about being thankful. It's a time meant to be spent with our loved ones, thinking about what really matters and how we should

be grateful and thankful for our lives.

The potentially sad part about the holiday is that some don't get to experience that gratitude.

As disruptive as some of our hardships and turmoils might be, we tend to forget that the majority of us still have that good roof over our heads and can spend time with family or friends.

A lot of people among us in Zephyrhills and Dade City don't have that simple comfort that we take for granted. Thousands of children receive food every week through the Thomas Promise and other organizations.

Be mindful when you see someone ringing a bell for charity, or taking a

collection at church. Let us be thankful that we can help the less fortunate in many ways. All you have to do is pick one.

Let's not be above helping others.

As we sit down and have dinner among our loved ones, let's think of that. Let's remind ourselves of all the great things we have in our lives. But let's not forget about the simple comforts each one of us has – whether that's an adequate meal or simple shelter – and remember those who don't.

The holidays are about giving and sharing, and this is especially true for Thanksgiving. Let's not forget the meaning of holiday spirit.

Shop Small Saturday Preparations Underway

by Joe Potter

The Dade City Merchants Association has been promoting Shop Small Saturday and at least two downtown businesses will be participating, said Margaret Angell, the association's president.

Participating Dade City businesses are Top Drawer Antiques at 14130 Seventh St. and The Shabby Hen's Nest, at 14114 Seventh St.

American Express is one of the primary backers of Shop Small Saturday, which is held the day after Black Friday, said Kathleen Hotchkiss, manager of Top Drawer Antiques.

"Cardholders need to register and then they get double points when they use their card at a participating business like Top Drawer Antiques," Hotchkiss said.

There are more than 20 vendors in the store, but they have not yet coordinated what discounts they will be



There will be plenty of window shopping opportunities as well as great deals in downtown Dade City as businesses participate in Shop Small Saturday.

File photo

offering for Shop Small Saturday, Hotchkiss said.

However, Top Drawer Antiques will offer 10 percent off on Nov. 26 on purchases of \$25 or more, Hotchkiss said.

No one from The Shabby Hen's Nest was available at press time to comment on the store's plans for Shop Small Saturday.

The U.S. Small Business Administration first began promoting Small Business Saturday six years ago. It coined the popular phrase "Shop Small Saturday" that has come to be associated with the concept.

Small Business Saturday immediately follows Black Friday. This is the typical beginning of the Christmas holiday shopping season for most large retail businesses. They make a significant amount of their annual profit during the 30 days between Black Friday and Christmas Eve.

The USSBA didn't want small businesses to be left out so it began emphasizing the benefits of people shopping small. Small businesses are a significant part of the nation's economic growth, according to the USSBA and other sources, so doing so helps foster their success.



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Noon Rotary Members Honor Fellows



Recipients of a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Dade City Rotary included Cassie D. Coleman, Nicole Deese Newlon, Bobby Van Allen, Ronald Dykes, Aubrey Ogilbee, Stephanie Stephenson, Julie Cotton, Amanda Sattler, Matthew Maggard, Father Daniel Kayajan, Shauna McKinnon and Thomas J. Hanlon, who has received multiple Paul Harris Fellows.

Dr. Sam Bala Receives Lifetime Award

by Keri McAlpine and Stephanie Stephenson

The 26th annual Dade City Noon Rotary Club Foundation Dinner was highlighted by the presentation of the Paul Harris Fellows. The award recognizes club members who have given \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus, or an approved Foundation grant. This year twelve

Rotary members were acknowledged as Fellows during the Nov. 12 event hosted by Bayfront Health Dade City.

Acknowledged members this year included: club president Matthew Maggard; president elect Nicole Deese Newlon; president nominee Aubrey Ogilbee; directors Bobby Van Allen and



Shown from left are Jared Brown, Rotary District Foundation Chairman 6950; Jeanie Germain, Deputy District Foundation Chairman, Area 5; Dr. Sam Bala, recipient of the Lowell Harris Lifetime Achievement Award; Dade City Rotary Club President Matt Maggard; and Rotarian Milt Jones. The award was presented during the Dade City Rotary Foundation Dinner on Nov. 10.

