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Volume VI • Issue 7

Your Community News Source • EastPascoSeniorNews.com

February 2, 2017

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Goodbye January, **Hello Spring** By Ian Marwick The Happy Scribe

Happy Days RV Park

Well, it is hard to believe, but January has quickly faded away into the sunset. We dodged those typical mid-winter changes that cold weather inevitably brings, frosted flowers and knees. But all in all it was a great month. The park is sold out with many new and exciting people joining in the mix, and adding in their experiences. This naturally is

Happy • Continued on Page 2A



Roger Austin is looking good in the new outfit his wife Donna made him to wear while popping popcorn for the Turkey Shoot. Thank you, both.

Hillcrest RV Is Looking For A Ringer



The toss is up at Hillcrest RV Restort's newly modified horseshoe courts.

Who Is Majestic Oaks' **Best Cookie Baker?**

Cookie Contest A Sweet Success Submitted by Wendy Parsels Majestic Oaks Carefree RV Resort

Majestic Oaks RV Resort residents were recently very busy, baking and creating wonderful cookies and filling the air with sweet cinnamon and chocolate smells. Their units were filled with the warm, savory and sweet smells of homebaked cookies. It was a day of cooking, tasting and eating at the annual Cookie Contest Bake Off. Ladies and a few men gathered their favorite cookie recipes and entered to win a selection of prizes. The judges took into account appearance, texture, flavor and creativity while judging the sweet treats. While the judges were



Submitted by Carolyn Ledford Hillcrest RV Resort

Last year, the owner of the Hillcrest RV Resort put in a beautiful new horseshoe court complete with a shed for all of the equipment. A beautiful white decorative fence surrounds it adding a bit more beauty to the park as well. These four new pits were built at regulation size and replaced two that had been next to our small clubhouse at the front.

As people began to return this fall, the numbers of horseshoe players began to grow so now we have a team with their own official orange shirts eagerly taking on teams from other parks in competition. Wayne O'Keefe has been designated the captain.

The men, and, yes, some ladies too are having a wonderful time tossing and

Hillcrest • Continued on Page 5A

- Keynote Speakers at 10am & Noon
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of the proceeds will help Staff a Truck bene-ets in Zephythilis and will also serve as a do

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SimplyEVENTS

Majestic • Continued on Page 6A

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HAPPY DAYS RV PARK

Happy • Continued from Page 1A

all to the good.

However, to some it is good riddance, farewell and adios to our first month of 2017. Sad news just kept coming in the opening weeks that changed the chemistry in the short term. Our president, Bill Wellivere, had resigned, sold his home in Michigan and purchased a permanent residence in Zephyrhills. Gone but thankfully still around and maintaining his contacts.

Our newly elected King and Queen for 2017, Dick and Carol Ziegler, had to make the hard decision to sell and return to New York. We are sure Dick and Carol will not be soon forgotten.

But, the saddest was the announcement that our park managers, Dan and Judy Olson, had decided after

almost 10 years of involvement with our Happy Days park and family, to join the ranks of retirees. For their service to our community and heartfelt support, they received a standing ovation, that the decision was well earned and deserved. Over their tenure they have developed many friends and it is the goal to maintain them, but the short-term goal is recharging the batteries, enjoying their growing family and travel back to Iowa for an extended visit. In their announcement they were proud of their achievements at Happy Days, and support and wish the new management success. This is also the wide felt wish of our Happy Days family. Happy trails to you both. Thanks!

Now, what is happening in the park? The January Turkey Shoot was again directed on the courts by Ken Knight.



The Rec Hall was filled to the max at Bill Wellivere's last meeting as Association President. We will miss you, Bill.





Richard and Linda Nitz using some great moves during the shuffleboard Turkey Shoot! Fun times.

No, we do not shoot turkeys, but with all types of devious devices shielding where your rocks are going and scoring, we might as well. To entice the extra dollars out of your pocket, Roger Yeardon and crew put up a hot dog lunch including all the trimmings, bag of chips and a soda for \$1.50 or two dogs for \$2. Wow, what a deal.

And of course, the all time spring favorite, the pie auction. Gentlemen, get out your forks. Ah, it makes your heart throb with anticipation. There are fruit, berry, custard, cream, exotic ones with covered, latticed or meringue toppings.

Tarts, cakes, buns and even a guest pass to Weight Watchers. Our intrepid auctioneer Ralph Weller keeps the bids and the money flowing. Great job.

The buzz is all around the park. The big day is almost here. Goofy Golf, yes you only have a few more days to complete your outfit to amaze and entertain your fellow players. Funny hats, clothes, shoes, anything 'goofy' is okay. This is your day to hang it all out. Make sure you are signed in. Team assignments will be posted Feb. 12 at enrollment outside the hall prior to 9 a.m. Bring a buck and a smile. Shotgun start at about 9:15 a.m.



