



Community  
Easter  
Celebration

March 25 - 3pm

Sam Pasco Park - 39835 Chancey Rd.

*Zephyrhills*

# FREE PRESS

Volume VII • Issue 7

Your Hometown News Source • [zephyrhillsfreepress.com](http://zephyrhillsfreepress.com)

March 22, 2018

## Teen Rules The Day As Chief

### Police Introduce First Participant In Program

Story and photos by *Keri McAlpine*

Few 15-year-olds get a behind the scenes look at one of their career dreams, but last week Nicholas Dester had that opportunity as he served as honorary chief of police for the Zephyrhills Police Department.

Dester was the lucky first participant in the Chief for a Day event, which ZPD Chief Derek Brewer said he plans to organize annually from now on.

Brewer said he was trying to come up with criteria for the special day when he met Chris Dester and learned about Academy of Spectrum Diversity and his son Nicholas. Brewer thought he would be the perfect first candidate to take over the duties of the chief.

The teen's day started Friday morning when he rode into the



Zephyrhills Police Chief Derek Brewer with 15-year-old chief for the day Nicholas Dester, who was able to get a sneak peek into the life and responsibilities of the chief and local police officers on Friday.

*Chief • Continued on Page 6A*

**FIRST**  
in  
**Florida**

Advanced  
Certification  
Total Hip  
& Knee  
Replacement

**FLORIDA HOSPITAL ZEPHYRHILLS**

7050 Gall Boulevard • Zephyrhills

YOUR TRUSTED PHARMACIST  
**SAM**

**HAS A NEW HOME**

**ZEPHYRHILLS COMMUNITY PHARMACY**  
813-395-6161

\$3.49 GENERIC PLAN  
ACCEPT MOST MAJOR INSURANCES  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
FREE DELIVERY

**INSIDE:**

- Pg. 5A - Rattlesnake Festival Could Move
- Pg. 7A - School Safety Issues Discussed
- Pg. 8A - Car Show Drives Them In
- Pg. 1B - Bulldogs Suddenly Struggling
- Pg. 1B - Shufflers Inducted Into Hall Of Fame
- Pg. 3B - A Big Learning Curve For ZCA
- Pg. 4B - Bands In Tune At Palooza

## Neglected Homes Get New Life



The open house for a pair of newly built homes on Ninth Street was more like a block party as many of the vendors, who had products used in the construction, were on hand to celebrate the new homes.

### City's Tax Lien Waiver Producing Results

Story and photos by *Dave Walters*

A pair of properties on Ninth Street sat abandoned by their owners, forcing city maintenance crews to maintain them.

Sadly, those properties, and others like them in Zephyrhills, were not desirable to anyone because the buyer needed to pay off the code violation liens as well as pay the asking price of the property.

Those Ninth Street lots now have newly constructed homes on them thanks to a city program that waives existing liens in order to have homes built on them, which is a win for the neighborhoods, the city and the company building the homes.

City Council approved the lien waiver

*Homes • Continued on Page 3A*

## Funding Approved For Local Projects

### Burgess, Simpson Deliver In State Budget

Staff Report

"If at first you don't succeed, try and try again."

So said state Rep. Danny Burgess, who, along with state Sen. Wilton Simpson, brought home the bacon with millions in the 2018-19 Florida budget dedicated to east Pasco County.

Last year Gov. Rick Scott vetoed nearly all the requests from local lawmakers, with the exception of funding to alleviate Dade City's downtown flooding.

This time around the governor - who is prepping for a run for the Senate - delivered in a big way.

Some of the projects signed by Scott included:

- I-75 and Overpass Road Interchange Design/Build Project (\$15 million). The project is the beginning of much needed access from the interstate all the way to U.S. Highway 301,

and will serve to improve interstate access for all of east Pasco.

- Improvements at Zephyrhills Municipal Airport (\$5.9 million). The Zephyrhills airport is the only public airport in the county and already hosts a variety of aviation related businesses. The project will help aviation businesses continue to grow and thrive to the benefit of Zephyrhills and the region.



Danny Burgess

- Sarah Vande Berg Tennis Center, Zephyrhills (\$1 million). This project has tremendous potential to provide both local tennis training and to attract highly desired sports tourism to Zephyrhills

*Budget • Continued on Page 3A*

**ACCIDENT**

Door Dings

**Reutimann COLLISION REPAIR**

37529 Tall Pines Dr. Zephyrhills

CALL 813-782-4152

[www.ReutimannCollision.com](http://www.ReutimannCollision.com)

# Zephyrhills Arrests

## Child Found Unattended In Roadway

**Ramon Jaramillo III**, 26, of 39014 Cardinal Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 8 and charged with child neglect after two witnesses found his two-year-old child unattended in the middle of a road at about 10 p.m. Jaramillo allegedly did not attempt to call law enforcement to report the child was missing. The witnesses told police the child was in the intersection of 20th Street and Cardinal Avenue for about 20 minutes. The arrest report said 20th Street is a very busy street. Jaramillo was booked into the Pasco County Jail with bail set at \$5,000.



**Ronald Earl Barnard**, 65, of 37749 Waverly Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 25 and charged with trespass after warning. Police responded to Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd., regarding an unwanted guest. A witness said Barnard was previously trespassed from the business in 2016. Barnard was released on his own recognizance.

