



Zephyrhills Skydive City

Pet Ordinance Tested

Little Piggies – As Many As 20 – Get Temporary Reprieve

Story and photo by Dave Walters



Heather Mooney stands before Zephyrhills City Council on Monday night asking that mini and potbelly pigs be considered as domestic pets.

Pet potbelly or mini pigs living in Zephyrhills can stay in the city limits, at least temporarily, after city council voted Monday to review its current ordinance that restricts the pigs from living within the city as pets.

First it was “Lucky” the pig making headlines last month after his owner Stephanie Ebling was cited for having livestock in the city, a violation of the 25-year-old city ordinance.

Heather Mooney, made a plea to city council Monday to allow pet potbelly and mini pigs to be considered domestic

Ordinance • Continued on Page 6A

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Top Seniors Reap Rewards

ZHS Seniors Earn Scholarship Funds

Story and photos by Emily Kochanski

Graduation day is at hand and several Zephyrhills High School students will be heading off to college with some pretty full pockets after the school’s Night of Excellence.

During Monday’s two-hour awards ceremony, more than 100 seniors, including those not in attendance, took home multiple awards and scholarships. According to April Simons, the school’s college and career specialist, the sum total of the evening’s various awards came to nearly \$900,000.

“The Withlacoochee River Electric



Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce delivered scholarship funds to eight students Monday night – Madison Reidenbach, left, Katharine Ayres, Meghan Shannon, Avyanna Galyan, Ghyslain Velazquez, Eden Faison, Sandy Lin and Amanda Cook.

Funds • Continued on Page 5A

Advertisement for Danny Burgess, State Representative. Text includes: 'FROM PASCO. FOR PASCO.', 'Husband. Father. Soldier. Leader.', 'DANNY BURGESS STATE REPRESENTATIVE', 'Stay in Touch Danny@DannyBurgessFL.com'



Befitting the ‘Cancer is No Game’ theme the Wiregrass Ranch HOSA team created a large-scale version of the Operation game. Players would remove sweet treats instead of funny bones.

Fun Time Fights A Serious Matter

Relay for Life Travels To Wesley Chapel

Story and photos by Emily Kochanski

After undergoing changes to unite all teams from east Pasco, the annual Relay for Life took place Saturday in Wesley Chapel.

The festivities, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, commenced at 3 p.m. Cancer survivors, caregivers, and Relay team members gathered at Cypress Creek Middle High School to honor those who have won their battles with cancer or who are still in the midst of fighting back.

“This year’s Relay had a rocky start,” said Bonnie Gibson, of the cancer society. “We decided to merge the communities together to kind of streamline what we are trying to accomplish at the American Cancer Society. It really became about finding the right people to put into place, and we did that.”

Relay • Continued on Page 6A

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Man Allegedly Threatens To Kill Someone

Herbert Ray Debolt, 80, of 5914 Jessup Drive, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 2 and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. While holding an open knife, Debolt allegedly approached and threatened to kill a person at Winn Dixie, 38901 C.R. 54. The victim was reportedly placed in fear for their life. Witnesses observed the incident that reportedly occurred at 11:25 a.m. A pocket knife was recovered when Debolt was arrested.



Nikkole Elizabeth O'Brien, 27, of 7335 Ryman Loop, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 30 and charged with driving while license suspended or revoked and possession of methamphetamine. Police stopped a vehicle O'Brien was driving and arrested a passenger, who was the vehicle's registered owner, on an unrelated charge. The owner gave permission for the vehicle to be searched. O'Brien advised before the search began that her belongings were in the back of the vehicle. A purse found in the back seat reportedly contained a glass pipe with white crystalline substance that tested positive for meth. Police learned O'Brien's driver's license was suspended on Aug. 16, 2016.

Joseph Rocky Jenkins Sr., 58, of 6210 Tenth St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 3 and charged with possession of cocaine, possession of paraphernalia and resisting law enforcement without violence. Jenkins was reportedly riding a bicycle against the flow of traffic on North Avenue at 9:52 p.m. and was stopped because his bicycle didn't have an illuminated rear light. Jenkins allegedly fled on foot and disregarded verbal commands to stop running. He was apprehended following a brief foot pursuit. Jenkins spontaneously said, "I thought I had a warrant." A white rock confirmed as cocaine and a glass pipe containing confirmed cocaine residue were reportedly found inside a plastic baggie inside Jenkins' left pocket.



