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Shopping Small Helps Us All

Merchants Hope Folks Stay Local For The Holidays



Barbara Case Luckie sees a lot of business at Lori Anne's the whole year, but when the weather cools down, business really heats up.

Story and photos by Emily Kochanski

With the gift-giving season in full swing, folks are flocking to outlet malls to finish, or begin, their holiday shopping.

With larger retailers offering big promotions and savings, local shops often get neglected during the rush, which is why Dade City merchants are encouraging local residents to Shop Small this season.

Small businesses, such as antique and curiosity shops, do a lot for the Dade City community. If their business dwindles, so does the aid to their hometown.

Shop • Continued on Page 6A

Caring Through Sharing In East Pasco

Local Organizations Distribute Food For More Than 800 Families

by Dave Walters

State Rep. Danny Burgess wished a grateful woman a "Happy Thanksgiving," as she pulled away with two bags of side dishes and a turkey during the Holiday Food Giveaway at the Dade City Business Center on Saturday.

More than 800 east Pasco families will have a healthy holiday meal thanks to the efforts of Feeding Tampa Bay, the Lacochee Boys & Girls Club, Pasco County and the business center.

Dozens of volunteers including cub scouts, girls scouts, Rotary club members and people who just wanted to help, kept the long queue of cars moving along.



The Holiday Food Giveaway has been helping 'food insecure' people in east Pasco for five years. Photo by Richard K. Riley

Food • Continued on Page 6A



The city owns 25 commercial wreaths used to decorate for the holidays.

Decorations Bring Charm To Downtown

Story and photos by Joe Potter

Dade City Commissioner Jim Shive and others began placing Christmas decorations at various locations in town earlier this month to prepare the community for the upcoming Christmas holiday season.

The city decided to purchase its own decorations three years ago after having leased them from others for several years. The decision was reached after a couple of years when no decorations were displayed during the festive holidays.

Contractor Bob Larkin helped Shive put

Decorations • Continued on Page 3A

Annual Anderson Show Delivers Help

Eight Charities Benefit From Country Concert

by Keri McAlpine



Representatives of eight local charities gathered at the Nov. 14 noon meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Dade City for special check presentations from funds raised at this year's John Anderson benefit concert.

Photo by Chris Drews

Thanks to the fundraising draw of country legend John Anderson, a handful of east Pasco charities recently received an early Christmas present.

This year's Anderson concert in September welcomed hundreds at Dan Cannon Auditorium for an evening of delicious food, swinging music and good company.

With sold out shows every year, the annual concert has raised more than a quarter million dollars in its five years at the county fairgrounds.

Benefit • Continued on Page 4A

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Dade City Police Report

Three Middle Schoolers Face Drug Charges

Dade City police arrested three Pasco Middle School students on Sept. 26. Two of them were charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. School staff were informed one of the students, who was 15, smelled of marijuana. He had a partially smoked blunt that field-tested positive for marijuana and also had multiple pills positively identified as Schedule IV narcotics. School officials received information that the second and third students were in possession of narcotics. The second student, who was 14, had both marijuana and Schedule IV narcotics on him. The third student, 15, was charged with possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. All three were booked into the Pasco County Juvenile Assessment Center.

as methamphetamine. Napper also had multiple forms of identification on him. Post Miranda, he told police the items belonged to relatives and that he also had no means of paying for the jacket or the shoes.

It field-tested positive for marijuana and weighed 1.6 grams. She was released with a notice to appear.

Johnathon Scott Napper, 30, of Ocala, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 1 and charged with retail theft and possession of methamphetamine. Police contacted Napper at Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301, regarding a shoplifting complaint. He allegedly put on a jacket and pair of shoes and walked around the store while wearing them.