**Amanda Nicole Lewis**, 28, of 38014 Eighth Ave., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 25 on a Pasco County warrant charging her with violation of probation – possession of a controlled substance. Lewis was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



**Christina Dawn Helms**, 35, of 5615 Gall Blvd., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 25 at Hatfield's, 4024 Paul S. Buchman Highway, on a Pasco County warrant charging her with failure to appear – driving while license suspended or revoked. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



**Cheryl Ann Rice**, 61, of St. Petersburg, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 23 on a Hillsborough County warrant charging her with failure to appear – petit theft. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



**Daniel Sebastian Cabrera**, 51, transient, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 23 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with failure to appear – contempt of court – violation of a domestic violence injunction. Cabrera was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



**Douglas Gene Fries**, 31, of 4702 Wysteria Drive, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 22 on two Pasco County warrants charging him with failure to appear – possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and FTA – armed trespassing structure or conveyance. Fries was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrants.



**Ismael Santiago Sanchez**, 38, of 4548 Seaberg Road, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 23 on an Ottawa, Mich., warrant charging him with failure to pay child support. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



**Scott William Price**, 46, of Miami, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 22 on a Broward County warrant charging him with contempt of court. Price was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



**Paul Anthony Long**, 57, of 5804 Broadmore St., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 21 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with failure to appear – possession harmful drugs. Long was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



**Christina Marie Bowman**, 21, of 37440 Holiday Court, Dade City, and **Diane Kay Bowman**, 45, were arrested by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 28 and were charged with retail theft. Christina Marie Bowman was also charged with possession of a controlled substance. Police responded to Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd., regarding a shoplifting complaint. Christina Bowman allegedly failed to scan items at the self-checkout and passed all points of sale without paying for \$57.80 in merchandise. When she and the elder Bowman were escorted to the loss prevention office, Christina Bowman reportedly admitted stealing the items and said they are on hard times and had no money. Two confirmed Hydrocodone tablets were found inside Christina Marie Bowman's purse. Post Miranda, she said she found the pills on the side of the road.



C. Bowman

**Rodney Allan Bowman Jr.**, 30, of 37440 Holiday Court, Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 5 and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia and driving while license suspended or revoked. Police stopped a 2014 Ford Explorer for allegedly not coming to a complete stop at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Seventh Street. Police learned Bowman's driver's license was revoked on July 18, 2017. A K-9 sniffed the vehicle and officers then conducted a hand search of it. A bag containing .13 grams of confirmed meth was found in the vehicle's center console. A metal spoon and three syringes all containing residue were also reportedly found inside the



vehicle. Post Miranda, Bowman claimed no knowledge of the narcotics but said he has used meth in the past.

**Wendy Lynette Guy**, 35, of 805 Tanner Road, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Feb. 28 and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia, Guy was also charged with violation of an active domestic violence injunction because she was allegedly a passenger in a pickup truck being driven by a person whom the court ordered her to not contact. Police also learned she was on active felony probation out of Polk County for possession of meth. A glass pipe containing trace amounts of confirmed meth was located in a pocket of a bag Guy had in her possession.



**Benjamin Andrew Beckham**, 38, of 38621 Ninth Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 3 and charged with possession of methamphetamine, cocaine and drug paraphernalia and violation of probation – sale of marijuana. Beckham was a passenger in a vehicle police stopped for failing to yield and for an equipment violation. The vehicle was searched after a



K-9 alerted to the possible presence of narcotics inside it. A black bag on the floor in front of where Beckham was seated allegedly contained 0.5 grams of confirmed meth and 0.2 grams of confirmed cocaine. Records confirmed he was on felony probation and he was booked into the Pasco County Jail. Post Miranda, Beckham denied being in possession of any contraband.

**Joseph Lee Perfumo**, 36, of 6025 Village Walk Circle, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 3 and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Perfumo was a passenger in a vehicle police stopped for failing to yield and for an equipment violation. The vehicle was searched after a K-9 alerted to the possible presence of narcotics inside it. Police located a package of L&M cigarettes that Perfumo reportedly said belonged to him. A clear plastic bag containing 0.5 grams of confirmed meth was allegedly found inside the cigarette package along with 0.5 grams of confirmed marijuana.



**Lyndsey Brooke Evans**, 30, of Wesley Chapel, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 3 and charged with possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of cocaine. Evans was driving a vehicle police stopped for failing to yield and for an equipment violation. The vehicle was searched after a K-9 alerted to the possible presence of narcotics inside it. An orange pill, confirmed as amphetamine and dextroamphetamine 20mg, was allegedly found inside Evans' coin purse. Also, 0.2 grams of confirmed cocaine were found inside the bag. Post Miranda, Evans said she thought the pill was aspirin.



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

**GEROD J. HOOPER**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

DWI • DUI • Misdemeanor  
Criminal Defense • Felony Defense

Serving Central Florida 24/7  
239-357-5900  
gerodNotGuilty@gmail.com  
CriminalDefenseTampaBay.com

**BOGO: BUY 1 ADMISSION AND GET 1 ADMISSION FREE!**  
WITH COPY OF THIS AD

**JOY~LAN Drive In Theatre**

Fri. thru Sun. Mar 23-25	Wed. & Thurs. Mar 28-29	\$5.00 per person Children 4-9 \$2.00	Closed Monday & Tuesday
-----------------------------	----------------------------	--	----------------------------

Black Panther PG • 8:00 PM

A Wrinkle in Time PG-13 • 10:30 PM

COMING SOON

SWAP SHOP • FLEA MARKET SUNDAYS ONLY GATES OPEN AT 5AM

www.JoyLanDriveIn.com 352-567-5085 US 301 • NORTH OF DADE CITY

**Cash For Your Coins!**

HAVE A COIN COLLECTION YOU WANT TO SELL?

**CHARLIE'S COINS & COLLECTIBLES**

Fair prices for pre 1964 Gold & Silver U.S. Coins & Old U.S. Currency

Call Charlie Proctor  
**813-780-1858**  
5529 8th Street, Zephyrhills

**29 YEARS IN THE SAME LOCATION**



Tony and Linda Kern of Kern Family Construction stand in the kitchen of one of the homes they built on Ninth Street made possible by the city's lien-waiver program.