Sherwane Renee Baker, 23, of 14142 Wilson St., Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 3 and charged with possession of methamphetamine. Police stopped a 2016 Chrysler 200 for driving 50 mph in a 30 mph zone on U.S. 301. A strong odor of marijuana was reportedly detected emanating from within the interior of the vehicle. Baker removed a black fanny pack and left it on the front passenger seat when she and the driver were asked to get out of the vehicle. A hand



search was conducted following a K-9 sniff of the exterior of the vehicle. One and one-half pills were reportedly found inside the fanny pack. The pill tested positive for ecstasy/methamphetamine. Post Miranda, Baker said the fanny pack belonged to her but she had no idea what was inside it and said her younger sister was using it earlier in the day. She denied the pill belonged to her.

Savannah Sianne Cramer, 20, of 14907 Willowbrook Drive, Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 3 and charged with possession of controlled substance without a prescription and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Police stopped a 2012 Chevrolet on Eiland Boulevard for an equipment violation – non-operational license plate light. A hard search was conducted after a K-9 conducted an exterior sniff of the vehicle. Police found .81 grams of confirmed marijuana on the passenger side floorboard. Cramer was allegedly in possession of half of a pill positively identified as Alprazolam. Post Miranda, Cramer admitted the marijuana belonged to her. She also said she knew the Alprazolam was in the center console but denied it belonged to her.



Jamal Rakeem Sampson, 27, of 14509 N. 13th St., Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 5 and charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of controlled substance without a prescription. Police stopped a 2015 Kia for allegedly disregarding a stop sign. A strong odor of marijuana was reportedly detected emanating from within the vehicle when police approached it. Nine plastic capsules consistent with marijuana and weighing 30.9 grams were found in the trunk of the vehicle. A white powdery substance positively identified as opiates and oxycodone were found in the vehicle's center console. The total weight of the recovered illegal narcotics was 0.51 grams. Post Miranda, Sampson reportedly said the narcotics belonged to him. He also reportedly said he purchases plastic capsules with RX labels on them to make the marijuana appear to be pharmaceutical grade.



Christopher Raymond Holman, 29, of 7818 23rd St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 6 and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. Police made contact with Holman at his residence in reference a complaint of petit retail theft and resisting a merchant, charges for which he was also charged. A single syringe was found in Holman's right cargo pocket and it field-tested positive for trace amounts of meth.



Nicholas James Heinrichs, 34, of Wesley Chapel, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 6 and charged with two counts of possession of controlled substance without a prescription, possession of paraphernalia and violation of probation. Police stopped Heinrichs while he was driving a 2000 Honda because records indicated his license had been suspended on Dec.



6, 2017. Heinrichs was found to be on active felony probation for burglary of a structure/conveyance with special conditions - remain confined to approved residence and submit to search. A black bag found in the front passenger seat of the vehicle reportedly contained a capped syringe with white residue positively identified as morphine. A blue tablet positively identified as Alprazolam was found inside a second bag in the front passenger seat. Post Miranda, Heinrichs denied owning the drugs but told police the bag belonged to a friend of his who is known for meth and pills.

Nicole M. Lindsey, 41, of 6249 Maise Road, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 5 and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of controlled substance without a prescription and possession of paraphernalia. Police responded to 7317 Gall Blvd. regarding a welfare check. Lindsey told police she was waiting for a friend who was grocery shopping. She gave permission to be searched and police found a glass narcotics pipe in her left front pocket containing a trace amount of confirmed meth. Three loose pills found in her right front pocket were positively identified as oxycodone hydrochloride. Lindsey reportedly told police post Miranda she was prescribed to take oxycodone but didn't have the prescription on her. She said the narcotics pipe didn't belong to her and that a friend had gave it to her.



Molly Hannah Adams, 25, of 7955 Merchantville Circle, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 4 at Family Dollar, 5919 Gall Blvd., and charged with retail petit theft and three counts of possession of a legend drug without a prescription. Police responded to the store regarding a shoplifting complaint. Adams was allegedly observed concealing a pair of headphones valued at \$5 in her back pocket and leaving the store without paying for it. Police made contact with her while she was seated in a Dodge Durango in the parking lot. A strong odor of marijuana was reportedly emanating from the vehicle. The vehicle's registered owner gave permission for it to be searched. Prescription medications with Adams' name on them were found inside a red backpack that was inside the vehicle. Alprazolam, oxycodone and clindamycin pills were reportedly found inside the vehicle. Post Miranda, Adams reportedly told police she had prescriptions for the alprazolam and oxycodone but didn't have the prescriptions on her. Adams said she didn't know who owned the clindamycin pills. She admitted she removed the headphones from their packaging but said she didn't take them with her.



