

Congratulations



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Class of 2018

Zephyrhills

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May 24, 2018

There's A New No. 1

Custom Fire Truck Has Everything

Story and photos by Dave Walters



Firefighter/paramedic Billy Jeffries holds a new Jaws of Life that came with the new firetruck which was on display during a city council meeting on Monday.

Residents can feel a bit safer with the addition of state-of-the-art fire-rescue equipment to the city's fire department.

Zephyrhills Fire Rescue took delivery of a new Pierce Saber fire engine built in Sarasota to the exact specifications of the design team at ZFR.

Part of that team, Firefighter/Paramedic Billy Jeffries, gave a tour and presentation to city council members Monday night explaining exactly where every penny of the \$486,000 was spent

Truck • Continued on Page 3A



Creative Souls Cafe'
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June 9th Josh was the original singer in the band Steel Magnolia
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Memorial Day 2018

Various local events for Memorial Day on Monday, May 28.

Zephyrhills

• There will be a Memorial Day ceremony in Oakside Cemetery, 5335 Eighth St., at 11 a.m. Speakers include Mayor Gene Whitfield and state Rep. Danny Burgess. Andy Magy, Commander of The Forty and Eight, will lead the ceremony and Chaplain Navy Chief Corpsman Jim Shultz will present the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. The ceremony will also feature the VFW Post #8154 color guard.

• AMVETS Post #550 will host a BBQ lunch after a small Memorial Day ceremony at about 1 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs and BBQ chicken will be served. Please bring a dish to pass. There is no cover charge and the public is invited to attend. Pure Country Gold will be performing live music starting around 3 p.m. AMVETS is located at 4645 Airport Road. Visit their Facebook or call (813) 780-8180 for more information.

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It's All About The Music, Man

Chester Taylor Students Put On Quite The Show

Story and photos by Emily Kochanski

Seventy-six trombones led the big parade along with a cast of 40 talented actors and a sizeable chorus. The students of Chester Taylor Elementary School breathed new life into a beloved classic on May 21 and 22, with their performance of "The Music Man Jr."

During the course of an hour and a half, the kids had crowds laughing, cheering, and singing along to the show's most memorable numbers. The young thespians wowed with their wit as they recounted the story of Harold Hill, the slick con man who fills the sleepy little town of River City, Iowa, with song.

"When we needed a new music teacher I interviewed Ryan

Show • Continued on Page 5A



The one thing that Harold Hill (Jeffery Walker) wasn't counting on was falling head over heels for Miss Marian the librarian (Abby Bush) in the play 'The Music Man Jr.'

Woofstock Succeeds In New Location

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine



Deven Reyes, 10, feeds a treat to Prince outside of the Tail Wagon adoption vehicle.

Recent rain didn't get in the way of a doggone good time at this year's Woofstock, which welcomed sunny skies and hundreds of happy canines.

The fourth annual event was hosted by Pasco County Animal Services and Friends of Animal Services, Inc. (FPCAS) to raise money for sick and injured dogs and cats at the Pasco County shelter in Land O' Lakes.

"We thought we were going to get rained out today so it's really been wonderful that the weather has cooperated as well as it has," said Darelene Greene, treasurer for FPCAS.

Although a total of funds raised was not calculated by press time, Rachel

Woofstock • Continued on Page 8A

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Possession Of Stolen Firearm Puts Duo In Cuffs

Erykah Mackenzie Hawkins, 21, and Daron Antion Kennedy, 19, of Dade City, were arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 10 on charges of possession of marijuana with intent to sell and grand theft of a firearm. Police made contact with Hawkins



Hawkins

Kennedy

and her passenger after pulling her vehicle over for running a stop sign. Upon approaching the vehicle, a strong odor of marijuana could be detected. A hand search of the vehicle revealed a black backpack on the rear passenger seat containing a green leafy substance that field tested positive for marijuana and weighed 297.7 grams. A black Ruger .22 semi-automatic pistol was also recovered from the backpack and a check revealed the weapon to be stolen out of Pasco County. A witness stated that Kennedy asked Hawkins not to pull over the vehicle when the police arrived so he could dispose of the backpack. The two denied knowledge of any of the illegal contraband.