When confronted by law enforcement, Napper said he intended to pay for the items valued at \$51.14. A pat down search for weapons yielded a syringe containing a trace amount of a substance that field-tested positive

Tequista Charmael Sermon, 31, of 38650 Barbara Lane, was apprehended by Dade City police on Oct. 31 on three Sumter County warrants charging her with failure to appear – driving while license suspended or revoked, FTA – petit theft and grand theft and on a Pasco County warrant charging her with FTA – retail theft. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrants.

Samuel Dave Baker, 32, of Wesley Chapel, was apprehended by Dade City police on Nov. 1 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with failure to appear – petit theft. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

Nekkodai Martin, 23, of 36630 Browning Road, was arrested by Dade City police on Oct. 30 and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. Martin was stopped for an equipment violation – no working tag light. An odor of marijuana was emanating from the vehicle. Also, some suspected marijuana was in plain view on the passenger floorboard. Post Miranda, Martin reportedly admitted the marijuana was his and said he just bought it. The marijuana field tested positive and weighed 6.9 grams.

Elonda Marie Layde, 25, of Tampa, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 6 and charged with possession of marijuana. Layde was stopped for disregarding a traffic light. An odor of suspected marijuana was emanating from the vehicle. Layde reportedly told the officer she recently smoked marijuana. She also reportedly told police there was a blunt in her purse.

Hannah Marie Johnson, 26, of 9504 Fort King Road, was arrested by Dade City police on Oct. 29 and charged with domestic battery, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. Johnson allegedly slapped a person in the face while they were holding a small infant child they have in common. The incident reportedly occurred in the emergency room of Bayfront Health Dade City, 13100 Ft. King Road. She was allegedly found to be in possession of 1.1 grams of a substance positively identified as marijuana and also in possession of a grinder. Post Miranda she reportedly admitted both items belonged to her and they were for her personal use.

Shawna M. Suggs, 34, transient, was apprehended by Dade City police on Nov. 7 on a Lake County warrant charging her with contempt of court for nonpayment of child support. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

Two juveniles, ages 14 and 12, were arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 5 at Walmart, 12650 U.S. 301 and both were charged with retail theft. The older juvenile was also charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. One of the juveniles took a watch valued at \$11.48 and the other took three pairs of earbuds valued at \$97.72. They were both stopped by loss prevention after they passed all points of sale without paying for the items. They were both released to their parents with notices to appear in court.

The 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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Decorations • Continued from Page 1A

up some of the decorations on Nov. 11. “Bobby has been actively involved in this program,” Shive said.

Twenty-five lighted commercial wreaths with lights now shine throughout the city. More than 200 decorated poles will also line Seventh Street near the Historic Pasco County Courthouse and beside the Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center on Live Oak Avenue.

And a large banner is now hung across Meridian Avenue.

“I have O.C.D. – Obsessive Christmas Disorder,” Shive said with a laugh as he described how he spends a couple of months each year on the project. “Who doesn’t love Christmas – right?”

Shive praised the Dade City Merchants Association and the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce for the active roles both organizations also play in helping to make Dade City look nice for



This banner hangs across Meridian Avenue.



A fresh coat of paint has been applied to this fireplace before it is displayed in City Hall for the holidays.



One of the more than 200 poles displayed along Seventh Street.

the holidays.

“Margaret Angell and John Moors have done great jobs in leading what the merchants association and the chamber does each year,” Shive said, adding, “I can’t give them enough credit for what they do.”

The merchants association have decorated a large Christmas tree by the historic courthouse this year along with Agnes Lamb Park and Hibiscus Park.

The city is in the third year of its five-year plan to purchase Christmas decorations.

“I’m kind of proud of the program because I think it has really made a lot of difference over the last three years,” Shive said. “It really has had an economic impact on our downtown because people are coming from as far away as Tampa to see and take photographs of our Christmas decorations. Then, they are spending money in our downtown shops and restaurants,” Shive said.