Zdenka Polanska, 51, of Tampa, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 2 and charged with retail theft. Polanska allegedly concealed three items valued at \$39.98 on her person while inside Bealls, 7425 Gall Blvd., and left the store without paying for them. A loss prevention employee escorted her back into the store and the items were recovered. Post Miranda, she admitted to having taken all three items.

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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Man Charged With Three Felonies

Accused Of Groping, Sharing Meth With Runaway, 14

Staff Report

Keith Cannon Keller, 41, whose history includes five felony charges picked up three more on Monday when he was arrested for smoking meth and groping a 14-year-old runaway.



Keller

Keller, of 4604 Ryals Road, was charged with lewd and lascivious molestation of a victim under the age of 15 by a person over the age of 18; delivery of drug paraphernalia to a minor; and human trafficking of a victim under the age of 18.

Pasco Sheriff's Office released a statement regarding what search warrants revealed inside Keller's residence, as well as video footage of the man smoking a substance in a glass pipe with the girl. Keller then allegedly began groping her before she refused his advances.

The victim admitted smoking meth with the Zephyrhills man.

Keller's previous felony arrests include being a felon in possession of a firearm; two charges of possession of methamphetamine; possession of methamphetamine for sale; and possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance.

Fourth Factor Sought For State's Economy

Senator Says Manufacturing Jobs Play Important Role

by Joe Potter



Wilton Simpson

Florida's economy is currently based on tourism, agriculture and construction, state Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, said recently. "We lose tourism and construction when hurricanes hit Florida." Simpson's remarks came during a May 3 meeting of the Zephyrhills Rotary Club.

"An effort is now being made to add

manufacturing as a fourth component to Florida's economy. Some deep-water ports have been developed and the laws have been changed to make Florida more attractive for manufacturing jobs.

"They are generally better paying jobs and attract other jobs," Simpson said.

Simpson represents District 10 which includes all of Citrus and Hernando counties and part of Pasco County. He will be president-elect of the Senate if he wins another two-year term in the Nov. 6 general election.

According to the Florida Chamber of Commerce manufacturing contributes

\$40 billion to Florida's annual economy.

A reduction in the amount of sales tax businesses must pay to lease commercial property – the Business Retail Tax – was included in HB 7087, which was approved during the 2018 legislative session that ended March 11.

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, businesses will pay 5.7 percent in BRT, compared to the current 5.8 percent. This follows a reduction of the rate from 6 percent to 5.8 that occurred during the 2017 session.

The cut will provide approximately \$31 million in savings according to the floridatwatch.org website.

Workshops To Focus On U.S. 301 Corridor

Pasco County Planning and Development is hosting public workshops to discuss the overall vision for the U.S. 301 corridor. Each workshop will include a presentation of the draft U.S. 301 Model Development Code, which focuses on developing a set of standards for how future development will look along a 5.5 mile stretch of U.S. 301 from Zephyrhills to Dade City.

Two workshops will be held as follows:

- May 23 from 6-8 p.m. at Dade City Historic Courthouse, 37918 Meridian Ave., Dade City
- June 1 from 6-8 p.m. at Zephyrhills Alice Hall Community

Center, 38116 Fifth Ave., Zephyrhills

Attend to share your thoughts on what you'd like to see along the U.S. 301 corridor. The U.S. 301 Model Development Code aims to acknowledge and protect the unique nature and distinct rural quality of this corridor. The initiative is a collaboration among Pasco County, Dade City and the City of Zephyrhills.

Visit bit.ly/2rBvD7y to see the Phase 1: U.S. 301 Corridor Land Use Vision and Transportation Strategy Report.

Visit the project website at bit.ly/2rqLaq1 for information about the U.S. 301 Model Development Code.

Openings On Pasco's Planning Commission

Pasco County is looking for volunteers to join the Planning Commission. Candidates will represent diverse knowledge and expertise in engineering, planning, real estate, surveying, property management, architecture, construction and other related fields. Applications are being accepted through June 10.

Planning Commission members review and make recommendations to

the Pasco Board of County Commissioners on proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Zoning Amendments, Conditional Use Permit Applications, Development Orders, Development Agreements, Operating Permits and other development applications.

Visit bit.ly/2G3IqUH for information about Pasco Planning and Development.

The BCC plans to appoint six members to the Planning Commission

and the Pasco County School Board will appoint one member.