Christina Renea Brady, 34, of 5518 11th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 13 on a charge of simple domestic battery. Brady allegedly grabbed the victim by his shirt and shoved him to the ground. While interviewing Brady police determined her to be intoxicated. A 9-year-old child was also interviewed who claimed to have heard the physical altercation but did not witness it. Post Miranda, Brady denied that anything happened.



Chase Moriarty Gaskins, 25, of 38044 12th Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 11 on a Florida Department of Corrections warrant for violation of probation – grand theft. Gaskins was riding as a passenger in a 2013 black Mazda that was stopped for not using its headlights. A check yielded Gaskins on a felony probation as well as a curfew from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. In violation of his curfew, Gaskins was placed under arrest.



Cody Sterling Bearry, 30, of Brooksville, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 11 on charges of petit theft, possession of paraphernalia, and possession of methamphetamine. Contact was made with Bearry at Dogwood Street and 11th Avenue. He was placed under arrest after a check confirmed a Pasco County warrant for the theft charge. A search of Bearry's person found two plastic bag-

gies containing a white crystal-like substance that field tested positive for methamphetamine. A search of Bearry's bags unveiled a spoon with white residue that field tested positive for Oxycodone. Post Miranda, Bearry admitted to knowing that he had the drugs on his person.

Christopher Edwin Wilson, 23, transient, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 12 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and on a Pasco County warrant for failure to register as a sex offender. Wilson's vehicle was stopped for driving 48 mph in a posted 30-mph zone. A canine was requested for an exterior search of the vehicle while a hand search revealed a vial containing a brown liquid in the vehicle's center console. The liquid field tested positive for Cannabidiol. A computerized check also revealed a Brevard County warrant for Wilson's failure to register as a sex offender. Wilson was placed under arrest after the warrant was confirmed and post Miranda said he wished to speak with a lawyer.



Marci Leeann Holt, 21, of Plant City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 10 on a charge of possession of marijuana. Police made contact with Holt after pulling her vehicle over for running a stop sign. She spontaneously stated she was in possession of a small amount of marijuana. A hand search of the vehicle revealed a clear plastic bag containing a green leafy substance in the vehicle's center console. The substance field tested positive for marijuana and weighed 6.26 grams. Post Miranda, Holt explained that the marijuana belonged to her and that she smokes it for depression.

Michael Jerome Gibson, 28, transient, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 9 on a charge of trespassing and on a Pasco County warrant for violation of a domestic violence injunction. Police made contact with Gibson in the 38000 block of Winter Drive and a records check revealed he was previously trespassed from the premises in January. The victim stated she did not invite Gibson onto the premises and that he was not welcome on the premises. A records check revealed Gibson had an active warrant for a DVI violation. Gibson was placed under arrest after the warrant was confirmed and transported to Florida Hospital Zephyrhills for medical clearance before being transported to the Pasco County jail.

Rogelio Rivera, 48, of Orlando, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 5 on a charge of driving under the influence resulting in no damage, injury, or death. Police conducted a traffic stop of Rivera's vehicle for a damaged right tail light at 12th Street and North Avenue. Police made contact with Rivera who had bloodshot, watery eyes and a strong odor of alcohol on his breath. Rivera consented to a field sobriety test and performed poorly on all four evaluations. Rivera was then placed under arrest and refused any breath or urine tests. Post Miranda, Rivera advised that he wished to speak but did not provide any further information.



Dorothy Lillian Orlando, 58, of 39221 Park Place Circle, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 7 on four counts of possession of a controlled substance without a

prescription and possession of methamphetamine. While conducting surveillance for narcotics activity, Orlando's vehicle was allegedly seen leaving the premises on 16th Street and later pulled over after she failed to maintain driving in a single lane. Police made contact with Orlando who advised she takes pain medication for Leukemia. She consented to a search after spontaneously advising that she had pain medication in a container in her pocket. A search of the container yielded several pills that drugs.com revealed to be Morphine Sulfate, Amphetamine, Dextroamphetamine, and Diazepam. A Suboxone 8 mg strip was found inside a plastic baggie in Orlando's wallet and a baggie containing a crystallized substance was found in her purse. The substance field tested positive for methamphetamine. Post Miranda, Orlando claimed that the methamphetamine was not hers and could not provide a valid prescription for the other drugs.

