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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

Veteran • Continued on Page 6A

Rural King Due In Zephyrhills

Supply Store Going In To Former Kmart

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

Store • Continued on Page 4A



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

Relay Takes Over Downtown

Fewer Participants Take Part In Revamped Fundraiser

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

After looming storm clouds gave way to a sunny afternoon, a flood of purple spread across downtown Friday night in honor of the Zephyrhills Relay for Life.

The annual walk-a-thon to fight cancer brought hundreds to Time Square for the opening ceremonies before survivors, caregivers and local supporters took to the 'track' for the rest of the evening.

This was Relay's first year being held downtown, having moved from its previous location at the high school stadium and this year's fundraiser was only six hours long, running from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Relay • Continued on Page 3A



Zephyrhills High School cheerleaders lead a group of cancer survivors who have dealt with their illness for 10 or more years.

Hospital Gets Security Upgrade

Law Enforcement Veteran Aims To Make Everyone 'At Home'

Story and photo by Keri McAlpine

Jim Ward sit at his new desk at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills with a smile on his face knowing that every day he is making it safer for the hospital's patients, visitors and staff.

After a long career in law enforcement at the local and state level in Arizona and Florida, the first-ever FHZ security manager has brought his trained senses to the 139-bed facility.

"It's a changing time and things are

different than they used to be," Ward said. "Everything in the hospital is going to be with electronic doors so that when staff are moving around or coming into work it's all going to be with a card reader."

After a stint at Largo Medical Center, Ward got a job with the Pinellas Sheriff's Department, where he still works part time on weekends at the criminal courthouse doing advisories.

"My motto is, you know how safe we feel at home? I want everybody that comes to this facility and comes to this hospital to feel like they're just walking into a section of their home," Ward said.

His plan for FHZ is to start from the

Security • Continued on Page 8A



Florida Hospital Zephyrhills' new security manager, James Ward, has big plans on how to secure the hospital and make it safe for everyone.

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Pg. 1B - Bulldogs Fare Well At Conference Meet

Pg. 1B - Bulldogs Take Gritty 6-5 Win In Baseball
Pg. 2B - Youngster 'Masters' Her Nerves

Pg. 4B - Café 'Boxed In' On Fifth Avenue
Pg. 7B - Hospice Poker Run Scheduled For Saturday

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Man Threatens Two People With Knife

Christopher Ward Munroe, 43, of 37354 Phelps Road, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 23 on a charge of aggravated assault after he allegedly threatened to kill two people with a knife. Police responded to the 39000 block of Fifth Avenue at 11:19 p.m. on March 22 regarding a domestic assault involving a knife. Contact was made with Munroe at 20th



Street and Fifth Avenue and he consented to a search. He was reportedly found to be in possession of a folding knife. The victims, who are Munroe's sister and brother-in-law, told police they had been in an altercation with him when he brandished the knife. Also, Munroe allegedly swung the knife in the immediate vicinity of his brother-in-law while stating he was going to murder both victims. A juvenile who witnessed the incident said he heard one of the victims tell Munroe to drop the knife.

Jessica Elaine Whitt, 18, of 4831 Shaw Drive, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 16 on charges of possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia and no valid driver's license. Contact was made with Whitt during a traffic stop conducted for no tag attached. Whitt agreed to have the vehicle searched. A green leafy substance was found concealed inside a cigar wrapper and a glass pipe with residue were both found inside her purse. The substances both field tested positive for marijuana. Whitt spontaneously stated, "That's my purse. I use the glass pipe to smoke marijuana." Post Miranda,

Whitt said, "It's my marijuana." She was processed and released on her own recognizance.

Sonja Holley Simons, 43, of 4737 Coral St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 19 on charges of retail theft and violation of probation – trafficking in illegal drugs. Police were called to Bealls, 7425 Gall Blvd., regarding a reported shoplifting. Simons was observed on surveillance video entering the store without a purse, selecting a purse valued at \$39.20, and leaving the store without paying for the purse. They made contact with Simons who was seated inside a vehicle in the Bealls parking lot. She was escorted back inside and the stolen item was recovered. It was verified while she was being processed at the Pasco County Jail that Simons is currently on felony probation out of Hillsborough County.



