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Another Wonderful Year At Sweetwater



Walter Kidd takes a picture of Judy McGuire after her 60th birthday 'bucket-list jump'. His wife, Cheryl, congratulates her because she also 'jumped' for her 70th 'bucket-list' wish.

Resident Flies High For Birthday

Submitted by *Judy Pearce*
Sweetwater RV Resort

On March 7, our Sun RV Resort Appreciation Day Picnic was enjoyed by all who attended. It was a beautiful day of games and prizes, food, drink and music. Afterwards, many people went to Skydive City to watch our own Judy McGuire jump for her 60th birthday. She had been scheduled to jump several times in the days before, but weather wasn't cooperating. This day, despite low cloud coverage, she was determined to meet her 'bucket list' wish, and she did! She was all smiles before and after and said it was an amazing experience.

Many people were present for the birthday jump, and a more experienced 'jumper' from two years ago, Cheryl Kidd, congratulated Judy. Cheryl jumped for her 70th birthday 'bucket list' wish as well – have we started something here?

On March 8 at 1 p.m., the ninth annual 'Twisted Stitches'

Sweetwater • Continued on Page 10A

A Season In Review

Majestic Oaks Already Planning For Next Year

Submitted by *Wendy Parsels*
Majestic Oaks Carefree RV Resort

It cannot be April already, it was just October... we all just got here... it cannot be time to go! October saw a trickle of residents returning and the annual Halloween Chili Party and Costumed Dance. November saw more old friends, which we consider family and new friends arrive. Along with coffee, donuts and park news, indoor walking, burgers and dogs, Bingo, jam



Unwanted residents are asked to leave!

sessions, horseshoes, Thanksgiving dinner and decorating for Christmas.

In December, a few more friends arrived and we enjoyed the Christmas

decorations, the cooler weather, a dance with Dinky Cameron and

Majestic • Continued on Page 6A



Murdoch Ford, 83, stood ramrod straight as he attended last month's performance of the Parris Island Marine Corps Band in Dade City. Ford was a tank driver during the Korean War.

Veteran Recalls Korean Conflict

Marine Won't Forget 'The Forgotten War'

Story and photo by *Joe Potter*

It has been 68 years since he was deployed to Korea but Murdoch Ford remembers it like it was yesterday.

Ford, 83, of Zephyrhills, joined the U.S. Marine Corps when he was just 15 years old and living in Bayonne, N.J.

He and his siblings had been orphaned and he was the oldest of five children so Ford joined the Marine Corps to help provide some money.

"I made \$84 a month," Ford said.

The Korean War began June 5, 1950; the day he graduated from boot camp at Parris Island, S.C.

"None of us had ever heard of

Korea," he said.

Ford was a Private First Class and – while still at age 15 – was promoted to Corporal while he was on a ship going to Korea.

"They promoted me because of my job. I was a tank driver," Ford said.

His tank, which was called Lulu, was a M26 Pershing that was a leftover from World War II. Ford said there were five tanks in his company.

The company's primary objective was to locate and destroy enemy tanks and support both the Marine Corps and the U.S. Army.

"We went wherever we were sent," Ford said.

After Lulu was heavily damaged during combat an officer took him to

Veteran • Continued on Page 2A

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Marine Corps Band Strikes A Chord

Thousands Enjoy Patriotic Music On The Courthouse Lawn

by Joe Potter

Murdoch Ford, 83, stood ramrod straight as the U.S. Marine Corps Parris Island Band played the Armed Forces Medley to close out an hour-long program on March 26.

“Oh, I love the band. I’d travel 100 miles just to see them,” said Ford, of Zephyrhills, who had been a tank commander during the Korean War.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 15 years old to help provide money for his mother and four siblings. He made \$84 a month.

The Korean War started the day Ford finished boot camp – June 5, 1950. “We had never heard of Korea,” he said.

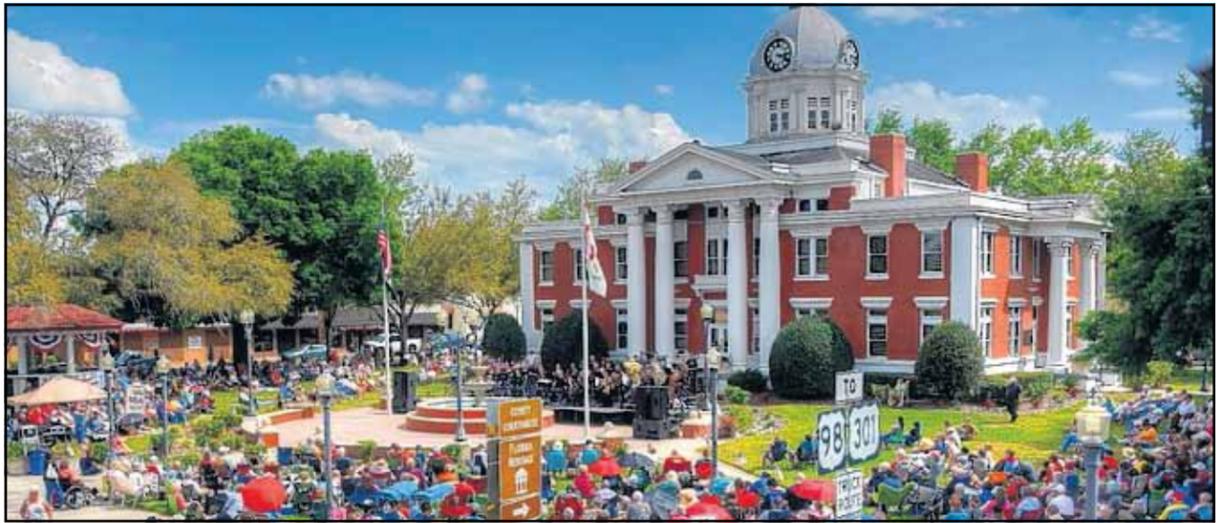
He was joined by about 2,500 other people to enjoy the band’s music outside the Historic Courthouse in Dade City. The Marine musicians were greeted with a standing ovation and a resounding round of applause as they took their places on the north side of the courthouse square at 3 p.m.