Levi James Davis, 23, of Wesley Chapel, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 9 on Pasco County warrant for failure to appear – minimum housing. Police made contact with Davis during a traffic stop at Eight Street and Twelfth Street. The warrant was confirmed and Davis was placed under arrest. He was transported to the Zephyrhills Police Department for processing and later released to the Pasco County Sheriff's Office jail.

Bryan John Loucks, 59, of Orlando, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 8 on charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia. Loucks was also wanted for a Pasco County warrant for petit theft, third offense and on a Hillsborough County warrant for violation of probation – possession of a controlled substance. Contact was made with Loucks during a traffic stop for a vehicle with no tag lights at C Avenue and Plum Street. A glass pipe was observed in plain view on the passenger's seat. A field test of residue found on the pipe tested positive for methamphetamine. A plastic bag containing a crystalline substance was also found on the rear passenger's seat and another was found rolled up inside of a drinking straw. The crystalline substance also field tested positive for methamphetamine. Loucks was placed under arrest after the warrants were confirmed. Post Miranda, Loucks admitted to owning the pipe but did not know where the bags came from.



Daniel Santos Morales, 35, of 5611 First St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 11 on a Pasco County warrant for failure to appear – no driver's license. Morales was placed under arrest after the warrant was confirmed. He was taken to the Zephyrhills Police Department for processing before being released to the Pasco County Sheriff's Office at the Land O' Lakes Detention Center.

Demarcus Jerrell Giles, 31, of 4940 Ninth St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 10 on a Pasco County warrant for violation of probation – burglary. Police made contact with Giles at his home. After the warrant was confirmed, Giles was placed under arrest and turned over to the Pasco County Sheriff's Office.

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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Charlie Proctor, Owner

Truck • Continued from Page 1A

on the life-saving vehicle.

“We were able to spend more time at the plant watching step by step,” Jeffries said. “We received photos and updates nearly daily from Pierce. It was a great luxury to be able to put our eyes and our hands on it while it was being built. It gave us a chance to get things tweaked to where we want it.”

An advantage for Zephyrhills Fire Rescue is having the new truck fully equipped with new equipment including battery powered Hurst Tools (Jaws of Life) and battery-power ventilation fans.

The new engine is fully stocked with Emergency Medical Services equipment for all levels of medical emergencies. Nearly every firefighter employed by the city is also a certified paramedic.

Chief Brian Swartout is excited to have the new engine added to the fleet.

“This is huge for us,” Swartout said. “Trucks age and everything gets older and have high maintenance costs. Now we will have this new truck running around and hopefully the costs will be done. We’re real



Zephyrhills Fire Rescue recently purchased a customized fire truck which was displayed for city employees and residents during Monday’s city council meeting.

happy with it.”

The new engine No. 1, which will hit the streets in the coming weeks, replaces a 2003 engine that will remain stocked and used as a backup in the department’s fleet. It will run out of the downtown Zephyrhills station.

“This engine is going to be the

frontrunner, the new standard of equipment for Zephyrhills Fire Rescue,” Jeffries added.

The engine also comes with some locally inspired graphics as each side is adorned with a decal of a fire-fighting Bulldog with the Jaws of Life while sporting the Orange and Black of Zephyrhills High School.

“We took the high school mascot and did some research and the Pierce graphic designers came up with a custom piece just for us,” Jeffries said.



The shiny new truck even pays homage to the Bulldogs of Zephyrhills High School with a custom decal.



Attendees of Monday’s city council meeting line up to inspect the firetruck, which is fully stocked with new equipment.

Volunteer Tax Preparers Needed

Be a part of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), a free income tax preparation service for low to moderate income tax payers sponsored by the United Way and the IRS.

For tax year 2017, VITA served more than 8,500 Pasco residents including 2,100 from east Pasco providing free income tax returns resulting in more than \$7.5 million brought back into the Pasco economy in the form of refunds and credits. No tax experience is required, training is provided, basic computer skills are required and bilingual/Spanish speakers are a plus. Time frame is January-April 15, 2019.

This year in east Pasco VITA had volunteer sites in Dade City, Saint Leo and Zephyrhills. To volunteer for this program, call (727) 835-2023 and a United Way representative will be in touch.

