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Zephyrhills Teen Killed In Armed Carjacking Attempt

Story on page 3A



The rattlesnake show is meant to be educational, teaching about local snakes and what to do when you run into a dangerous one. *Photo Provided*

Snake, Rattle And Roll Out To San Ann

by Keri McAlpine

Despite a brief threat of extinction, everything is set and ready for the San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival this weekend, and its new organizers think it's going to be bigger and better than ever.

The Thomas Promise Foundation took over the planning of the festival earlier this year and is hoping to make it an annual addition to their fundraising events. Thomas Promise executive director Dianna Thomas said the group

Snake • Continued on Page 9A

Zephyrhills

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October 19, 2017

Dogged Determination



Bulldog senior captain Zac Masci leads his team onto the field to face River Ridge before Zephyrhills' 38-35 Class 5A-District 8 victory on Friday.

Bulldogs Win Seesaw Battle Against River Ridge

Story and photos by Dave Walters

Zephyrhills solidified its grip on the district title by rallying with a pair of fourth quarter touchdowns to beat River Ridge 38-35 at Bulldog Stadium.

Bulldog quarterback Charles Harrison III overcame three interceptions in the first half to bring his team back with big plays in the final 10 minutes. The senior signal caller finished the game 15-of-21 for 323 yards in the air and four touchdowns.

"This is definitely the biggest win of my career so far," said Harrison. "The first half, we could have done better. I

Bulldogs • Continued on Page 8A

Hospice Event A Crafty Affair

Local Brewfest Brings Out The Best

Story and photos by Dave Walters

The beer was flowing for a good cause during the inaugural Brewfest benefitting Gulfside Regional Hospice.

Craft brewers, winery representatives and food vendors brought out their best to the Zephyrhills community events venue and all of that was amplified with live music.

"Why not a Brewfest?" said Christina Miller, Gulfside Hospice Fundraising Events Coordinator. "It's October, so we can celebrate Oktoberfest. Zephyrhills doesn't have anything like this, so this is perfect."

Gulfside has a successful similar event on the west side of



Craft brews were on tap at the Gulfside Regional Hospice BrewFest fundraising event on Saturday.

Brewfest • Continued on Page 6A

Food Not The Only Sustenance



Delivery trucks from Make A Difference, Inc. and Feeding Tampa Bay parked in the Lowe's Zephyrhills parking lot on Oct. 12 for a mobile food pantry relief event. *Photo Provided*

Mobile Pantry Feeds, Helps Hundreds

by Keri McAlpine

Last week three east Pasco organizations and businesses came together to support those in need by offering a mobile food pantry and other resources.

Lowe's Zephyrhills, Feeding Tampa Bay and Make A Difference, Inc., brought in trucks with enough food and water to serve more than 200 households.

Food • Continued on Page 5A

INSIDE:

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Pg. 1B - Warriors Cash In On Mistakes
Pg. 3B - Moulton/Barnett State Champs

Pg. 3B - Stewart Unbeaten In Season
Pg. 4B - Boys Golf Takes District Title

Pg. 5B - PeeWee Team Wins District
Pg. 6B - East Pasco 'Dreamers' Find Support

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Man Allegedly Steals Money From Elderly Woman

Michael Lee Jones, 41, of 34842 Redding Lane, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Oct. 12 and charged with exploitation of the elderly – less than \$10,000 and fraudulent use of a credit card. Jones allegedly made seven ATM transactions at Bank of America, 5632 Gall Blvd., between April 11 and May 13. Jones allegedly used the credit card of an 84-year-old person who has short-term memory problems to withdraw \$730 from their checking account. Jones reportedly has a business relationship with the victim whose memory loss makes her incapable of making reasonable decisions regarding her property. Post Miranda, Jones allegedly omitted to having committed the offenses and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Samantha Jade Peterson, 20, of 37643 Church Ave., Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Oct. 9 and charged with armed burglary. Peterson and three co-defendants allegedly broke into room 18 of the Crystal Springs Motor Inn, 6736 Gall Blvd., on Oct. 1 and spent the night there without permission. An employee of the business had prior knowledge of Peterson and the other suspects possibly being in the area. Peterson allegedly pulled a small black semi automatic handgun on the employee who walked into the room and attempted to detain them until law enforcement arrived. All the suspects reportedly fled the