“It’s great to be here on such a nice day,” said the band’s commander, MSgt. Daniel J. Sullivan.

Small American flags lined Seventh Street for a couple of miles in each direction and surrounded the old courthouse to add patriotic emphasis for the band’s visit.

“It made my day to hear ‘Stars and Stripes Forever,’” said Brian Uppercue of the Dade City Police Department.

The crowd was seated several rows deep in a semicircle from the east side of the lawn all the way around to the west side. It was the first time county commissioners ever allowed seating on the courthouse lawn, which is a restricted area; throngs of people were also sitting or standing along Seventh and Sixth Streets and Meridian



The Parris Island Marine Band’s March 26 performance in front of the Historic Pasco County Courthouse as seen from Ladder 32 of the Fire and Rescue station on Centennial Road.

Photo by Kevin Litalc

Avenue.

Several folks said they were enthusiastic about the band’s performance.

“It’s magnificent,” said Steve Brown of the Rotary Club of Dade City.

Allen Altman said numerous people were to thank for organizing the band’s Dade City appearance.

They included Greg and Cynthia Armstrong from the Chasco Festival, the Pasco County Commissioners, the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, Dade City Public Works, Dade City Police Department, Pasco County Fire Rescue and Beef O’Brady’s.

Beef’s owner Todd Bachelor made sure the band had a meal before setting up the 12,000 pounds of equipment that is used at each performance.

“I think this is wonderful. We need to do all that we

can to support our people who are in uniform,” said Linea Paulson, a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco.

It was announced following the event that the U.S. Marine Corps Parris Island Band would definitely be visiting Dade City again next year.

Prior to the performance, Bob Hatfield, an aide to U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-FL (12), was presented with a Friend of Farm Bureau award from state Sen. Wilton Simpson, president of Pasco County Farm Bureau. The congressman was unable to attend because of an illness in his family.

One of the people watching the band play was quickly, quietly and professionally cared for by Pasco County Fire Rescue CFR with the assistance of DCPD, after the gentleman became short of breath while standing during the national anthem.

Veteran • Continued from Page 1A

a supply depot and told him to “get a tank.” So, he picked out a new brown one and drove off. That tank was called Ugly Duckling, Ford said, because it

was an Army tank. The Marines used green tanks and the Army used brown tanks.

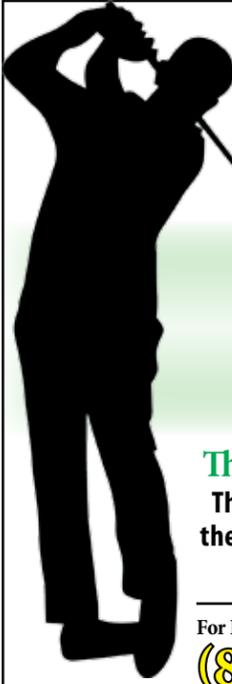
“Here I was with an Army tank and

I was assigned to a Marine anti-tank company,” Ford said, laughing.

He spent five years of active duty in the Marine Corps and 11 years in the

reserves and left as a Staff Sergeant.

Ford received a Purple Heart for receiving shrapnel in his lungs during combat.



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April 13 – Earth Day Celebration – Join Pasco-Hernando State College as we celebrate all that our beautiful Earth has to offer. Enjoy a live gardening demonstration, “Compost Happens,” and vendors from 12:30-2 p.m. at 36727 Blanton Road. Attendees may also visit with service organization representatives, including Nick Makris, Southwest Florida Water Management District; Scott Kirby, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Mona Neville, Florida Forest Service, Pasco; and a representative from Florida State Park Service. Call (855) NOW-PHSC for information.

April 13 – Sunrise of Pasco Benefit – Beef O’Brady’s, located at 14136 Seventh St. will donate 10 percent of its earnings tonight to Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic and Sexual Violence Center. Call (352) 567-4136 for information.

April 13 – Easter Bunny at Church Street Shoppe – Follow the Easter Bunny around downtown Dade City as he visits the beautiful shops and restaurants in downtown Dade City. Bring your camera to capture the smiles on your kids’ faces. The bunny will be visiting from 2:30-4 p.m. at 14117 Eighth St. Contact Church Street Shoppe “Toys, Kites & More” at (352) 523-2422 for information.

April 14 – Good Friday Walk of the Cross – The Walk of the Cross on Good Friday takes pilgrimage with a cross through the streets of Zephyrhills. Along the way, we will stop at seven locations to reflect on the last seven sayings of Christ on the cross. The walk is a couple of miles and takes place rain or shine. The walk begins at 5:30 p.m. at St Joseph’s Catholic Church, 53167 11th St. with final reflections and music around 6:45 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 38635 Fifth Ave. Visit www.fhzeph.org for information.

April 15 – Eggs in the Park – Free annual event for children ages 0-12 and their families. Egg hunt starts promptly at 10 am for all ages followed by several games and relays. Held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Dade Battlefield, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

April 15 – Spring Egg Hunt – The Hugh Embry Library’s 10th annual spring egg hunt will be held from 10-11 a.m. at the library, located at 14215 Fourth St. For kids 10 and under with a parent or guardian. Hunt for candy filled eggs, then join us for crafts, face painting and more. Call (352) 567-3576 for information.

