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Now in its 23rd year, the Annual Kumquat Festival draws tens of thousands of festival-goers to Dade City's downtown core each year on the last Saturday in January.

Photo Provided

Multitude Due For Kumquat Party

Dade City's Signature Event Jan. 25

Staff Report

The 23rd Annual Kumquat Festival is coming up and Kumquat Growers, Inc. is predicting a strong harvest for the event. The festival celebrates the “little gold gem of the citrus industry” and Dade City’s status as home to the top kumquat and kumquat producer in the United States.

This year’s celebration will be held Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to

5 p.m. in downtown Dade City. Sponsored by AdventHealth Dade City, the City of Dade City, Florida’s Sports Coast, Visit Florida and dozens of others local, regional and national sponsors, the festival has historically attracted more than 20,000 attendees including Florida residents from Tampa Bay and surrounding counties, winter residents, tourists, and “day

Kumquat • Continued on Page 3A

New Year Lights Up

The Lights Festival at Little Everglades Ranch on New Year's Eve for 2020 held two separate launchings of the biodegradable, rice paper lanterns on Tuesday evening. The first one was at 8 p.m. with a clear sky and a sliver of a moon. The celebratory launch was at midnight, bringing in the new year. More than 3,000 people from the Tampa and Orlando areas came to the event site just north of Dade City. When the lanterns were launched the sound system played Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' to an impressed and reverent audience.

Photo by **Richard K. Riley**

Alvarez-Sowles

Files For Office

Clerk & Comptroller

Upgrades Services

Staff Report

Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller Nikki Alvarez-Sowles has filed to run as a Republican in November.

She is seeking her first term after Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed her to the position in August following the retirement of Paula S. O'Neil who served as Clerk & Comptroller from 2008-2019.

Alvarez-Sowles, who is an attorney, had served as O'Neil's chief operations officer before O'Neil retired to spend more time with her grandchildren.

“It's the people of Pasco County who make our community special” Alvarez-



Nikki Alvares-Sowles

Clerk • Continued on Page 8A

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Dade City Police Report

Suspect Facing Multiple Charges Including Strangulation

**Ramiro Lee Castro**, 26, of 15141 Manatee Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on Dec. 28 on charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance, fleeing to elude a police officer, and on multiple Pasco County warrants for burglary of a dwelling – unoccupied, two for burglary of a dwelling – occupied, domestic battery by strangulation, battery, criminal mischief, failure to appear, and three charges for violation of probation. Police attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle at 17th Street and Valera Avenue, at which time they observed two females being pushed from the vehicle and Castro jumping into the driver’s seat. Castro then attempted to flee from the officer but eventually crashed the vehicle. He was located and apprehended a short time later. A search of the vehicle yielded a black bag containing a pipe with methamphetamine residue, two small bags of what appeared to be marijuana, and three bags of pills identified as morphine. He was taken to the Pasco County jail.



**Keith Sosa**, 27, of 37319 Tait Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on Dec. 25 on charges of resisting an officer without violence, petit theft, and providing a false name to a law enforcement officer, as well as on one Pasco County warrant for violation of probation – felony battery. Police encountered Sosa while he was riding his bicycle and attempted a traffic stop at 15th Street and Dixie Avenue in reference to his bicycle not having any lights. When attempting the stop, Sosa allegedly fled from officers and was observed allegedly throwing an unknown object into the woods. Sosa was eventually stopped and, when speaking to the officer, would not provide his name. Sosa was detained and the bicycle was confirmed to have been reported stolen in November. After several more attempts to gain his name, Sosa provided officers with two different ages and then identified himself as “Jose Perez” but could not spell it. He then told the officer that his name was “Junior.” He was taken to the Pasco County jail where he was identified as Keith Sosa and an active warrant was confirmed.