scene. Peterson was later arrested in Dade City. Post Miranda, she reportedly admitted to being in the room and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Lanitra Lashawn Davis, 39, of Tampa, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Oct. 6 and charged with possession of a stolen debit card and fraudulent use of a credit card. Davis allegedly used a credit card stolen from the victim's purse during a vehicle burglary to make two purchases totaling \$143.93 at 7-Eleven, 6512 Gall Blvd. She was reportedly identified via video surveillance and was later located at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Lyndol Scott Dykes, 27, of 6870 Vista Lago Loop, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Oct. 6 and charged with tampering with a witness and domestic battery. Police responded to the address regarding a 911 hang up. The victim told police Dykes, who is her husband, grabbed her arm and snatched the phone from her while she was on 911. She said Dykes then threw the phone down, breaking it. The victim said she and Dykes were in an argument that turned physical when he allegedly grabbed her arm in an attempt to keep her from talking to the 911 operator. Dykes could be heard saying, "everything is a lie" or words to that effect prior to destroying the phone. Dykes reportedly

admitted post Miranda to saying, "everything is a lie" before breaking the phone. Dykes reportedly added he shouldn't have taken the phone and should have walked away. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Cayce Robert Allison, 21, of 39325 Denney Lane, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Oct. 8 and charged with possession of marijuana – less than 20 grams and possession of paraphernalia. Police responded to the 5800 block of Apollo Street at 1:03 p.m. regarding a suspicious person. Allison, who was sitting on the ground behind a residence, told police he was waiting for his friends to wake up. He agreed to be searched. He then spontaneously said there was a glass pipe inside his left front pocket and it might have marijuana residue inside it. A field presumptive test showed the pipe contained trace amounts of marijuana. Allison was released on his own recognizance.

Brian Leroy Miller, 65, of 39952 Stewart Road, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Oct. 7 and charged with domestic assault. Miller allegedly drove to a residence in the 6000 block of Linnett Street and threatened to do great bodily harm to a female victim there. Miller and the victim are married but are legally separated. Miller allegedly stayed inside his vehicle but began arguing with the victim and a witness. He allegedly motioned to grab something inside the vehicle and said he would shoot and kill both of them. The victim was report-

edly placed in fear of her life because she knew Miller owned a firearm and had the means to carry out the threat. A second witness who arrived on scene reportedly heard Miller say he was going to shoot the victim and the first witness. At no point was Miller seen brandishing a firearm. Post Miranda, Miller said he was at the residence requesting to know why the victim had not started the divorce process. He denied having made any threats. Miller was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Corey Nathaniel Gray, 29, of 6118 16th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Oct. 4 and charged with driving under the influence with damages and tampering with evidence. Gray was involved in a traffic crash at Sixth Avenue and 11th Street at 1:48 p.m. This was reportedly his third at fault crash of the day. His eyes reportedly appeared to be glassy, watery and bloodshot. He was also reportedly erratic and had to be instructed numerous times to stand still. Post Miranda, Gray said he had not drunk any alcoholic beverages. He performed poorly on field sobriety exercises and provided a breath sample. Neither of them indicated any alcohol in his blood. Gray reportedly admitted to having recently taken suboxone, marijuana and vicodin. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

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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Gunshot Kills Zephyrhills Teen

Dade City Co-Conspirator Charged

Staff Report

A Zephyrhills man was killed Monday night and a Dade City man who was with him faces felony charges after a thwarted armed carjacking, the Clearwater Police Department said Tuesday.

LaSupta Singletary, 18, died while he and Jernalen Dreshaw Coleman, 17, stole a car at gunpoint, police said.

Singletary and Coleman had arranged to meet with Louise Ornduff, 36, of Largo, and her son, Kaleb, in the parking lot of a Bank of America regarding the possible sale of a Nissan Rogue. Coleman and Singletary were armed and reportedly demanded the keys to the Hyundai Veloster that Kaleb had been driving.