Homes • Continued from Page 1A

program last June and it addresses several properties in the city that have been abandoned and have been maintained by the city's code enforcement. In many cases, the liens are more than the property is worth.

"Now we have a utility customer, the property is back on the tax rolls and it helps rejuvenate the neighborhood," said City Manager Steve Spina during an open house block party event to unveil the new homes. "They're beautiful."

A parade of people toured both homes and got to meet the vendors whose materials were used in the construction of the three-bedroom, two-bath homes. The homes also have detached garages with an apartment above them as well.

"We're basically the first builder doing new stuff," said Tony Kerns of Kerns Family Construction, who built both

homes. "It's custom and good looking and is at a higher price point. We're hoping to set the market."

Kerns' wife, Linda, fell in love with Zephyrhills and wanted to focus on adding homes to existing dilapidated lots within the city.

"I love this city. I absolutely love this city," she said. "It's quaint. It feels like a neighborhood. It makes me sad when I see some areas in a bad condition and we want to do everything we can to fix it. It has so much potential. The people of this city are great."

The Kerns have already rehabbed or built seven homes in the city and have five more properties to build on. They are currently renovating a historic home in the city as well.

"Where there are vacant lots that don't have a home, we feel it's a disservice not to have a home that someone can enjoy and raise a family," she said.

Budget • Continued from Page 1A

through USTA-sponsored tennis events. This project has special meaning for our community and is named in memory of tennis standout Sarah Vande Berg.

• City of Zephyrhills-Route Alignment Study, State Road 56 Extension (\$750,000). The project will build upon the soon to be completed S.R. 56 extension from Wesley Chapel to U.S. 301 south of Zephyrhills, to facilitate truck and commercial travel across east Pasco.

"I am very proud of this budget,"

Burgess, a Republican, said in a prepared statement. "Once again, the Florida Legislature crafted a balanced budget while both cutting taxes and keeping nearly \$3 billion in reserves. This is a conservative budget that meets the needs of our State while also being responsible with taxpayer money.

"This was a team effort; and I especially want to thank Senator Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby), Pasco County, and all of our community leaders who worked together to get these projects over the finish line."



Vote April 10, 2018

Cory Sommers Zephyrhills City Council Seat 3

Why Vote for Cory Sommers

As a fiscal conservative, I believe we need to reprioritize our city budget to place a larger emphasis on Public Safety without raising taxes. We need to take a more proactive approach to solving local issues. I believe I can bring new innovative solutions to the council that will make Zephyrhills better for all of its citizens.



Cory Sommers is endorsed by Zephyrhills Fire Rescue Local 3884 Republican Party of Pasco



Local Business Endorsements: Custom Design Cabinets, LLC • A&C Zephyr Angels Daycare T. Sommers Accounting • Lamplighter Furniture • Los Chicos Restaurant • Dan White Painting, Inc. B.G. Grace Construction • Barb's Family Dining • Security Elite Services, Inc. • 2 Minutes Restaurant James O. Morton Electric Company, Inc. • Barnard and Associates Flooring Subcontractors, Inc.

Pol. Adv. Paid for and Approved by Cory Sommers for Zephyrhills City Council, Seat 3

Pasco County Offices To Close For Good Friday

Pasco County Government offices, including the Constitutional Offices and the Courts, will be closed March 30 in observance of Good Friday. All government offices and the Courts will reopen April 2.

The Pasco County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources' Offices, Recreation Complexes and Community Centers will be closed March 30; however, the parks and beaches will stay open to the public from dawn to dusk.

All Pasco County Libraries will be closed March 30 and will resume regular business hours March 31.

Pasco County Public Transportation will be providing service on all fixed routes and paratransit on March 30.

PCPT administrative offices will be closed March 30.

The Pasco County Animal Services Administration Office, Adoption Center, Intake/Reclaim Shelter and Field Services will be closed March 30. An Animal Control Officer will be available for emergencies only. The Adoption Center & Intake/Reclaim will resume regular business hours March 31.

The Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility, West Pasco Class III, and the East Pasco Transfer Station will be closed to the public March 30; however, they will be open to Pasco County licensed commercial haulers.

The Pasco County Tax Collector's Office will be closed March 30 and 31.

Advertisement for Murrell Pest Control, Inc. featuring a cartoon bug character, contact information (352) 583-3332, and services like residential & commercial pest control.

Advertisement for EZGO Carts Unlimited featuring a large EZGO cart, promotional text like '0% for 48 Months', and contact information 5131 Gall Blvd.

## East Pasco Events

**March 21-23 – Betmar Acres Chorus Concert** – The chorus will be presenting its 46th annual spring concert on Wednesday at 2 p.m., Thursday at 7 p.m., and Friday at 7 p.m. The chorus will entertain with show tunes, spirituals, hymns, and old familiar songs. Tickets are available for a \$5 donation by calling Jan at (813) 788.9606 or tickets may be purchased at the door. Held in Clubhouse 2 on Lakewood Drive.

**March 24 – Native Plant Sale** – The Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is having a native plant sale from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at our temporary location at the Harvester United Methodist Church, 2432 Collier Parkway, Land O' Lakes. Visit [facebook.com/PascoNativePlants](http://facebook.com/PascoNativePlants) for information.

**March 24 – Spring Bazaar** – Atonement Lutheran Church's Women of the ELCA, will be hosting a Spring Bazaar from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 29617 S.R. 54, Wesley Chapel. Vendor opportunities available for a \$25 donation available. Proceeds go to multiple local charities. Complimentary continental breakfast will be available.