**Victor Garza, Sr.**, 50, of Trilby, was arrested by Dade City police on Dec. 22 on charges of petit retail theft – third conviction, resisting an officer without violence, and violation of probation. On Dec. 17 at Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301, Garza allegedly paid for a pen while concealing multiple clothing items on his person that he had selected. He was witnessed on store surveillance removing the price tags from the items and placing them inside the bag with the pen. This incident placed him in direct violation of an active probation. When police attempted to make contact with Garza at his residence, he allegedly attempted to flee but was apprehended and taken into custody. He was later taken to the Pasco County jail.

**Larry Brentt O’Neal**, 37, of 36431 Audrey Road, was arrested by Dade City police on Dec. 27 on charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Police encountered O’Neal during a traffic stop in the 12000 block of U.S. 301. After observing a bundle of clear plastic Baggies, a search was conducted and revealed a purple Crown Royal bag hidden between the driver’s seat and center console containing a glass pipe with methamphetamine residue. A spoon, plastic straw, and three prescription bottles bearing O’Neal’s name were also found within the bag. Post-Miranda, O’Neal admitted ownership of the bag. An additional search yielded a second glass pipe in a white box hidden inside the rear hatch of the vehicle, which O’Neal also claimed. He was taken to the Pasco County jail.

**Charles Fletcher Morris**, 60, of 36612 Thomas Jefferson Road, was arrested by Dade City police on Dec. 28 on charges of retail theft and battery. While involved in a verbal altercation, Morris allegedly touched the victim on her nose with his finger. Fearing that he would cause her greater harm, the victim told Morris that she would call their landlord, at which time he allegedly took her cell phone from her to prevent her from doing so. He was later taken to the Pasco County jail.

**Brian Keith Tedesco**, 34, of 15309 Lee Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on Dec. 29 on charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia, as well as two Pasco County warrants for violation of probation – burglary and grand theft. Police encountered Tedesco during a traf-

**Dionne Lavette Jefferson**, 49, of 37708 Beauchamp Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on Dec. 28 on a charge of resisting an officer without violence. Jefferson allegedly drove up and down her street 15 times yelling profanities from her vehicle. She continued the action until 911 was called with the complaint. Police responded to her home and placed her under arrest, and she was later released with a notice to appear.

**Jonathon Allen Jacobson**, 41, of 47641 Church Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on Dec. 24 on a Pasco County warrant for failure to appear. Police encountered Jacobson in reference to a suspicious person complaint. An active warrant was confirmed, and he was taken to the Pasco County jail.

**Timmy Leonard Holloman**, 33, of Trilby, was arrested by Dade City police on Dec. 28 on charges of possession of methamphetamine, burglary of a business – no forced entry, and on an Orange County warrant for OJ in Florida. On Dec. 27 Holloman was observed by a witness allegedly pulling on the locked door of the Dade City Apartments, 13314 Willingham Loop. He was then seen allegedly gaining access to the building through the unsecured laundry room door. Upon arrival police apprehended Holloman and a search of his person was conducted, revealing four bags of methamphetamine. During his arrest an active warrant was confirmed, and he was taken to the Pasco County jail.

**Information provided in the Dade City Police report is taken from public record. All parties are considered innocent until proven guilty.**

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# Subdivision Plans, Annexations To Be Considered

by Joe Potter

The construction of 336 new single-family homes in Dade City may clear an initial hurdle on Thursday.

The Dade City Planning Board will consider requests by three different parties during its meeting at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 38020 Meridian Ave.

The developers of Suwanee Lakeside are requesting approval of a subdivision preliminary plan that would allow them to construct 301 single-family homes on property between Howard Avenue and Thomas Jefferson Street.

Also, the developers of Countryside

are requesting approval of a subdivision preliminary plan that would allow them to construct 25 single-family homes on property on the east side of the 13100 block of U.S. 301.

And Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco is requesting approval of a subdivision preliminary plan that would allow them to construct 10 single-family homes. The Cove will be located north of Main Avenue between 15th and 17th streets.

Dade City Commissioners will hold public hearings on all of these three applicant’s requests during their Jan. 14 meeting that will begin at 5:30 p.m.



The Nagami variety of kumquats grown in St. Joe, west of Dade City, feature a thin, sweet skin and a slightly tart center. They are about the size of a cherry tomato and should be eaten fresh like a grape, peel and all.