Louise Ornduff fired a shot as Coleman and Singletary were leaving the scene in the Hyundai and Singletary was struck. Coleman drove Singletary to Mease Countryside Hospital where the Zephyrhills teen-ager was pronounced



SingletaryColeman

dead, police said.

Guns related to the incident were recovered, police said.

Coleman was charged with armed robbery and second-degree murder. In Florida, prosecutors may pursue a felony murder charge against a co-conspirator when someone dies during the commission of a crime.

The Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney's Office and the Clearwater Police Department are reviewing the case to see if there is any reason to charge Louise Ornduff.

Pasco Legislative Delegation Meeting

The Pasco County Legislative Delegation will hold their annual Pre-Session meeting on Nov. 27 at the Wesley Chapel Center for the Arts, 30651 Wells Road, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This meeting is an opportunity for citizens, elected officials, cities and local governments, and other civic organizations to address the delegation before the start of the 2018 Legislative Session.

Public testimony during the Pasco County Legislative Delegation Meeting is welcome. Anyone wishing to address the delegation needs to complete a Speaker Request Form. The form is available at

bit.ly/2gVEmxW.

Completed requests received by 5 p.m. Nov. 20 will be considered for the agenda. Additional Speaker Request Forms will be available at the meeting. Speaking requests received after the deadline may be considered, should time remain available on the agenda.

All speakers should, if possible, email their materials and handouts to jonathan.till@myfloridahouse.gov.

Contact Jonathan Till either via email at jonathan.till@myfloridahouse.gov or by calling (813) 780-0667 for more information.

Test-Drive Event Around The Bend

Staff Report

The 23rd Drive 4 UR School is gearing up for Jarrett Ford on Oct. 27.

The 'friendly 9-Mile War' between Pasco and Zephyrhills high schools is a competition of sorts where supporters of each school sign up to test-drive Ford products, and get a sense of the vehicle while helping out their school.

The automaker's national Drive 4 UR School program contributes \$20 for each test drive taken, with a maximum of \$6,000 raised per dealership. Jarrett Ford has raised more than \$160,000 since the event began in 2007.

Jarrett Ford Vice President/General Manager Cliff Martin has said the community usually comes out in full support of the schools, making Jarrett the frequent number one dealer for participation among 3,100 Ford

dealers nationwide.

Most Ford vehicles are eligible for test-drives; however, those completed in a Crown Victoria, E-Series, Lincoln or Mercury vehicles are not eligible for a donation.

Test-drivers will get to also test the hot dogs and hamburgers available during the 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. event at 38300 Dick Jarrett Way in Dade City.

One driver per household over 18 years of age can come into Jarrett and for each test-driver the dealership donates \$20 to the eligible school. The friendly competition always takes place a week before the 9-Mile War rivalry game between Pasco and Zephyrhills high schools.

This year's game is Nov. 3 in Zephyrhills. The Bulldogs are currently 5-1 while the Pirates have three wins and four losses.

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East Pasco Events

Oct. 19 – Pink Out Tampa Bay – Alexa Stinnette will discuss breast health and answer questions regarding early detection and more. This free program will be held from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Florida Hospital Zephyrhills’ Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for information and required reservations.

Oct. 20-21 – Haunted Woods – The 25th annual event will be held at Hillsborough River State Park, 15402 U.S. 301, from 6-10 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Visit www.floridastateparks.org/hillsboroughriver for information.

Oct. 21 – Book Sale – The New River Friends of the Library will have their semi-annual book sale from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Gently used books will be for sale, the Blood Bank will be there for donations, there will be a free craft corner with face painting for children and other exhibits. Call Becky at (813) 310-9165 for information. The library is located at 34043 S.R. 54.

Oct. 21-22 – Rattlesnake Festival and Run – The 51st Annual San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival, now organized by Thomas Promise, will be held Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Come by for live entertainment, food and craft vendors, rattlesnake show, wooden gopher tortoise races, a pumpkin patch, beer garden and more. Visit rattlesnakefestival.com or call (813) 782-0000 for information. You can also check the festival out on Facebook. The Rattlesnake Run 5K and fun run will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday. Visit rattlesnakerun.com to register.