Planning Commission meetings will generally be held twice a month on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. Meeting locations will alternate between Dade City and New Port Richey.

Visit bit.ly/2hMXfkD for more information about Pasco Planning and Development.

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East Pasco Events

May 17 – Medicare Questions Answered – A SHINE Volunteer will be available to answer Medicare questions at 11 a.m. at the New River Library, 34043 S.R. 54. Call (813) 788-6375 for information.

May 17 – Everyday Stress Busters – Mindfulness and meditation no cost options for stress. Held from 2-3 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills' Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Reservations required. Call (813) 779-6476 for information.

May 17 – Teen Advisory Board – Held from 6-6:30 p.m. at New River Library, 34043 S.R. 54. Get volunteer hours for scholarships and school clubs by attending the Teen Advisory Meetings. TAB members help to plan and run teen library programs. This program is for grades 6-12. Call the library at (813) 788-6375 for information.

May 17 – Lunch and Learn with Moffitt – Held from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St. February's topic: Skin Cancer. Learn about food choices, exercise, and simple ways to make lifestyle changes to reduce the risk of cancer and other diseases. Call (813) 780-0064 to register.

May 18 – AARP Driver Safety – Held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St. Refresh your driving skills with AARP's Smart Driver Course. There are no tests and you could receive an insurance discount. Workshop fee \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members. Call Bev Cogdill at (813) 907-3908 to register.

May 19 – Woofstock – The fourth annual event will be held at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Entrance fee is \$5 with proceeds benefitting sick and injured dogs and cats in Pasco. Children 10 and under are free. The event will feature pet adoptions, food trucks, music and more. Bring the whole family.

May 19 – Essential Oils for Babies and Children – Join us to learn how to safely incorporate essential oils for the little ones in our lives. This free class will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave. A free raffle will also be featured. Call Marti at (813) 399-4467 or Deanna at (813) 479-7724 for information.

May 24 – My Story – Meet Creation Health Wellness Center's life coach Veronique Polo and she will share her story of how God brought her through the hardest period of her life. Held from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at 38233 Daughtery Road. Reservations required. Call (813) 779-6476 for information.

May 25 – Senior Cinema – Held 2-4:30 p.m. at New River Library, 34043 S.R. 54. The library will be showing a different movie each month. Call the library at (813) 788-6375 for information and movie details.

May 26 – Summer Breakfast – Held 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at New River Library, 34043 S.R. 54. Celebrate the end of the school year. Join us for a start of summer breakfast. We'll have waffles (with lots of toppings), fruit, pastries and juice. Call the library at (813) 788-6375 for information

May 26 – Children's Popcorn and Movie – Held 2-4 p.m. at New River Library, 34043 S.R. 54. Join us for a family-friendly film. Popcorn and refreshments courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Call the library at (813) 788-6375 for information and movie details.

May 26 – Cooking With Fresh, Organic Veggies – Watch a premier chef prepare vegetables grown on a local farm. This free class will be held from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave. A free raffle will also be featured. Call (813) 715-0662 for information.

May 28 – Gulfside Thrift Shoppes Open – New this year, the Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppes will be open for shopping on Memorial Day. To celebrate the holiday, the stores will be offering 25 percent off storewide at all six locations from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Proceeds from the Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppes support care for hospice patients in Pasco. Located at 36524 S.R. 54 and 36504 S.R. 54. Call (813) 788-5461 for information.

May 29 – Essential Oils for Stress and Emotional Upheaval – Stressed out? Emotions out of control? Then this is the perfect class for you. This free class will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave. A free raffle will also be featured. Call Marti at (813) 399-4467 or Deanna at (813) 479-7724 for information.

June 2 – Rain Harvesting Workshop – Rain barrels can help reduce water pollution. Come to this UF/IFAS Pasco Extension workshop and learn how. Pre-Registration at Eventbrite and \$40 pre-payment required. No refunds available. Pasco County residents only. Held from 9-10:30 a.m. in the Stallings Building, 15029 14th St. in Dade City. Call (352) 518-0156 for information.

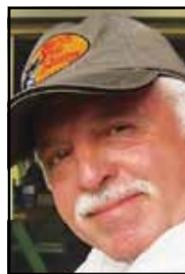
June 9 – Building and Caring for Home Terrariums – This free UF/IFAS Pasco Extension workshop will show the steps and procedure for planting and caring for a terrarium as well as several examples of containers, plants and how to solve problems with terrariums. Registration required at Eventbrite. Held 10-11 a.m. at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. Call (352) 518-0156 for information. Hosted by Pasco County Animal Services.