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East Pasco Events

Nov. 23 – Give Back With Yoga – A great way to start your Thanksgiving day by giving thanks to your body while doing something special for neighbors. Admittance is by donation, which will go toward food for the hungry through St. Vincent de Paul. Hosted by JCat Yoga at Dade City Jazzercise, 37931 Heather Place (Heather Plaza off U.S. 301. Stick around for a special Thanksgiving Jazzercise Team Teach at 8:30 a.m. Call (813) 714-9272 for information.

Nov. 24 – Black Friday Sale – Stop by any Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppe this Black Friday to save and enjoy a cup of coffee. All six locations will be holding a “flip-a-coin sale” for up to 20 percent off. Store hours on Black Friday are from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The local thrift shoppes are located at 36504 S.R. 54 and 36524 S.R. 54 in Zephyrhills, and 37925 Sky Ridge Circle in Dade City. Visit www.facebook.com/ghthriftshoppes for information.

Nov. 25 – Give Back Benefit – Starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Moore-Mickens Education and Vocational Center, 38301 Martin Luther King Blvd. Come by for music, drama, comedy and fun for all. Guest speaker will be Attorney Alfreda Coward, Delta Sigma Sorority, Inc. Tickets are \$25. Contact (863) 651-6409 or (352) 467-0313 for information.

Nov. 30-Dec. 1 – A Saint Leo Christmas – The annual student and faculty holiday concert presented by the Saint Leo University School of Arts and Sciences will present four performances all in the Black Box Theatre in Benedictine Hall, at the west end of campus, 33701 S.R. 52. Benedictine Hall has its own entrance for cars from S.R. 52, and its own parking lot. Admission is free. Show times are both days at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are required for both 7 p.m. shows. Contact schoolofartsandsciences@saintleo.edu for information and tickets.

Dec. 1 – Free Medicare Plan Comparisons – Held at Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. A SHINE volunteer will be available to prepare plan comparisons for individuals. For appointments, call (352)567-3576. Bring a list of your prescriptions.

Dec. 1 – Magical Night Christmas Parade – The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and Bayfront Health Dade City invite you to come join thousands of spectators in downtown Dade City to watch colorfully decorated floats, dancers, marching bands and Santa Clause make their way down the parade route. Held from 7-9 p.m. Call (352) 567-3769 or visit www.DadeCityChamber.org for information.

Dec. 2 – Car Show – Held in downtown Dade City from 3-7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per car registration; trophies will be presented. Giveaways to the first cars registered. Activities for kids will also be featured. The public and car enthusiasts are encouraged to visit the fabulous shops and restaurants in Dade City. Call (813) 879-1616 for information.

Dec. 2 – The Market Place – The monthly market place will be held at Hibiscus Park at Seventh Street and Bougainvillea Avenue from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The pet friendly event is free to attend, open to the public and includes live entertainment. Shop local vendors for a variety of products including honey, home décor, garden accessories, jewelry, bakery items, jellies/jams, homemade soaps and much more.

Contact lucyavila707@gmail.com or (352) 424-4972 for additional information or interested vendors.

Dec. 2 – Raise the Roof – Join Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco at the Zephyrhills ReStore, 4700 Allen Road, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Habitat will be framing a house at the ReStore, which will also be hosting a flea market with more than 30 vendors and a raffle for a custom outdoor playhouse. Volunteers are still welcome. Vendor pre-registration closes Nov. 24 at noon. Contact lweightman@habitatpasco.org or (352) 567-1444 to get involved.

Dec. 2 – Cookies and Cocoa With Santa – Sunrise of Pasco County hosts this event with plenty for children and adults. Adults can enjoy the Dough-Mestic Confections Café, a Christmas marketplace and a silent auction while kids can take photos with Santa, decorate cookies and enjoy hot cocoa and rock painting. Cost is \$5 per child in advance or \$10 at the door. Held at Imagine Center, 32750 Pennsylvania Ave. in San Antonio. Visit www.ImagineCenterFL.com for information and to register. Proceeds benefit Sunrise.