April 16 – Easter Sunrise Service – Join Florida Hospital Zephyrhills for this annual gathering, celebrating through song, prayer and scripture, this beautiful, hour long service will uplift and inspire you. This service takes place rain or shine at 6:45 a.m. at 7050 Gall Blvd. You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs as seating is limited, complimentary refreshments provided. Visit www.fhzeph.org for information.

April 17 – Breastfeeding Basics – This free one-night, two-hour class is designed to assist the new mom in learning how to begin breastfeeding her newborn. Held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Enter through main hospital entrance at 7050 Gall Blvd. and follow the signs. Call (813) 783-6124 for required reservations or visit www.fhzeph.org for information.

April 18 – Tunes In Bloom – As part of our New Moon Concert Series, join St. Leo Singers, St. Leo Chambers Singers, Saint Leo Rhythm Machine and Saint Leo Strings for a musical showcase starting at 7 p.m. Admission is free and the event

is open to the public. Seating is limited. Contact jennifer.orendorf@saintleo.edu to ensure your place in the audience. Don’t forget to indicate the number of seats you’d like to reserve. Held at the Black Box Theatre, Benedictine Hall at the west end of campus, 33701 S.R. 52, with its own parking entrance.

April 20 – Tea(L) and Crumpets – Dade City Woman’s Club and Angel Tea Room of Dade City are partnering with Sunrise to host this luncheon to bring awareness to community members of all the services and programs that Sunrise provides for those who need them. Held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Dade City Woman’s Club, 37922 Palm Ave. There is no charge to attend the event but please RSVP by contacting Vicki Wiggins at (352) 521-3358 or events@sunrisepasco.org. Visit www.SunrisePasco.org for information.

April 21 – Diabetes Education Class – If you were recently diagnosed with diabetes or struggle with managing your diabetes, then this free, certified education class is a program that will help you. Call (352) 567-6763 to reserve your space or for information. Held from 10-11 a.m. at Bayfront Health Dade City, 13100 Fort King Road, Medical Plaza 1, Classroom 108.

April 22 – Rugged Maniac – Held at the Little Everglades Ranch, 17951 Hamilton Road. Come for the 25 epic obstacle course over three miles of fun and one rockin’ party. Visit www.ruggedmaniac.com for tickets and information.

April 22 – Project Patriotism Golf Scramble – Benefiting Zephyrhills High School JROTC. Held at Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club at I-75 and State Road 52. Event kicks off at 7:40 a.m. with the presentation of our nation’s colors followed by 18 holes of team scramble golf. Lunch follows golf in the newly remodeled country club where the winners will be announced, and prizes awarded. Silent auction, and raffles also featured. Contact Jen Wedge at (813) 323-8034 or Jen-wedge@yahoo.com for information.

April 24 – Supplements: Get the Real Story – What kind of supplements will truly benefit your wellbeing and nutritional intake? This free informative presentation is facilitated by exercise physiologist Felix Bangkuai, BS. Call (813) 779-6476 for required reservations. Held from 2-3 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Visit www.fhzeph.org for information.

April 25 – Benefits of Coconut – Doctors Duane and Nancy McEndree will explain the marvelous benefits of this versatile fruit. Held from 3-4 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for required reservations. Visit www.fhzeph.org for information.

April 26 – Denim Day – Wearing jeans on denim day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault. Sunrise’s Denim Day campaign is in support of the effort to wear jeans with a purpose, support survivors and to educate yourself and others about sexual assault. For a \$5 donation, you and your staff can wear jeans with a purpose, support survivors, and educate yourself and others about sexual assault. To sign up, please contact us at (352) 521-3358 or events@sunrisepasco.org.

April 27 – Veteran Benefits Information – Attention all veterans. An informational meeting on VA benefits will be held at the American Legion Post #15 at 37745

Church Ave. at 6 p.m. Learn about your benefits and how to file a claim. There will be service officers from both the American Legion and the DAV there to set up appointments and assist you in filing a claim.

April 28 – Cooking Demo: Indian Cuisine – Back by popular demand is an Indian cuisine cooking demonstration with new recipes. Join the fun and live healthfully. Co-facilitated by Myriam Parham and Veena Batra. Reservations required, call (813) 779-6476 by April 26. Held from 2-3 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for required reservations. Visit www.fhzeph.org for information.

April 29 – YMCA Healthy Kids Day – The community is invited to free Healthy Kids Day events hosted at the local East Pasco Family YMCA, 37301 Chapel Hill Loop, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The goal of Healthy Kids Day is to teach healthy habits for kids and families, encourage physical and mental play and inspire a lifetime love of exercise. Call (813) 780-9622 for information.

April 29 – Dade City Symphony – A free performance by the Dade City Symphony, held at the Pasco Middle School auditorium, 13925 15th St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.dadecitysymphony.com for information.

April 29 – Lacochee 5k School Color Run – This annual fundraising event for community families will benefit the school by helping to provide field trips, update technology, purchase specific classroom materials and provide staff incentives. Held from 9-11 a.m. at 38815 Cummer Road in Lacochee. Contact Latoya Jordan at (352) 524-5600 or lcjordan@pasco.k12.fl.us for information.

April 29 – Free Diabetic Education Class – If you were recently diagnosed with diabetes or struggles with managing your diabetes, then this certified education class will help you. Presented in a group setting by Bayfront Health Medical Group. Held from 10-11 a.m. at 13100 Fort King Road, Medical Plaza I, Classroom 108. Call (352) 567-6763 for information or to reserve your space.

April 30 – Open House – Holy Name Monastery will be holding an open house for the new retreat wing from 2-4 p.m. at 12138 Wichers Road in St. Leo, just south of S.R. 52. Refreshments will be served.

May 4 – National Day of Prayer Observance – The 66th Annual National

Day of Prayer will be observed at the Dade City Historic Courthouse, 37918 Meridian Ave. from 8-9 a.m.