June 9 – Rummage and Yard Sale – Stop by the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. for the inaugural rummage and yard sale. Clean out those closets, garages and sheds and rent a space for \$20. Bring your own table or display. Limited six-foot tables are available to rent for \$7 each. Contact bminton053@gmail.com or visit pioneerfloridamuseum.org for information.

June 21 – Sippin' with Sunrise – Support Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic and Sexual Violence Center by attending a wine tasting event at Covington Farm, 36222 Covington Road in Dade City, from 6-8:30 p.m. Food, craft beer and vendors will also be featured. General admission is \$40 and \$75 for a pair. VIP tickets are \$55 and \$100 for a pair. Visit sunriseasco.org or call (352) 521-3358 for tickets and information.

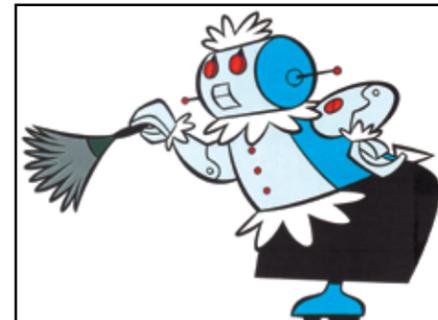
For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First



New Item Left Us Positively Floored

My wife and I have our iPhones set up so whenever we order something we get text messages about when the item has been ordered, picked up for shipping and status updates on when we can expect the item to arrive. Ultimately, the final text comes when the item is left in the mailbox or at the front door. It's a pretty cool thing but last week we got a surprise.

Jenny and I kept getting notices that something was being shipped to our home but neither one of us had a clue as to what it was. After a couple of days Jenny called and said a large box arrived from Amazon with her name on it. When the mail carrier brought it to the front door the mystery continued.

After Jenny opened the box she was staring at a device called a Roomba, sent to her as a Mother's Day/birthday gift from our daughter, Kristen.

For those of you who don't know a Roomba, manufactured by iRobot, is a robotic vacuum cleaner that first hit the market in 2002. For years I looked at them but didn't want to spend the money. I figured this robot couldn't possibly take the place of an upright vacuum cleaner.

Boy, was I wrong.

After only a week it is one of those things you wonder how you ever got by without it. The one Jenny has can be controlled by her phone or just by telling Amazon Alexa what you want the cleaner to do. After the command is

given the machine goes to work.

The Roomba is autonomous and knows where it is going and where it has been. It takes about a week for it to learn the environment it's in and has several built in sensors, which can even detect dirty spots on the floor. The sensors can also detect if it is coming to a ledge or stairs and steers clear of them. The machine is capable of turning 360 degrees whenever it wants. The pattern varies according to how quickly 'she' learns the house. We keep a clean house but after the first day of a complete cleaning (about an hour) we checked the cleaning tray and it found stuff you would have never expected. It can go places the upright vacuum would never be able to visit without moving a whole bunch of stuff. With special rotating brushes it can reach under low items like sofas and chairs with only an inch or two of clearance.

The neat thing is when the task is complete it returns to its home base and plugs itself back into the charger. It can send a text message should it run into trouble or need some help. Oh, it even stays clear of our dog's food and water dish. After only a week Pooh hardly pays any attention to it anymore but I think he sleeps with one eye open just in case.

Jenny and I have talked about hiring a housekeeper but maybe I can stall for another year. Who knows, with modern technology there could really be a maid like Rosie from the 1960's TV show "The Jetson's" coming soon. She was a great housekeeper and even had an attitude.

Keep watching for that package, honey. You never know what's next.

Farm-To-Table Summer Youth Camp

Children are invited to sign up for the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Farm-to-Table Summer Youth Camp. Kids will learn how to grow their own food, the importance of attaining fruits and vegetables in their diet, and how to conserve water.

The camp will feature hands-on activities in the classroom, paired with interactive lessons in the garden. Daily science experiments like how to make/use a solar oven to dehydrate food will be taught.

The youth camp will be held June

4-8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pasco County Farmden and Community Garden building at 15029 14th St.

Each day, participants will harvest vegetables from the garden and prepare their own healthy snack. Lunch will also be provided by Summer BreakSpot. Participants must bring a hat, sunscreen and wear closed-toed shoes.