Dec. 3 – Christmas in the Park – Start your Holiday season by attending the Founders Garden Club of San Antonio's Christmas in the Park event at 7 p.m., in the San Antonio City Park, 32819 Pennsylvania Ave. Join us for the lighting of the Christmas cards and entertainment featuring The Huran family. A drawing for a variety of gift baskets will be featured. Purchased raffle tickets at City Hall and vendors around town. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Complimentary refreshments and coffee will be served. Admission is free. Bring a chair and a flashlight. Contact Donna at (352) 588-3631 for information.

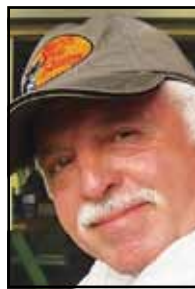
Dec. 5 – Free Orthopedic Education Program – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., presents “Current Treatment Options for Cartilage and Meniscus Disorders of the Knee” which will be covered by Dr. Brian Domby, from 12-1 p.m. in the Cypress Room. Reservations required. Call (877) 534-3108 for information and to reserve a spot.

Dec. 7 – Sunrise Peace Breakfast – The 14th annual breakfast will be held from 7-8:30 a.m. at Saint Leo University's Greenfelder Boardroom, 33701 S.R. 52. Registration, networking and breakfast begins at 7 a.m. with the program beginning at 7:30 a.m. A hot buffet breakfast will be served. RSVP to events@sunrisepasco.org by Nov. 18. Call Sunrise at (352) 521-3358 for information or to make a donation.

Dec. 7 – Partial Knee Replacement Outpatient Surgery – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Dr. Randolph Knight will present this topic as part of the hospital's series of free orthopedic education programs from 1-2 p.m. in the Cypress Room, 7050 Gall Blvd. Reservations required. Call (877) 534-3108 for information and to reserve a spot.

Dec. 7 – Lions Club Sight Program – The Zephyrhills Lions Club, located at 5827 Dean Dairy Road, will be accepting applications for its Sight Program from 9-11:30 a.m. Applicants must bring required documents, which can be found on www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills. The program is open to all Pasco County residents in need of basic eye care. Contact the clubhouse at (813) 788-1441 for information.

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

Keep A Close Eye On What's Valuable

I was talking to a new friend of mine who recently lost his wallet. He's not sure where it happened, and he came up empty retracing his steps. He looked through his car probably 10 times hoping it was stuck between the seats or slid out of sight, but to no avail. It can be a scary feeling losing your credit cards and driver's license, not to mention the cash inside.

When my kids were little we all took a trip to San Francisco to visit all of the tourist stops. We drove down winding Lombard Street, crossed the Golden Gate Bridge, checked out Alcatraz, Chinatown and visited some of the awesome restaurants and shops on Fisherman's Wharf. It was great fun to ride the cable cars, which I remember seeing in Rice-A-Roni commercials when I was a kid.

We decided to take our rental car on a scenic trip around the city, stopping along for some great photo opportunities. One stop was Twin Peaks, offering a stunning view of the city. We got out of the car for no more than five minutes and when we got back in my wife said she couldn't find her wallet. She ran back to where we took the pictures and no luck. Come to find out someone broke into the car and had a field day. We have always put valuables in the truck if we were

leaving them in the vehicle. Again, this all happened in five minutes.

After filing a police report and cancelling Jenny's credit cards everything seemed okay until we got to the airport to leave. They needed photo identification for her to get on the plane. Thank God we had a police report and we all got home safely. It was a lesson learned.

Back to my friend who lost his billfold; he cancelled his credit cards and was getting ready to work on getting a new driver's license when he got a call from a bank to report someone tried to use his driver's license and debit card to make a withdrawal. The criminal and my friend look nothing like each other. The person was confronted and took off like a scared cat dropping the stolen items. Surveillance video from the store is being studied but that's all I can say about the case for now as it is still under investigation.