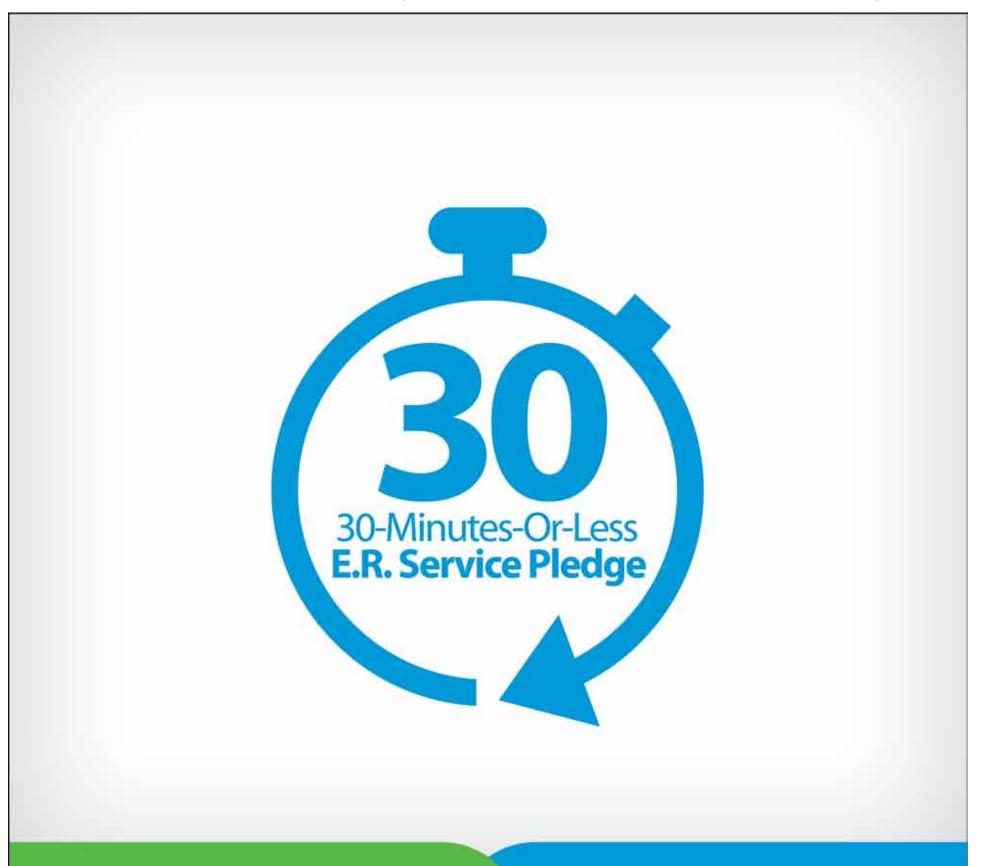
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AREA HAPPENINGS

For more events. Visit www.pasconewspublications.com

Feb. 3 – Diabetes and Wound Care – Emilio Dominguez, MD, will give a presentation on the importance of diabetics properly and promptly seeking wound care to avoid serious complications. The presentaion will take place from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center's Education Room, 38233 Daughtery Road. Dr. Dominguez and a team of physicians started FHZ's Center for Wound Healing in 2001. The Center promotes patient-centered and teambased care. This program is free but call (813) 779-6476 to reserve a space.

Feb. 4 – Leisure Days Annual Quilt Show – The clubhouse will be open to visitors for the 12th annual quilt show from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 34533 Leisure Days Drive. Along with quilts created by the individual quilters, there will be wall hangings and specialty quilts from family treasures to antique quilts, and other quilted items that will be on display. Car pool if possible as parking is limited. There is a \$3 donation at the door. Contact Leisure Days RV Resort at (813) 788-2631 for information.

Feb. 4 – Moonlight and Ivory – The event is held at the Dade City Woman's Club, 37922 Palm Avenue. The matinee concert will begin at 2 p.m. with the art show following. Doors for the evening performance will open at 7 p.m. for the art exhibition with the musical concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served at both shows during intermission. Cost is \$25 for the evening show and \$15 for the matinee. Contact Judy Schaper at (813) 997-4631 for information.

Feb. 4 – Cruise In – Free event featuring DJ Starvin' Darvin and a hula hoop contest for kids. Bring your prized car/ truck, or just the family and check out the antique and specialty cars. Enjoy lunch at one of our many exceptional restaurants and shop in our antique and specialty shops. Held in downtown Dade City from 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Feb. 4 – The Market Place – Fresh produce, garden accessories, home decor, soaps, honey, jewelry and so much more are featured at the monthly market. This is a pet friendly event. Contact Lucy Avila at (352) 521-5858 or lucyavila707@gmail.com for information.

Feb. 4-5 – Farm Fest and Quilt Show – Featuring the Hoffman Collection and the draft horse pull, music and more. Held Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Florida Pioneer Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road in Dade City. Horse pull will be Saturday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call (352) 567-0262 or visit www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org for information.

Feb. 6 – Jefferson County, New York Picnic – The Jefferson County 65th annual picnic will be held at the Lions Club on Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be a buffet so please bring your favorite dish to pass and your own beverage. Our entertainment this year will be country singers Christine and Willie. We will have door prizes, raffles and a 50/50. Cost at door is \$3. Contact Cheryl at (803) 420-6629 or davischeryl45@ gmail.com for information.

Feb. 8 – Bingo and Specialty Pizza – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills invites you to play Bingo from 2-3 p.m. in the Creation Cafe at 7050 Gall Blvd. Guest speaker David Force will give an overview of the community garden project, opportunities for planting and expansion plans. Fruit specialty pizzas will be provided along with beverages. Prizes will be presented to Bingo winners. There is no charge to attend but reservations are required. Call (877) 534-3108 to reserve a spot.

Feb. 10 – Robotic Partial Knee Surgery – Join us as Dr. Randolph Knight, Orthopedic Surgeon, shares how MAKOplasty can be an effective treatment option for partial knee replacement. Held at Creation Health Wellness Center's Education Room, 38233 Daughtery Road from 12-1 p.m. Reservations are required. Call (877) 534-3108 or register online or call (844) 504-9378 for information.

Feb. 10 – Yard and Bake Sale – Tropical Park will host their annual Park Yard and Bake Sale at the clubhouse from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. A dessert bar will be available along with a raffle on Longaberger Baskets and a Juke Box Radio. The park is located on State Road 54 west and Lane Road in Zephyrhills. Contact Carol Witham at teachingnh@aol.com for information.

