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# Dade City News

Serving Dade City • San Antonio • Saint Leo

Volume VIII • Issue 17

Your Hometown News Source • [dadecitynews.org](http://dadecitynews.org)

December 6, 2018

## Poe Replacement Sought

City Manager Aims To Work Through Feb. 7

by Joe Potter

Dade City Commissioners agreed during a Nov. 30 workshop to advertise the city manager's position through December.

Billy Poe, Dade City's city manager for 11 years, resigned effective Feb. 7, to work for Zephyrhills as assistant city manager.

Four commissioners – Scott Black and James Shive and Mayor Camille Hernandez and Mayor Pro Tempore Eunice Penix – attended the workshop. Commissioner Nicole Deese Newlon

was unable to attend.

The commissioners decided to have the city conduct the search for Poe's replacement rather than to pay a search firm \$20,000-\$30,000 to do it for them. A search firm's process could take as many as 100 days and commissioners said they want to fill the position quicker, if possible.



Billy Poe

"I don't want us to rush Mr. Poe out the door and I do want us to be fair to him. He has been a loyal employee," Black said.

"I think we need to encourage him to stay on through Feb. 7. This would help us to have a very smooth transition. It always works better when the new city manager works for a while with the person he will be replacing," Black said.

Under terms of his contract, Poe will receive a nearly \$101,000 payout if he works through Feb. 7.

Poe • Continued on Page 6A

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## Holiday Merriment Abounds

Tis The Season For Festive Lights And Parades

by Emily Kochanski



Volunteers, future home owners, and staff rode in a miniature version of a Habitat for Humanity home in last year's Magical Night Christmas Parade.

Photo by Richard K. Riley

The Christmas Season is officially here and east Pasco County marks the month of yuletide cheer with some popular holiday events, the first of many happening this weekend.

Dade City's Magical Night Christmas Parade, which takes place Friday, usually features about 50 floats. This year's parade will make its way down Seventh Street from 7-9 p.m.

The annual Christmas Stroll will take place Saturday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Shoppers can jingle all the way from store to store and take in an assortment of holiday goods and apparel enough to fill even the grinchiest person with the holiday spirit.

Locals will also get the chance to welcome Christmas in that "new old-fashioned way" at the Pioneer Museum's Country Christmas and Vintage Market, also on Saturday. Guests can start their seasonal shopping early at any of the 90-plus vendors in attendance while listening to live Christmas carols and taking in the quaint history of the pioneer village decked out in its holiday finest. The all-day

Holiday Continued on Page 2A

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## Need A New Landing Site For Santa?

by Joe Potter

Ryman Roofing wants to hear from families for its Holiday Re-Roof Contest. This may be the best time of the year for a family who has a roof that is leaking, dilapidated or in need of repair and no money to fix it.

Applications will be accepted through midnight on Dec. 15 and information about how to be considered for the free roof may be found at [rymanroofing.com](http://rymanroofing.com).

The winner of the contest, now in its 10th year, will be announced on or before Dec. 31 and work will begin about two weeks later, according to the

Roof • Continued on Page 4A



Representatives of Ryman Roofing with the Schultz family who received a new roof for their Wesley Chapel home courtesy of the Zephyrhills-based roofing company's contest in 2016.

Photo Provided

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# Police Nab Attempted Murder Suspect After Chase

## Pair Arrested On Multiple Charges, Warrants



Adam Alexander Lewis Alexander

### Staff Report

Law enforcement officers arrested Adam Alexander, 27, of 15050 Byron St., and Luis Alexander, 33, of 36101 Deer Creek Dr., on Nov. 30.

Dade City police attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle at 15325 Pinellas Ave. and Withlacoochee Avenue after county

deputies requested assistance in locating a possible attempted murder suspect.

Officers attempted the stop after observing the vehicle fail to obey a stop sign, but the vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed in an effort to elude law enforcement. The vehicle began speeding in the direction of a deputy's patrol vehicle, at which time the deputy had to swerve to avoid collision.

The driver, Luis Alexander, and the passenger, Adam Alexander, exited the vehicle and began to flee on foot but were ultimately detained. A search inside the driver's door revealed a small bag containing what later field-tested positive for methamphetamine and three more bags were located in a black bag also found inside of the vehicle.

A check confirmed that the tag on the vehicle was not assigned and that Luis Alexander had been driving without a valid license.