This happens all the time. Leaving valuables in your car within sight could ruin your day. It happened at a chamber of commerce event many years ago. Several women at the event left their purses in the car and some were stolen. One vehicle had a sophisticated security system yet it didn't stop the thieves from breaking out a window.

Now more than ever we need to be extra careful.

Some people would do anything if they thought they could steal something of value, rob someone or worse. In some cases some idiots in this area are even shooting at police officers cars and, worse yet, their homes. This is unforgivable and in the end justice will prevail.

God bless each and every one of you who puts it on the line every single day to help protect us. We will do our best to continue to watch out for you as well.

From all of us at *Pasco News Publications*, Happy Thanksgiving.

Benefit • Continued from Page 1A

Money is raised not only through donations and ticket sales for the concert, but also from a live auction held prior to the performance.

This year's benefitting charities were Dade City Kiwanis Foundation, Bayfront Health Dade City Foundation, Sunrise of Pasco County, the Lewis Abraham Boys and Girls Club of Lacochee, Humane Society of Pasco County, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Heart Institute, The Thomas Promise Foundation and Habitat for Humanity.

This was the first year Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco was a benefactor from the annual concert.

Representatives from each charity gathered at the Nov. 14 meeting of the Dade City Kiwanis Club where each received a check for \$6,500.

The checks were presented by County Commissioner Ron Oakley, who is also the concert organizer and a Kiwanis member.

A \$1,500 check was also granted to the Pasco County Sheriff's Mounted Posse for their help working the event and serving dinner.

“They're very appreciative groups ... It's a real pleasure to be able to help them out,” Oakley said. “Now the money is back into the community of east Pasco and even the entire county, because three or four of them [the charities] are countywide, more so than they used to be.”

Planning for the 2018 concert is already in the works. Next year's John Anderson benefit concert will be held Sept. 20, with tickets going on sale July 5.

Pasco News Publications

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

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Dec. 2 – Cookies and Cocoa With Santa – Sunrise of Pasco County hosts this event for children and adults. Adults can enjoy the Dough-Mestic Confections Café, a Christmas marketplace and a silent auction while kids can take photos with Santa, decorate cookies and enjoy hot cocoa and rock painting. Cost is \$5 per child in advance or \$10 at the door. Held at Imagine Center, 32750 Pennsylvania Ave. in San Antonio. Visit www.ImagineCenterFL.com for information and to register. Proceeds benefit Sunrise.

Dec. 2 – Festival of Lights – Sponsored by Main Street Zephyrhills and held downtown from 4-9 p.m. The parade is scheduled for 7 p.m. with the theme of classic Christmas movies. Catch Santa at the end of the parade. Stop by for live music, crafts, vendors, door prizes for kids and more. The Jeffries House will be open for an open house and a gingerbread house decorating contest. Visit the Main Street Facebook page for details and updates.

Dec. 9 – Photos With Santa – Stop by Outside the Box, 38430 Fifth Ave., from 2-4 p.m. to snap a photo with Santa for \$5, just in time for Christmas cards. Call (813) 312-4697 for information.

Dec. 9 – Breakfast With Santa – First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills invites families and kids up to 5th grade to stop by for breakfast with Santa at the church, located at 38635 Fifth Ave. from 8:30-10 a.m. Free pancakes and crafts will also be set up. Call (813) 431-6555 for information.

Dec. 16 – Photos With Santa – Stop by Outside the Box, 38430 Fifth Ave., from 2-4 p.m. to snap a photo with Santa for \$5, for a Christmas memory. Call (813) 312-4697 for information.

Know another place Santa can be spotted this holiday season? Send the details in to events@pasconewspubs.com.

Watson Park To Grow, Literally

City Helps Out Community Garden Project

by Joe Potter

The University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Science has been given the green light to develop a community garden at Watson Park.

The program is designed to build a sense of community pride while preserving rare and heirloom plants through cultivation and seeds, and helping families with their food budgets.