Kumquat • Continued from Page 1A

trippers” for a day of fun, shopping and entertainment.

Festival admission, parking, shuttles, and entertainment are free.

Downtown will be transformed into an open-air marketplace featuring local businesses, hundreds of specialty vendors, dozens of partner sponsors, and the friendly authentic old Florida experience that the Kumquat Festival has come to represent. The Dade City Chamber of Commerce and all of its festival sponsors invite people of all ages to enjoy all the wholesome food choices available including kumquat pie,

kumquat salsa and numerous kumquat recipe specialties.

Festival-goers can also shop for crafts and enjoy the art displays. There will be local, live entertainment, a children’s activity area, a classic car show, craft Kumquat beer and wine ,and lots of fun things to do, according to John Moors, Executive Director of the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce.

“Once again, Dade City and eastern Pasco County are preparing to welcome tens of thousands of residents and visitors to our area. It is our pleasure to produce this quality event, and we invite everyone to enjoy the festival and then come back and visit us again” Moors said.

# City Addresses Merchants’ Concerns

Stormwater Work Will Affect More Than Festival

Submitted by Leslie Porter  
City Manager of Dade City

Citing pedestrian and vendor safety, the City of Dade City Commission unanimously approved a change order with Kamminga & Roodvoets Construction (K & R) to temporarily pave Pasco Avenue prior to the Greater Dade City Chamber’s signature event, the Kumquat Festival, which occurs Jan. 25.

Before and after the commission’s decision, city administration continues to work with K & R and the local merchants as the project advances. To minimize physical and fiscal effects for both the city and its merchants, city administration and K & R revised the construction schedule and planned street closures.

After the Kumquat Festival, Seventh Street will be closed between Church and Pasco avenues for approximately one month to complete construction of the stormwater improvements and provide a staging area for equipment and materials. Pasco Avenue will remain open to two-way traffic between Seventh and Fifth streets until water main construction begins (anticipated March). In addition to bringing the construction project back on schedule, the revised plan minimizes construction damage to Pasco Avenue.

Customer convenience is also being addressed for one of the most

common questions from our business owners and their customers: “Where do I park?” Through a partnership with our local business community, the city has secured permission from several private property owners to be able to utilize their existing parking areas for public use. While Seventh Street is closed, in addition to the on-street parking available in the surrounding blocks, customers can utilize the city’s public parking areas on Eighth Street and Pasco Avenue, as well as Bank of America and the former site for San Antonio Credit Union on Church Avenue,

“We have been meeting with the Chamber and our businesses to address concerns for not only the Kumquat Festival, but also daily customers and visitors to the downtown. Unfortunately, construction is messy. The city is making every effort possible to meet the needs of our community while dealing with the realities of construction,” City Manager Leslie Porter said.

As you are driving in the downtown area, Dade City encourages visitors to watch for construction crewmembers and yield to all the construction signs and workers. Traffic patterns and detours will change in the upcoming weeks as construction continues.

The City of Dade City will be posting regular updates in the upcoming weeks on their website at [www.dadecityfl.com](http://www.dadecityfl.com).

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## East Pasco Events

**Jan. 9 – Bingo Bonanza** – You can’t live your best life when you feel anxiety and discomfort from digestive distress. Our Digestive Health and Bariatric Navigator will share information during our monthly Bingo Bonanza from 2-3 p.m. Reservations are required by calling (833) 300-2371. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Jan. 10 – Sale Day Extravaganza** – From 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Nancy’s Natural Foods, located at 14140 Eighth St., will be offering 15% off of merchandise. Nutritional blood analysis, ionic foot baths, and free samples.

**Jan. 10-11 – Book Bazaar** – This book bazaar will feature a diverse selection of books, audio and video media, magazines, and related materials, all available for a modest cost. Cash or personal checks are accepted, but the library cannot accept credit cards. The bazaar will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St. Call (352) 567-3576 for additional information.