Events • Continued from Page 1A

San Antonio

The City of San Antonio and the Rotary Club of San Antonio will honor all deceased members of the United States military in front of City Hall, 32819 Pennsylvania Ave., at 10 a.m. For your comfort, please bring your lawn chair. Anyone having names of deceased veterans from San Antonio, St. Joseph, and St. Leo is asked to contact City Hall at (352) 588-2127.

Dade City

Members of the American Legion Post #15 will put out flags in the Dade City Cemetery, 38151 Martin Luther King Blvd., to pay tribute to veterans who are no longer with us. Members of Pasco High School’s JROTC program are helping to place the flags at gravesites.

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East Pasco Events

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 24 – Kent Compton Meet and Greet – Meet and chat with Kent Compton, candidate for Pasco County Judge, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Silverado Golf & Country Club, 36841 Clubhouse Drive.

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 1 – Skate for Shoes – Support children in need throughout Pasco County at this benefit skating event. Held at Florida Hospital Center Ice, 3173 Cypress Ridge Blvd., Wesley Chapel, from 3-5 p.m. or 5:30-7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10. Bring a new pair of shoes to donate for free skate rental. Prizes will be raffled. This is an all ages event. Sponsored by Shoes 4 Schools and the Perfect 10 Charity.

June 1 – U.S. 301 Workshop – Held from 6-8 p.m. at Zephyrhills Alice Hall Community Center, 38116 Fifth Ave. Hosted by Pasco County Planning and Development to discuss the overall vision for the U.S. 301

corridor. The workshop will include a presentation of the draft U.S. 301 Model Development Code. This workshop is open to the public.

June 1 – Ribbon Cutting – A ribbon cutting will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Custom Body Therapy, 5032 Seventh St. with the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce.

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 5 – Essential Oils Bingo – Win prizes while learning more about essential oils. This event is free but seating is limited. Held 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at Living Food Bakery, 38201 10th Ave. Call Deanna at (813) 479-7724 for information and to reserve a spot.

June 7 – Get The Benefits You Deserve – Navigating Veterans benefits can seem daunting. Michelangelo Mortello, PA will discuss the types of benefits available and more. This free seminar is open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by calling (813) 400-2263. Held at American House, 38130 Pretty Pond Road.

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.

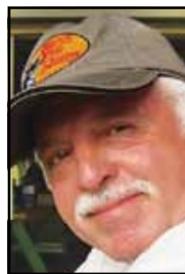
June 9 – Rummage and Yard Sale – Stop by the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. for the inaugural rummage and yard sale. Clean out those closets, garages and sheds and rent a space for \$20. Bring your own table or display. Limited six-foot tables are available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

June 14 – Flag Day Celebration – Celebrate Flag Day at American House, 38130 Pretty Pond Road, from 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Program will feature a flag raising, entertainment, a cookout and refreshments. This event is free and open to the public. Call (813) 400-2263 to RSVP.

June 14 – Bingo at FHZ – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., will continue Bingo throughout the summer in its Creation Café on the first floor. Make reservations to attend from 2-3 p.m. and hear a short presentation on SilverSneakers given by Katy Boyd, Wellness Member Services and Business Supervisor for the hospital's Creation Health Wellness Center. Guests will also be treated to vanilla cake, coffee, and a few games of Bingo for fun prizes. Call (877) 534-3108 to register for this free program.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

Water, Water Everywhere

The month of May is usually one of the driest months of the year. You could pretty much plan ahead to do almost anything outdoors because the chances of rain were at a minimum. As a matter of fact, in 2017 the average was less than half of an inch of rain.

So far, this month has not followed that trend; in May of 2018 the total has already reached several inches with another week to go.

Don't get me wrong, I love rain.

Trying to mow the few weeds popping up here and there before the rains came was not a good idea. There was so much dust I even tried wearing a mask but it was so hot with that thing on I would rather just suffer for a day or two after the job was complete.

When my brother Gary and I were kids growing up here in east Pasco County we always looked forward to the rain. We made skim boards out of plywood and had competitions with some of our friends to see who could go the furthest in one of the many puddles you could find. Mom didn't have any problem with us playing in the rain but if there was any

thunder heard the party was over. When there wasn't any rain, probably in May, we made a slip and slide out of some plastic sheeting. A little bit of water from the hose or sprinkler and we were flying over the grass. We would go headfirst, feetfirst or just try and stand up to see how it would work out. I don't remember anybody really getting hurt. It was great fun.