Feb. 10 – Historical Fashion Show – Presenting our history through historical fashion show. From the late 1700's-1940's, live models will display historical fashions with commentary by our master of ceremonies. Light refreshment will be served. Cost is \$3 per vehicle or annual park pass. Held from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Dade Battlefield, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

Feb. 10 – Country Concert – Enjoy an evening of country music with Debbie Myers, with special guest Freddy "Tommy" Thompson on steel guitar and vocals. Held at 7 p.m. at Gem Estates in Zephyrhills. Tickets are available for \$10 by calling Lee at (813) 780-1012 or Tes at (517) 914-4718 for information.

Feb. 11 – Wisconsin-Upper Peninsula Michigan Picnic – The 2017 potluck picnic will be held at the First Methodist Church Hall in Zephyrhills. Registration will start at 10 a.m. with activities starting at noon. Bring a dish to pass for 10-12 people and your own place setting. Meat, coffee and dessert will be provided. Bring your own drinks, no alcoholic beverages allowed. A \$4 donation per person is requested. Entertainment and door prizes will be provided. The church is located at 38635 Fifth Ave. Contact Vicki Arndt at (608) 790-1210 for information.

Feb. 11 – Yard Sale – Grove Ridge Estates will be hosting their annual park wide sale from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. This event will include a craft show, sales, bake sale and raffle table in the Club House, along with a park wide Yard Sale. And don't forget a great lunch at the pavilion. Located at 10721 U.S. 98 just east of U.S. 301 and south of Dade City.

Feb. 11 – Hunger Walk: Many Hearts One Mission – Why we walk: in Pasco County more than 68,000 families struggle to put food on the table. This is nearly 15% of the county's population. Presented by the Thomas Promise Foundation, which packs over 1,000 bags each week for school children in East Pasco County. Get involved and register online at www.thethomaspromise.org. Become a corporate sponsor, individual walker, join as a team or become a vendor. Held at 8 a.m. at Zephyrhills High School, 6335 12th St. Call (813) 782-0000 for information.

Feb. 11 – Backyard Fruit Trees – Let's talk about the different types of fruit trees that can be grown in your backyard. How to plant them and care for them to be able to "reap the fruits" of your efforts. Held at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. from 10-11 a.m. Call the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Office at (352) 518-0156 for information on this free seminar.

Feb. 11 – Diamonds and Dessert – This fundraiser will benefit Skivvies & Socks for Tots and Shoes 4 Schools. Win beautiful LeVian jewelry donated by Boyd Jewelers. Tickets are \$50 each or two for \$80 and include dinner, a glass of champagne and an entry to win LeVian jewelry. Bring a donation and receive an extra ticket for the chance to win jewelry. Held at Scotland Yard Golf and Country Club, 9424 U.S. 301 from 6-11 p.m. Call (813) 682-9364 for information and to buy tickets.

Feb. 11-12 – Ranch Days – A two-day event at Little Everglades Ranch presents live music at two stages, exhibitions, guided ranch tours, activities for the

lil' buckaroos, and more. Held Saturday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Little Everglades is located at U.S. 301 and Gould Road in Dade City. Admission is free with \$10 parking. Visit www.lerevents.com/ranch-days for information and vendor applications.

Feb. 12 – An Intimate Evening With Jimmie Bush Jr. – Palm Tree Acres welcomes guests for an evening of entertainment with Jimmie Bush Jr., featuring Jim Bush, with the sounds of Frank Sinatra, Elvis, Tony Bennett, Englebert Humperdinck, The Temptations, Perry Como, Mickey Gilley, George Strait and many more. Held at 7 p.m. at 36006 S.R. 54 west. Tickets are \$7 per person. Call (810) 387-3785 for tickets and information.

Feb. 12 – Valentine's Banquet – Smith Family Walkers present a charity St. Valentine's Banquet featuring a pasta dinner and dancing. A \$10 donation per person is asked. Bring your sweetheart and have a good time. Held at the VFW Post #4283, 12735 VFW Road. Call Betty at (813) 715-0344 for tickets. All proceeds go to the Alzheimer's Association.

Feb. 13 – Strokes/TIA Recognition and Risk Factors – Learn the signs and risks to be safe. Presented by Debra Dungan, RN, MSN, CEN. Held from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. This program is free but reservations are required. Call (813) 779-6476 for information and to reserve a space.

Feb. 16 – MEGA Heart Expo – If you have a heart condition or are interested in ensuring that you take steps to stay heart healthy, this expo is for you. The MEGA inflatable heart will be on display, too. Held at the East Pasco Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7333 Dairy Road, from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Call (877) 534-3108 for information or to reserve a spot.

Feb. 16-19 – Light 'Em Up Auto Events – This new event will be held at Festival Park, 2738 Gall Blvd. Vendor move-in is Feb.14. Hosted by Craig and Joann, who have been hosting auto events for 26 years. Visit zephyrhillsautoevents.com for information.

Feb. 17 – Women Build – Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco County will be holding the Women Build 2017 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The location of the build is to be determined. Visit www.habitatpasco.org or contact Jere Ferguson at (352) 567-1444 or volunteer@habitatpasco.org for information registration.

Feb. 5 – Square Dancing at the Dade Lodge – Join veteran square dance callers, Ray and Carol Rockwell, for a variety of square dances. Cost is \$3/ vehicle or annual park pass. Held 2-4 p.m. at the Dade Battlefield, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

Feb. 5 - Skydive City Chili Cook Off

– The annual Chili Cook-Off displays a dozen or so fine chilis from our local skydiving chefs. Judges may be bribed, prizes will be plentiful and the food will be awesome. Get your recipes tried and tested and bring it on out. This free event will be held from 6-8 p.m. at 4241 Skydive Lane. Call (800) 888-JUMP or visit www.skydivecity.com for information.