Jeremy Michael Newell, 36, of 38608 Fifth Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 16 on two writs of bodily attachment for child support out of Pinellas County. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the writs.

Robert Alan Bishop, 53, of 3126 Carefree Way, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on March 15 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with failure to appear – driving while license suspended or revoked. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

Tiffany Lynn Richards, 36, of 40348 Sunburst Drive, Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 22 on charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of cocaine, possession of paraphernalia and driving while license suspended or revoked with knowledge. Police stopped an SUV Richards was driving because it was towing a trailer with no attached tag. A records check disclosed Rich-



ards' license had been suspended Oct. 31, 2016. She was reportedly notified of the suspension. A hand search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of a black zipper pouch containing a small clear plastic baggie containing a crystalline substance that field-tested positive for 0.3 grams of methamphetamine. A second clear plastic baggie inside the pouch contained a white powdery substance that field tested positive as 0.6 grams of cocaine. A glass pipe with methamphetamine residue was reportedly found in the driver's side compartment. Post Miranda, Richards claimed the recovered narcotics did not belong to her.

Alisa Aquaila Bell, 19, of 39141 Sixth Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 27 on a charge of burglary of an occupied dwelling with no assault/battery. Police responded to the address at 9:53 p.m. regarding a burglary. Bell had dropped off her son at the residence of her ex-boyfriend, who is the child's father. The exchange occurred at the door



and Bell was reportedly not authorized to come inside. The victim said he left the area briefly as Bell was saying goodbye to the child. The victim told police he received a call from Bell a few minutes later and she asked him, "How are you going to get to work when I have your keys?" The victim told police the keys had been taken from a table inside of the dwelling and belonged to his work truck and to a vehicle titled in his name alone. Bell allegedly called again while the victim was speaking to police and he put the call on speakerphone. She allegedly stated, "I will return your work truck keys but I am keeping the keys for the Mazda." The victim told Bell to contact the Zephyrhills Police Department to return the keys. She agreed to do so and spoke to an officer at the police station. She reportedly said she had moved out of the residence in January 2017 but still receives mail there. She did return the keys belonging to the victim.

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



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Relay • Continued from Page 1A

Event lead Emily Buckler said Friday's walk raised about \$5,000, however donations are still coming in and being processed.

The American Cancer Society website for the Zephyrhills Relay for Life showed a total amount of \$25,771.97 raised so far and the fundraising season does not officially end until August, when a total amount for the year will be determined.

Last year's event raised about \$40,000 and organizers had originally set a goal of \$52,000 for this year.

"We were expecting to have a lower amount this year because of the transition to downtown," said Buckler, a second-grade teacher at West Zephyrhills Elementary School. "I think it was awesome overall. We had a great night I think it was a great turnout."

Another change Buckler mentioned as a possibility for next year was to make the track smaller and "more accessible to everyone." Friday's route stretched down Fifth Avenue from about Seventh to 10th streets.

Throughout the evening, teams were eager to participate in this year's Disney theme, Wish Upon A Cure. Themed laps had men dressing up as princesses, a toilet paper gown making contest, and others based on the classic cartoon movies.

Downtown businesses sponsored in a selfie scavenger hunt and kept their doors open a little later to accommodate the participants.

"I just think it was a wonderful event that got our mission for the ACS out there to more people and we're looking forward to an even better year next year," Buckler said.

She thought the turnout for the opening ceremonies seemed greater than that at last year's Relay but after the 9 p.m. luminaria ceremony, attendance started to dwindle. She said about 30 people remained at midnight.

"I saw a lot of new faces – people who didn't know about Relay for Life before the other night. A lot of people were saying they would come back next year and be more involved maybe as more than just a visitor," Buckler said.

Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield said a few words before the walkers did their thing. He praised the passion and encouragement for something everyone has in common, whether they personally have experienced cancer or if they know someone who has.