Oct. 22 – Run for the Hills – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills’ Creation Health Wellness Center encourages you to participate in its third annual 5k Run for the Hills starting at 8 a.m. at the hospital’s main entrance at 7050 Gall Blvd. All funds raised will be used for humanitarian relief efforts in Puerto Rico which was recently ravaged by Hurricane Maria. Registration fee is \$30 per person and \$15 for children ages 12 and younger. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Visit RunForZephyrhills.org or call at (813) 783-6123 for information or to register.

Oct. 23 – Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills invites anyone who has experienced a miscarriage or the loss of an infant to a remembrance ceremony at 5:30 p.m. in the hospital’s Healing Garden located off the main lobby at 7050 Gall Blvd. The interfaith remembrance ceremony is expected to last about 30 minutes, will include readings and an opportunity to pay tribute to their child. Call (813) 779-6471 or (813) 715-6640 for information.

Oct. 24 – Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation – Find out what it means to be a Big Brother or Big Sister in Pasco County. Held from 5:30-7 p.m. at Wesley Chapel Honda, 27750 Wesley Chapel Blvd. Contact (813) 997-6881 or debk@bbbstampabay.org for information.

Oct. 25 – Hip and Bone Lecture – Dr. Seth Cooper, an orthopedic surgeon and trauma specialist, will talk about the relationship between hip fractures and bone density from 12-1 p.m. Dr. Cooper will focus primarily on risk factors and prevention tips. Held at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., in the Cypress Conference Room on the

first floor. Registration is required by calling (877) 534-3108. A boxed lunch will be provided to each attendee.

Oct. 27 – Back Pain Lecture – Dr. Charles Nalley who is Board Certified in orthopedics and sports medicine and specializes in the spine, will talk about lower back pain from 12-1 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., in the Cypress Conference Room on the first floor. Registration is required by calling (877) 534-3108. A boxed lunch will be provided to each attendee.

Oct. 28 – Halloween Party – Rhythm & Brews, at 4711 Gall Blvd., is throwing a costume party guaranteed to be a howling good time. Come on out for The Headless Horseman of Hippie Hollow Party featuring live music from The Ole Band, Arevelo/Oakley & Fender and The Alex Zayas Band. Music starts at 6 p.m. and admission is \$10 in advance or \$13 at the door. Visit rhythmbrews.brownpapertickets.com for information or tickets.

Oct. 28 – Halloween Howl – Head to downtown Zephyrhills for a spooky and fun evening including a haunted house, trick or treating, games, food and merchandise vendors and more. Admission is free. Held along Fifth Avenue from 4-9 p.m. Visit mainstreetzephyrhills.org for information.

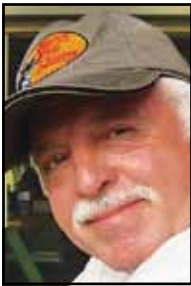
Oct. 28 – Robert D. Sumner Memorial Golf Tournament – The second annual tournament, benefiting the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, will be held at Silverado Golf & Country Club, 36841 Clubhouse Drive in Zephyrhills, with registration starting at 7:30 a.m. Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Visit www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org or call (352) 567-0262 for information and to register.

Oct. 29 – Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat – First Presbyterian Church Zephyrhills, 5510 19th St., is hosting a Trunk or Treat event from 3-5 p.m. The event will feature bounce houses, slides, prizes, hot dogs, games and more. Prizes will be awarded for best trunk decorations. A costume contest will be held with prizes for children. Stop by for a family friendly alternative in a safe environment. Free hot dogs and chips while supplies last. Contact the church at (813) 782-7412 for information.

Oct. 29 – Run for the Fallen – The ninth annual free memorial community event will be held at Little Everglades Ranch, 17951 Hamilton Road. Registration will be held from 7-8:30 a.m. with a ceremony and the races following. A 10K, 5K and one-mile races will be held. Come out and honor Florida’s fallen military men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Visit www.MarineFamilies.org for information and to register.

Oct. 30 – Hand Joint Lecture – Do you experience pain in your hands and joints after you participate in favorite hobbies? Dr. Monica Miller is a hand and plastic surgeon who specializes in hand, microvascular, plastic and reconstructive surgery. Dr. Miller will share how to prevent and treat common hand injuries from 12-1 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., in the Cypress Conference Room on the first floor. Registration is required by calling (877) 534-3108. A boxed lunch will be provided to each attendee.