Register online at bit.ly/farm2tablesummer. Cost is \$25 per participant. Space limited to 20 so register now. Call (352) 521-1255 for information.

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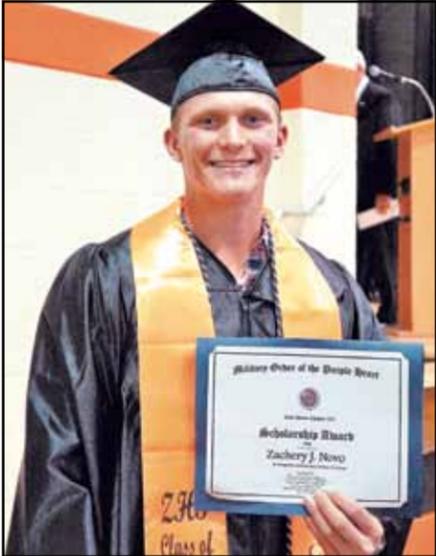
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Funds • Continued from Page 1A

scholarship alone is a \$13,000 scholarship," said Simons. "That is to be used over four years, so it's about \$3,500 a year so long as they maintain an acceptable GPA."

Adorned in graduation regalia, students made their way to the stage to receive scholarships from such providers as the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, the Daybreak Rotary, the Zephyrhills Historical Association, and many others. Some students made several trips to the stage; including Annica Morgan



Zachery Novo was this year's recipient of the Military Order of the Purple Heart award.

who took home more than 10 scholarships of various amounts.

"It feels so rewarding. I put a lot of hard work, time, and dedication into my schooling," Morgan said. "It's so fulfilling and refreshing to see that all of these people see potential in me and are kind enough to recognize it."

David Stoner was one of the recipients of the Withlacoochee River Electric scholarships. He's looking forward to using the funds to help him complete his A.A. degree at Pasco Hernando State College before continuing his studies in electrical engineering at the University of South Florida.

"The [Withlacoochee River Electric] scholarship will take the place of a lot of student loans that I would have needed to take out," said Stoner.

Following the ceremony, the students were also presented with several school awards, including those in the fields of math, science and social studies, as well as outstanding senior awards.

"I love being able to call attention to our star students," said Simons. "It's important to us to tell everyone about what these students will do after they leave ZHS and about all of the great things that they've done since they started here."

While the ceremony was quite a joyous event, it also proved to be a bit bittersweet. Many of the seniors will be leaving with fond memories of Zephyrhills High School and are finding it hard to say goodbye.

"There's a lot of memories that I've



Withlacoochee River Electric scholarship recipients Megan Heath and David Stoner join scholarship presenter Anna Poe.

made here," Stoner said. "There's a lot of people in my class that I'm going to miss."

"I've spent so much time here. Moving on is going to be a bit of a change," said

Morgan, who will be pursuing a nursing degree at USF. "I'm so thankful to have been able to attend ZHS and to have met the people that I have."



Annica Morgan, pictured with Cliff McDuffie, received more than ten scholarships that evening. She will be graduating Magna Cum Laude.



Looking like they just won a game show, Kaitlyn Day and Katharine Ayers each received a scholarship from the Sean Bartell Memorial Foundation.

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Relay • Continued from Page 1A

Despite Gibson's initial fears after the shaky start, this year's main event proved to be just as grand as those in the past. More than half of the pre-registered 45 teams from across the area turned out with booths and activities befitting the theme "Cancer is No Game." Teams provided large-scale versions of popular games, including Monopoly, Connect Four, and Florida Hospital Dade City's version of Pictionary.

"I love the meaning behind the Relay for Life," said Jennifer Prater, a member of the FHDC team. "Seeing



Several luminaria lined the event site. Each one was decorated with motivational words or well wishes from various team members. Each one was lit prior to the closing ceremonies.



Following the opening ceremony, a proud group of cancer survivors and caregivers took to the track for the first lap of the day.

the money go to such a good cause is my favorite part."

While Prater and her team have been participating in the Relay for several years now, this was the first Relay for Life event for some, such as the staff from K & K Glass in Zephyrhills.

"This is a fantastic event," said K & K Glass Marketing Director Shilo Coleman. "Just seeing all of the survivors and the people that are cheering them on is just really nice. It's a great organization and we are happy to be a part of it."

After survivors took their traditional first lap around the track, different themed laps took place every half hour. If they weren't taking a lap, participants were engaging in games, raffles, or munching on tasty snacks, or delighting in the survivor's dinner featuring a variety of dishes provided by Pasco eateries.