**March 24 – Yard Sales** – Ramblewood Village, located off of Autumn Palm Drive in Zephyrhills, will be holding a park wide yard sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**March 24 – Z Health Wellness Festival** – This free event will be held in Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave., from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. presented by Florida Wellness Medical Group. Stop by for live music, games and activities, and a kids' craft section. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact [tkozak@flwell.com](mailto:tkozak@flwell.com) or (813) 993-8656 for information.

**March 25 – Community Easter Celebration** – A free celebration will be held at 3 p.m. at Sam Pasco Recreation Complex, 39835 Chancey Road. Stop by for thousands of Easter eggs, bounce house, face painting, petting zoo, games and free photos with the Easter bunny. Hosted courtesy of Circus, Magic and Music for the Zephyrhills Little League. Visit the Zephyrhills Little League Facebook page for information.

**March 27 – Oils From the Kitchen** – Explore ways to use essential vitality oils in the preparation of food in this free class. Held from 3-4:30 p.m. at The Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave. All are welcome, and a free prize will be given away. Call (813) 399-4467 or (813) 479-7724 for information.

**March 27 – Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation** – Find out what it means to be a Big Brother or Big Sister in Pasco County and get a head start in the process. Held from 5:30-7 p.m. at Wesley Chapel Honda, 27750 Wesley Chapel Blvd. Contact (813) 997-6881 or [debk@bbbstampabay.org](mailto:debk@bbbstampabay.org) for information.

**March 28 – Essential Oils 101** – Learn methods of using oils and why we use them. This free class will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave. A free raffle will also be featured. Call Deanna at (813) 479-7724 for information.

**March 28 – Amplified Phones** – A distribution of amplified phones will be held at American House, 38130 Pretty Pond Road, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. will be distributing phones to qualified Florida residents as well as providing training on phone operation and features. Bring a Florida ID, and your hearing aids and

cell phone if you have them. Call (727) 853-1010 for information.

**March 29 – Vietnam Veterans Pinning** – A pinning and proclamation ceremony will be held for Vietnam Veterans at 2 p.m. at the Zephyrhills Humana, 7920 Gall Blvd. The ceremony will go until about 3 p.m. with a veterans' social hour from 3-4 p.m. U.S. military veterans who served during the Vietnam War period are invited to attend and will receive an honorary Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin. Tampa Bay area veteran's organizations will also be on hand to provide information on their resources and programs for veterans and the community. Call (813) 780-7300 for information.

**March 30 – Good Friday Walk of the Cross** – The walk will begin at 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 5316 11th St. Final reflections and music will be held at 6:45 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 38635 Fifth Ave.

**March 31 – Healthy Animals Using Essential Oils** – Learn how to keep your animals healthy or restore them to health in this free class held from 10-11:30 a.m. at The Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave. A free prize will be given away. Call (813) 399-4467 or (813) 479-7724 for information.

**March 31 – Jelly Bean Fling** – Held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road. Stop by for vendors, food, live music and family activities such as making Easter bonnets, Easter egg hunts, face painting, touch a truck, barrel train rides and more. Take a photo with Jasper the Easter Bunny. Call (352) 567-0262 or visit [PioneerFloridaMuseum.org](http://PioneerFloridaMuseum.org) for information. Admission is \$5 with free parking.

**April 1 – Easter Sunrise Service** – Held on the front lawn of Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd. starting at 7 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs as seating is limited. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

**April 7 – Community Shred-It Day** – Hosted by San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union, shred your unwanted documents with no expense from 9-11 a.m. at 7301 Gall Blvd. Bring only what you can carry – up to two boxes per person no larger than 18x12x9 each. Remain with your documents until they're shredded. This event is free and open to the public.

**April 14 – Bowl for Kids' Sake** – It's time for the 2018 Bowl For Kids' Sake campaign. Support community children by making a team, collecting donations and bowling. The Zephyrhills event will be held at Pin Chasers, 6816 Gall Blvd., from 12-2 p.m. Visit [www.bbbstampabay.org/bowl](http://www.bbbstampabay.org/bowl) for information and to register. Donations can be made online, or via cash and check. At the party, each team will get two hours of bowling, pizza, drinks, t shirts and more.

**April 14 – Irrigation Presentation** – Hosted by the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St., from 10-11 a.m. Learn how to improve your irrigation system's performance and the steps you can take to ensure your landscape will survive as temperatures rise and we wait for summer rains to return. Registration required at Eventbrite. Call (352) 518-0156 for information.

For more events visit [www.pasconewspubs.com](http://www.pasconewspubs.com)

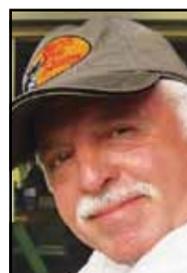
## Commentary



Photo courtesy of The Cowboy Channel

### First Things First

Greg First



## Brothers, Kin To Share Reality

The Bellamy Brothers probably don't know me but I have been following their careers for a very long time. It all started back in the mid 1970's. I owned a record and tape store in Zephyrhills called Canopy Records and one day a pretty lady stopped in and asked if we could put a 45 RPM her sons recorded in the store. She was hoping a bunch of people would buy it. The name of the song was "Let Your Love Flow," and her boys were the Bellamy Brothers.

Everybody in this area probably knew or at least heard of Howard and David Bellamy and their family. Their dad played country music himself and their mom, Frances, worked at Pasco High School for about 25 years in the cafeteria. She also spent some time behind the wheel of good old No. 5, a Pasco County school bus. The boys were raised right here in the east Pasco town of Darby and went to PHS. Their mom was their biggest fan and promoter. You could see the pride in her eyes when she talked about her family. It didn't take long for the song to go to #1 on the Billboard Music Charts. I was pleased when she kept

bringing me more records because they were selling out as fast as she would bring them.

The Bellamys have a lot a history in this area. Many years ago I remember them playing at the San Antonio Rattlesnake Roundup with their dad. As of today they continue to play their brand of music to old and new music fans all over the world and are still selling out venues large and small wherever they go.