If you are house hunting or looking for land this will be a good opportunity to drive around to spot any standing water where it shouldn't be. Again, growing up here I have seen homes being built where there were once ponds and lakes where we used to fish as kids. As the years went by those areas have quit retaining any water. Maybe it's because of all the homes being built and the water table dropping. Maybe it's because of some creative site plan work done by some anxious developers trying to get their site plan approved to build more homes.

Maybe it's the same ones who have been involved with the midnight gopher turtle relocation program. Here today and gone tomorrow. It costs a fortune to relocate them legally. In any event, remember to do your homework before spending a dime.

As the rains continue this will be a good test run for Pasco County and local municipalities to see if there are any impending drainage problems in need of attention. I have seen a few areas in the past that needed some work but feel, for the most part, everyone is doing what they can with the available resources.

The problem I see is as the concrete jungle advances on east Pasco it will be a constant battle to figure out where all the water will go.

The native wildlife is probably wondering the exact same thing.

Pasco County Offices To Close For Memorial Day

Pasco County Government offices, including the Constitutional Offices and the Courts, will be closed Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day. All government offices and the Courts will reopen Tuesday, May 29.

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

Pasco County Public Transportation will be closed, and bus services will not run Monday.

The Pasco County Animal Services

Administration Office, Adoption Center, Intake/Reclaim Shelter and Field Services will be closed Monday. An Animal Control Officer will be available for emergencies.

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

All Pasco County Libraries will be closed Monday and will resume regular business hours Tuesday.

The Pasco County Tax Collector's Office will be closed Saturday, May 26, and Monday.

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

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Show • Continued from Page 1A

Bintz,” said Julie Marks, the principal at Chester Taylor. “The passion that he had for bringing drama and music into our school and making the kids love and want to be a part of the music program has just transformed so many of our students.”

Bintz has been with the school for three years now and is a real patron of the arts, especially all things theater. He wanted very much to share that passion with a younger generation.

“The first time I directed ‘The Music Man’ was when I taught private school, and those students were middle school and high school ages,” said Bintz. “I love this show because it’s such a nice, wholesome family show, just the type to try with kids at an elementary age.”

The costumes and sets in “The Music Man Jr.” were eye-catching, colorful and masterfully put together. With such a professional appearance, it’s hard to believe that, as a Title 1 school, this production was not funded. As they have with all shows in the past, Chester Taylor’s students and staff worked diligently to raise all the necessary funds to get the show on its feet.

“We have some donors that have given to us through the Pasco Education Foundation,” Marks said. “We charge two to three dollars for admission and then, when we have other performances, we ask for donations as well.”

According to Bintz, the rights to the show cost around



Harold Hill warns the good townspeople that ‘they’ve got trouble right here in River City!’

\$800 alone. Including the money needed for costume and set materials, they staff raised near \$2,000 total. And to Marks, all their efforts were worth it for the effect this show had on her students.

“I don’t know much about the performing arts, but what I do see is that so many of our children who are quiet or maybe struggle in the classroom are able to get up on that stage and perform with confidence,” said Marks.

“Theater changed my whole life,” Bintz said. “It’s what I’m passionate about and, now, what my students are passionate about. Some of these kids have really come out

of their shells.

With shows like “Annie Jr.,” “Willy Wonka Jr.,” and now “The Music Man Jr.” under his belt, Bintz isn’t sure yet which show will be staged next. But both he and Marks are certain that whatever it is will bring their students, staff, and families much delight. For those who would like to support the musical endeavors at Chester Taylor Elementary, all they need do is swing by the school for more information.



Hill lays on the charm for Eulalie Shinn (Marcella Ensley) and her gaggle of ‘Pick-a-Little’ ladies.



Hill gives young Winthrop Paroo, played by Anthony Ensley, the courage to sing out loud despite his lisp.

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Fri • 8pm-Midnight <i>Anna's Birthday</i> Brian James Band	Sat Noon-4pm Howling Buzz	Sat 8pm-Midnight Freaking Hooligans
--	---------------------------------	---

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ZEPHYRHILLS FREE PRESS *Presents* THE CLASS OF 2018



ZEPHYRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL



Zephyrhills High School's Graduation Ceremony will be Thursday, May 24, 8 p.m., at the University of South Florida Sun Dome

ZHS Valedictorian Is 'Going Japanese'

Salutatorian Aims For International Business

Griffin Gude probably wasn't aware of it at the time but the days he spent as a youth with his grandmother turned out to guide him in the future.