Feb. 10-11 – Book Bazaar – Held from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Hugh Embry Library Branch of the Pasco County Library System, 14215 Fourth Street. Additional parking is available in the Judicial Courthouse lot northeast of the Library. Call (352) 567-3576 for information. This Book Bazaar will feature a diverse selection of books, audio and video media, magazines, and related materials. These are available for a modest cost. Admission is open to the public.

Feb. 11 – Snowbird Palooza – The third annual Snowbird Palooza will be held in Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave., from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Entry and parking is free. This senior-friendly event includes keynote speakers at noon, free coffee and donut social, free health checks and other fun activities and entertainment. Visit Simplyeventsfl.com for information.

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HILLCREST RV RESORT

Hillcrest • Continued from Page 1A

getting acquainted with others with the same interest both here and at other parks.

While they aren't at the top of the league, they aren't at the bottom either so here is to our up and growing horseshoe team. We're proud of you!



The new horseshoe courts have becoming increasingly popular.



Determined horseshoe players keep their eyes on the prize.

It's A Snowbird Palooza! Third Annual Event Set for Feb. 11

mature adults for a day of activities and entertainment at the third annual Palooza in Snowbird charming Zephyrhills. Located at Zephyr Park, this senior friendly, fun filled event includes great exhibitors, keynote speakers at noon, free coffee and donut social and free health checks. Fun activities will be scheduled throughout the event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. including Bingo, strolling entertainment and live entertainment.

Snowbird Palooza supports the Pasco Education Foundation for local schools,

Calling all area Snowbirds and so please bring new hygiene products or school supplies to help underprivileged kids in the local area. Event Sponsors Include: Pasco Education Foundation, Morgan Exteriors and Iernea's Heating and Cooling.

Snowbird Palooza is dog friendly and encourages our guests to spend all day, so lawn chairs are permitted however seating options are provided.

Zephyr Park is located at 3816 Fifth Ave. Parking and entry are free.

Visit Simplyeventsfl.com for more information.

'Butterflies and Blooms' At Pasco Fair

The UF/IFAS Pasco County Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardeners will be hosting a live, daily butterfly exhibit at the Pasco County Fair from Feb. 20-26.

"Interactive butterfly exhibits, like the one Pasco Master Gardeners produce for the Pasco County Fair, enable children and adults to get an up-close look at the lives of these important pollinators," said County Extension Director Dr. Whitney Elmore. "Attracting wildlife to your lawn and garden can be as simple as the addition of a few plants that attract butterflies. Butterflies are not only important ecologically; they are fun to watch and easy to attract."

Come interact with dozens of butterflies as they flutter around pollinator and host plants. This unique exhibit will be at the top of the hill behind Higgins Hall on the Pasco County Fairgrounds.

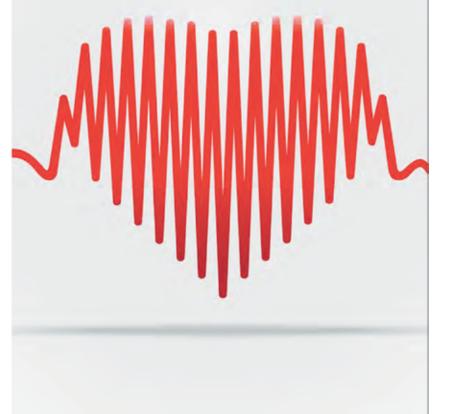
The exhibit will be open: from 3 to 6 p.m. Feb. 20 through Feb. 24; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 25; and from 12 to 6 p.m. on Feb. 26.

Call (352) 518-0156 or visit bit. ly/2iB6040 for information, including volunteer opportunities.



The MEGA Heart Expo

If you have a heart condition or are interested in ensuring that you take steps to stay heart healthy, plan to attend our expo. There will be complimentary lipid panels (fasting for eight hours prior is recommended); blood pressure checks; and leg and vein screenings.



Limited free EKGs are also available by appointment. Visit our Heart Health Fair; choose from fascinating educational presentations by respected heart specialists; and enjoy refreshments. The MEGA Heart will be on display, too! Don't miss the opportunity to take a guided tour of this inflatable heart and learn about its many vital functions.

> Thursday, February 16, 2017 8:00 am* - 12:30 pm * Doors do not open until 8:00 am

East Pasco Seventh-day Adventist Church 7333 Dairy Road Zephyrhills, Florida 33540

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. 🤳 (877) 534-3108 🗔 HeartExpertsPasco.com 📑 Like us on Facebook



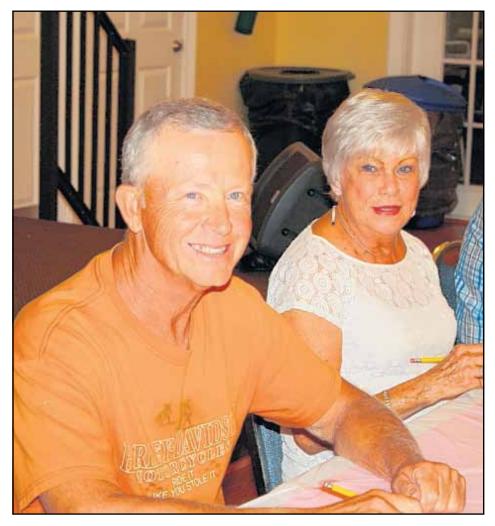
MAJESTIC OAKS CAREFREE RV RESORT

Majestic • Continued from Page 1A

savoring and grading the delectable desserts, park resident Diane Barry entertained the residents with her music!