A check also confirmed Adam Alexander to be the attempted murder suspect in question. He had been wanted for the attempted homicide of a Dade City man committed on Sept. 19. Two more active warrants were also confirmed for Adam Alexander. A search of his person following the pursuit yielded a small baggy of methamphetamine inside of his left front pocket. The firearm, confirmed to be stolen, was also discovered under the passenger's seat of the vehicle. A white powdery substance that tested positive for cocaine was also discovered inside the vehicle's center console.

Adam Alexander was arrested on charges of attempted murder/homicide, possession of stolen property, possession of methamphetamine, possession of cocaine, resisting an officer without violence, and two Pasco County warrants for failure to appear - carrying a concealed weapon (firearm), and driving while license suspended or revoked.

Luis Alexander was arrested on charges of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, felon in possession of a firearm, trafficking in methamphetamine, resisting an officer without violence, fleeing to elude and officer, driving while license suspended or revoked, and failure to register a motor vehicle.

Both men were arrested and transferred to the Pasco County Jail.

## Dade City Police Report Two Guns, Two Drugs, One Arrest

Dalton Colby Stover, 21, of Lumberton, was arrested by Dade City police on Nov. 18 on charges of carrying a concealed weapon, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of marijuana. Police conducted a traffic stop on a speeding vehicle at 38409 Dick Jarrett Way and Old Lakeland Highway. Upon making contact with the driver, Stover, he spontaneously admitted to having marijuana in the vehicle as well as a gun under the driver's seat. A search of the vehicle revealed a black handgun and a bag con-



taining a green leafy substance. A crystal-like substance was also discovered in the vehicle's center console as well as more of the same leafy substance in a blue container. Another handgun was also discovered on the rear passenger's side of the floor. The green leafy substance field-tested positive for marijuana and the crystal-like substance tested positive for methamphetamine. Stover was placed under arrest and transported 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.

### Holiday • Continued from Page 1A

event takes place from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. And, in honor of the season of giving, admission will be reduced to \$5 per guest if they come bearing an unwrapped toy.

Leading up to the big day itself, Dade City's Church Street Christmas will begin on Dec. 21 and run through Dec. 23 from 7-9 p.m. each night. The popular Church Avenue event will feature grand homes adorned with lights and decorations, live music performed by local artists and groups, and much more festive fun.

For the first time Zephyrhills will welcome the holidays with its Main Street Christmas Lighting event at the Jeffries House, 58537 Fifth Ave., from 6-7 p.m. tonight, featuring a 17-foot tree in the front yard, carolers on the

front porch and Mayor Gene Whitfield delivering remarks.

Saturday features the annual Festival of Lights from 4-9 p.m., with the annual Christmas parade, live entertainment, extended shop hours, food, local craft vendors, a visit from Old Saint Nick himself, and something completely new.

"We'll have a 'Tuba Christmas' performing on the porch of the Jeffries House," said Main Street Director Anna Stutzriem. "We'll also have a number of dance groups participating in addition to all of the music."

The Zephyrhills parade usually averages between 70-80 floats each year, making for one lengthy eye-catching experience. It starts at dusk.

These and many more upcoming seasonal events will ensure hours of fun all December long. Break out the jingle bells and prepare to make merry.



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# Santa Visits The Market Place



Joe Midili of St. Joe portrays Santa Claus as he is visited by two young shoppers during the Dec. 1 Market Place in Hibiscus Park.

Photos by **Richard K. Riley**



Ronnie and Jenny Williams of Dade City are opening Farmhouse Market and Cafe next month on Fifth Street but started their first presentation at the monthly Market Place.



A patriotic Christmas Tree is placed on the edge of The Market Place in Hibiscus Park in Dade City.



Landry Brouillard-Muscato of Dade City sits with Santa at The Market Place on the first of December. Santa is also known as Joe Midili of St. Joe.



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## East Pasco Events

**Dec. 6 – Peace Breakfast** – Sponsored by Sunrise of Pasco County, the free event will be held in the boardrooms at Saint Leo University at 7 a.m. Come and learn about Sunrise, the various programs offered and what is happening to stem the violence in our community. Contact Vikki Wiggins at (352) 521-3358 for information and to register.

**Dec. 7 – Magical Night Christmas Parade** – The annual holiday event will take place from 7-9 p.m. on Seventh Street in down town Dade City and will feature festive floats, dancers, marching bands and, of course, Santa Clause. Visit [www.dadecitychamber.org](http://www.dadecitychamber.org) for information.

**Dec. 7 – Me Time** – Is life spinning out of control? In the midst of what can be one of the busiest seasons, take a breath and do something kind for yourself by attending this program, held from 2-3 p.m. at Florida Hospital Dade City, 13100 Fort King Road. Call (813) 779-6476 to make a reservation.