"It's a very personal thing. Ask yourself, 'Am I doing all I can to be an encourager?'" Whitfield said. "This represents our community coming together to finish the fight to cure cancer."

Zephyrhills Police Department Officer Michael O'Donnell spoke at the survivors' dinner, sharing his personal journey with cancer.

"It was very inspiring and emotional. I saw a lot of people touched by it," Buckler said. "Tears were going on because they could relate to his story and the struggle he had."

Zephyrhills High School Cafeteria Manager Sue Ellen Smith and her team provided a pasta and salad dinner for the survivors.

A total of 22 teams participated in this year's Relay. Zephyrhills Water was the top fundraising team, raising \$10,800, almost half of the total depicted on the website. Out of dozens of individual participants registered with the event, Kat Ramsdell from Zephyrhills Bottled Water raised the most individually at \$5,261. No companies were officially registered according to online records.

The public is invited to the Relay for Life wrap up party on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Woman's Club. An updated fundraising total will be revealed and different awards will be presented to participants.

Visit www.relayforlife.org/zephyrhillsfl to find out more or donate.



Residents of Wedgewood Manor were eager to take to the track after the first lap and sported a Hawaiian theme to go along with a favorite Disney movie.



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East Pasco Events

April 7 – BonWorth Grand Re-Opening – A grand re-opening will be held all day from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. with a ribbon cutting from the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce at noon. Located at Merchant Square Mall, 7409 Gall Blvd. Come for 10-year anniversary celebration fun for all, red hot deals and prizes. Call (813) 715-0057 for information.

April 7 – Build Your Family Tree – Need help building your family tree? Join us at the local Zephyrhills Humana for a class to learn how to build your family tree online for free. Held from 12-1 p.m. at the Neighborhood Humana, located in the Zephyr Commons Shopping Center at 7920 Gall Blvd. Free for all to join. Call (813) 780-7300 for information or visit us in person to get a copy of our full calendar of events for this month.

April 8 – Birdies and Blackjack – The Zephyrhills Bulldog Booster Club presents a golf tournament and casino night event, Mardi Gras style. Held at Silverado Golf & Country Club, 36841 Clubhouse Drive, with a 9 a.m. shotgun golf tournament. A trick shot artist will be on hand for entertainment. Poker challenges with payouts for top three finishers. Casino Night starts at 6 p.m. with a slew of classic casino games, music, food and raffles. Don't forget to dress up for the masquerade contest with prizes for winners. Contact Randy at (216) 780-4485 or zhsathleticboosterclub@gmail.com for tickets or information. Must be 21 to participate at Casino Night.

April 8 – Hittin' the Road for Hospice – The run starts at Harley-Davidson of New Port Richey, 5817 S.R. 54. Check-in, registration, and breakfast at 8 a.m. and last bike out at 10 a.m. Post-run celebration starts at 1 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Zephyrhills #3752, at 4149 New River Road. Visit www.HittinTheRoadForHospice.org to register.

April 8 – Spring Arts and Craft Fair – The Lighthouse Crafters of Southport Springs will be holding their annual arts and crafts fair from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the clubhouse located just off Chancey Road. Vendors will be displaying handmade items and a bake sale and Chinese auction will be featured. Call Linda at (813) 778-1359 for information.

April 8 – Community Wide Garage Sale – Spring time is a good time to think about ridding homes and garages of items we no longer want or need. Silver Oaks community, located off

of Eiland Boulevard, will be holding a community wide garage sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

April 8 – Pet Friendly Landscaping – Florida is abundant with diverse plant life, and some can be toxic to pets. The speaker at this seminar will deliver an informative presentation relating to commonly found plants that have the potential to be harmful and poisonous to pets. Held from 10-11 a.m. at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. Registration is required. Call the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Office at (352) 518-0156 for information.

April 10 – Posture Presentation – As you age, your body changes and so does your posture. Gregory William DC will share helpful information on this topic from 4-5 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, located at 38233 Daughtery Road. Visit FHZeph.org for information or call (813) 779-6476 for required reservation.