As a boy he would visit his grandmother and they would watch Japanese monster movies, even though neither could read the complex language.

But this coming fall, Gude, the valedictorian of Zephyrhills High School, will enter Florida State University to major in Japanese language in the school's Asian Studies program.

Gude said there probably isn't much he will miss about ZHS, but the number of teachers who influenced him "are too many to count," and was afraid if he started naming them he would inadvertently leave someone out.

"Both my parents work here [at ZHS] so I'll know what's going on at school when I come home to visit," Gude said.

Sadly, there is one thing that stands out for the young man - the number of students who have dropped out of school during his four years at ZHS. He said as each year

passed the Class of 2018 became smaller each year.

His advice to incoming freshmen is, "Don't give up," and stay in school.

Aviana Poole won't be having any grass grow under her feet; she is a busy young woman.

The 2018 ZHS salutatorian finds little free time between schoolwork, volunteerism and visiting her grandmother who is going through rehab.

Oh, and for the past three years she has studied Mandarin Chinese through an online virtual school.

She credits her mother at the foremost person who has influenced her life. At ZHS she had a science teacher, Mr. Heller, who was her favorite instructor.

"However, he moved to Tennessee about two years ago. He was a great teacher; one of the great teachers I had in high school."

In the fall Poole will attend the University of Florida to study International Business.

She offers this advice for incoming freshmen:



2018 ZHS Valedictorian
Griffin Gude



2018 ZHS Salutatorian
Aviana Poole

"Find a support system for themselves. I really believe you should surround yourself with positive people who will motivate you," she said, and those people will help get you through the difficult times, too.

Poole's volunteer work included stints with Habitat For Humanity, Take Stock In Children and Thomas Promise.

She said she will most miss the friends she has made at ZHS, but thanks to social media she will be able to keep in contact with them wherever they are.



2018 ZCA Valedictorian
Mackenzie Kubiak

ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Zephyrhills Christian Academy's Graduation Ceremony will be Friday, May 25, 8 p.m., at the school, 34927 Eiland Blvd.



Sandra Andino
Reed Bailey
Taylor Coates
Nelson Collazo
John DeAugustiono
Beau Fladd
Bobby Gaddis

Cynthia Hernandez
Jordan Hyppolite
Davaris Jackson
Dennie Keldie
Savannah Kilcrease
Trenton Kilcrease
Mackenzie Kubiak

Spencer Kubiak
Lydia Latorre
Evan Miller
Jerry Ortiz
Kylee Ramos
Anthony Rivera
Alonzo Sampson

Calvin Samuel
Andrew Tallagsen
Dwight Thomas
Kelli Weaver

* This is a tentative list of ZCA Graduating Seniors at Zephyrhills Free Press press time. The actual student list of graduates may change by the time of actual graduation. Congratulations to all!

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ZEPHYRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL

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Jenna Adams
Shyhiem Adams
Amy Albertini
Clay Allegretto
Caroline Allen
Kameron Allen
Grant Amrein
John Anderson
Kelly Anderson
Anthony Antoine
Jim Avila Jr.
Antonio Ayala Jr.
Katharine Ayers
Abrianna Barbosa
Nicolette Barnes
Brianna Barriger
Alexa Basile
Cullen Bazzell
Mariah Beiro
Nathaniel Bentley
Bryan Beson
Jeffrey Bolden
Elisabeth Bolt
Henry Bonilla
Chase Booker
Jeffrey Bowman Jr.
Jace Bradford
Marietta Bravo
Justin Brill
Drew Brown
Lauren Burgess
Ryan Burris
Makayla Burton
Samantha Cabrera Beato
Carla Carrasquillo Baez
Myles Carter
Dafne Chavez Martinez
Jacob Chinchar
Gina Clark
Tony Clark Jr.
Devin Cleary
Noah Clemens
Jazmine Clements
Tatyana Cole
Taeler Coleman
Megan Collins
Aarik Collum
Kevyn Connelly
Secelia Contreras
Amanda Cook
Tristan Cooke
Justin Cooksey
Joshua Cox Jr.
John Crawford
Kenneth Criger
Josephine Crociata
Joseph Cross Jr.
Heather Culp
Anthony Dansby
Caitlyn Darling
Logan Daughtry
Samantha Davies