May 6 – Cruise In – Free event featuring DJ Starvin’ Darvin 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. Contact the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce at (352) 567-3769 for information.

May 6 – The Market Place – Fresh produce, garden accessories, home decor, soaps, honey, jewelry and so much more. Pet friendly event held in Hibiscus Park from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact Lucy Avila at (352) 521-5858 or lucyavila707@gmail.com for information.

May 11 – Rotary Bowl – Dade City Noon Rotary Club’s Noon Rotary Bowl will be held at Pin Chasers, 8616 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills. Come for 18 lanes of bowling golf, silent auction and raffles, cash bar and prizes for top three finishers. Check in and happy hour start at 4:30 p.m. Practice time starts at 5 p.m. with bowling beginning at 6 p.m. Sponsorship opportunities available until May 4. Contact Jeanie Germain at (352) 585-3762 for information.

May 13 – Farmers Market – Held in the San Antonio City Park from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The market, sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Antonio, will offer fresh produce, hand-crafted wine, yard art, plants, jams and jellies, dog treats, honey and other bee products, repurposed glass items, dried herbs and herbal products and baked goods. Hungry shoppers will be able to purchase hot dogs, popcorn, coffee and sodas. Vendor spaces are available for a fee of \$25. Contact Winnie Burke at (352) 437-5161 or rotarysanantoniofl@gmail.com for information.

May 19 – Free Diabetic Education Class – If you were recently diagnosed with diabetes or struggles with managing your diabetes, then this certified education class will help you. Presented in a group setting by Bayfront Health Medical Group. Held from 10-11 a.m. at 13100 Fort King Road, Medical Plaza I, Classroom 108. Call (352) 567-6763 for information or to reserve your space.

To submit an event, email your information to Events@PascoNewsPubs.com or call (813) 783-1300 – one week BEFORE the Thursday publication date. Maximum 50 words. Subject to available room and editing.

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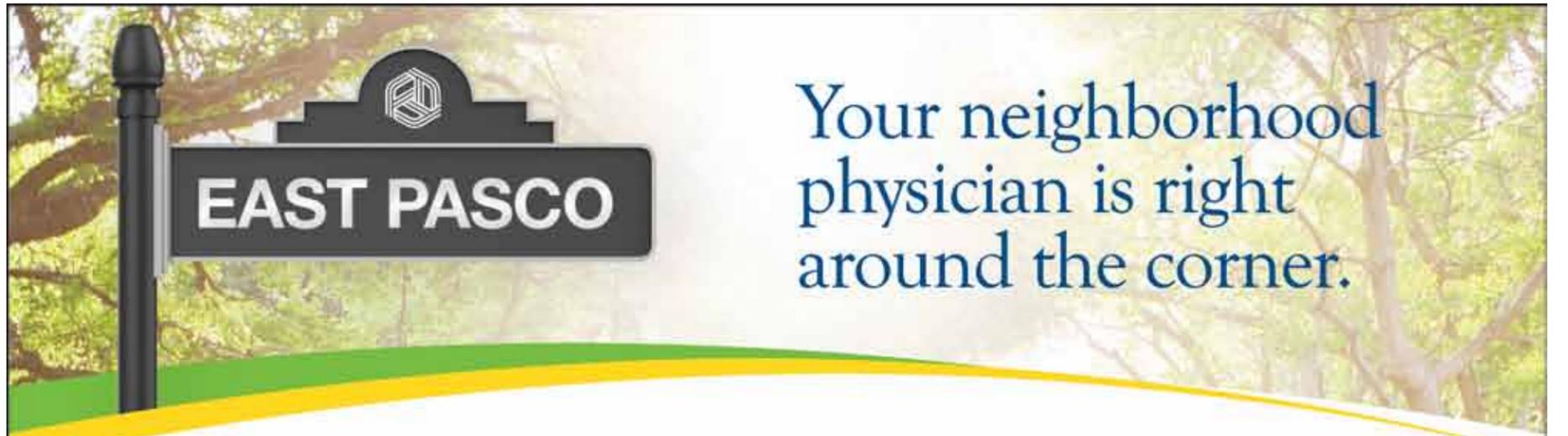
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MAJESTIC OAKS CAREFREE RV RESORT



A "saloon girl" entertains the residents at the Halloween party.

Majestic • Continued from Page 1A

New Year's Eve with David Teague. Residents had water aerobics, bowling, paper crafts and scrapbooking, bridge, the annual lighted golf cart parade, crafts, stitch and chat, ice cream socials, "dirty santa" Christmas Eve gift exchange and Christmas dinner. During this busy season, some residents enjoyed the "adult" coloring time on the calendar.

During January, many of our friends from north of the border arrived and all activities were in full swing! Tennis, shuffleboard, hand and foot and pickleball are now daily events. Residents enjoyed Majestic McMuffin and pancake and french toast breakfasts, nickel Bingo, guitar lessons, yet more dances with T-n-T, Majestic concert series shows and birthday celebrations.

February was a bit warmer than normal, but it could not stop our residents from enjoying ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) breakfasts, horseshoes, bocce, organized bike rides, line dancing, card bingo, pot luck dinners, annual golf tournament, chili contest, Texas Hold 'Em, line dancing, "I Need That," double deck pinochle, fishing trips, Majestic Oaks baking contests, a Super Bowl viewing party and a Valentine's dance with The Mustangs. Residents needing to downsize took full advantage of the park-wide yard sale and craft sale. The hungry visitors and residents enjoyed

Majestic • Continued on Page 7A



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MAJESTIC OAKS CAREFREE RV RESORT



Thanksgiving is about gathering with family. Majestic Oaks is a big family!