**Jan. 11 – Raising Cane** – This annual event held at the Pioneer Florida Museum and Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road, will feature a chili cook-off, live entertainment, cane grinding, syrup making, syrup tasting and chili tasting. It all kicks off with a cane syrup pancake breakfast at 9 a.m.

**Jan. 11 – San Antonio Market in the Park** – Start the New Year off by shopping from local vendors at the monthly San Antonio Market in the Park, 12202 Main Street, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Items available for purchase include plants, jewelry, baked goods, honey, jams and jellies, yard art, home decor, fabric creations, Mr. Jim’s Famous Hot Dogs, and more. There will also be a basket chance drawing and free children’s activities. Call (352) 437-5161 for more information.

**Jan. 13 – Benedict’s Grand Opening** – Saint Leo University is excited to announce the opening of Benedict’s Coffeehouse on campus. Benedict’s is a “We Proudly Serve Starbucks” venue that is open to everyone, and university officials hope it will be a welcome addition to the area. All are welcome to the grand opening ceremony at 10 a.m.

**Jan. 15 – Strengthen Your Pelvic Floor** – The public is invited to join AdventHealth Dade City for a lunch and learn session on pelvic floor disorders with board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr. John Ferlita from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. If you suffer from urge, stress or mixed urinary incontinence, painful bladder syndrome or other painful issues of your pelvic area, you may benefit from pelvic floor therapy. Reservations are required by calling (833) 300-2371. Lunch will be provided. Blood pressure screenings will be from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m., followed by the program.

**Jan. 17 – Arbor Day Memorial Tree Celebration** – The Dade City Garden Club will host its annual event at the Garden Club, 13630 Fifth St., at 10 a.m., and members of the public are welcome to attend. Speaking at the event will be Whitney Elmore, UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Director, and Foresters Mona Neville and Arthur Clothier from the Florida Forest Service. Memorial Trees, which are dedicated in memory or in honor of a person or special occasion, will be recognized. The event is free and light refreshments will be served. Call Debbie at (352)

567-9003 for information about the program or information on how to order a memorial tree.

**Jan. 17-18 – Pigz in Z’Hills BBQ & Blues Festival** – Enjoy lively blues music and tasty BBQ as well as a multitude of vendors, business expo, car show, cornhole tournament, Kidz Fun Zone and much more. Admission is free and parking is only \$10. Bring your lawn chairs but no pets or coolers are allowed. Events will take place at 5200 Airport Road in Zephyrhills on Friday from 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit [zephyrhillschamber.org](http://zephyrhillschamber.org) for information and schedule.

**Jan. 18 – MLK Day Parade** – Come and celebrate the late, great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at this annual event in downtown Dade City. The parade begins at 10 a.m.

**Jan. 18 – Sock Hop** – This retro event is open to the public and will take place at the Moose Lodge 397, 17107 U.S. 301, from 6-10 p.m. There will be ’50s and ’60s music, food and beverages available for purchase, silent auction, and a dance, hula hoop, and limbo contest for registered participants. Minimum \$2 donation at the door. Proceeds benefit Hospice of Pasco.

**Jan. 20 – MLK Program** – This annual ceremony honoring Dr. King will take place at the Lewis Abraham Boys & Girls Club beginning at 11 a.m.

**Jan. 25 – Kumquat Festival** – The annual citrus celebration returns in downtown Dade City from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There will plenty of the little orange fruit to go around along with vendors offering kumquat products, a car and truck show, kids’ activities, and more.

**Jan. 30 – Digestive Health Q&A** – From irritable bowel syndrome to constipation, hemorrhoids and colon cancer, our digestive health team is here to help you feel whole. Join us from 12-12:45 p.m. for a Q&A with Dr. Sudhir Kalaskar, a general surgeon who specializes in minimally invasive and robotic colorectal surgery as he discusses digestive health issues. Call (833) 300-2371 to make a reservation.

**Feb. 1 – Snowbird Palooza** – The sixth annual event will feature a vendor chili cook-off as well as live music, free coffee and donuts, raffles, and more. The event will take place from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave.