**Dec. 7 – First Friday** – Downtown Dade City shops will still be open from 5-9 p.m. Entertainment, refreshments, children and pets welcome. Visit [facebook.com/dadecitymerchantsassociation/](https://facebook.com/dadecitymerchantsassociation/) for details.

**Dec. 8 – Christmas Stroll** – Downtown Dade City will be filled with shopping, Santa, and other holiday festivities from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

**Dec. 8 – Charity Golf Tournament** – The annual fundraiser golf tournament benefitting Sallybrating With A Cause will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Silverado Golf and Country Club, 36841 Clubhouse Drive. There is a \$50 entry fee per person with lunch included. Contact [sallybratingwithacause@yahoo.com](mailto:sallybratingwithacause@yahoo.com) to register or for information.

**Dec. 8 – Country Christmas and Vintage Market** – The event runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Pioneer Florida Museum and Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road. This is a great opportunity to come out and visit the museum's charming history, do some holiday shopping with 90 plus vendors and listen to some Christmas music. Regular admission prices (\$10 adults and \$5 for students) or \$5 admission (per person) if you bring an unwrapped toy. Children under five are free. Contact Brenda Minton (352) 567-0262 or (352) 206-8889 for details.

**Dec. 8 – Farmer's Market** – The San Antonio Farmers Market is held the second Saturday of each month in City Park, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Antonio. Stop by to shop from local vendors with products including jams and jellies, wine, honey, produce, home decor, jewelry, handcrafts, quilts, bath and body products and more. Hot dogs always available for purchase.

**Dec. 8-9 – Tampa Tour De Clay** – Free self-guided tour, exhibition and sale will take place Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Dec. 9 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at five pottery studios across the bay area, including San Antonio Pottery, 11903 Curley St. San Antonio Pottery will extend its hours to 8pm on Saturday with live music by popular local bands. Visit [www.TampaTourDeClay.com](http://www.TampaTourDeClay.com) for information.

**Dec. 12 – The Top 10 Foods to Avoid** – While common sense can prevail when it comes to foods that aren't

healthy, you may be surprised by the top 10 that you should stay away from at all costs. Casio Jones, MHA, Wellness Director, will get you on track to eating healthier. This free class takes place from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Florida Hospital Dade City, 13100 Fort King Road. Call (813) 779-6476 to make a reservation.

**Dec.14-15 – Book Bazaar** – This winter season spread some holiday cheer to all the book lovers in your life. Get great bargains on barely-used and gently-used bestsellers. Plus, we have an expanded selection just for the holidays. Why wait until the last minute? This weekend you can get some important holiday shopping done. The event takes place at the Hugh Embry Library from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call (352) 567-3576 for information.

**Dec. 15 – Trilby's Great Steak Dinner** – Join the Trilby Masonic Lodge #141 for a night of fun, live music, dancing, raffles and auctions benefiting Lt. Christopher Starnes of the Pasco Sheriff's Office. Starting at 6 p.m. at Dan Cannon Auditorium, 36722 S.R. 52. Tickets are \$40 and include a one-pound New York strip, baked potato, green beans, salad and a roll. Contact John at (352) 206-2002 or [jdragneff@gmail.com](mailto:jdragneff@gmail.com) for tickets and information.

**Dec. 15 – Antique Faire and Sidewalk Market** – This monthly event, held the third Saturday, will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. throughout the downtown shops. Shop with the local merchants for furniture, garden décor, jewelry, tools, shabby chic and more.

**Dec. 15 – Dade City Symphony** – The symphony's free holiday concert, "Tis the Season to be Jolly," will be held at the Pasco Middle School Auditorium, 13925 14th St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the concert beginning at 7 p.m. Visit [www.dadecitysymphony.com](http://www.dadecitysymphony.com) for more information.

**Dec. 19 – Loneliness and the Holidays** – For many, the holidays bring a great sense of loneliness and a lack of connection. Andrés Sequera, D.Min., BCCC, Lead Chaplain for Florida Hospital Dade City, will offer practical guidance when it comes to navigating the holidays. The free seminar will take place at the hospital, 13100 Fort King Road, from 3-4 p.m. Call (813) 779-6476 to make a reservation.

**Dec. 19 – Wellness Wednesday** – From 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Naga Thatimatla, MD, Board Certified in General Surgery, will share what can be done about this condition, also known as gastroesophageal reflux disease. The seminar will take place at Florida Hospital Dade City, 13100 Fort King Road. Complimentary blood pressures screenings will be offered from 11-11:30 a.m. and a light lunch will be provided. Call (833) 300-2371 to register.