The day concluded at 10 p.m. with a dance party

and a victory lap. Gibson hopes that next year's Relay for Life will be bigger and better.

"Next year we're hoping that we can have the Relay back to being an overnight event," Gibson said. "We'd like to have it earlier in the year and bring it back to the more traditional style Relay that everyone is used to."

From the time teams first began their initial fundraising efforts in September until now, the Relay for Life has raised about \$46,000. Gibson is thrilled with this year's success and hopes that every cent will help the American Cancer Society get another step closer to its ultimate goal of putting an end to cancer once and for all.

"To go from not even having started planning this event until January to having an event in the middle of May that has been this successful is so much beyond what I could have hoped for."

Ordinance • Continued from Page 1A

pets. Mooney, who was also cited for having her pig, "Meatball," said there are roughly 20 other pet pig owners in the city.

Both pets live indoors, are house broken and are as compatible as dogs and cats, according to their owners.

"If there are 20 pigs here, they must not be a problem. We haven't had any complaints about them," City Manager Steve Spina said. "We probably get more about barking dogs and chickens."

Speaking in defense of the pigs was Alana Rogers of the Pig Advocate League, who presented an ordinance from Hillsborough County that permits potbellied and mini pigs as pets.

"This is the second time this has come to us in the last month," said council president Lance Smith. "I'm not really sure why we have an ordinance written

the way it is. If it is something the council would like to revisit, they have that option."

Spina reported that the ordinance pre-dates everyone on council and the administrative staff.

"It was a consideration then that domestic pets were cats and dogs," Spina said. "We kind of stumble across this pig and Lucky. We weren't looking for them."

Mooney said mini pigs are bred specifically to be domestic pets.

"We're still a relatively rural small town," Spina added. "My opinion is if you want to have those kind of pets, you should consider living in the country or in the county. If you would like us to pull the ordinance and look at it, we would do that."

Councilman Charlie Proctor, a proud

pet owner, said he wouldn't give up his pets for anything. He recommended having the ordinance reviewed, but the city needs to tread cautiously.

"I wouldn't mind reviewing the ordinance, but I think we have to be very careful," Proctor said. "Next thing you know people will be wanting us to allow them to have a lamb, or a sheep or a donkey. You're going to open the door."

Councilman Alan Knight commended Mooney for her enthusiasm in trying to keep her pet.

"It is an ordinance and the only way to allow it is to go back and look and readdress it and I'm in favor of it," he said.

Squeals of joy were heard in response to the unanimous decision by council to have staff review the ordinance and offer

a revised one to review at the June 11 meeting. There are no guarantees that any changes will be made but it does give Ebling and Mooney a temporary reprieve.

Mooney said she purchased Meatball more than a year ago from Rural King and the small swine has grown to 65 pounds and will reach roughly 100 pounds while standing just 14 inches tall and 30 inches long.

She was cited last week and had until Thursday to remove him from the premises. Ebling was offered a few extra weeks to find a new home for her and Lucky as she planned to move from the city rather than give up what she considers her pet.

But at least for now neither animal has to move from the city that boasts the Pigz in Zhills BBQ and Blues festival.

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Shark Week Makes A Splash

Residents Sink Their Teeth Into Big Project

by Emily Kochanski

The staff of American House provides countless daily events and activities to ensure their residents are always entertained and stay sharp.

The activities the residents seem to enjoy the most are those that bring them closer as a family and a recent arts and crafts project turned into a unique act of kindness for one resident and her family.

Longtime American House resident Christine Douglas is a big fan of the professional all-female football team the New York Sharks. Douglas' daughter, Andra, is the team's founder and owner. "Andra used to play for the Sharks

as a quarterback," said Douglas. "She played for a long time before she bought the team. She assembled them, so it already belonged to her anyway, in a sense. Then she decided not to play and just to manage."

The team has been playing for 19 seasons, making it the longest running women's tackle football team in the world.

While visiting her mother recently, Andra took notice of an art project the residents were preparing to take part in – crafting cardboard sharks from discarded paper towel tubes. She instantly fell in love with the creation and it sparked a clever idea by Debbie Kern Bond, American House's Life



Christine Douglas is lovingly known to her fellow residents and American House staff as 'Grandma Shark'.

Photo by Emily Kochanski



Residents created 60 of the silly sharks. Most were sent back to New York with Andra Douglas, but a few were kept at American House as mementos.

Photo provided by Debbie Kern Bond

Enrichment Director.