Majestic • Continued from Page 6A

the bake sale and hot dog lunch!

March came in like a lion, with all events running at full force and then

some! Including Euchre, another baking contest, CLEO (Classy Ladies Eating Out), dances with Mark and Miller. The outside activities hosted a shuffleboard and tennis tournaments. Pickleball and



A blessing before the meal is like the calm before a storm at the Christmas Dinner!

tennis were also night time activities on the lighted courts. Residents enjoyed their appreciation day and the "Last Hoorah" party.

March and April have seen many "lasts" - the last this, the last that - but April does not bring the "last" of our enjoyable times with our friends! There are many friends that stay into May and some even longer! We will continue to enjoy coffee, donuts and park news once a month and planned pot luck dinners and holiday parties, just to name a few.

Next season we will enjoy our friends in the fall as they all return. We also look forward to adding a few new activities for our residents to enjoy. Maybe a float in the Founders' Day parade? Maybe some Bunko? More inside/outside parties with music? The possibilities are endless! Naturally we will continue all of our current events, but we hope the returning residents and our new friends bring some new ideas with them!

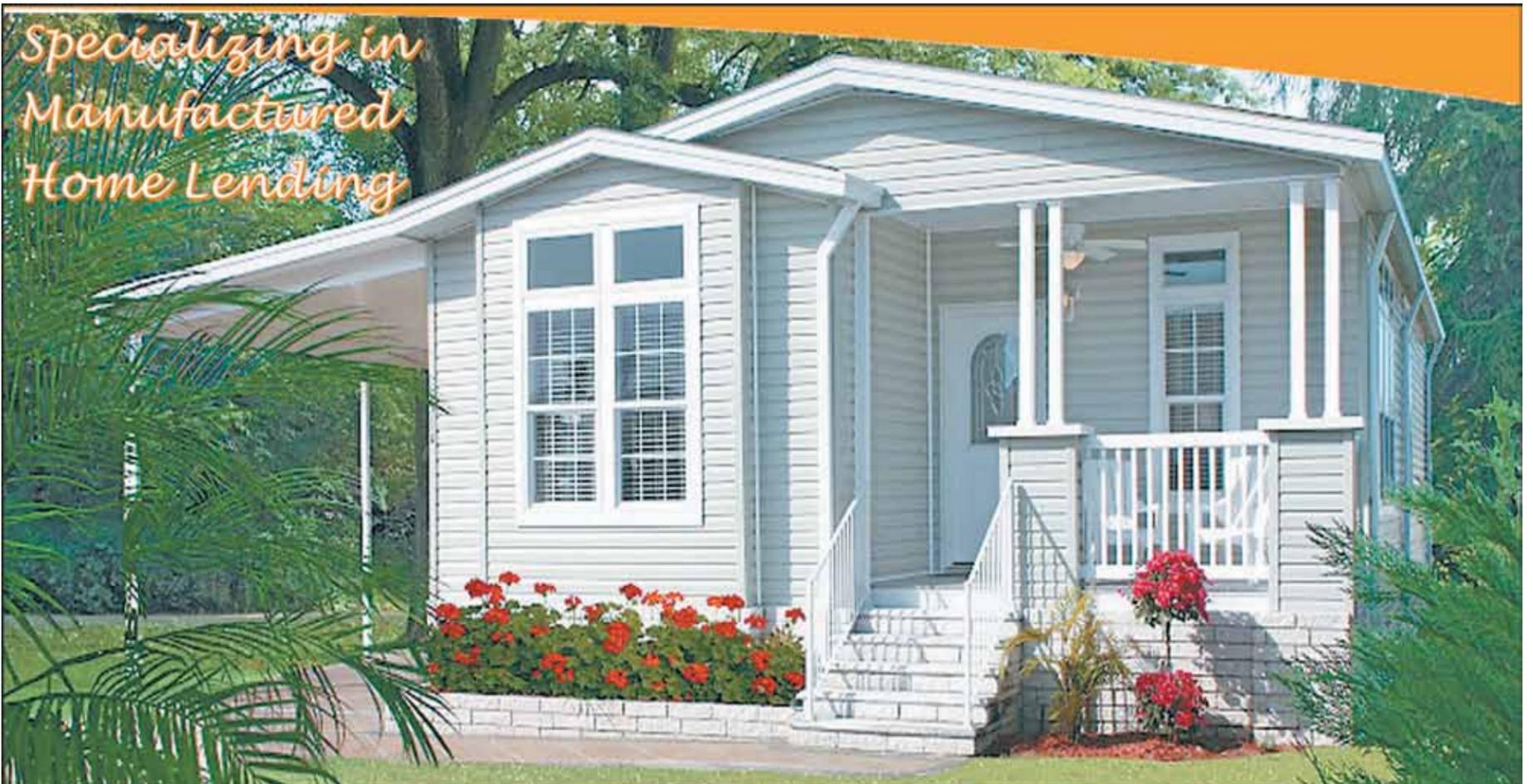
Majestic • Continued on Page 9A



Bob Drown entertains Dee and Bill Hull at the Christmas Dance.



Full courts and players in waiting for Pickleball. Photos by Russ Klontz & Ted Dann



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MORNINGSIDE RV ESTATES

Morningside Drive Cleaned

Submitted By *Lynn Kosto*
Morningside RV Estates

The first Saturday of every month Morningside Drive gets a face lift! The Morningside RV Estate residents clean each side of the road from U.S. 301 to Old Lakeland Highway. A big thank you goes

out to Donnie Connors who organized this activity. It has been an active group of men and women who come to clean early in the morning. Residents gathered between three and 15 bags of trash while cleaning up Morningside Drive. The residents were there to help beautify the area.