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

Festival To Serve Food For Thought

I have always had a special place in my heart for the San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival, which is always held the third weekend in October. I was honored to be a member of the board of directors and then chairman for many years. The organizing group was called The Rattlesnake and Gopher Enthusiasts (R.A.G.E.). I can tell you one thing: It takes a whole lot of planning and volunteers to put on a festival of this size that attracts thousands to the city park in the center of San Antonio. We would spend many hours each month making sure we had all of our bases covered. It was very rewarding.

Last year it was announced after the 50th Anniversary of the festival that it would be coming to an end. Many who attended this family friendly event were nearly in a state of shock when they got the news.

Then a great thing happened.

A wonderful community-focused group, The Thomas Promise Foundation, stepped up to the plate. The group decided they could breathe life into the festival once again with the help of sponsors, volunteers and many others.

Thomas Promise is a story in itself. Brooke Thomas, a 1st grader at the time, noticed some of her classmates were not eating and would try and help by giving them her lunch money. When she asked

for more money, her mom asked what was going on. Brooke explained what was happening and that’s where it all started. Her selfless act of kindness really touched her parents, Wade and Dianna Thomas, and from there Thomas Promise was created. Today it now helps more than 1,200 kids weekly by providing nutritious food for them to take home for the weekend. What a natural fit for a festival that is all about children, education, nature and so much more.

This weekend you are invited to check out the 51st Rattlesnake Festival for yourself. It all kicks off with the early morning Rattlesnake Run on Saturday. You can find out all about the race at www.rattlesnakerun.com. The hours of the festival on Saturday are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is free. There will be a variety of food trucks and food vendors in the park and a whole bunch of handmade arts and crafts. One of the highlights for the kids will be the gopher races where they can race a gopher turtle made out of wood. It is a real photo opportunity. Other things include children’s games and crafts, great entertainment, Smokey the Bear, pony rides, snake shows and even Cowboy Tom will be there to entertain. For adults there is even a beer and wine garden. You can find out all about the 2017 festival at www.rattlesnakefestival.com

All those involved have worked hard to try and make this one of the best family festivals yet. Now it’s our turn to help. Bring your family and your friends and tell everyone you know. Put it on Facebook and you can even Tweet it to the world. That’s the least we can do. Proceeds will help Thomas Promise feed more kids in need. Because of what they do and the commitment Thomas Promise has made, they might not be able to help all the hungry kids in Pasco County but they are tireless in their mission to feed one kid at a time.

County Not Accepting Fresh Vegetation

The Pasco County Solid Waste Department and its contractors have completed Hurricane Irma-related debris pick-up in five out of 16 Pasco County debris removal zones and are not picking up new, green vegetation.

Pasco County is receiving complaints about fresh piles of vegetation in zones where pickup has been completed. Pasco County Solid Waste does not ordinarily pick up any yard debris. Debris removal is being provided as a service to residents affected by Hurricane Irma.

Residents can also drop off storm debris Monday through Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the East Pasco

Transfer Station, 9626 Handcart Road, Dade City.

Fees for storm debris are waived until further notice; however, residents will be charged normal disposal fees for freshly-cut yard waste.

Residents can track storm debris removal progress with an interactive map available on the Pasco County website: www.pascocountyfl.net or by clicking on this link: arcg.is/2wSHdN5. As of Oct. 15, Pasco County crews have collected nearly 46,000 cubic yards of storm debris.

Contact Pasco County Customer Service at (727) 847-2411 for questions or concerns.

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For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Food • Continued from Page 1A

The mobile pantry was set up in the parking lot of Lowe’s at 7921 Gall Blvd. Volunteers from the home improvement store helped set up tents for shade and checked in locals looking to benefit from the services.

In just two hours, food was packaged up for each household to take home, which ended up serving about 600 people, 300 of which were children.

Water and emergency blankets were also distributed to the families.

“It went very, very well. A lot better than we ever expected,” said Make A Difference Resource Coordinator Cherrie Lowe. “We had people that actually shared their food with others. These were legitimate people. It was all peaceful, there were smiles. It was a great day.”