**Feb. 1 – Farm Fest & Quilt Show** – Quilt exhibition, quilt appraiser, awesome vendors, great food, live entertainment, an amazing Quilt Show in the Mabel Jordan Barn, and more at the Pioneer Florida Museum and Village. Bring your lawn chairs, grab a great lunch from the concession stand and get your spot for the horse pull. The fun begins at 12 p.m. All museum buildings open, docents in period dress, traditional craft demonstrations and more.

**Feb. 7 – Dade City after Dark** – Evening shopping and dining, along with other store activities, from 6-9 p.m. For the current month’s special events, visit Dade City Merchants Association Facebook page.

**Feb. 17-23 – 73rd Annual Pasco County Fair** – Bring the family to the Pasco County Fairgrounds for this annual event featuring rides, food, exhibits, rodeo, and so much more.

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

# Spotlight On Talent Deadline Nears

## Big Prize Money, Trophies Part Of The Annual Show

Those wishing to participate in the 37th annual Spotlight on Talent competition have two weeks to get prepared, Barbara Friedman said Monday.

“This is our area’s version of ‘America’s Got talent’,” said Friedman, the producer of the competition, said of the event that this year takes place Jan. 23. The event will give those who dream of performing onstage, or who have plans to earn a performing arts college scholarship to prepare first in a local competition, Friedman said.

The event is hosted by the Heritage Arts Center Association (HACA), and gives talented performers up through grade 12 valuable opportunities for audition and performance experience along with cash prizes and trophies.

Tryouts will be held on Feb. 8 for the opportunity to compete in hopes of becoming a finalist, Friedman said.

Participants are judged primarily on talent with additional points for stage presence and appropriate appearance.

The regional competition gives more than \$4,000 in cash prizes and trophies to winners in several age categories. Part of the excitement is that HACA also awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a Pasco county resident graduating senior. Because of the community support of the “Moonlight and Ivory” concerts as well as the “Spotlight” contest, this scholarship has been added and will be awarded to the Pasco senior who has the highest total scores from the preliminary and finals’ judges. The scholarship winner will be announced at the end of the final show — separate and in addition to the individual category winners.

Applications and information are available on the HACA web site at [heritagearts.org](http://heritagearts.org) and information is distributed to each school music teacher in central and east Pasco County, many dance, vocal and instrumental studios, and at the Chambers of Commerce.

The last few years have been record-breaking for “Spotlight on Talent.” Several hundred students participate each year, with judges evaluating about 100 different acts. The final competitions will be on March 7 at the theater at Wesley Chapel High School. The matinee at 12 p.m. will be younger finalists and the evening show at 7 p.m. will be older competitors.

Tickets for adults are \$12 or both shows for \$20. For students through high school the fee is \$6, both shows for \$10 (under 5 is free).

The competition is conducted in a professional atmosphere with judges from central Florida who are outstanding in their respective fields. Vocalists, dancers, instrumental musicians, piano players, baton twirlers, bands, gymnasts and other forms of entertainment are welcome to participate.

There are several age categories for solos and one or more group categories. A student may enter as a solo and with a group.

Community sponsors have always allowed us to generously reward these young people for their hard work in developing their talents. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please email Barbara Friedman at [spotlight@heritagearts.org](mailto:spotlight@heritagearts.org) or call (352) 567-1720, and our newly launched web site will have a “donate now” button.

## Moonlight And Ivory Set For Feb. 1

The 23rd annual Moonlight And Ivory concerts will be held on Feb. 1 at the Dade City Woman’s Club.

Proceeds from the concerts help fund the arts in the area, including two annual \$2,000 scholarships. One of them is in performing arts and the other is in visual arts.

The matinee will begin at 2 p.m. with the art show following. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for the art exhibition and the evening performance will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Talented local musicians will perform

in a variety of styles, ranging from jazz and classical to folk, sacred and Broadway. Refreshments will be served during intermission and an art show is included with both concerts.

Tickets may be purchased at the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, American Eagles Antiques, or online at [heritagearts.org](http://heritagearts.org). Ticket prices are \$15 for the matinee and \$25 for the evening performance.