"I didn't know at that time that [Andra] had a football team," said Kern Bond. "Then I looked into it and I said 'you know what? Let's make you guys little mascots for each team member.'"

Douglas and Kern Bond asked residents to bring in their empty paper towel rolls and, after amassing enough materials, they and a team of almost 40 residents got to work creating the sharks. The project took about two weeks.

"The hardest thing about making them was the teeth," said Douglas. "The Styrofoam wasn't always easy to work

with and the teeth were so tiny."

Douglas and the residents had an absolute blast creating these cardboard critters. In total, the residents assembled about 60 sharks.

"We sent about 50 of the sharks home with Andra," said Kern Bond. "Forty-seven for the team members and a couple extra for the management."

Kern Bond and the residents are eagerly awaiting word from Andra about how the players are liking their new mascots. To learn more about the New York Sharks visit their official website at nysharksfootball.com.

Honors Students Recognized By Citizens Concerned For Students

Hundreds Of African-Americans In The Spotlight

Staff Report

Close to 2,000 Pasco County students were recognized in a Saturday ceremony for achieving exceptional grades.

The awards ceremony, known as Honor Day, was held at the Pasco Schools Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel.

Hosted by Citizens Concerned for Students, the annual

event recognizes public middle and high school African-American students who have earned the Honor Roll at least once during the current school year.

East Pasco was well represented as about 300 students from local schools being honored for their academics. Representing the area were: 72 students from Zephyrhills High School, 70 students from Raymond B. Stewart Middle School, 25 students from Centennial Middle School, 82 students from Pasco High School, 39 students from Pasco Middle School, eight students from Academy at the Farm, and three students from James

Irvin Education Center.

Before the awards ceremony, a college and career fair was held featuring school and career resources including Florida State University, Pasco Hernando State College, the United States Coast Guard, St. Petersburg College and others.

Citizens Concerned for Students was organized more than 30 years ago with the primary purpose of encouraging African-American students to excel academically. Visit www.HonorDayPasco.org for information on the organization.

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Jill Knorr of Zephyrhills and Patrice Hanner of Dade City cut a section of 'all-thread' to reinforce the walls of the new building on Roosevelt Avenue in Dade City.



Debi Baboolall of Tampa is the sister of one of the prospective Habitat homeowners, and came to assist in the construction of the home. Photos by Richard K. Riley

National Women Build Week Celebrated

by Keri McAlpine

Although a two-day Women Build event was held in March, a separate one-day event was held on Friday in honor of National Women Build Week. The national event is always held Mother's Day weekend and invites women and volunteers to give their time and efforts to help out a family in need.

The event was held at a Dade City build site on Roosevelt Avenue, where two neighboring houses are being constructed, said Jere Ferguson, director of volunteer services for Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco County. Friday's crew of 58 volunteers worked on securing OSB sheathing on the exterior of the home, as well as installing hurricane foundational support clips and straps on the interior.

Volunteers are always needed at Habitat to work at build sites and in the organizations Restore locations, which helps raise funds for construction.

Ferguson said Habitat is expecting to build somewhere between five and six houses next year and encourages interested participants to reach out.

Visit www.ephahabitat.org/main for information on Habitat and how to volunteer.



The Habitat for Humanity National Women Build Week 2018 was sponsored by Lowe's and included enthusiastic builders from across east Pasco County.

Hospital's Baby Place Attains Safe Sleep Certification

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills has been recognized by the National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program as a Silver Leader for its commitment to best practices and education on infant safe sleep. Florida Hospital Zephyrhills is the first hospital in the state to achieve this title.

The Baby Place at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills was formerly bronze certified

for safe sleep, but through the staff's diligence the unit has advanced to the next level.

"The final and highest infant safe sleep certification is gold and we're already setting goals to reach that level," said Gwen Alonso, RN, Chief Nursing Officer.

Designation as a Silver Certified Safe Sleep Hospital involves developing and maintaining a safe sleep policy; ensuring

that staff caring for patients up to one-year-old successfully undergo infant safe sleep training; providing safe sleep education to the infant's parents prior to discharge; making use of wearable blankets; and recording progress and reporting successes to the National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program.

Unfortunately, sleep-related deaths account for the loss of more than 3,500

infants annually in the United States, according to Michael Goodstein, MD, Neonatologist and Medical Director of Research at Cribs for Kids.

The National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program was created by Cribs for Kids, a Pittsburgh-based organization dedicated to preventing infant, sleep-related deaths due to accidental suffocation.

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