April 13 – Last Bingo of Season – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills (FHZ) will host its last Bingo program until autumn from 2-3 p.m. in the hospital's Creation Café at 7050 Gall Blvd. The speaker will be Natasha Forbes-Thorne, OTR, MBA/HCM, FHZ's director for acute care rehabilitation. Homemade peanut butter pie will be served along with hot coffee while a few games of Bingo are played and prizes are presented to winners. Due to space limitations, reservations are required. Call (877) 534-3108 for information and reservations.

April 13 – The Sun Will Rise Tomorrow – Easter symbolizes a time of new beginnings and hope. Doug Higgins, senior chaplain for Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, will offer thoughts on how to embrace this Christian holiday when your world seems bleak. Held from 1-2 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Registration required by calling (813) 779-6476. Visit FHZeph.org 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.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First



Vlad's Comrades Are To Blame

Weird things have been happening lately around my house. I think I told you several months ago that I had won a huge European lottery and all I had to do was send my bank routing information along with my full social security number, my mom's maiden name and the name of my first pet, and several million dollars would be put into my account. I started to think about what I could do with all that money and then I realized that it was probably wasn't true.

A friend I will not mention said the Russians had to be behind the scam. They wanted to steal all my money. There is not really any proof but he was told by an anonymous source that the Russians did it and have been doing it for years. They are phishing and hacking everything.

Here is another example: several weeks ago I got my bank statement and I made less than five dollars in interest. That is another sure-fire reason my account was hacked. Why would I keep money in the bank if I was only making five bucks in a month? It seems like this has been going on for years. I remember when we were earning double-digit interest rates and the numbers have continued to fall because of this hacking.

My dad lived during the Great Depression and he would say he could make more money picking up cans on the side of the road. I miss him and my mom and loved their humor and great

wisdom.

Another example is something that almost everyone can relate to. What happened to all those socks? It either happened in the washer or the dryer. Somehow they are being transported to another country. I heard it is a machine like the one in Back To The Future. It can take something like a sock and transport it anywhere that is programmed into the computer systems. This is something else the Russians have been doing for years.

There are so many other things, such as losing your keys. They weren't lost; they were moved. You probably always put them in the same place, right? How about going to do something and then forgetting what you were going to do?

Here's a good one. Changing your password and not writing it down because you know you would never forget it and boom, you completely forgot it. It happened to me the other day and I had to prove once again who I am.

Even my TV is being hacked. When I go to bed no matter what channel I am watching when I wake up somehow during the night it changes to Bay News 9. It happens all the time. Be careful what you say around your TV, it can hear you and maybe even see you.

With all of the talk lately about the Russians hacking everything you just never know. I would think the technology and cyber defense in the United States is world class but how do you ignore the facts? It doesn't take a committee to try and figure out who is doing this. I think you know the answer.

Store • Continued from Page 1A

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.

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Publisher

Chris Drews
cdrews@pasconewspubs.com

Editor

Keri McAlpine
keri@pasconewspubs.com

Reporters

Joe Potter
jpotter@pasconewspubs.com

Accounting

Linda Wood
lwood@pasconewspubs.com

Design

Edwin Pitts
pasconewspubs.design@gmail.com

Dave Walters
walters@pasconewspubs.com

Max Zimmerman
mzimmerman@pasconewspubs.com

Sales

Stephanie Stephenson
pasconewspubs@gmail.com

Public Relations

Greg First
gfirst@pasconewspubs.com

Sports

Mark McLeod
Jeff Hupp

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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”.

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.

People with mental health problems

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.

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.



Sylvia Kallgren, a Florida Hospital Zephyrhills volunteer, was recently recognized at the organization’s annual volunteer luncheon for logging 34,500 hours, the most in the hospital’s history. Kallgren began volunteering at FHZ when it opened in 1985 and is responsible for gift shop merchandise and operations. Photo by Brenda Welcher

Volunteers Recognized At Florida Hospital Zephyrhills

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills hosted its 33rd annual volunteer luncheon on March 23, at Scotland Yards Golf Club in Dade City with pins presented for every 100 hours of service, said Brenda Welcher, FHZ Volunteer Services Manager.