Photos Provided

Stephanie Stephenson; and members Cassie D. Coleman, Ronald Dykes, Julie Cotton, Amanda Sattler, Father Daniel Kayajan, Shauna McKinnon and Thomas J. Hanlon.

Hanlon has received multiple Paul Harris Fellows in the past, and was

recognized for this accomplishment. A thirteenth member also achieved the Paul Harris Fellow status, but remains anonymous, as they were not able to attend the foundation dinner and receive their recognition.

Members can also achieve the Paul Harris Fellow status if someone else donates in their name in order to recognize them.

The awards were handed out this year by Jared Brown, District Foundation Chairman #6950 and past District Governor; Jeanie Germain, Deputy District Foundation Chairman, Area 5; and Milt Jones, past Board of Directory Rotary International and past District Governor #6950.

The Paul Harris Fellow was established in 1957 to show appreciation for and encourage substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships.

The first Paul Harris Fellows include 1937-38 RI Director Allison G. Brush and longtime RI Treasurer Rufus F. Chapin, both for donations made in 1946.

Mrs. Adan Vargas was the first woman to receive the recognition, for a gift made in 1953. Mrs. Harry L. Jones was the second, and one of only five people recognized for contributions made in 1957.

A Paul Harris Fellow is presented with a certificate of recognition signed by the Rotary International President, the Chairman of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, and receives a lapel pin and medallion. The contribution to The Rotary Foundation can be made in a single donation or by cumulative giving over a number of years. A contribution can be made either by an individual, from the rotary club or by a company/business.

The Lowell Harris Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed upon Dr. Sam Bala. Lowell Harris was a Dade City Commissioner and a member of the Dade City Rotary Club for 45 years before he passed in 2011.

Dinner was provided to club members courtesy of Bayfront Health. Jared Brown was the keynote speaker and club President Matthew Maggard thanked everyone for attending the event, and continuing to put service above self as Dade City Rotarians.

Rotary is one of the largest service organizations in the world, with some 1.2 million members in more than 34,000 clubs in 200 countries. Worldwide, more than \$700 million has been raised to fight and eradicate polio disease, which is now endemic in just two countries.

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Alyssa Bayliff, member of the Saint Leo Women's Cross Country Team, takes a brief moment of meditation two minutes before the starting gun at the NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships last Saturday. Photo by Richard K. Riley

SLU • Continued from Page 1A

was claimed by Kendra Foley, which helped lead Grand Valley State to the women's title.

Nearly 80 different Division II institutions from across the United States, including both the Saint Leo men's and women's cross country teams, hit the course.

The St. Leo women's squad finished 25th, and the men were 27th.



St. Leo senior Rafal Matuszczak finished 39th overall in Saturday's championships becoming the first cross-country runner in school history to earn All-America honors. Photo by Dave Walters



A pack of runners from colleges across the country fly through the challenging Abbey Course at St. Leo during the NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships. Photo by Dave Walters

Peace • Continued from Page 1A

and told how Sunrise has helped them to find a new life.

There will be an element of that in this year's breakfast, Sinn said, but the primary emphasis will be on how law enforcement and Sunrise can combine their efforts.

Each year, close to 200 community leaders come to Sunrise's signature fundraising event to network and support the local agency's battle against domestic and sexual violence.



Ray Velboom

A hot buffet breakfast will be served beginning at 7 a.m., in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardroom in the Student Activities Building.

Those attending the event make donations in order to acquire a seat at the breakfast. Sinn said there is no suggested donation amount, but obviously larger gifts help the nonprofit agency carry out services and maintain the shelter for women who have been abused.

Sunrise of Pasco offers a free, confidential hotline that is available for safety planning 24/7. The numbers are (352) 521-3120 or statewide toll free 1-800-500-1119.

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Security A Must When Shopping Online

Some Timely Advice To Stay Happy During Holidays

Holiday shopping season is upon us with deals being offered today, Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and beyond.