Now comes the next chapter of their lives with a reality TV show Honky Tonk Ranch, filmed at their 200-acre ranch and recording studio in Darby and on the road as they continue to tour. The whole Bellamy family is involved including the dogs, Waylon and Willie, along with a whole bunch of friends along the way. "As far as everyone knows, we're just a nice normal family," David Bellamy said on the Honky Tonk Ranch website. "But there's a lot of chaos to control and there's no hiding from the cameras once they're rolling."

Honky Tonk Ranch debuts Sunday, April 8, at 8:30 p.m. on the Cowboy Channel and according to their website it's available on nearly every cable and satellite provider.

Thinking back to the day Frances Bellamy came into my record store with those 45 rpm records and now looking back at the Bellamy Brothers career with 20 No. 1 hits and more than 40 million albums sold, it looks like there is no end in sight. I'm pretty sure their mom and dad are looking down from heaven and smiling. These guys are living the dream of doing what they enjoy and working hard at it. Keep up the good work and thanks from all of us. You have made us really proud.

## Pasco News Publications

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

### Publisher

Chris Drews  
[cdrews@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:cdrews@pasconewspubs.com)

### Editor

Keri McAlpine  
[keri@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:keri@pasconewspubs.com)

### Reporters

Joe Potter  
[jpotter@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:jpotter@pasconewspubs.com)

### Accounting

Linda Wood  
[lwood@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:lwood@pasconewspubs.com)

### Design

Edwin Pitts  
[pasconewspubs.design@gmail.com](mailto:pasconewspubs.design@gmail.com)

### Dave Walters

[walters@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:walters@pasconewspubs.com)

### Sales

Krista Black  
[kblack@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:kblack@pasconewspubs.com)

### Public Relations

Greg First  
[gfirst@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:gfirst@pasconewspubs.com)

### Max Zimmerman

[mzimmerman@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:mzimmerman@pasconewspubs.com)

Zephyrhills Free Press | [www.zephyrhillsfreepress.com](http://www.zephyrhillsfreepress.com)



38440 5th Avenue - Zephyrhills, FL 33542

(813) 783-1300 - [www.pasconewspubs.com](http://www.pasconewspubs.com)

NEWS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Monday at 12:00 noon • CIRCULATION ISSUES: Please call the office at (813) 783-1300  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Letters to the editor should be limited to 200 words. Pasco News Publications reserves the right to edit published letters. Letters to the editor are the writer's opinion and do not reflect the opinion of Pasco News Publications. Please include your name and phone number.  
ADVERTISING ERRORS: Pasco News Publications is not responsible for the validity of claims made by advertisers or for advertisers errors. Pasco News Publications is responsible only for the cost of space for the first insertion.  
PASCO NEWS PUBLICATIONS IS A MEMBER OF: The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce.  
COPYRIGHT: Contents copyright of Pasco News Publications, all rights reserved. Reproduction in part or whole prohibited without prior, written permission of the publisher.

# San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival Could Move

## Foundation Says Event Running Out Of Room

by Joe Potter

The Thomas Promise Foundation's board will meet next week to decide where it will hold the 2018 Rattlesnake Festival.

The foundation took control of the festival in 2017 after the event's former backers were no longer able to keep it going, primarily because of the necessary volunteers needed to run the event.

The foundation's board initially decided last week to move the festival from the San Antonio City Park, where it has been held for the past 50 years, to the Pasco County Fairgrounds, which is 4.4 miles northeast of the city.

Board members informed city commissioners of that decision in a March 15 letter. The 2017 festival was so successful that the foundation was able to provide 43,000 meals to undernourished children from its proceeds, the letter said.

Festival parking was a challenge during 2017, as has

been the case for a number of years.

Board members said in their letter it was apparent they would soon run out of room for the festival if it continued to grow.

But Wade Thomas and Joe Simmons of the foundation hinted they might reconsider that decision at their next board meeting, which will be held next week.

They first raised some issues about a contract the city had provided the board for the 2018 festival. They said it didn't address many of the issues, including parking, that were raised at a January commission workshop on the festival.

Some residents who spoke at the meeting said parking space is available and they would help foundation members to find it if they chose to keep the festival in San Antonio this year.

"Unfortunately, the wording you have in this contract allows the parks commissioner or the streets

commissioner to shut down the festival and it couldn't reopen until a meeting of the city commission was held," Simmons said.

City Attorney Gerald Buhr said such language was necessary in case a situation arose that jeopardized the health, safety or well-being of city residents. However, a Rattlesnake Festival has never been shut down by the city before.

"I definitely don't want to see the festival leave San Antonio," Mayor Rick Anderson said.

"This application process is part of our effort to make things more standardized for you and others who want to hold events here. I would personally like for this festival to be reconsidered before moving it to Dade City."

Mayor Pro Tempore Elayne Bassinger agreed.

"If you move it to the fairgrounds, it's no longer the San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival. You are going to lose the community element of it by moving it there," said parks commissioner James Markley.

He suggested calling it the Pasco Rattlesnake Festival or something else.

Simmons said the Thomas Promise Foundation hasn't officially made a decision yet to relocate the festival.



James Markley

# Local Dogs Get A Chance To Accompany Diners

by Emily Kochanski

Pasco County is always changing; always introducing new events and locals to bring its residents joy. Now, local canines will soon find something to wag their tails about, too. Local eating establishments can now apply for a dog dining permit, which will allow man's (and woman's) best friend to eat right alongside their owners at restaurants that have outside seating.

"Pasco County is committed to creating thriving communities and enhancing quality of life for our neighbors," said Tambrey Laine, a county spokesman.