Make A Difference is a small nonprofit 501(c)3, located in Dade City. The resource center at 12251 U.S. 301 works to “Provide hope and help to those in need,” and serve East Pasco and surrounding areas. They stay busy in the community, working with other nonprofits and are continually working to broaden their reach.

“We furnish approximately 150-300 bagged weekend lunches a week that The Thomas Promise provides to three local schools,” Lowe said. “I have working relationships with most of the other non-profits that serve our area. This is just an overview of who we are.”

Following the successful outreach last Thursday,



Volunteers from the Dade City outreach program wait to hand out emergency blankets to local families.

MAD hosted a yard sale in front of their offices on Friday and Saturday. Less about raising money, the organization invited locals to visit their location and learn about their services.

D&R Specialty Hot Dogs was on site selling lunch while residents gathered information.

“It was more or less a giving day and to let them know we’re going to be here as a resource center for them,” Lowe said.

The nonprofit’s busy calendar continues into November as they prepare to partner with The Perfect 10 Charity in an annual Toys 4 Tots Bicycle Drive.

Lowe said they hope to collect at least 100 bicycles for the project and deliver them to local children.

Make A Difference is hosting two golf events in November to raise money for this venture: a Nov. 4 free golf event at The Abbey in St. Leo, and a golf scramble tournament on Nov. 18 at Tampa Bay Golf & Country Club.

The big event to end the bicycle collection will be the Bike-O-Rama where volunteers are needed to help assemble the dozens of bicycles. The assembly party will be held at MAD on Nov. 25.

Contact Lowe at Make A Difference at (352) 437-3466 for information on the organization or how to get involved.



Lowe’s employees volunteered their time for the event, helping to sign in and register families and organize the two-hour event.

Photos Provided



Food donated from Feeding Tampa Bay made up the majority of the pantry. Food was sorted and organized into bags to hand out for each household.

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A photograph of a man and a young boy washing a car. The boy is in the foreground, holding a spray nozzle and spraying water onto the car's body. The man is standing behind him, also holding a spray nozzle. The car is partially covered in white soap suds. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting.

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A photograph of a woman with short brown hair, wearing a green shirt, looking at a display of fresh fruit. The display includes various types of apples and mixed fruit. Price tags are visible above the fruit, showing prices like \$2.99 and \$5.99. A yellow sign with black text is also visible in the background.

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Robert Hilferding of the Zephyrhills Brewing Company hoists his glass during the Gulfside Regional Hospice Brewfest at the Zephyrhills community event venue.

Brewfest • Continued from Page 1A

Pasco County early in the year. “We’re really happy with the way things turned out,” Miller said. “With the hurricane, we weren’t sure we were going to be able to have this.” Gulfside CEO Linda Ward believes this

is an event that will continue to grow in Zephyrhills. “People really like these kind of things,” Ward said. “We love events like this that brings people out in support of Gulfside.” Providing assistance as a craft beer vendor was Robert Hilferding and his great brews from the Zephyrhills Brewing



The North Avenue Brown Ale was introduced by the Zephyrhills Brewing Company at the Gulfside Regional Hospice Brewfest last weekend.

Company. “I’m happy with the cause,” said Hilferding, who was introducing his new brew, North Avenue Brown Ale. “They do good work. We’re just happy to be here supporting them.”

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A Helping Rock Holds Outreach Event

Stepping Stone Caters To Needs Of Homeless

Story and photo by Joe Potter

Several vendors set up stations at A Helping Rock on Tuesday to provide help for members of Pasco County’s homeless population.

The purpose of the event was to help various agencies that provide services to the homeless to be able to know one another so they can work together better, said Daniel Martin, interim director of A Helping Rock.

“We want to build community service networks. We want to have every option and every resource that is available to help all the homeless people in the community,” Martin said.

It took about three months to organize the Stepping Stone Community Outreach event. A Helping Rock hopes to hold a second Stepping Stone event in about six months, Martin said.

A Helping Rock is a transitional housing program situated on a 20-acred wooded site off Forbes Road.