Sylvia Kallgren, of Zephyrhills, received special recognition for earning 34,500 hours, the most in the hospital’s history, for working side by side with Welcher to select gift shop merchandise and oversee the store’s operations. Kallgren has been volunteering as a gift shop volunteer since the hospital opened in 1985, Welcher said.

Additionally, Germaine Newcomb was honored for logging the second most hours at 20,500. Newcomb has been dedicating her time and talents for many years to make booties and hats for newborns at FHZ’s Baby Place®, Welcher said.

One volunteer is also recognized every quarter for exemplary service. Quarterly Volunteers for fiscal year 2016 were Marylou Woodson, John Ley, Ellie Gurdzinski and Steve Caito.

Luncheon guest speakers were Joan Conrad, RN, Director of Patient Experience; Carolyn Sentelik, Executive Director for the FHZ Foundation; and David Hill, FHZ Auxiliary President.

“We have more than 70 different volunteer assignments at our hospital so there’s something for everyone,” Welcher said. “Our volunteers allow us to elevate the level of care we give to our patients and are unpaid not because they aren’t valued, but because we consider them priceless.”

Welcher encourages individuals who are interested in volunteering to contact her at (813) 779-6256.

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.



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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
7050 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills

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*
An offering will be taken to benefit the Zephyrhills-Wesley Chapel Ministerial Association and The Samaritan Project of Zephyrhills.

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Dunkin' Donuts To Open Soon



A new Dunkin Donuts is scheduled to open Monday at 36643 S.R. 54. Business hours will be Sunday through Thursday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Photo by Joe Potter

Veteran • Continued from Page 1A



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.

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 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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Lions Club's Stamp Of Approval

Bingo Earnings Donated To Local Organizations

by Keri McAlpine

While more than 200 Bingo players assembled at the Zephyrhills Lions Club were readying their Bingo pages and stampers for their Friday night game session, representatives from 14 local organizations gathered on the stage.

Lion John DeLorenzo, president of the Zephyrhills Lions Club, took to the microphone as Bingo players were finishing their supper and clearing their space for game play.

DeLorenzo talked of the history of the club, and their mission to support not only the blind, which is historically the club's mission, but to help local organizations succeed.

"So very often, much help is needed right here in our very own back yards. Hence, that brings us to being assembled here this evening," DeLorenzo said to the packed room. "The individuals that accompanied



Representatives from organizations who received check donations from the Zephyrhills Lions Club included, back row, from left, S.R. Ranger Chris Farley, Florida Forest Service, Operation Outdoor Freedom; Rev. Patrick McCurdy, Gulfside Hospice; Lt. Dale Barnett, V.P. Zephyrhills Volunteer Fire Rescue; Russell Schmidt, ZHS Band Director; Tom Barb, HPH Hospice; Angela Davis, ZHS c/o 2017 Senior Send Off; Dave DeyArmin, Cub Scout Pack 72; Georgette Hayner, Friends with Disabilities Organization; Lion John DeLorenzo, check presenter and President Zephyrhills Lions Club; front row, Melodie Parks, Coordinator for Toys-4-Tots and Skivies-4-Tots Program; Beth Aker, East Pasco Meal on Wheels; Tammy Whitworth, Girl Scout Troop 148; Melissa Barre, Girl Scout Troop 397; Angela Miller, Girl Scout Troop 397; Karen Cooley, ZHS Swim and Dive Team; Mariah Hayner, Friends with Disabilities Organization; and Debbie Phelps, Relay for Life. Not pictured: Matt Seekins, Zephyrhills Little League.

Photo by Keri McAlpine



A total of \$12,800 was donated from the Bingo players of the Zephyrhills Lions Club to various local organizations in last Friday's check presentation ceremony. Photo Provided

me up here this evening are all representatives of such organizations: they represent our public safety, or our veterans; our youth, or our impoverished."