According to a National Retail Federation survey, Americans say they plan to spend an average \$935 during the holiday shopping season and projects that online sales will increase between 7 percent and 10 percent more than last year, to as much as \$117 billion.

Despite the daily reports of businesses and government agencies being hacked by cyber criminals, more and more of us do our shopping online as it saves time and avoids crowds.

Marwan Omar, assistant professor of computer science and information systems at Saint Leo University, has some advice in protecting your personal information while shopping online.

Here are some answers to common questions.

Q: What is the best way to protect my personal information?

Omar: Sensitive web surfing such as online shopping, online banking, and online bill pay should only be done on a computer that belongs to you and on a network that you trust. Never conduct

this type of confidential web browsing in common areas such as local coffee shops, airports, or local restaurants because these are favorite targets for criminals since they rely on insecure public Wi-Fi networks.

Q: Are there sites that are more secure, and how do you recognize them?

Omar: Yes, any website that has the padlock or golden key shows that it's more secure than those web site with no padlock or golden key. For example: <https://www.wellsfargo.com> is a secure web site because of the 'S' letter appended to HTTP which means that your personal data is stored and transmitted in a secure manner using encryption protocols.

Q: Do you always have to give information?

Omar: No. Be very wary of providing your personal information to anyone over the phone or online. Many hackers pretend that they are calling you in regard to your tax return or health care information, and they try to trick you into disclosing your confidential information. So be careful and never provide your personal information before you know who they are.

Q: Are there steps we should take to protect our computers and mobile devices?

Omar: Yes, turn off your computer and/or mobile devices while you are a sleep because this simple act can reduce the threats significantly since hackers are unable to reach out or touch your machine when it not connected to the internet. Also, encrypt your personal data on your computer as well as your smartphone. There are free software tools such as BitLocker that you can use to encrypt your entire hard drive thereby protecting it from being disclosed even if it falls in the wrong hands.

Q: What should you ALWAYS do?

Omar: Always check your bank statements and check your online banking activity every day and report any suspicious transactions to your bank immediately. Again, never ever conduct online banking from public places such as airport or local coffee shops. Also, equally important is to remember not to share on social media before thinking twice about what you share. This is because cyber criminals regularly monitor social media for information that they can piece



Saint Leo University assistant professor Marwan Omar teaches computer science and information systems and is a member of the cybersecurity faculty for the Donald R. Tapia School of Business. Photo Provided

together and find victims. For example, if you post on social media that you will be on vacation for two weeks and away from your home then you are inviting burglars to break into your home.

Marwan Omar is also a member of the cybersecurity faculty for the Donald R. Tapia School of Business. He may be reached at Marwan.Omar@saintleo.edu.

County Offices To Close For Thanksgiving

Pasco County Government offices, including the Constitutional Offices and the Courts, will be closed on Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 in observance of Thanksgiving. All government offices and the courts will reopen on Nov. 28.

The Pasco County Tax Collector's Office will be closed on Nov. 24, 25 and 26. The office will reopen on Nov. 28.

All Pasco County Libraries will be

close Nov. 23 at 5 p.m. and will be closed Nov. 24-25. They will reopen on Nov. 26 at regularly scheduled times.

The Pasco County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources' offices and Recreation Complexes will be closed on Nov. 24-25. However, all county parks beaches will remain open for public use.

The Pasco County Animal Services Administration Office, Adoption Center,

Intake/Reclaim Shelter and Field Services will be closed Nov. 24-25. An Animal Control Officer will be available for emergencies only. The Adoption Center & Intake/Reclaim will resume regular business hours on Nov. 26 from noon to 6:30 p.m. and will be closed on Nov. 27-28. Administration Office and Field Services of Animal Services will resume regular business hours on Nov. 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be no Pasco County Public

Transportation (PCPT) bus service on Nov. 24. PCPT will resume service on Nov. 25 on a holiday/Saturday schedule.

The Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility, West Pasco Class III, and the East Pasco Transfer Station will be closed to the general public on Nov. 24. However, they will be open to Pasco County licensed commercial haulers only. The Resource Recovery Facility, West Pasco Class III, and the East Pasco Transfer Station will reopen to the public Nov. 26.

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