Make A Difference – Volunteer at SCORE

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Counties. Whether you have owned a small business, worked at a Fortune 500 company, are retired or currently employed there is a place for you as a Pasco Hernando SCORE volunteer. Interested? Find out more by contacting Greg Kullman at greg.kullman@scorevolunteer.org. Visit pascohernando.score.org for information on SCORE.

Gulfside Hospice Looking For Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities at Gulfside Hospice include sitting with patients, providing spiritual care and counseling, assisting with the Pet Peace of Mind program and helping in Gulfside's administrative offices.

Volunteer orientation sessions are scheduled throughout the month for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer.

Thrift Shoppe volunteers are needed at the Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppes to help with accepting and sorting donations, organizing shelves and window displays, greeting customers and running the cash register.

Through the orientations, participants will learn about the valuable role Gulfside Hospice serves in our community and the various volunteer opportunities available to help care for patients and families during their most difficult times. Volunteers also receive specialized training in the area of their choice.

Volunteers are also needed for helping at Gulfside's Centers for Hospice Care by serving meals, answering phones and greeting guests.

Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. For more information about how you can volunteer with Gulfside Hospice, call (800) 561-4883.



Health And Wellness

by *Jayapriya Raj, M.D.*
Board Certified Internal Medicine
Florida Hospital Prompt Care

Mental Wellness

How about a fresh start this season with a positive attitude? Mental health is defined as "a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community".

can get well, and often recover completely with treatment and help. It is important to be aware of warning signs of a mental health problem and seek professional help if needed. Eating or sleeping too much or too little, loss of interest in usual activities, feeling helpless, having low energy, mood swings, inability to concentrate and thoughts of harm to oneself or others, are some of the warning signs of a mental health problem.

Good mental health is about developing positive coping skills, while avoiding negative coping skills, through practice. Good coping skills include the use of relaxation techniques when stressed, staying physically active, getting adequate sleep, connecting with others, setting time aside for vacations or hobbies, helping others and praying. Negative coping skills like drugs, excessive alcohol use, storing hurt feelings or denial can be harmful to mental health.

When relationships, financial issues or work environment overwhelm us, and our coping skills are poor, we can suffer from stress. Stress can be acute and manifest as anger, depression and anxiety, and also cause physical symptoms like chest pain, palpitations, headache etc. Stress can also lead to heart attacks and stroke. When an individual's stress becomes chronic, the risk for harming themselves or others increases.

Looking after your mental health can positively impact your physical health, relationships, financial status and productivity. You can realize your full potential by making your mental wellness a top priority.

Dr. Jayapriya Raj is affiliated with Florida Hospital Prompt Care at 12880 US Highway 301 North in Dade City.

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MAJESTIC OAKS CAREFREE RV RESORT



Nothing says the 1950s more than a poodle skirt and a bubble blowing contest!

Majestic • Continued from Page 7A

Naturally, a year in review would not be complete without a big thank you to our volunteers. They are what helps make Majestic Oaks a great place to winter. Whenever a hand is needed, there is always someone there to give it. These volunteers are awesome! All of

the activities and events are planned by the residents and the volunteer activity committee. The activity committee are residents who volunteer their time and talents to direct, coordinate, plan and oversee all activities in the community. It is a selfless volunteer job, but it is critical to happiness of our residents and guests.



A full house patiently waiting to taste all the chili recipes at the annual Chili Contest.



A crowded deck for the "Last Hoorah" party.

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SWEETWATER RV RESORT

Sweetwater • Continued from Page 1A

Quilt Show and Tea was enjoyed by a roomful of people, mostly ladies. Gifts and cookies were donated by members. Vivian Ryburn still quilts and keeps in touch from her home in Kansas, but she isn't able to come to Florida any more. Participants particularly enjoyed being able to pick out their own gifts from the table this year.

The raffle quilt, made this season by group members, was won by Linda Cavanaugh. The proceeds from this raffle helps buy material and supplies for next year's group project. Many categories and prizes were awarded, all judged by the attendees this year.

On March 12 at 7 p.m., our Ice Cream Social also included bluegrass gospel music, with Catherine and Fred Lawrence, "Gator Creek" and friends. Catherine highlighted appreciation for Ron Jenkins, bass player, for his last and 14th season playing with them in Sweetwater. Ron actually met Catherine and Fred in Nova Scotia, Canada, at a festival and they kept running into him afterwards. Finally, he suggested they bring their RV down to Sweetwater,



Catherine and Fred Lawrence, "Gator Creek", say their goodbyes to Ron Jenkins, bass player, after 14 years of playing together.

Photo by Dale Sanders

and they have been coming here every season since. He actually had two bookings waiting for them when they arrived that first year and it's never stopped since.

Ron and his wife, Rita, have now sold their place in Sweetwater and have returned home. Rita will also be missed, especially for her comedy in the pool and on the stage. Ron has also enjoyed accompanying, with bass, for Don on fiddle and Wayne on guitar.

On March 17, a St. Patrick's Day Parade and Lunch was held at Settlers' Rest - next year will be Sweetwater's turn to host again. Doris Steele has been involved in chair/co-chair/advisor of this parade for five/six years and she has wintered in Sweetwater for more than 20 years now. Her main focus is for everyone to have lots of fun!

Again, this year, the group with Doris in it won Best of Show for their "Hillbilly Shotgun Wedding." The whole group included the pregnant bride, kilted groom, Pastor, parents and wedding party. When they arrived at the judge's table, they had a whole

routine ready for them in order to get the idea of what they were all about. I guess it worked.

Our own Cinda McCormick, one of two volunteer Park photographers, is seen riding her bike with her friend, Edie Frye. Cinda won 1st prize for

'single bikes' and many other awards were presented to people in different categories at the lunch banquet.