Contact Jessica Werckman at (561) 400-1404 or [floridajessie@gmail.com](mailto:floridajessie@gmail.com) for tickets and additional information.

## Pasco News Publications

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

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## What Are Your Valuables Worth?

### Your Checklist for Success

<p><b>FINE JEWELRY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Any age &amp; any style</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Broken or damaged jewelry</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Tiffany, Cartier, D.Yurman &amp; more</li></ul>	<p><b>DIAMONDS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Loose or mounted diamonds</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Damaged stones</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> All sizes, colors, and styles</li></ul>	<p><b>WATCHES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Wrist watches &amp; pocket watches</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Patek, Breitling, Cartier</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Elgin, Hamilton, Waltham, Illinois</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Any condition</li></ul>
<p><b>COINS &amp; CURRENCY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Gold &amp; silver coins</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bullion &amp; bars</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Old paper money</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Coin collections</li></ul>	<p><b>SCRAP GOLD &amp; SILVER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Scrap gold, silver, or platinum</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dental gold</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Old mountings</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Fraternal pins</li></ul>	<p><b>STERLING SILVER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Any type and all makers</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> No need to polish</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> We can help carry</li></ul>
<p><b>FINE ART</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Oil &amp; watercolor paintings</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Any type of sculpture</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Any subject or style</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Any condition</li></ul>	<p><b>RARITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Old photos (Tintypes, etc.)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> War memorabilia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Uniforms, badges, daggers, etc.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Autographs</li></ul>	<p><b>TOYS &amp; ADVERTISING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-1960 advertising</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Tin, porcelain &amp; lithographs ads</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-1960 toys</li></ul>



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\*National Rarities will provide a free appraisal, but is not obligated to purchase your items.  
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Community & Club News

Email Club News to [clubs@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:clubs@pasconewspubs.com)

Any club advertising a paid event (e.g. dinner, game night, fundraisers) will be charged for normal ad space. Contact Krista Black at [kblack@pasconewspubs.com](mailto:kblack@pasconewspubs.com) to purchase ad space.

**Rotary Club of Dade City Sunrise**  
The Club meets at the Hampton Inn on U.S. 301 every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. in the meeting room. Exceptions are every fifth Thursday when we have an evening social in place of a meeting. Regular meetings will be Jan. 9, 16, and 23 with our “Fifth Thursday” Evening Social at Brass Tap Downtown Dade on Jan. 30. Everyone is welcome! Contact Cindy Harper, President, at [charper29@aol.com](mailto:charper29@aol.com) for information.

**The Pasco County Genealogical Society**  
The group will meet Jan. 11 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Meetings are hosted in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Meeting Room at 9016 Fort King Road, halfway between Zephyrhills and Dade City. Guests are welcome if interested in genealogy. Dan Zile and Bob Luther from Traveler’s Rest will be talking about great grandfathers in the American Revolution. Please call (813) 788-8894 with questions.

**Pasco County Historical Society**  
The next meeting will be held on Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Road, in the Mabel Jordan Barn. The speaker will be Sister Roberta Bailey, O.S.B., Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida at Saint Leo. Contact Glen M. Thompson, Secretary, at [bookbollar@icloud.com](mailto:bookbollar@icloud.com) or (352) 567-7449 for additional information.

**Dade City Garden Club**  
The club will host its annual Arbor Day and Memorial Tree Celebration on Jan. 17 at the Garden Club, 13630 Fifth St., at 10 a.m. The Garden Club is extending a special invitation to the public to join them for this special event. Speaking at the event will be Whitney Elmore, UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Director, and Foresters Mona Neville and Arthur Clothier from the Florida Forest Service. Smokey the Bear will be attending if he is not fighting a forest fire.  
Memorial trees that have been given throughout the year will be recognized. Trees are dedicated in memory or in honor of a person or special occasion and are living and lasting tributes that add beauty to the city and

quality to the environment. This year’s honorees include Elizabeth Null, Sharon Brant, Bill and Beverly Hild, Ken Graham, Henry Auvil, Kathryn Newsome, Rhett Gagne, and Cora Littlefield. The event is free and light refreshments will be served. Call Debbie at (352) 567-9003 for information about the program or information on how to order a memorial tree.