Those participating in the four-hour event included Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, CareerSource Pasco Hernando, Loving Hands Ministries, Atonement Lutheran Church, Sunrise of Pasco, Daystar Hope Center, The Samaritan Project and Staywell, a Florida

Medicaid program.

A Helping Rock recently celebrated its first anniversary on a site previously used as a pastoral retreat.

An FHZ marketing spokesman discussed a variety of healthcare issues including diabetes, proper nutrition and how to know if a person is having a stroke.

CareerSource’s bus was staffed with people to help others look for jobs, prepare resumes or apply for help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Loving Hands Ministry is a faith-based program to help men recover from addictions to drugs or alcohol.

Atonement Lutheran Church operates a food pantry recently began offering services for Spanish speaking people.

Sunrise of Pasco provides assistance for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. Sunrise operates a shelter where more than 40 women are currently housed.

Daystar grew out of a ministry at St. Rita Catholic Church in Dade City and provides food for the hungry.

The Samaritan Project helps to prevent homelessness by providing money to people who are about to be evicted. It serves as a one-stop shop for people who



Some of the residents of A Helping Rock pause during their work on Tuesday at an inaugural outreach event for the homeless.

are in need of assistance. Medicaid insurance needs.

Staywell is one of several companies Call (352) 521-0535 or visit licensed in Florida to help people with ahelpingrock.org for more information.

No-Interest Loans Available To Help Stormproof Pasco Homes

Pasco County Community Development is now accepting applications for the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP), which is designed to help homeowners prepare for potential hurricanes. The program includes installation of the following: roofing, gable end bracing, truss or rafter-to-wall connections, impact-resistant doors, window storm shutters and/or impact windows.

All items must be installed or verified as existing to meet the requirements of the HLMP.

There is no income cap to be eligible for this program. The maximum household value (according to the Pasco County Property Appraiser) cannot exceed \$350,000.

Funding will be provided through a zero percent interest mortgage. Loan terms will be determined by

the amount of assistance provided and the homeowner’s ability to repay the loan.

Residents living in unincorporated Pasco County, as well as the cities of Dade City, Zephyrhills, New Port Richey and Port Richey are encouraged to apply.

Contact the Community Development Department at (727) 834-3445 to request an application.



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Bulldogs • Continued from Page 1A

told my team in the second half to keep it up and we would win the game and that’s what we did.

“When I threw them (the interceptions), I moved on to the next play. I told my teammates I got them next time. I had to get my passes better and that’s what I did.”

Trailing 35-25 with 10:03 remaining, Harrison heaved a 65-yard touchdown pass to Cartrell Strong to get the rally going.

The defense held, forcing River Ridge to punt and give the Bulldogs the ball back with 7:52 left.

Harrison and the Bulldogs started the drive at their own 19. On the six-play drive, Harrison carried three times for 71 yards including the 23-yard game-winner with 5:18 to play.

The Royal Knights started at their



Zephyrhills cheerleader Hannah Hoskins lets the crowd know the Bulldogs scored a Thomas and Son touchdown. The dealership donates \$100 per touchdown scored at Bulldog Stadium. This year’s total so far is \$2,400.



Head coach Nick Carroll meets the Bulldog defense on the field after holding River Ridge and preserving the 38-35 Class 5A-District 8 victory.

own 24 yard-line and moved the ball to the 44 but their momentum was snuffed on a third-and-12 play when Alexander Winbigler and Sam Bergeron combined on a sack of River Ridge quarterback Devin Gallo. On the next play Gallo’s pass fell incomplete and the celebration began.

“The defense had to come up with that one,” Bergeron said. “The offense gave us the lead. We had to preserve it. We played well on both sides of the ball.”

The Bulldogs improved to 6-1 overall and 5-0 in Class 5A-District 8 while the Royal Knights drop to 4-3 overall and 4-1 in district play.

“This was pretty big,” said Zephyrhills coach Nick Carroll of the win. “It feels really good and the kids worked really hard, man. This is what happens when you work really hard. Things work out for you. I couldn’t be happier for my coaches and my team.”

Zephyrhills has a pair of district games

left and can clinch the district crown Friday on the road against Wesley Chapel.