"The new dog-dining ordinance is a win-win for neighbors, visitors and businesses in Pasco County.

Dog-lovers will have more options when it comes to spending time with and socializing their four-legged family members, and local businesses will have the opportunity to attract and cater to that clientele," she said.

Any eatery with a designated outdoor dining area may apply for a dog-dining permit. Once a permit has been received, there are few protocols that must be enacted, which can be found in detail in the ordinance.

Interested restaurant owners need to

fill out a permit application and deliver it in person to the Dade City permit office. The application for a permit can be found at bit.ly/2CfohNZ.

The application must be printed, filled out and taken to 14236 Sixth St., Suite 203, in Dade City, daily between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The application cannot be completed online.

A one-time fee of \$50 dollars is needed for the permit.

Establishments may offer dog dining during the hours designated on the application, according to Laine. "The business owner must ensure that staff and guests comply with the regulations

outlined in the ordinance which is available on our website," Laine said. "If establishment owners would like to change allowable dog dining hours and/or days, they must notify Pasco County to update their permit placard. If the establishment is sold, or otherwise changes ownership, a new application must be submitted."

"The process of applying for and receiving a dog dining permit is quick and easy, provided all information on the application is accurate," Laine said. "The permit can be issued as soon as the information on the application is verified to ensure compliance with the ordinance."

**PIONEER FLORIDA MUSEUM & VILLAGE**  
PRESERVING FLORIDA'S HISTORY

## Jelly Bean Fling

**MARCH 31 • 9:00-5:00**  
\$5 ADMISSION • FREE PARKING  
(5 and under Free)

**HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!**

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Bounce House & Slide
- Petting Zoo
- Touch-A-Truck
- Face Painting
- Kids Raffles
- Games\*: jelly bean relays, sock races, treasure hunts & so much more!
- Barrel Train Rides\*: with Conductor Joe

**MAKE YOUR OWN EASTER BONNET**

**VENDORS GALORE!**  
hot dogs, hamburgers, & so much more!

\*\$5 ambands available for unlimited selective activities\*

**Citizens Federal Credit Union SAG**  
Presents: **Mr. Tommy**  
Join Mr. Tommy in the Easter parade with your bonnets. Prizes for top three bonnets!

**Noon - Easter Egg Hunt:**  
We will supply the bags. Three age groups:  
• 1-5 years @ 11:00  
• 6-9 years @ 12:30  
• 10-12 years @ 2:00

**Mr. Tommy - Two Sets 11a.m. & 2p.m.**

1 mile north of downtown Dade City off US Hwy 301 at  
15602 Pioneer Museum Road 33523  
www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org • 352.567.0262  
LIKE us on Facebook at Pioneer Florida Museum & Village

## Zephyrhills Family Practice and Geriatric Care

**NOW OPEN**

**Dr. Harry Blackstone**      **Dr. Joseph Nystrom**

**7213 Greenslope Dr**  
**Zephyrhills 33541**

**Tanner McKendree, ARNP**      **Marissa Nagy, PA**

**813-355-4914**

COMING SOON

Chief • Continued from Page 1A

police department parking lot in a squad car, sirens blazing.

Dester was looking sharp in an official police shirt he borrowed, complete with a nametag, which he was able to take home at the end of the day.

Next on his to-do list was an official swearing-in ceremony led by Brewer. Afterward, his mother, Tammi, pinned a police badge on his shirt, which he was also able to keep as a memento of the day.

After he was declared honorary chief, a press conference was held so Dester could answer the media's burning questions on the sudden change in leadership.

The young chief confirmed he was an eighth-grade student at Academy of Spectrum Diversity. Originally from New Jersey, he lives in Zephyrhills and being a police officer was always a career he thought about pursuing.

Dester's first order of business?

"Everyone gets a raise," he said with a big smile.

He later was able to discuss the budget change with City Manager Steve Spina, who came by to congratulate him on the promotion.

Dester's other goals for the day were simply to be the best chief he could be.



Nicholas Dester raises he right hand during his swearing-in as honorary chief of police for the day on Friday morning.

"I hope more respect comes to police ... and less crime," he said. Dester said he always tries to salute or say 'hello' to police officers when he spots them, and

believes they deserve that from the public.

During the press conference, Dester assured there would be no major changes in staff.

"I feel like if I can make friends it will be more of an easier push ... and also the raise will help," he said. "Get a little bit more money and everything goes up."

Unfortunately, Dester is allergic to sugar so was not able to indulge in a police-friendly donut breakfast. But, he does drink coffee (sometimes, his mother added).

Throughout the day, Dester was able to uphold the normal duties of the chief of police. He received a tour of the department, was able to see a demonstration from K-9 Bolt firsthand and met and mingled with local police officers.

Despite being diagnosed as autistic, Dester has taken upon himself to tackle impressive tasks at such a young age. He trains his dog, a German Shepherd, and is working on earning his pilot license. Dester takes lessons at the Zephyrhills airport and will be able to take his final test next year when he turns 16.

Dester has been inspired by his uncle, who is a police officer in New Jersey, and local politicians including congressman Gus Bilirakis and state Rep. Danny Burgess.

"If you put your mind to it you can do anything," Dester said, concluding his press conference.

★ VOTE ★ April 10, 2018 ★ VOTE ★

*William Seville*

Zephyrhills City Council  
Seat 5



My promise to you,  
the citizens of Zephyrhills

- To Listen and Address Your Concerns
- To Bring a New Perspective on Issues to the Council
- To Bring a Clear Vision for the City of Zephyrhills

Pol. Ad paid for and approved by William Seville, non-partisan, for Zephyrhills City Council, Seat 5.