During their Nov. 14 meeting, Community Development Director Michael Sherman told commissioners UF/IFAS is the first agency to contact the city and express an interest in developing a community garden.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to pay \$2,500 to have a fence

installed around the garden. The city will also install a water line and spigot to the garden’s area and pay for water used to maintain it.

UF/IFAS will be responsible for planning and setting up the garden plot as well as its management and operation.

“The location they have selected at Watson Park is a great location and will offer the community opportunities to learn about agriculture and food production,” Sherman said.

Commissioners also approved 4-0 revising the budget for fiscal year 2016-17 that ended Sept. 30, from \$11,046,592 to \$12,882,002. The revision was necessary because of changes that had occurred within the

budget during the past year.

Commissioners also revised by a 4-0 vote the amount that will be contributed into a retirement fund for employees that was established in 1996 when the city withdrew from the Florida Retirement System. Dade City recently opted to rejoin the FRS but some employees decided to remain under the other plan. The FRS will cover newly hired employees.

Commissioners also unanimously agreed to pay Fred Fox Inc. \$52,000 for administrative services for the proposed expansion of two existing storm water retention ponds on Beauchamp Avenue.

Commissioner Nicole Deese Newlon was unable to attend the meeting.

Letter To The Editor...

Dear Editor,

With all due respect, it is appalling that more than thirty young trees and a dozen ferns-type bushes have been just cut down in the Hardy walking trail, right in the heart of Dade City.

This trail is very special because it is mostly shady and is close to all local walkers and families.

The Hardy Trail is parallel to [U.S. 301] and crosses Florida Street. It is about three blocks from 301.



Due to the hurricane, this trail lost many old, big trees. If the government cuts down the young trees, then we will have a trail without its shade and charming magic.

We would like to know why these nice young trees were cut down. We would love volunteering to plant some more trees, as we cherish this unique trail.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Have a nice day.
Coral Beedham



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Volunteers Tyrone Lovett of Dade City and Judy Geiger of Lacoochee with Rep. Danny Burgess. Volunteers were on site from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday for the food giveaway.

Photo by Richard K. Riley

Food • Continued from Page 1A

The event, hosted by Burgess, County Commissioner Ron Oakley, U.S. Congressman Gus Bilirakis and state Sen. Tom Lee, is in its fifth year and has provided thousands of families with meals for the holiday.

In assembly line fashion, volunteers packed bags with fresh vegetables and assorted groceries needed to put a quality meal on the table for Thanksgiving.

Katie Boyd, her daughters and the members of their girl scout troop worked the assembly line filling bags.

"It's good for our community to help out. I see need and a community helping to fulfill that need," said Boyd. "These kids are learning to support the community they live in."

As cars rolled through the line, recipients had groceries loaded into their car and were handed a turkey to make the meal complete.

"We have a very giving community,"

said Burgess, who has been volunteering for this event since its inception five years ago when it was Farm Share. "We have a community that helps one another and comes together. That's why I love representing and living in this place my whole life."

Based on the turnout of families lined up for the event, there is an obvious need in east Pasco.

"I see a lot of good people giving back to people who need it," said Oakley. "Cars are as far as you can see. It's a great giveaway. This community gives and helps the people in this county. They always have and they always will."

Rhonda Gindlesperger, director of agency relations and programs for Feeding Tampa Bay, coordinated the event, which she describes as helping those who are 'food insecure.'

"Some of these people don't know where their next meal will come from," Gindlesperger said. "We are providing nutrition for those who need it."

Shop • Continued from Page 1A

"It's nice to keep the proceeds within the local community," said John Moors, director of the Dade City Chamber of Commerce.

While big-box chain stores get a lot of attention there are those local establishments that find their business booming as well.

Jo Kassabaum, the former owner turned part-time employee of The Book Shack, owes much of her seasonal success to visiting snowbirds and Dade City's holiday events.