While many items got "mmm,"s and "ahh,"s from the judges, the winning tastes left them full. Diane Whitman's grandmother's recipe earned her first

prize. Second place went to Gloria Seidell and third prize went to Diane Ellison. We would be derelict if we did not thank our sweet-toothed judges, Bill Hull, Patty Stevens, Dale Greathouse, Ruby Rice and Steve Morgan. The residents in the resort are already sharpening their skills for the sweet breads and muffins baking contest in February.



Sweet-toothed judges eat their way through the entries.



Best Bakers, Diana Whitman, Gloria Seidell and Diane Ellison.



Cookie judges had the best job of the day for the Cookie Contest Bake Off.







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MAJESTIC OAKS CAREFREE RV RESORT New Game Taking Majestic Oaks by Storm

Funny Name Equals Fun Game Submitted by Wendy Parsels

Majestic Oaks Carefree RV Resort

Pickleball does not involve those tart and crisp green treats! It is a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and Ping-Pong. At Majestic Oaks, it is played outdoors on a smaller court marked off on the tennis courts. It can be played as doubles or singles, using a paddle and a plastic ball.

Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, a short ferry ride from Seattle, Wash. Three dads – Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum (whose kids were bored with their usual summertime activities) – are credited for creating game. Pickleball has evolved from original handmade equipment and simple rules into a popular sport throughout the United States and Canada.

Why is it called "Pickleball?" You have to admit, it is a very interesting name, especially since no pickles are used. Accounts of how the name originated differ. The first account is from Joel Pritchard's wife, Joan. She started calling the game pickleball because "the combination of different sports reminded her of the pickle boat in crew where oarsmen were chosen from the leftovers of other boats." But, according to Barney McCallum, the game was officially named after the



Panoramic view of the full courts.

Pritchards' dog Pickles, who would chase the ball and run off with it. Others claim both accounts may actually be true. In the early years, no official name was assigned to the game. As the game progressed, an official name was needed and "pickleball" was it.

According to USAPA, the USA Pickleball Association – yes, there is an organized association for pickleball players – there are over 15,000 indoor and outdoor courts in the U.S. and at least one court in all 50 states. Although the sport has become more competitive through the years, many players enjoy the social aspects of the game. As more retirement communities have adopted

Photos by **Doug Lee**

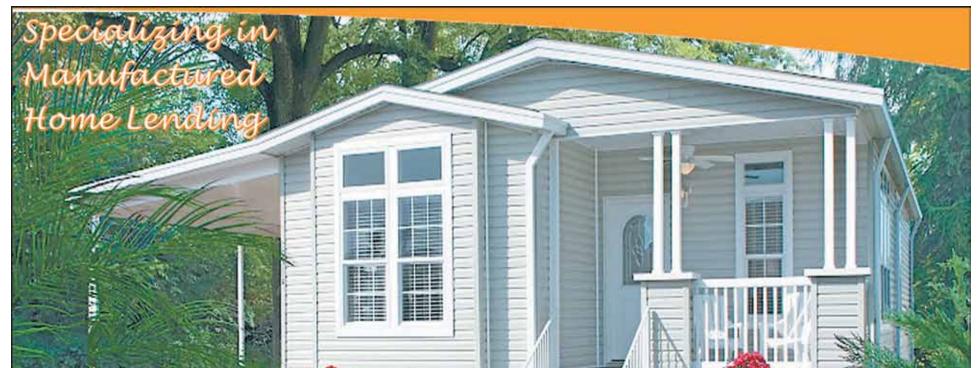
pickleball as an activity for their residents, there has been an explosion of new court construction throughout the U.S., especially in the southern states.

Oh, how I digress... back to Pickleball at Majestic Oaks. Last year, there was a core group of four or five guys that played on a regular basis. This season that group has grown and continues to grow! Those guys have held "introduction to the game" events, semiprivate lessons and simple games for the new players. They now have four dedicated times on the tennis courts to play... plus anytime the courts are open, you can pick up the community equipment and hit the pickleball!





A pickleball caught mid-flight.







A game for all the ages.

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VALLEYDALE RO Celebration Of Food At Valleydale

Story and photos by **Dotty Copeland** Valleydale RO

As this New Year comes in, we are all about food. We started out with our Pot Luck on Jan 12. Sixty-two residents were at the hall for all the homemade salads, breads, main course entrees and, of course, desserts. After we all filled our plates and ate, we had a game of Words of Wisdom. Everyone had to come up with



Gianna and Gayle.

something that was unique. We had some rare moments and a few laughs. We left with full bellies and lots of chuckling.

On Jan. 19, the Classy Ladies went up to Scotland Yards for our 13th anniversary dinner. Our first order of business was to elect a new Chairperson, Nancy Goff, and a new Vice Chairperson, Mary Stanford. Congratulations to you both.

We dined on lasagna, salad and bread, coffee, hot and cold tea, mini cupcakes and cheesecakes. When dinner was over, we had our drawings for gift cards. Twelve cards were given away to different stores in Zephyrhills. Everyone was enjoying themselves so much, we forgot to take pictures. I guess that says a lot about the day.

Our piece de resistance was on Jan. 20. It was our annual Spaghetti Supper. Our host and hostess were Gayle and Phil Teri. It was their first year doing this, with a lot of help. It was a well-oiled machine. We started off with cheese appetizers, and salad was served with hot bread and garlic butter and a little wine to wash it down.

Then the main course was served. Regular and whole wheat spaghetti, meatballs and sausages and all the sauce you wanted. The dessert was pineapple upside down cake, topped with cool whip and a cherry. Coffee and tea were also available. Italian music in the background was just perfect. One hundred and eightytwo meals were made and three take home dinners.