In last Friday’s game televised by Spectrum Sports, the Bulldogs got on the board first when Elijah Thomas brought the crowd to their feet taking the first play from scrimmage 81 yards for a touchdown. The PAT was blocked giving Zephyrhills a 6-0 lead.

Before the fans could catch their breath, River Ridge’s Mikey Roussos took the ensuing kickoff 78 yards for a touchdown. The reliable leg of Mike Webster put the Knights up 7-6.

The big-play Bulldogs brought the excitement again on the next drive when Harrison hit Tyreese Wigfall with a 56-yard TD strike. The run failed and the Bulldogs led 12-7 with 6:54 left in the first quarter.

The fast and furious scoring slowed with River Ridge taking a 14-12 advantage scoring after getting a great field position at the Bulldog 17 following

a Harrison interception.

The lead changed again as Harrison hit Jaquan Sheppard with his first of two touchdowns on the night. The strike for 11 yards with 3:17 left in the half and another missed PAT had the Bulldogs up 18-14.

The half didn’t end well for Zephyrhills as Harrison was intercepted in the final minute giving the Knights the ball at the ZHS 33. Two plays later River Ridge was in the end zone taking a 21-18 lead into the locker room.

Zephyrhills started the second half nearly like the first, scoring on a big play with Harrison hitting Sheppard with an 86-yard touchdown pass to retake the lead 25-21.

The Royal Knights added a pair of scores to take the 35-25 lead, which unfortunately led to an exodus of fans leaving the stadium.

The momentum swung back into the Bulldogs’ favor.

“I guess every time the kids catch the ball or run with it, they are trying to make a big play out of it,” Carroll said. “These kids are pretty athletic and they can play.”



Zephyrhills quarterback Charles Harrison III threw for four touchdowns and rushed for another in the Bulldogs’ 38-35 win against River Ridge.

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The wooden gopher tortoise races
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Located at 5118 Gall Blvd., the owners and staff at Saigon Café Vietnamese restaurant aim to offer delicious and authentic cuisine from their home country to the people of east Pasco.

Saigon Café Offers Authentic Taste

Zephyrhills Cuisine Continues To Expand

Story and photo by Keri McAlpine

When Paul Lee began managing a Vietnamese restaurant in Zephyrhills last year, it took some effort to get the word out about the flavorful cuisine. Saigon Café is the third restaurant opened by Vietnamese Chef Lam Ngo and his wife, Hoa, in the greater Tampa area. The duo immigrated to the United States in the 1970s and set out to serve authentic cuisine in their restaurants. After operating Lemongrass and Saigon Bay in Tampa for at least 25 years, they decided to open something closer to his home in Wesley Chapel and found the perfect spot for Saigon Café at 5118 Gall Blvd. “At first it was kind of slow. No one knew Vietnamese food yet in this area,” Lee said. After the restaurant opened, Lee said they decided to scale back the menu to the basics to simplify ordering for newcomers. Now, the restaurant is budding with promise as locals have taken kindly to the flavorful broths and rice dishes the restaurant serves up. Lee said they are slowly but surely expanding the menu to add more options for regular customers. “We’re starting to expand a little bit as the community is learning about

Vietnamese food,” Lee said. While many come into the restaurant for the first time with intrigue and surprise by some of the offerings, just as many hail the restaurant for offering authentic Vietnamese cuisine close to their home. As the only Vietnamese restaurant in the east Pasco area, fans of the food are thankful the restaurant opened in Zephyrhills, preventing a 45-minute drive to the next closest spot in Tampa or surrounding areas, Lee said. “People who know Vietnamese food are happy we opened here for them,” Lee said with a smile on his face. For newcomers, Lee suggests trying Vietnamese classics like Pho, or beef noodle soup, and any of the restaurant’s rice dishes. For more adventurous eaters, spicy additions to the beef soup are recommended or a whole grilled pompano fish. “If you want to go a little farther, here we serve frog legs. I guess if you prefer exotic food, the frog legs are very good here,” Lee said. In addition to expanding the menu, Lee said he and the owner would love to offer catering services once they have reached their full capacity. Visit Saigon Café on Facebook to stay up to date on hours and specials.

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