Deborah Davis
Jessica Davison
Kaitlyn Day
Misael Delgado-Abreu
Zachery DeLoreto
Ashley Deltoro
Destiny DeLuca
Steven DeRolf Jr.
Madison Dixon
Jerred Dobbins
Lacy Downs
Timothy Dozier
Andrew Drinkwater
Alexander Dudley
Christopher Dudley
Kayleigh Dunbar
Zane Eddings
Mark Edwards
Kenzi Ennis
Omar Estrada Jaimes
Holly Evenson
Eden Faison
Matthew Farrell
Preshtiny Feliciano
Ceceilia Figueroa
Morgan Fink
Syteria Finklea
John First
Kacey Fisher
Matthew Flores
Zahmya Florez
Caly Fonseca
Olivia Fournier
Rachel Frontera
Ariana Galloso
Avyanna Galyan
Celia Garduno
Kristen Gay
Ryan Gay
Brandon Geiger
Jason Gillett
Nicholas Gleaton
Kendra Glover
Skyla Gomez
Jennifer Gomez-Cerrato
Arturo Gonzalez Jr.
Bailey Gordon
Kayla Gordon
Paul Griffis
Kaylea Griggs
Quentin Gropp
Jessica Guadarrama
Griffin Gude
Kiaraliz Guzman
Cherokee Hagans
Tyson Hall
Kevyn Hancock
Jonathan Haner
Evan Harris
Charles Harrison III
Jazzmen Hatten
Megan Heath
Ninda Helton
Veronyca Helton

Tanner Henderson
Kiersten Herman
Selena Hernandez
Efrain Herrera
Gordon Holden
Tyler Hood
Bethanie Hooks
Brenden Ichimura
Christina Dean
Faith Ishee
Kiara Jackson
Lexie Jackson
Hanna Jaramillo
Katherine Jelinek
Dakota Johnson
Eudaya Johnson
Jessica Johnson
Summer Jones
Maria Joseph
Halee Karppe
Emily Kirkpatrick
Nathan Kline
Richard Kramer
Trenton Krouse
Devin Lacroix
Tamaira Laezza
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Tiffany Larson
Serenity Lawhorne
Vinh Le
Kaitlyn Liles
Sandy Lin
Dionna Lindsey
Ayesha Lisbon
Anthony Lo Presti
Tommy Locke III
Collin Logan
Keywon Logan
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Kimberly Lopez Navedo
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Isaac McConnell
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Deziree McDonald
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Brandi McGee
Jarrett McGray
Caitlin McKee
Judith McLoone
Jodelys Medina

Ryan Medley-Watson
Ross Melquist
Reyna Mendoza
Jordan Metzler
Aniah Meza
Brian Miller
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Raymond Montalvo
Rea'l Moody
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Lynda Relyea
Michael Relyea
Kaleigh Rhoden
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Genna Rich
Kimberly Rivera-Carlo
Caleb Rivera-Wilson
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Krystofer Smith
Bryana Soto
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Savannah Stephens
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Kyle Straussner
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Drew Williams
Kiara Williams
Sterlin Williams Jr.
Amanda Williamson
Nicholas Zirbel

* This is a tentative list of ZHS Graduating Seniors at Zephyrhills Free Press press time. The actual student list of graduates may change by the time of actual graduation. Congratulations to all!

Congratulations

Class of 2018



You Make Us All Proud!



2018 Zephyrhills Scholarship Winners

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

Ceremony Honors 'CeCe' Sharp

Homeless Woman Touched Many Lives

Story and photo by Joe Potter

Braving a Thursday afternoon thunderstorm, 40 people huddled under a pavilion at Zephyr Park to remember Cecelia "CeCe" Sharp.

Sharp, 49, apparently took her own life earlier this month before she was found unconscious and unresponsive at the Eiland Bandstand on the park's west side just after 4 p.m. on May 5. A short time later she was pronounced dead by Zephyrhills Fire Rescue. An official cause of death has yet to be released.

A handwritten suicide note was reportedly found near her body.

The Samaritan Project of Zephyrhills organized the memorial service.