We all thank everyone who worked so hard to make this a night to remember. The cake bakers were Judy Mohney, Georgette Lewis, Diane LaCourse, Carol LaCourse, Linda Smith, Lillian Winterwerb, Phyllis MacIntyre, Edith Dennis, Evette Bunicky, Nancy Deal, MaryAnn Robinson, Daryl Bariteau, Mary Stanford and Lana Dupont. Ann Shrauger made the bread wraps for our garlic



Valleydale • Continued on Page 9A

Host and hostess Gayle and Phil Teri.

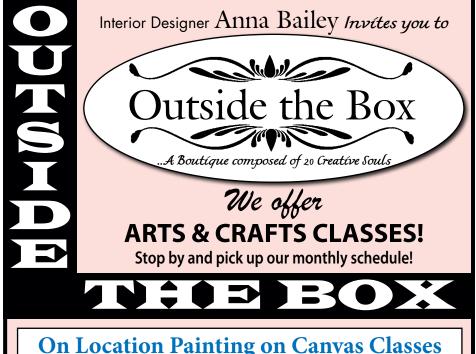


The crew for the 2017 Spaghetti dinner.





Crew getting a well-deserved meal after all of their hard work.



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VALLEYDALE RO



Dinner preparation.

Valleydale • Continued from Page 8A

bread. Ruth Peterson made the waiter's cummerbunds, with only 24 hours notice! Gayle and Phil want to thank her wonderful 2017 crew, Bill and Chris Dowd, Laura and Peter Zeintek, Larry and Mary Morrison, Cal Meyers and Joanne Pasquale, Jim and Judy Cormier, Jim

and Judy Ramsey and Winston Alward and Betty Fitzgerald for handling all the set up, food prep, serving and cleanup. The table waiters were Alan Turner, Bill Copeland, Howard Dockett and Bruce Lewis. It was a delightful evening.

Our park had our first park-wide termite inspection. This was authorized for us by our board. The work was done over three days and the results were



Valleydale residents at the annual spaghetti supper.

wonderful. Floyd Graham, one of the board members, handled all the details with Balogh's Pest Control. Thank you for all your hard work on this project. Our park-wide sale was held Jan. 20 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. More in the next edition. Till next time.



Waiters Bruce Lewis, Alan Turner, Howard Dockett and Bill Copeland with Gayle Teri.



Everyone patiently waits in line to fill their plates with spaghetti.







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East Pasco Senior News

Another Feat For Fruity Treat *Chilly Weather Fails To Spoil Kumquat Festival*

Story and photos by **Joe Potter**

Tens of thousands of people made a huge fuss over a tiny fruit on a chilly Saturday during the 20th Kumquat Festival.

"I think it's getting bigger every year. I like the different vendors," said James Lackey of Brooksville.

The festival celebrates the kumquat, an orange-like fruit related to the citruses, with an edible sweet rind and acid pulp, which can be eaten raw or used in preserves.

About 400 vendors set up shop in this year's festival, and more wanted to participate but couldn't because there was no space left in the multiple block area downtown. That popularity allows the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce to be more selective when choosing vendors for the increasingly popular festival.

"I have been to all the Gasparilla parades, but the Dade City Kumquat Festival is twice as good," said Bill McFarland Sr. of Dade City. McFarland was referring to Tampa's blowout tribute to pirates that tends to fall on the same Saturday in January.

Three generations of the McFarland family were at the festival.

"We're having a good time," said Bill McFarland Jr.

"It's really fun," added Bill Jr.'s daughter, Ella, who was sporting a new

look following a visit to the face-painting booth.

Temperatures hovered in the low 40s when the festival started at 9 a.m., causing vendors and attendees to bundle up. The weather steadily improved, especially in the final hours of the annual event.

Vendors sold wares ranging from knitting supplies and health products to gourds, kumquat pies, beer and marmalade.

"Oh, it's lovely," Mary Booth of Lakeland, said of the festival. "It's very nice. There are a good variety of vendors for everybody."

Her husband, Charles, offered a different opinion. "There's not enough for the guys to look at," he said. He added that he would like to see more vendors who offered items for woodworking and similar hobbies.

"We love it. It's huge," said Jeanette Nagel. This was the first Kumquat Festival she and her husband, Dennis, had attended. The couple from Buffalo, N.Y. that spends the winter months in St. Petersburg said they would definitely come to the festival again.

The Gude family of St. Joseph was on hand with their Kumquat Growers tent set up in the parking lot of the Wells Fargo Bank. A steady crowd of people streamed in and out of the tent to purchase a variety of kumquat products.



Two ladies enjoy some kumquat pie at the corner of Sixth Street and Meridian Avenue.



Festival goers were bundled up in the morning as temperatures hovered in the 40s.

Food vendors at numerous locations offered elephant ears, hot dogs, hamburgers, coffee, soft drinks and other items. Then there was the Redneck Steak Beef Jerky stand that was in a league all its own.

Area restaurants also reported bustling sales during the festival.

There was plenty of diversions for children, including a rock-climbing wall, pony rides, bounce houses and other activities.

A variety of entertainment included musical groups performing on the west steps of the Historic Pasco County Courthouse, and Johnny Shelton, of America's Got Talent fame, strumming his guitar in the parking lot of Kafé Kokopelli.

Hundreds of classic and collectible cars and trucks filled the parking lot of the Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center.

A hearse built on a VW chassis with a costumed skeleton figure standing outside competed for attention with a 1966 Corvette Stingray with a 427 cubic inch Turbo-Jet V-8 engine and four-speed transmission.