"We are very busy during the Christmas events. A lot of people want books for Christmas," explained Kassabaum. "We do gift cards, so customers can pick out their own books. Those make for great stocking stuffers."

Barbara Case Luckie, an employee at Lori Anne's, notices the holiday surge in sales.

"We have lots of local customers, so we're busy all year round," she said. "The holiday season has officially kicked off. We've already sold two thirds of our Christmas stuff and just had to order more."

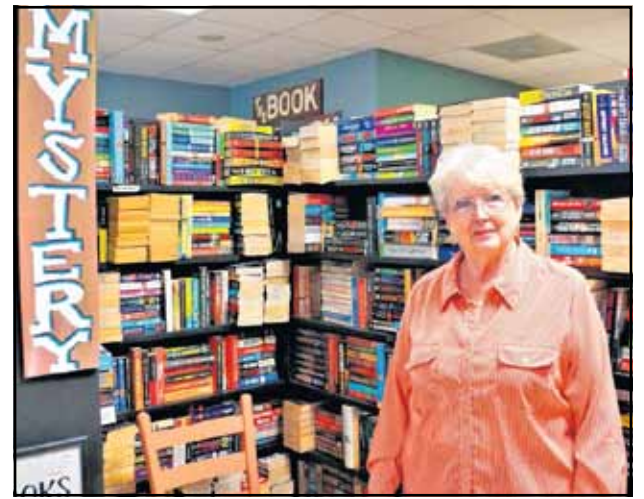
While it is key to promote local shops during such a demanding time of the year, Moors and his fellow chamber members also recognize the importance of larger retailers as well.

"I have nothing against larger businesses, many of which are a part of our Chamber of Commerce," said Moors. "It's a very good time to support our local businesses, but also to remember that our larger employers play a very vital role."

While Dade City shops don't seem to be struggling yet, new competition is popping up all the time and could spell trouble for the future. The most important aspect of the Christmas season is giving back, and locals can give back to their community by continuing to help local businesses, like Lori Anne's and The Book Shack, flourish.

"We have to preserve our towns and our identity," said Kassabaum.

As the song so beautifully states, "there's no place like home for the holidays."



'Most of the shops that are down here try to be unique,' says Jo Kassabaum of The Book Shack. 'They try to provide things that you are not going to find online or in the big stores.'

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Expo Offers Plenty For Attendees

University Sponsors Business Fair

Story and photos by Joe Potter

The Dan Cannon Auditorium was a busy place last week as more than 50 vendors participated in an annual business expo.

A few hundred people attended the event, sponsored by Saint Leo University and organized by the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce.

The expo gave those attending numerous networking opportunities and a chance to learn about goods and services that are available locally, said John Moors, the chamber's executive director.

Todd Batchelor and Stephanie Schaper of Beef 'O' Brady's were on hand to provide some freshly prepared prime rib, Cuban sandwiches, hamburgers and cheeseburgers, and chicken rice bowls.

"The Cuban sandwiches went really quickly," said Batchelor.

Beef's has been in business at 14136 Seventh St. for 11 years now and Batchelor added on The Brass Tap five years ago.

Other vendors who attended included, but were not limited to, Anytime Fitness; Bayfront Health Dade City; Florida Hospital Zephyrhills and the Creation Health Wellness Center; The Edwinola Retirement Community; Westbrook Manor; Pasco News Publications and Naturecoaster.com.

The expo was the fifth annual event. The first expos were held at the Hampton Inn on U.S. Highway 301.

"We outgrew that location and have held it at the fairgrounds ever since," Moors said.



Patty Richter, right, was on hand at this year's Business Expo to discuss the services offered at Bayfront Health Dade City.



San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union was represented at the business expo by its different vice presidents/area managers, from left, Tammy Minton, Dade City; Carrie Carlberg, San Antonio; and Jasmine Wilkins, Zephyrhills.



Todd Batchelor and Stephanie Schaper of Beef 'O' Brady's prepare and serve up food at the expo.

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