"CeCe spent the last 20 years of her life in some form of floating homelessness. The only family we know of is a brother in Australia," said the Rev. Nick Deford, lead pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene.

"Many factors kept her in and out of different shelters, on couches and porches of friends and basically anyplace she could find shelter," Deford said.

CeCe went to the Samaritan Project on May 4, but the organization was unable to find her someplace to live, said Roxanne

Geisenheimer, Samaritan's executive director.

The day before she died Sharp marked all of her personal belongings as "donations" and left them at the Samaritan Project's office, Geisenheimer said. She noted that a lack of suitable options to house homeless people in east Pasco County played a role in the Samaritan Project being unable to help Sharp.

"She had no problem advocating for herself. In fact, I said that to her last week. I said, 'It impresses me how you don't give up.' Unfortunately, things got too hard. We all found ourselves blaming ourselves. I personally took it very, very hard," Geisenheimer said.

"That's not on you," Deford said regarding Sharp's decision to end her own life.

In her suicide note, "she thanked every single person who had ever helped her and I think we can all learn something from that. Even in her most hopeless, even in her darkest moment, she was still grateful," Geisenheimer said.

Paul Bathrick, an administrative assistant with Samaritan, also expressed sorrow that more couldn't be done for Sharp.



Pastor Nick Deford, second from left, speaks with those attending a memorial service held for Cecelia "CeCe" Sharp at Zephyr Park on May 17.

"The fact that she [ended her life] was because there were no other options around here because people don't want a low barrier shelter in their back yard," Bathrick said. "They think Helping Rock is enough. They think what we have in West Pasco is enough, but it isn't."

Pasco's only east side shelter for homeless people closed in January 2013 when county officials determined the shelter violated zoning ordinances.

A Helping Rock is a transitional housing program situated on a 20-acre wooded parcel off Forbes Road in rural

Zephyrhills.

The R.O.P.E. Shelter in Hudson is for men and women 18 years of age or older and the Pasco Women's Shelter, also in Hudson, is for women and children.

The pastor closed the service by committing CeCe Sharp to God and prayed she had found the rest she was seeking. He also asked for God to find a way for others for whom there seems to be no other way.

Chalet Florists donated the flowers that were used at the service and those who attended were invited to take a flower with them as they left.

Woofstock • Continued from Page 1A

Stever of PCAS said the turnout was great.

"I'm pretty sure we far surpassed how many we had last year as far as attendance," she said Tuesday. "It went very well."

When money is the only thing preventing an animal from having necessary treatment to make them adoptable, Woofstock comes into play. Half of the money raised will go toward medical funds while the



Rizzy takes a break in the shade on Saturday during Woofstock. Rizzy represented Canines for Christ animal-assisted therapy and even had her own business cards to pass out.

remaining will go into a general account for the shelter, Greene said.

This year's event brought in the normal array of pooches who dressed in their park best to welcome as many belly rubs and treats as they could muster.

Prince, an adoptable dog at the shelter, was stationed at the Tail Wagon mobile adoption vehicle and was as happy as could be. His handler said Prince was receiving treats all morning from admirers.

In addition to county services, independent rescue services were on site including Skyway Dachshund Rescue, Skunk Rescue, English Spring Spaniel Rescue, Forgotten Tails Rescue, Cocker Spaniel Rescue and Lab Rescue. Most had adoptable dogs on site to strut their stuff around the event, which was held this year at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park.

The new location didn't provide as much shade as it's previous site, but was just as successful, Greene said.

"It's been going wonderful. We've had a great turnout. We've had a lot of people coming out here to support the shelter," Greene said halfway through Saturday's event.

Vendors selling pet supplies and accessories, local pet services and food were also set up. A vaccine clinic offered discounted vaccines for pet owners, which many were taking advantage of, according to Greene.

Many attendees brought their own lawn chairs to set up shop in the shade and listen to live music performed



Skyway Dachshund Rescue had several hot-dog shaped canines at this year's Woofstock event to help spread the word about the breed.

by local bands Beyond Chaotic, Crossing the Tangent, and Malaya.

The animal shelter in Pasco County is a save-90 percent shelter and tries to save as many animals as possible.

Visit www.FPCAS.org or www.pascocountyfl.net/pas for information on animal services in Pasco County and how to help out the shelter.

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