Gladys Sanfason, 96, was sitting on her walker watching the parade, with friends old and new around her. Gladys will be 97 years on July 4 and she had her home moved to Sweetwater 11 years ago from another park. She is able to stay nine months now since there is always family and friends around to help her. She does fly back and forth to Maine for three months of the year. Gladys was born in England and her family, including her sister who is now 99 years old, moved to Massachusetts when she was six years old.

Gladys keeps very active and feels that's a good reason why she's doing so well. She plays poker and Mexican train twice a week, swims and plays bingo once a week. She attends any socials and music entertainment/jams that interest her, and she still taps her feet when some of the familiar line-dancing songs come on - she remembers all the steps! Gladys facilitated line-dancing classes coming to Sweetwater shortly after she arrived.



Ron and Rita Jenkins leave Sweetwater RV Resort after over 20 years. *Photo Provided*



A group of quilters waving at their founder, Vivian Ryburn. Everyone worked hard on their projects to display, and the gifts and goodies offered to people who attended this year's quilt show.

Photo by Cinda McCormick



This quilt was made as a group project, and the lucky winner was Linda Cavanaugh. Proceeds go towards materials for next year's raffle quilt. *Photo by Cinda McCormick*



Best of Show - Sweetwater and Settlers' Rest St. Patrick's Day Parade and Lunch - "Hillbilly Shotgun Wedding," featuring Doris Steele, chair, in centre back with cap on sideways. *Photo by Cinda McCormick*

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SWEETWATER RV RESORT



Cinda McCormick, first prize 'single bike' category, riding with friend, Edie Frye. *Photo by Dale Sanders*



Gladys Sanfason (96 years), seated on her walker, with friends around her, watching the St. Patrick's Day Parade; Shirley seated in chair; Alfreda behind, Don in between, Claude Smith, Sweetwater Fellowship Pastor Dale Sanders, and newcomers Roger and Linda with their dog. *Photo by Dale Sanders*



A close-up of the 'Hillbilly Shotgun Wedding' bride and groom, Evie and Bill, in the St. Patrick's Day parade. *Photo by Cinda McCormick*



Sweetwater's Canada Day parade celebrates Canada's 150th anniversary year. *Photo by Dale Sanders*



Gladys Sanfason, 96, enjoying outdoor music with her daughter. *Photo by Dale Sanders*



Doggy-day dress-up before the St. Patrick's Day parade and lunch. This little pooch decided to impersonate our Elvis impersonator. *Photo by Dale Sanders*



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FOREST LAKE ESTATES

A Goodbye Message

Looking Back And Looking Forward

Submitted by **Jim Dill**
 Forest Lake Estates

Where have the past five months gone? Hard to believe it is April already and many of our family and friends are heading home for the summer. The past eight months have been fast and furious and we have accomplished so much during this time frame. I want to highlight some of the key events.



Jim Dill

We formed your new HOA on June 15, 2016 and have accomplished so much. We elected an interim board and started our relationship with ELS. Our communications have been extremely good. Steve's primary objective was to ensure we all understood his position and he understood our needs and desires. In January, the HOA members elected a new Board and this new Board has been very successful in continuing this relationship with ELS. In addition, we revised and received membership approval of our Bylaws, and transitioned the Social Club as the Social Committee under the HOA.

We worked closely with Steve on several key projects (new Putt-Putt course; lighting for tennis courts, putt-putt course, and club house; updating the new front gate; rewriting the Rules and Regulations, held the first-ever health fair; and conducting several lectures from Florida Hospital Zephyrhills).

We are looking forward to their 2017 projects, such as a new divider for the club house, refinishing the pool bathroom, adding a patio kitchen, and resurfacing the pool. The plan is to complete these over the summer months so we can all enjoy them this coming fall. Our activities under Vince Boido have been wonderful. All our activities (putt-putt, cards, tennis, swimming, line dancing, shuffleboard, horseshoes, pickleball, etc.) kept everyone busy and

all had lots of fun. Our dinner dances have pretty much sold out and all the other club house social activities have done extremely well under Toni Beaton's leadership. She has done an absolutely wonderful job.

I would be remiss if I didn't say thanks to the former Social Club Leadership (Marion, Cas, and Steve) for all they have done this past year and over the past 20 years for all the residents. Membership has surpassed all our expectations. Today we have over 700 households in the HOA. Janice Collins has done a tremendous job and has made this very difficult job look so easy. She is already starting her preparations for our fall campaign for 2018 membership. Finally, Eileen Lane has done a superb job trying to coordinate all our activities and to put out a monthly calendar.

The rest of the Board is busy with so many other activities such as conducting rent negotiations with ELS, conducting a wonderful patio party, working water and sewage issues, starting the development of our new Patriots' Park near the gazebo, initiating a park-wide recycling program, etc. We will have a very busy summer ahead of us and will send out emails to all HOA members to keep you apprised of status of projects and HOA activities.

Finally, thanks to all who have volunteered their valuable time to make all our events successful this year. Without your participation, we could not have had so many activities and a few would have done all the work. As you travel back to your summer homes just know your HOA will be working on your behalf to continue our communications with ELS.

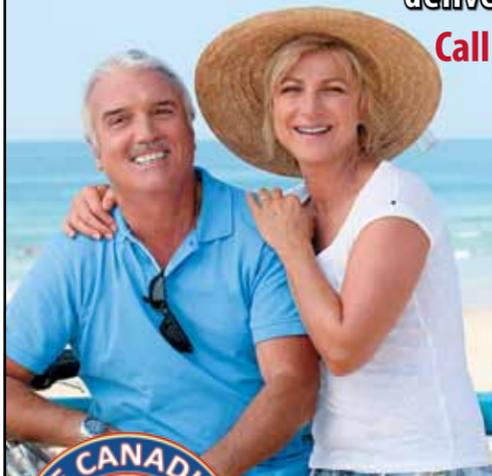
We had our last lecture series on April 12. Dr. Maulik Bhalani talked about "Understanding Pain and How to Control It." We had the normal refreshments and Dr. Bhalani also provided more food for everyone that day. We appreciate the turnout for this last event ... they have given us lots of their time.