A total of 14 organizations were given a check donation from a \$12,800 total purse, with the amounts determined by officers of the Lions Club.

Donations were made to: Florida Forest Service, Operation Outdoor Freedom; Gulfside Hospice; Zephyrhills Volunteer Fire Rescue; Zephyrhills High School (ZHS) Band; HPH Hospice; ZHS 2017 Senior Send Off; Cub Scout Pack 72; Friends with Disabilities Organization; Toys-4-Tots and Skivies-4-Tots; East Pasco Meals on Wheels; Girl Scout Troops 148 and 397; ZHS Swim and Dive Team; Friends with Disabilities Organization; Relay for Life; and Zephyrhills Little League.

Representatives from each organization were called

individually to receive the donation and introduce themselves. Each took the time to thank the Bingo players before them, and explain what the money would help their group accomplish.

"We [The Lions Club] are just the middleman ... the delivery person so-to-speak. These dollars are from you, Ladies and Gentlemen," DeLorenzo said. "Your steady support of our Zephyrhills Lions Bingo program is what makes it possible for these donations to be handed out this evening."

Lions Club Bingo is open two evenings each week, including throughout the summer months. A full-service kitchen offers a wide variety of food items available to players. Visit www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills/ for information Zephyrhills Lions Club and the Bingo program.



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Rotary Recognizes Top Students



The Noon Rotary Club of Zephyrhills honored the top students of Zephyrhills High School at their March 30 meeting. Students recognized included, in order of top grade point average, Julian Ortega Del Toro, Sarah First, Mikayla Isbell, Elihu Ruel, Christy Saji, Emma Cutkomp, Tristan Emerson, Hunter Ledo, Haley Phillips, Alyssa Hayford, Seth Franklin, Stephanie Clark, Tyler Ware, Carissa Negron, Marc Laferriere, Judgement Glass, Eve Faison, Victoria Rudischhauser, Nicholas Malec and Lorelei Vanderschouw. *Photo Provided*

Security • Continued from Page 1A

ground up. First: secure the first floor of the hospital, then the second floor with electronic doors and key cards for employees in order to control access. Ward said the current layout of the hospital allows for too much wandering from patients and visitors, which is usually harmless but should not be the protocol.

Once entries and passageways are secure, Ward said he would work on a 'fast pass' system for visitors. Upon signing in at the front desk, visitors will be given a sticker with a photo of them scanned onto it from their driver's license or other identification card. The sticker will clearly display which part of the hospital they are visiting, allowing employees to more easily gauge if they are in the proper area. The personalization of the stickers will also prevent multiple visitors from using the same pass.

"We have things [security measures] in place but we can make it even better," said the hospital's marketing director Susan Frimmel.

Security at FHZ goes beyond the six security guards hired by the hospital, as Ward said another area he plans to focus on is staff safety education.

"If we can educate everybody to think about security they will notice people that shouldn't be in the unit,

they'll notice things that shouldn't be happening and they'll report it to us. All staff will be eyes and ears," he said.

Ward joined the Coast Guard during the Vietnam era and ended up on a river patrol boat. He earned a Bronze Star during a rescue mission with his unit amid North Vietnamese gunfire.

After returning stateside, Ward entered law enforcement and worked in gang intelligence and internal affairs for with the State of Arizona before moving to Florida to be near his mother. His first run in the health-care business came when he worked for Baycare medical centers.

When Ward is not writing grants or policies to improve security, he makes sure to give back to the hospital in other ways. Every Thursday he can be seen in the outpatient services department as a hospital ambassador, smiling and making sure everyone feels right at home.

"I was really impressed. He's awesome. People come in and they're nervous or anxious when they're having a test or procedure, and he makes them laugh," Frimmel said.

"I tease and I kid with anybody who has a military hat on ... it's a lot of fun," Ward admits.

"This place is good for me and I feel I'm good for it."

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