**Dec. 19 – Bingo Bonanza** – Have fun conversing with friends new and familiar, enjoy dessert, coffee, and a few games of Bingo for prizes from 2-3 p.m. at Florida Hospital Dade City, 13100 Fort King Road. Call (833) 300-2371 to reserve a seat.

**Jan. 26 – Run For Life** – The 5K and one mile fun run is now open for registration. The event will take place on Main Street in Zephyrhills and benefits the Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills. To register, go to [www.pcczephyrhills.org](http://www.pcczephyrhills.org). All who register by Jan. 7 are guaranteed a t-shirt.

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

## Commentary



### First Things First

Greg First

## Local 'Heroes' Need Support

I am a shop at home guy. Being past president of the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce on three separate occasions I am a firm believer that shopping locally makes a world of difference. It means everything to those who have invested brick and mortar in our community. Amazon is a big player and has disrupted just about every business on the planet. You can count your blessings if you are one of the lucky ones who has not been affected.

When I go to a local high school football game, or for that matter any sporting event here in east Pasco County, I look at the names of the sponsors. Just about every one of them is local. I have never seen an advertisement in the program or a banner with Amazon on it.

I also look at the local newspapers to see who is supporting our community. Working at my hometown paper I have never seen an ad for Amazon in any of our three publications. What I have seen are stories regarding our local high schools, the businesses that make a difference, government meetings, and recognition of individual achievements.

But some of our local small business owners are throwing in the towel.

Not too many small hardware stores are left in town now but Moody's Hardware in Zephyrhills is still here.

The two hardware stores in Dade City have closed. My friend Jill Newsome Evans posted on Facebook that they are having an inventory clearance sale of Dade City Hardware going on through Dec. 8.



Lowe's and Home Depot seem to be doing well. I was pleased when I stopped in at Lowe's to see four parking spaces reserved for military veterans. It's nice that even big corporations like Lowe's appreciate those who are serving or have served.

Even though I do believe in shopping locally I admit I have an Amazon account. As a matter of fact I was at a meeting last Friday and, when asked, everyone admitted they also had one. Some said Amazon Prime is way cheaper than cable TV and it allowed them to cut the cord.

Amazon, like it or not, is here to stay. That's probably why Jeff Bezos is now the richest man in the world at \$112 billion.

I will say that if you shop on Amazon you can donate part of your purchase to local not for profits. I have designated Sunrise of Pasco.

I appreciate everyone who supports our community. I appreciate business big and small that help to make a difference. When someone is in need, we step up. When a fundraiser is held, we give. We build houses for those in need. When we see others hurting we see what we can do. It doesn't matter what your political preference may be.

We, as Americans help one another. That's the least that we can do.

### Roof • Continued from Page 1A

roofing company.

The sound of old shingles being pulled up and new shingles being pounded into place will probably sound like a symphony to the fortunate recipient of the free roof. It usually takes about three days to install the new roof.

Residents of Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties may submit applications to Ryman Roofing by email at: [Info@rymanconstruction.com](mailto:Info@rymanconstruction.com); or by mail to:

Ryman Roofing Holiday Re-Roof, ATT: Kelli Ryman, 36413 S.R. 54, Zephyrhills, FL 33541.

Entries should include a property address, owner name and contact information, as well as a brief story of why that person is deserving of a new roof.

Danny and Danielle Huffman of Zephyrhills were the recipients of a new roof this past January.

## Pasco News Publications

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

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Dennis Devine, right, and some of his friends sang a few gleeful Christmas songs on Sunday.

Photo by **Richard K. Riley**



Taylor O'Neil is accompanied by Sandy and Grant Young as they brought their dogs, Red, left, and Robby, to San Antonio City Park for Christmas in the Park on Sunday.

Photo by **Joe Potter**



One of the many over-sized Christmas cards that were illuminated on Dec. 2 and will remain in San Antonio's City Park for the holiday season.

Photo by **Joe Potter**



Women look at some of the many raffle items offered by the Founders Garden Club of San Antonio during Sunday's Christmas in the Park event.

Photo by **Joe Potter**

# Joy Of Christmas Fills Town

## San Antonio's 56th Event Was Well Attended

by **Joe Potter**

Christmas songs filled the air around San Antonio City Park on Sunday during the annual Christmas in the Park.

More than 200 people attended the popular event sponsored by the Founders Garden Club of San Antonio.