A blue and white 1956 Ford Customline with 35,000 original miles and three-on-the-tree showed nicely.

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills was the

headline sponsor of this year's festival. The Chamber stages its signature event with the help of a multitude of volunteers.

City workers and volunteers quickly cleared the downtown area of any evidence of the festival within hours after it closed and the planning for the 21st Kumquat Festival almost immediately began.



This decorated egg tree garnered a lot of attention during the festival.



There was a good sampling of collectible vehicles for people to look at on Saturday.





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GEM ESTATES Leisurely Games Enjoyed At Gem Estates

Resident Is Man Of The People Submitted by Mabel Budzinski Gem Estates

On Saturday afternoons at Gem Estates you can find a lively game of lawn bocce ball going on. What a fun game. Come join the fun at 1 p.m.

Monday evening Euchre top players were Mae, Shirley and Mel. Wednesday morning there was not a three game winner at shuffleboard. New players of all skill levels are invited to come join the shuffleboard games, which begin at 10 a.m.

On Thursday morning, 105 folks attended our coffee hour.

Mary Pardee, Ed Snow and Linda Files are in sickbay. My pick for volunteer of the week is



Gem Estate resident and proclaimed volunteer of the week, Mike Mitchell.

Mike Mitchell. He's another quiet man, full of character, who works behind the scenes. Mike works on the maintenance committee, summer committee, maintains our water system and serves on our board of directors. With all



Residents of Gem Estates enjoying a fun game of bocce ball.

this he still had time to lead the chair exercise group for a week while that instructor enjoyed being on a cruise.

Our annual clubhouse sale was held on Jan. 28. The sale included the traditional garage sale items plus a bake sale, delicious food and awesome raffle items. Neighbors Saving Neighbors training was held Jan. 31.

Upcoming events include Debbie Myers who will be here for a concert on Feb. 10. .



The MEGA Heart display is about 26 feet long, 16 feet wide and 13 feet high. Visitors enter through the superior vena cava, and exit through the aorta.

Heart Expo Is A Heartbeat Away

Individuals who are interested in learning about heart disease prevention and management are encouraged to register for Florida Hospital Zephyrhills' (FHZ) free MEGA Heart Expo from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 16, at the East Pasco Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 7333 Dairy Road in Zephyrhills. Doors open at 8 a.m. and light refreshments will be provided.

According to FHZ, this is the largest heart education program the hospital will offer in 2017. Besides a heart health fair, attendees can participate in complimentary screenings including blood pressure checks, a complete lipid profile to determine one's cholesterol, leg and vein screenings and EKGs. One must schedule an EKG appointment when making their Expo reservation. Six cardiologists will give presentations on heart disease prevention, atrial fibrillation, congestive heart failure, sleep apnea and its effect on the heart, coronary and peripheral artery disease, and venous disease. There will be time for questions after each presentation.

The MEGA Heart will also be on display and attendees are encouraged to take a guided tour of the world's only portable, inflatable, walk-though heart exhibit. The MEGA Heart is 26 feet long, 16 feet wide and 13 feet high. Visitors enter through the largest vein that feeds the heart, called the superior vena cava, and exit through the aorta, the largest artery that leaves the heart.

Reservations are required for the Expo. Call (877) 534-3108 for information.





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East Pasco Senior News

Little Everglades Going Big Tours, Hot Air Balloons To Showcase Ranch

by Keri McAlpine

Sprawling across 2,050 acres of fields and farmland, Little Everglades Ranch is an oasis of green grass fields and a perfect place for entertaining events.

Iconic for once hosting steeplechase horse races, the ranch is now embarking on a new venture: Ranch Days.

Event organizer Kevin Campbell said he and his wife Andy have wanted to put on a big event like this for years, and on Feb. 11 and 12 their hard work will be realized.

This is the first 'home-grown' production put on by the ranch since the steeplechase was shut down when the recession hit in 2008. Since then, the property has been host to numerous events including high school cross country championships and extreme sport runs, such as the Savage Race.

With Ranch Days, Campbell hopes to bring something new to the plate.

Even though the ranch comprises thousands of acres, most events use less



A Vietnam era larc vessel will be on hand at Ranch Days to provide visitors with tours of the property on land and in the water.

than a quarter of that. Because of that, Campbell has organized five different ways for visitors to explore the property and it's mysterious appeal.

"People have always asked us when they come out ... if we give tours," Campbell said. "So part of this event, of why we're doing this event, is to give people a chance to see the ranch."

With that in mind, a Zephyrhills Boy Scout troop will be leading hiking tours across the property, a tram will scoot across the multiple fields, and a 12-seat swamp buggy will delve into the wetlands to go even deeper into the ranch.

Campbell said one of the more exciting tour vehicles will be provided by a larc, a Vietnam era boat and land cruiser, which was originally used to transport equipment off of ships that couldn't dock in Vietnam. It's duck-tour like presence will provide an exciting adventure for participants on the ground and in a lake across the property.

The last, and most uplifting, tour vehicle will be two hot air balloons which, weather permitting, will offer tethered rides so visitors can get an aerial view of the ranch.

On the night of Feb. 11, Campbell hopes to welcome an additional three hot air balloons to participate in a 'hot air balloon glow.'

"They're going to fire up their balloons which makes the balloon illuminate, it's like a light bulb up inside of there. And it will just be real pretty up in the evening sky," Campbell said.

All of the tours will be offered for a fee and the two-day event will also feature a slew of free musical entertainment and live shows. Where the finish line used to be for the steeplechase on the 1.25-mile long grass track, "exciting exhibitions"



Little Everglades Ranch boasts more than 2,000 acres. Attendees of Ranch Days will be able to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of part of the ranch. **Photos Provided**

will be performing both days.