**East Pasco Democratic Club**  
The club will meet Jan. 20 at The Tavern, Southport Springs Country Club, 3509 Southport Springs Pkwy. Issues critical to the 2020 election will be discussed. All friends of the Democratic Party are invited to attend. Dining service start at 5 p.m., meeting starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. For more information call (813) 383-8315 or visit us on Facebook.

**Food Pantry**  
The Food Pantry is open from 12-2 p.m. each Monday at Moore-Mickens Education and Vocational Center, 38301 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Contact Kim G. Fleming at (740) 963-2442 for information. A second pantry is open on Tuesdays from 12-2 p.m. at CornerStone for Women and Children, 37522 Meridian Ave. Contact Chaplain Kelly Miller, director, at (352) 567-5777 for details.

**American Legion Post #15**  
Join Dade City Post #15 every Wednesday with Roger-Dodger and Saturdays with Little Ricky for Karaoke. Doors open at 5 p.m. for food purchases, drinks, and Karaoke signups. Karaoke begins at 6 p.m. for the first round of singers and once completed, a second rotation will follow. This is a friendly and smoke-free Post. The Post does have an outside designated smoking area.  
Regular business meetings are conducted on the second Monday of the month. All members are encouraged to attend. We are located at 37745 Church Ave. Join us in support of all veterans and those hometown men/women now on active duty. Call (352) 518-0021 for information or email us at [legionfl15@gmail.com](mailto:legionfl15@gmail.com). Post Adjutant hours are Tuesdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m. except the first Tuesday of the month when they are 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

**Chess Club**  
The Hugh Embry Library Chess Club meets Wednesdays from 5-7:30 p.m. We have boards and pieces so bring your winning attitude and chess clock if you prefer to use one. Meetings are held at the Hugh Embry Library Meeting Room, 14215 Fourth St. in Dade City. Contact Glen Thompson at [bookbollar@icloud.com](mailto:bookbollar@icloud.com) or call (352) 567-7449 for information.

**Centennial Eagles #4399**  
Located at 10549 U.S. 301. Call the club at (352) 567-9755 for information.

**Dade City Moose Lodge #397**  
A full calendar of lodge events can be found at [www.lodge397.moosepages.org/](http://www.lodge397.moosepages.org/). All events are open to the active members and qualified guests. The lodge is located at 17107 U.S. 301.

**Zumba for College Scholarships**  
Every Monday and Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. Come dance at La Onda Dance Club, 37518 Lock St. in Dade City. All proceeds go to graduating seniors college scholarships. Email [griveras@mail.usf.edu](mailto:griveras@mail.usf.edu) for information.

**Kiwanis Club of Dade City**  
The Dade City Kiwanis Club meets at noon on Tuesdays at the American Legion Hall. We are always looking for new members. If interested, contact a Kiwanis member or come to one of our meetings. Everyone is welcome to join. Contact Mike Carr at (352) 397-6628 for information.

**Bariatric Weight Loss Support**  
AdventHealth Dade City offers a bariatric support group twice a month for patients who are awaiting or have undergone bariatric surgery. Patients’ family members are also welcome. The free group, facilitated by Dina Erickson, RN, meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Classroom 108 of the hospital’s Medical Plaza I located at 13100 Fort King Road. The group provides a safe place where one can share, ask questions, and receive education. Those who meet the criteria are welcome. No reservations necessary. Call Erickson at (352) 521-1170 for dates and information.

Free Event

VIBRANT HEALTH WORKSHOP

By the year 2020, three out of four Americans will have diabetes, heart disease, or cancer! YOU DO NOT have to be one of them ! Find out what you can do to ... END THE TREND OF CHRONIC DISEASE!!! Come and gain an understanding of nutrition unlike anything you’ve ever heard. Learn positive, potent and proven actions that will end the trends of disease on a grassroots level. Set your health free from confusing labels, fad diets, dangerous drugs, and empty supplements. SATURDAY, JANUARY 11th • 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Hosts: Oren & Marj Nelson RSVP: Oren & Marj Nelson at (813) 713-3055

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# Cruise-In Draws Rare Customized Car

Story and photos by Joe Potter

A rare 1939 Willys Overland snarknose sedan was displayed during Saturday’s rain dampened Cruise-In held in downtown Dade City.