Club members have been maintaining the Christmas decorations and nativity scene at the park for 56 years.

The gazebo and several jumbo Christmas cards were illuminated at 7 p.m. A problem with the electricity was corrected shortly before the event began.

Club members Donna Swart and

Diane Jones were co-mistresses of ceremonies for the event.

Father Garry Welsh, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, said an opening prayer. He prayed that the many members of the religious communities in San Antonio would be able to come together and worship during the Advent season.

The Community Methodist Church choir sang "Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy" and "He Shall Reign Forever More".

The Piney Grove Baptist Church choir followed with several songs, including "Silent Night," "Joy To The World," "Angels We Have Heard On High" and "We Wish you A Merry Christmas."

Piney Grove has been serving the San Antonio area for 94 years and the choir was led by the Rev. Willie B. Roberts Sr., their pastor of 31 years.

Jones sang "Go Tell It On The Mountain."

Dennis Devine and friends closed out the entertainment with "Frosty The Snowman" and other popular Christmas songs audience members were encouraged to sing along with them.

The Founders Garden Club raised approximately \$400 through a raffle held during the event. Numerous area merchants donated items for the raffle.

The garden club also provided free refreshments including coffee and cookies.

The Rev. Sabrina Tu, pastor of Community Methodist, offered the closing prayer.



Rev. Willie B. Roberts, front, leads the Piney Grove Baptist Church choir under the gazebo on Sunday.

Photo by **Richard K. Riley**

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Richland Baptist Church's Bethlehem set up last year featured a number of historically accurate characters, including carpenters, fish merchants, wine sellers and soldiers.



Dennis and Jodi Lane portrayed Mary and Joseph during last year's Walk Through Bethlehem. *Photos by Emily Kochanski*

## Church Recreates Bethlehem For Holidays

### Walk Through Ancient City Dec. 14-16



An intimidating set of Roman guards stood between guests and the entrance to Bethlehem last year at Richland Baptist Church.

Visitors to Richland Baptist Church can travel back in time to witness the miracle of the night Jesus Christ was born.

The church's annual "Walk Through Bethlehem" will take place Dec. 14 and 15 from 6 to 10 p.m. and Dec. 16 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Since 1996, volunteers help every year to transform a patch of land into a city that feels like it's part of the 1st century town of Bethlehem. Visitors can take a guided tour where they will see the city come to life. Actors will be portraying a census taker, shop keepers, Roman guards and there will be live animals.

A staple of east Pasco County, the event takes a great amount of time to put together. Volunteers and church members begin construction on the venue in early October.

See for yourself what it was like as



The end of last year's Walk included a quick cycle of Jesus' life, from his birth in the manger to his death on the cross.

the story of Christ's birth unfolds as you walk through the town.

Richland Baptist Church is located at 40443 Stewart Road.

**Poe • Continued from Page 1A**

"I'm fine with whatever the commission decides," Poe said.

He is committed to the Feb. 7 date in his contract but doesn't have a problem with leaving sooner if a replacement is hired. Poe said he was required to give Dade City 90 days notice of him leaving as city manager.

Both Hernandez and Shive said they didn't think a national or even statewide search was necessary.

"A person who knows this community is going to make a world of difference for us," Hernandez said.

"I think we have some local talent out there that's willing to jump on board," Shive said.

Interviews will be conducted in January.

The city received about 100 applications in 1993 when the city manager left at that time, Black said.

"If there's 100 that come through, I would like to see 100; if there's five, I would like to see five," Hernandez said.

"The cream rises to the top and we all usually have the same people on our list," Black said regarding identifying the five finalists to interview.

Applicants should submit a resume with three personal and three professional references.

Applicants with master's degrees will be preferred but people with bachelor's degrees may also apply.

"This is a decision that I hope we will be able to live with for a long time," Black said.

Candidates will be interviewed on Jan. 11. Should a candidate be chosen that day, the commission will hire them during their Jan. 22 meeting.

Commissioners acknowledged during the workshop that the person they hire might not be able to start in late January if they have to give notice to their current employer.

Should Poe leave before his replacement can come on board financial officer Leslie Porter will be responsible for helping coordinate city duties. She is one of the city's charter employees.

# December Savings

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# County Deputy To Benefit From Steak Dinner

## Tickets Still Available For Night Of Food, Fun

by Keri McAlpine

Every year, the Trilby Masonic Lodge #141 hosts a dinner to benefit local charities in nearby neighborhoods. Normally it is a chicken dinner, but last year the lodge members switched it up for a steak dinner, which proved popular.