Tino Wallenda will perform highwire walking, Lady Kitty will bring some high flying friends for a birds of prey presentation, and Jim Mendenhall, famous for his involvement with the San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival, will present indigenous snakes. More recently added to the schedule is a chainsaw artist, who will be doing live woodcarvings.

"There will always be something going on with those four shows," Campbell said. "We're hoping people take advantage of the great entertainment we're providing. We feel it's a real value for families ... if they come with full tummies, they can literally come out here and spend hours for 10 bucks looking at all the great entertainment we have and enjoy all the stuff we're putting out there."

As far as live music goes, Campbell said that is top notch as well. About a dozen regional artists will perform on two opposing stages throughout the day, playing some of the best country, bluegrass and Americana in the area.

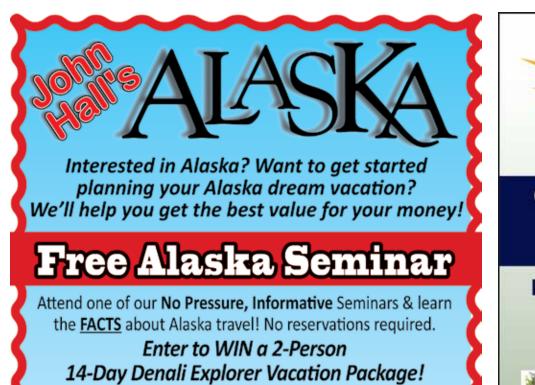
A kids area and a free junior Savage Race course will be available for the younger crowd.

Food, beverage and craft vendors will also be set up on the property for visitors to enjoy.

The ranch was recently put in a conservancy with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, meaning it can never be developed.

"It will always remain a working ranch and a nature preserve and an events facility," Campbell said. "The ranch is also such a beautiful place to do this at, I'm really hoping people take advantage of that."

The entrance for Ranch Days at Little Everglades Ranch is located at U.S. 301 and Gould Road, just north of Dade City. Entry into the event is free with \$10 parking. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Feb. 11 and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 12. Visit RanchDays.com for a full schedule, list of activities and other information.





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27th Annual Farm Fest & Quilt Show

Stop by the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village on Feb. 4 and Feb. 5 to celebrate the 27th annual Farm Fest and Quilt Show.

On Saturday there will be a Draft Horse Competition, presented by the Southern Draft Horse Association. Pulling 7,000 pound sleds over a 30 foot long course, two horse teams compete in brute strength with two classes; light (under 3,400 pounds combined horse weight) and heavy (over 3,400 pounds), these elite horses train in the off season like any athlete, pulling weights several times a day to build muscle and stamina. Like the old farming days, bragging rights are the main prize for the strongest teams of these gentle giants. Even though their work no longer involves pulling a plow or hauling logs, these champions remind us of the horsepower needed for a farm's daily chores.

The Hoffman Challenge Traveling Quilt Collection of quilts and clothes will be on display during the fest. The Hoffman Challenge, started in 1988, has grown to be a premiere traveling exhibit of fiber artists.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoons there will be a trunk show and quilt appraisals presented by Brenda Grampsas, noted quilt historian. Winners of this year's Kumquat Challenge, from the Kumquat Festival, will be displayed in the Citrus Packing House. If you have a quilt to display, call the museum for details.

We are also holding a raffle for a quilt

HUNTER'S RUN RV ESTATES

Tall Corn Club

Hunter's Run RV Estates will be holding the 60th annual Iowa Tall Corn Club meeting on Feb. 11 at the Golden Corral, located at 6855 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills. The meeting will be held at 8 a.m.

Following registration and breakfast, a short program on the 60 years the group has been meeting will be held, with Karen May greeting members and guests. Former Iowans, or Iowans spending time in the area are invited to attend. RSVPs are encouraged to Irene Schwint at (813) 312-6174 or Karen May at (813) 780-9538, both at Hunters Run, Zephyrhills.

Registration remains at \$1 per person to help reduce expenses. Prizes will be awarded and a time for visiting is included in the morning event.

Hope to see you there.

Quick Safety Message From The Mayor

Just a friendly, but important, reminder to our winter friends: Sixth Street south and Seventh Street north are "one way streets." Please be reminded.

Remember you CANNOT make a left turn from the right lane on a one way. Many serious accidents have occurred because of left turns from the right lane. Let's all be aware and considerate on the roads. Welcome back, enjoy the mild winter and be safe.

Mayor Gene Whitfield



donated by Quilts on Plum Lane in Dade City.

The Barking Dogs will play old time music on Saturday near the Mabel Jordan Barn. The Dulcimer Connection will be performing at the Gazebo. The Solid Gold Barbershop Quartet will perform around the museum after 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Volunteers will be grinding cane and making syrup down by the mill. The concession stand will serve pulled pork sandwiches, hamburgers and hotdog plates along with fries and onion rings. Desserts and soft drinks will also be available.

Vendors, exhibitors and so much more will be on the grounds to see and do. All of the buildings will be open and most will have tour guides (docents) in the building to tell of their history. Not to mention train rides, a petting zoo and face painting.

Hours are Feb. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults (13 and older), \$5 for children 6-12 and 5 years and younger are free. Sunday admission is \$5 for adults and children 6-12. Parking is free.

The Pioneer Florida Museum & Village is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Florida's Pioneer Heritage. The museum is located one mile north of downtown Dade City, off of U.S. 301 at 15602 Pioneer Museum Road in Dade City. Visit www.pioneerfloridamuseum. org or call (352) 567.0262 for information.



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