Bill Tessara of Dade City has owned it for about a year.

Its previous owner spent 11 years converting the Willys from a dragster to a street rod.

He worked on the Willys for about a year, Tessara said, before getting it to its current shape.

“I spent a lot of time and a lot of money on that car,” Tessara said.

He traded a 1955 Chevrolet dragster, also known as a gasser, for the Willys,

Tessara said.

The sedan sports a two-tone paint job and has an all steel body. Fiberglass parts, including hoods, were frequently used on gassers, which his Willys used to be, Tessara said.

The car is mounted on a 1940 Willys frame and sports coil over suspension. Power is derived from a 355-cubic-inch Chevrolet V-8 and is transmitted through a Chevrolet Turbo 400 automatic transmission. Wildwood brakes have been installed to make it come to a quick and safe stop.

Willys sedans are rare cars, Tessara said, because the majority of racers used coupes or pickup trucks.

All new aftermarket gauges are used



This 1939 Willys Overland sedan is a rare car.

inside the car. It has 17” wheels mounted on the rear and 14” wheels on the front.

It has only been driven about 120 miles since he bought it and he is continuing to work on it to get some bugs out, Tessa said. “I only drive it to local car shows,” Tessara said.

Lenny Caye of Dade City brought his 1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass S sports coupe to the Cruise-In. The car also has a two-tone paint job.

Only two modifications have been made to the original Rocket 350-cubic-inch V-8 engine, Caye said. It now has a Holly four-barrel carburetor and a mild cam. Power is transmitted through a Chevrolet Turbo 350 automatic transmission, he said.

He even has the build sheet for the

car. It was built in Texas and its original owner purchased it in Tennessee on March 15, 1972.

He traded a Chevrolet El Camino for the Cutlass three years ago, Caye said.

The car has air conditioning, power steering, and power drum brakes on all four wheels. The original AM radio is still inside the car, but it doesn’t work. Caye replaced it with a newer AM/FM radio and CD player that is mounted under the dashboard.

Caye only drives it to car shows.

The Cruise-In is held from 12-5 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month, except from June-August. Cars are displayed at the American Legion Hall on Church Avenue. The entrance is at the intersection of Meridian Avenue and Ninth Street.



This 1972 Cutlass S sports coupe is a numbers matching car.

## EARN \$125 CASH

**\$125 Cash** paid for participation in a research project.

No experience needed.

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Groups held in Dade City, FL on **Monday, Jan. 20** from 5:30-10pm; **Tuesday, Jan. 21** from 8:30am-1pm and 1:30-6pm.

All ages and education levels welcome.

You must be 21 to participate.

To apply call  
**(903) 646-8957**  
starting **Monday, Jan. 13 at 9:30 a.m.**

## Clerk • Continued from Page 1A

Sowles said.

“I’m running to serve them and to continue to make this county’s Clerk & Comptroller Office efficient and accountable to the public.”

A Hillsborough County native, Alvarez-Sowles graduated from the University of South Florida before earning her law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

She and her husband, Kevin, and their two children live in Land O’ Lakes.

She previously worked as director of branch court services for the Palm Beach County Clerk & Comptroller’s Office.

Since being appointed Clerk & Comptroller, Alvarez-Sowles has created

a call center where people can talk to a live person rather than communicating through an automated system. Also, she has brought other technological advances to the office, such as electronic filing in court, electronic filing in official records, a new jury management system and a new case management system that has converted 40 million records along with a new financial software program to manage nearly \$2 billion annually in the county’s financial transactions.

“I will use my extensive experience and unique skill set to continue improving efficiencies and services in the Clerk & Comptroller’s Office,” Alvarez-Sowles said.

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