*Creative Soul's Cafe*

38426 5th Avenue  
Downtown Zephyrhills  
(813) 395-8818

Follow us on **facebook**  
for events & entertainment

<b>Breakfast</b> Sunday 7am-Noon Monday-Saturday 6-11am	<b>Lunch</b> Monday-Saturday 11am-Close
<b>Dinner</b> Tuesday-Thursday 5-8pm • Friday-Saturday 5-10pm	
<b>Live Music</b> Tuesday-Thursday 7-10pm • Friday 8pm-Midnight Saturday Noon-4pm & 8pm-Midnight	

THINK OUTSIDE THE

**BIG BOX STORE**

SAME BRANDS  
BETTER QUALITY

**Pasco Turf & Tractor**

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS  
**813-715-4359**  
5117 GALL BOULEVARD  
ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33541

**TIME TO MOW**



Cub Cadet ECHO HUSHLER STIHL SCAG TORO

WWW.PASCOTURF.COM

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

# School Safety Issues Discussed

by Joe Potter

School safety was a prime subject during last week's candidate forum held at Alice Hall Community Center.

The five candidates seeking two seats on city council were asked whether they thought local police officers should be reinstated as school resource officers [SROs] at Zephyrhills High School and Raymond B. Stewart Middle School.

The Zephyrhills Police Department had previously provided school resource officers at the two schools but the Pasco County School District discontinued the contract and the Pasco Sheriff's Office currently provides SROs to both schools.

The change occurred shortly after Reggie Roberts was released as head football coach at ZHS. He was a sergeant at that time with ZPD and was in charge of the SROs. High school principal Angie Stone let Roberts go because she wanted to have a football coach that was also a full-time teacher. Questions regarding whether Roberts, who was later promoted to captain, had done anything wrong while at ZHS were resolved in his favor following a ZPD investigation.

The question whether to bring in city police to the schools was posed to the each of the candidates. A heightened emphasis has been placed on school safety after a lone gunman fatally shot 17 people on Feb. 14 at a high school in Parkland.

"To get ZPD back out there, we would probably have to sit down with the school board," said Charlie Proctor, who is seeking re-election to his fourth term for Seat 5. "School safety is a big issue [and] it hasn't been a big issue for me to have ZPD there as long as our kids are being kept safe."

Proctor, 57, has lived in Zephyrhills for more than 30 years and owns two businesses.

"I remember in 2013 and 2014 the SROs were employed by Zephyrhills," said William Seville, who is challenging Proctor.

"I kind of agree with a joint cooperation idea but I think it looks better on us as a city if we can have local officers there. I personally think we should keep it local and have ZPD there.

"This is an important issue for all of us," he said.

Seville, 20, a student at Pasco-Hernando State College, is a recent Zephyrhills High School graduate who works at Golden Corral. He has lived in the city since 2012 and this is the first time he has campaigned for city council.

The hopefuls for the open Seat 3 would also prefer to have local police instead of deputies in the city schools.

Jodi Wilkeson, 57, served on city council from 2008-14. She operates an architectural firm in Tampa and has been actively involved with Main Street Zephyrhills.

"I do support ZPD officers being SROs again at our city's schools," Wilkeson said.

"ZPD had a discreet on-campus presence at some of the local schools following the Parkland shootings. The city has recently formed a group of department heads to help identify problems and reduce crime in the city," she said.

Devin Alexander, 25, works as a consultant to colleges and universities across the United States.

"A substantial conversation needs to occur between ZPD, the school district and the sheriff's office," he said.

"Since the county has come in, I have heard of more troubling events going on than when the city's officers were there. The city SROs knew the parents of many of the students and went to church with some of them.

"I don't care whatever it takes, we need for the kids to know there are eyes on them and when they get home they are going to hear from their parents," Alexander said, regarding any misbehavior.

Cory Sommers, 28, is a learning design coach with the school district.

"I firmly believe we need ZPD back in our schools," Sommers said.

This is the first time Alexander and Sommers have run for city council.

Seat 3 is open because the incumbent, Kent Compton, decided to not seek reelection. Compton hopes to be elected as a county judge later this year.

The municipal election is April 10 and voters can cast ballots at Alice Hall Community Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Some Zephyrhills residents may have already voted because Pasco County Supervisor of Elections Brian E. Corley's office began mailing out absentee ballots last week.

## Correction

The March 15 edition of the *Zephyrhills Free Press* inaccurately reported that city council seat 5 candidate William Seville is a lifetime Zephyrhills resident and works at Cracker Barrel. Seville has lived in Zephyrhills since 2012 and works at Golden Corral.

Prices and offers effective March 13 - March 26, 2018

**NO CREDIT REFUSED!**  
see store for details



**SAVE 201.95**

**\$598**

REG. \$799.95

**CHARLOTTE** 95" sofa 119112/13  
71" loveseat \$578 reg. 779.95

---



**SAVE 201.95**

**\$598**

REG. \$799.95

**ELLERY** 88" sofa 119408/09  
65" loveseat \$578 reg. 779.95

---



**SAVE 501.90**

**\$598**

REG. \$1099.90

**CARRINGTON II** 882805/06/885625/26  
storage bed option for \$998  
5PC Bedroom Packages (Queen headboard, footboard, rails), dresser & mirror

---



**SAVE 601.90**

**\$698**

REG. \$1299.90

**RILEY** 888423/24/42/43  
add storage for \$100 more  
5PC Bedroom Packages (Queen headboard, footboard, rails), dresser & mirror