This year they will continue with the steak dinner, but with a new location and a new beneficiary. The Masonic Lodge has upped the ante and moved the Dec. 15 dinner from their Trilby location to the Dan Cannon Auditorium at the Pasco County Fairgrounds for Dec. 15.

Organizer John Dragneff is hoping to fill the auditorium as much as possible to raise money for Lt. Christopher Starnes, a local Pasco County deputy who was violently attacked and injured while off-duty earlier this year.

The events of Starnes' attack and injuries are still under investigation, Dragneff said. In March, Starnes had just left Happy Dayz Lounge off U.S. 301 in Dade City when he was jumped by two individuals and beaten, Dragneff said.

Dragneff was a field-training officer at the Pasco Sheriff's Office when he met Starnes, who was one of his trainees. While Starnes was an Army Ranger he was injured while rappelling out of a helicopter during duty. After starting at the Pasco County Sheriff's office, Starnes rose through the ranks and his last promotion was to Lieutenant.

After the March attack, Starnes was taken to the hospital for a difficult brain surgery, which included him cardiac coding 19 times and required doctors to drill three different holes in his skull to relieve pressure and brain swelling.

After being in a coma for five and a half weeks, Starnes recovered and went back to work at the Pasco Sheriff's Office.

However, about two months ago he relapsed because of an undetected bleed which led to a second brain surgery.

As someone who has had to retire for medical reasons, Dragneff sympathizes with Starnes and knows he might be having a difficult time paying bills in the future. So, he organized the Trilby lodge's annual dinner to benefit his former trainee.

"He's not one to give up. He's a fighter. He's not done yet, he says. But this one's really taken a toll on him," Dragneff said. "I couldn't think of a better person to do something like this for."

The event will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person and will include a delicious, home-cooked dinner by lodge members of one steak per person, baked potato, green beans, salad and a roll.

"It's a really good meal. It's a one-pound steak so nobody goes away hungry," Dragneff said.

Starnes himself will be attending the dinner, and has been humbled by the efforts of the Lodge to help him out, Dragneff said.

"When I told him that I was going to do the dinner in his honor he said 'No, I don't need it. There's other people who need it more,'" Dragneff said. "I can't think of a better warrior or patriot for our community to step up for when he needs our help."

The night will also feature live entertainment by the Johnny Shelton Band. Raffles and auction items have been provided by locals and include gift cards for varying restaurants and businesses, footballs autographed by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a guitar autographed by the Bellamy Brothers, and a beach resort getaway for two, just to name a few.

Contact John Dragneff at (352) 206-2002 or jdragneff@gmail.com or any Trilby Lodge officer for tickets.

# SLU Cancels Holiday Play

A production of "It's A Wonderful Life" at Saint Leo University was cancelled "mere hours before" the play opened last weekend after school officials "called [off] the show," according to Heidi Konow, who submitted an article published in the Nov. 29 issue of the Dade City News promoting the play.

Konow said Monday that the entire

theatre department, cast and crew apologize for any disappointment and inconvenience this may have caused.

The notice cancelling the production cited "circumstances beyond our control" and since the semester ends Friday, the play unfortunately will not be rescheduled, Konow said.

# Restored Hope Coordinates Food Outreach



Christina Mitchell, Director of Volunteer Services and Events at Metropolitan Ministries, and Kathy Hunt, Outreach Director of Restored Hope, bring in donated commodities from a pallet to distribute to families in the Greater Dade City area on Nov. 19. Restored Hope provides assistance for the homeless, those on the verge of homelessness and those in need in East Pasco. Photo by Richard K. Riley

# Pet Adoption Fees Waived This Saturday



Give a four-legged friend the gift of a loving home this holiday season. Pasco County Animal Services (PCAS) is waiving adoption fees on Dec. 8 for all available dogs and cats at the shelter.

All pets adopted from PCAS are: spayed/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, heartworm tested (dogs), FIV/feline leukemia tested (cats).

This adoption event comes at an important time for shelter residents. During December, approximately 50 dog kennels will be refitted to better address the needs and care of PCAS residents. Construction during remodeling means less space for pets

at the shelter until work is complete. With your help, PCAS can avoid having pets displaced or stressed.

PCAS is especially grateful for the sponsorship generosity that is helping make this event possible. One hundred cat adoptions will be sponsored by Philip Passantino in loving memory of his parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Passantino.

For more information and updates, follow PCAS on Facebook. You can see all the pets available for adoption on Petango.



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