Safe travels to all of you and see you back here in the fall.
 Hope you all have a Happy Easter.

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Simpson Environmental Services employees work last Tuesday at the future site of the Rural King Supply Store on Gall Boulevard. A July 17 opening is planned.

Rural King Due In Zephyrhills Supply Store Going Into Former Kmart Site

Story and photo by Joe Potter

Rural King Supply has announced plans to open a store in mid July inside the former Kmart in the Town View Square.

The company will employ between 75 and 80 full and part-time workers for the retail operation and will be using local electricians, plumbers and demolition workers to refurbish the 85,000-square-foot storefront.

Rural King spent about a year planning its move to 7422 Gall Blvd., which will be its 101st store in the country and the eighth in Florida, according to Brian Hutchins, the company's vice president of Business and Development.

"We're excited about the Zephyrhills store pushing us over the 100 mark," he said. "We will be bringing several millions of dollars of retail sales to the area."

The demographics of Zephyrhills

attracted Rural King to the area, Hutchins said.

"We are a farm and home store and we depend a lot on agricultural and rural customers. We have food items, lawn and garden items and pet food so we feel we have a lot to offer everybody," he said.

Rural King also carries hardware and automotive items, tools, sporting goods, housewares, clothing, footwear, toys and domestic items according to the company's website.

"There's a lot of business out there for all of us," Hutchins said regarding other retail stores that Rural King will be competing against, most notably TSC Tractor Supply across the street at 7431 Gall Blvd.

The Mattoon, Ill.-based company aims to open the Zephyrhills store as well as new stores in Ocala and Gainesville on July 17, with an eye on setting up more stores in the Sunshine State.

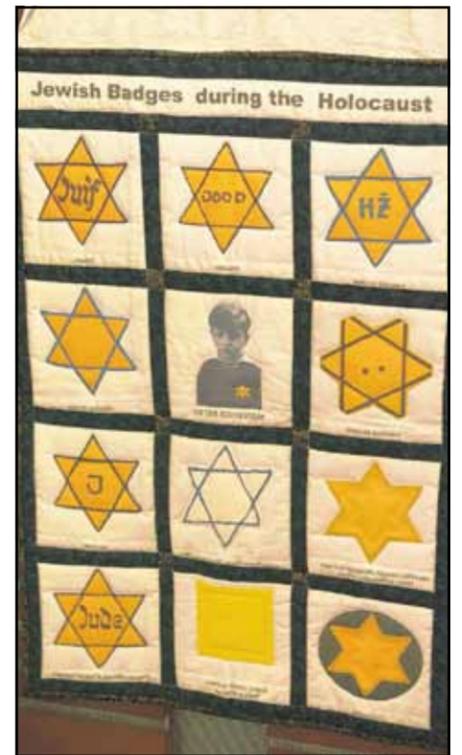


Pieter Kohnstam speaking to the crowd at a Saint Leo University special presentation on March 29.

Photo by Ben Watters

Holocaust Presentation Details Flight To Freedom

A Saint Leo University campus audience recently heard a presentation about the Holocaust of World War II. Pieter Kohnstam, along with his wife Sue, presented "Narrow Escape - A Flight to Freedom," through the sponsorship of the Saint Leo University Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies. Kohnstam was only 6 when he and his parents fled Amsterdam in 1942 to escape the Nazis. The Kohnstams were Jewish and originally from Germany and went into hiding in Amsterdam. The Kohnstams had many near brushes with death, but finally escaped to Argentina. Pieter Kohnstam, now nearing 81, lives in Venice, Fla. He and his wife now do educational presentations.



An illustrative quilt made by Susan Kohnstam, Pieter's wife. Photo Provided

Come Worship Our Risen Lord

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, in partnership with the Zephyrhills-Wesley Chapel Ministerial Association, cordially invites you to attend this event. Children are welcome.



GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF THE CROSS

Friday, April 14, 2017

The Walk of the Cross on Good Friday takes a pilgrimage with a cross through the streets of Zephyrhills marking the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Along the way, we will stop at seven locations to reflect on the last Seven Sayings of Christ on the Cross. The evening will conclude at the First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills. The walk is a couple of miles and takes place rain or shine.

5:30 PM

Walk of the Cross begins
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
5316 11th Street, Zephyrhills

6:45 PM (approximate)

Final Reflections and Music
First United Methodist Church
38635 Fifth Avenue, Zephyrhills



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, April 16, 2017

Join Florida Hospital Zephyrhills for this annual gathering to proclaim that Jesus Christ is alive! Celebrating through song, prayer and scripture, this beautiful, hour-long service will uplift and inspire you. The service takes place rain or shine.

"Why do you seek the living among the dead?
He is not here, but is risen!" Luke 24: 5-6

6:45 AM

Easter Sunrise Service
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills - Front Lawn
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You're encouraged to bring lawn chairs as seating is limited.
Complimentary refreshments provided.

SPECIAL MESSAGE BY:

Pastor Nick Deford, First Church of the Nazarene, Zephyrhills | Music by: *The Sound*
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4 TON	\$2,250
5 TON	\$2,500

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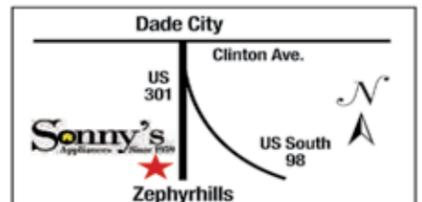
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