---

**HANDHELDS STARTING AT \$139<sup>95</sup>**



117922/119810  
119010

**PUSHMOWERS STARTING AT \$249<sup>95</sup>**



117829 117828

---



**RIDING MOWERS STARTING AT \$1299<sup>95</sup>**

119007 119076 119077

**5500 6th Street**  
ZEPHYRHILLS • 813-782-4370

MON. - FRI. 9AM - 6PM  
SAT. 9AM - 4PM  
SUN. 11AM - 4PM



# Piccola Italia



**Italian - American Restaurant**

N.Y. Style Pizza • Spaghetti & Meatballs • Homemade Cheesecake

**DINNER SPECIALS**

**All Dinners Homemade**

**Monday - Thursday**  
ANY SIZE PIZZA BUY 1 GET 1 HALF PRICE

**HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY!**  
2 for 1 on select wines and draft beers  
\$3.95 Stella Artois

MONDAY	THURSDAY
Spaghetti or Ziti, 2 meatballs or 1 sausage.....\$9.95	Pork Osso Buco.....\$13.25
	Chicken Parmesan.....\$13.50
TUESDAY	FRIDAY
Baked Spaghetti.....\$11.50	All You Can Eat Whitefish.....\$10.25
Rigatoni Pomodoro.....\$10.95	Haddock.....\$11.95
	Lobster Ravioli.....\$14.50
WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
Spaghetti or Ziti, 2 meatballs or 1 sausage.....\$9.95	Shrimp & Broccoli Cavatelli.....\$14.95
Chicken Penne Alfredo.....\$12.95	Lasagna.....\$11.50
	Alla Romana.....\$13.50

All dinners include soup or salad & garlic bread

**HOURS:** Mon.-Thurs. 11:00am-8:00pm • Fri. 11:00am-9:00pm  
Sat. 4:00pm-9:00pm • Closed Sun.

**37502 SR 54 West • Zephyrhills • 782-2856**  
PLACE ORDERS ONLINE • VALUABLE COUPONS  
Email Sign-Up • PiccolaItaliaRestaurant.com



# Car Show Drives Them In

## Throttle-N-Gears Reveals Some Classics

Story and photos by Joe Potter

The clear blue sky and light breeze provided a great setting for the Throttle-N-Gears car show held Saturday at Richland Baptist Church.

About 50 different classic vehicles were displayed during the four-hour show.

The few hundred people who attended the event cast votes on the first, second and third favorite vehicle they saw and prizes were awarded afterward.

The selection ranged from hot rods in various colors from the early 1920s to

a jet black 1980 Chevrolet Malibu that sported a 383-cubic-inch V-8 backed by a four-speed manual transmission.

A white 1948 Ford coupe with custom flames and a red 1965 Pontiac GTO equipped with three two-barrel carburetors were also featured entries.

A blue 1968 Chevrolet Camaro convertible caught the eyes of many visitors.

Ralph Baer didn't have to look far for the "pony car" he bought last year. It was less than two blocks away from where Baer and his wife, Sandy Parkes, spend their winters in Betmar Acres.



Ralph Baer and his wife, Sandy Parkes, with their 1968 Chevrolet Camaro convertible.

Baer, who also owns other Camaros, said he was particularly attracted to this one because it is a convertible. They keep it down here and regularly drive it to car shows and other events.

There are 40,000 miles showing on the odometer but Baer doesn't know if the car actually has 140,000 miles. He has put about 1,000 miles on it since buying it.

The Camaro isn't a quick car, he said. The stock engine only produces 210 horsepower and 320 pound-feet of torque with its two-barrel carburetor and 8.75 compression ratio. But it is very presentable in its current condition and is a comfortable car in which to travel, Baer said.

The tires, water pump and carpeting on the driver's side have been replaced. Also, some areas of the car's engine compartment and interior have been repainted.

"It's a work in progress," Parkes said. Food, music and family fun are all

part of the Throttle-N-Gears car show.

It is sponsored by Pasco News Publications, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, Reutimann Collision, Bahr's Aluminum & Construction, Goin' Postal, Harris Insurance, O'Reilly Automotive, Reutimann Racing, Song Printing & Design and South Florida Catering.



Someone put some effort into the paint job on this 1948 Ford coupe.



The young lady who owns the Mopar on which this decal is affixed wanted people to know she has a fast car.

★ Re-Elect Charlie Proctor ★



**for Zephyrhills City Council, Seat 5 Tuesday, April 10th**



- Supports Local Police & Fire Dept.
- Responsible Government Spending & Growth
- Owner/Operator of Charlie's Auto Detail, Inc. - Same Location for 28 Years

**Early Voting Available Now at Zephyrhills City Hall**

**Endorsed By:**  
 State Representative Danny Burgess • County Commissioner Ron Oakley  
 Mayor Gene Whitfield • Zephyrhills City Council President, Alan Knight  
 Councilman Ken Burgess • Councilman Lance Smith  
 Former Mayor Cliff McDuffie • Former Councilman Clyde Bracknell  
 Former Councilwoman Elizabeth Geiger • Former Councilwoman Jodi Wilkeson  
 Former Police Chief David Shears • Al Biston • Bobby Hilton • Bobby Hilton, Jr.  
 Judy Hilton • Derek Thomas • Terry Linville • Tim Linville • Rev. Robert McKinney  
 Sam Surratt • Sam Turgeon • Robert Winters • Buzzie Reutimann  
 Bill Morrow, Owner of Morrow Steel Fabricators • Robert Pullo, Owner of Piccola Italia  
 Brantley Smith, Owner/Operator of Silverado Golf & Country Club  
 Wade Thomas, Owner/Operator of Thomas and Son, Inc.  
 Zephyrhills Fire Rescue Local 3884

★ Pol. Ad Paid for and Approved by Charlie Proctor, Non-Partisan, for City Council, Seat 5 charlieproctor@verizon.net ★

Shopping around for car insurance? Don't.

Let your local independent agent shop for you, and find the coverage you need.



**LEE REED INSURANCE**  
 Zephyrhills • 813-782-5502  
 www.leereedinsurance.com

**Auto-Owners**  
 INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS