



Zephyrhills Depot Museum

Zephyrhills

FREE PRESS

Volume VI • Issue 11 Your Hometown News Source • zephyrhillsfreepress.com

April 20, 2017



**FLORIDA HOSPITAL
ZEPHYRHILLS**

**One of America's
Best Hospitals**

- Heart Care
- Orthopedics
- Patient Safety
- Stroke Centers



2017
WOMEN'S CHOICE AWARD
AMERICA'S BEST HOSPITALS

HEART CARE
ORTHOPEDICS
PATIENT SAFETY
STROKE CENTERS

FHZeph.org

The Road Of The Future

*Physical Changes
Underway For
State Road 56*

Story and photo by **Max Zimmerman**

What costs nearly \$11 million a mile and grows in your backyard?

It's the long-awaited, much-anticipated four-lane connector known as the State Road 56 Extension and east-west commuters cannot wait for it to be open.

But it will take three years to complete.

Motorists on Morris Bridge Road have noticed crews have burned and cleared land so the Florida Department of Transportation can do prep work for the six-mile road.

The FDOT project is crucial to ease congestion along the State Road 54 corridor as well as accommodate the growth in the greater Zephyrhills area.

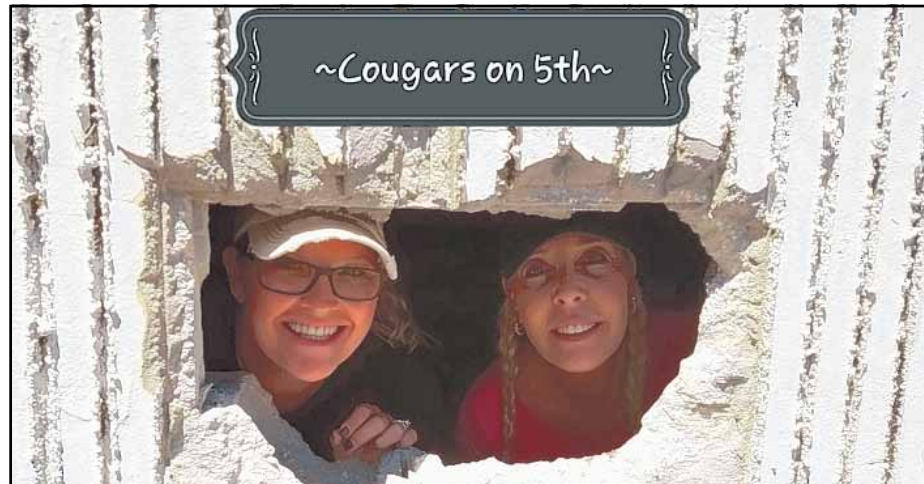
Much like the existing portion of S.R. 56 from Bruce B. Downs to Meadow Pointe Road in Wesley Chapel, the extension will also feature a 10-foot wide multi-use path on the south side of the roadway. It will have a 5-foot sidewalk

Road • Continued on Page 5A

Downtown's Next Big Thing

*New Venue Going
Into Old Bank Building*

by **Keri McAlpine**



Jodie Biston-Rogers, left, and Melissa Swanstrom look through the first opening made for the French patio doors that will lead out to the patio.

Photo Provided

Venue • Continued on Page 6A

FHZ's Sunrise Service Uplifting

*Annual Easter Celebration
Draws Hundreds*

Story and photos by **Dave Walters**

Pastor Nick Deford of the First Church of the Nazarene incorporated technology into his message to the hundreds of folks assembled for the Easter sunrise service on the lawn of Florida Hospital Zephyrhills.

While delivering his message, the morning darkness gave way to light as the sun rose above the hospital.

He encouraged those in attendance to get out their cell phones and send a text to someone in their contact list with the message of "He is risen! Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

The question comes from Luke Chapter 24, when the

Sunrise • Continued on Page 7A



Pastor Nick Deford of the First Church of the Nazarene delivers the message Sunday during the Easter Sunrise Service on the lawn of Florida Hospital Zephyrhills.

Little League Steps Up To The Challenge

Special Division Established For Special Kids

by **Dave Walters**



Kole Allen and his dad, Mike, are thrilled that the Challenger Division is part of the Zephyrhills Little League. Photo Provided

Six-year-old Kole Allen of Zephyrhills isn't going to be one of those young baseball players who will be a force in the Little League system, move on to travel ball squads and end up a stud on the high school diamond.

Instead, this happy little guy, born with Down Syndrome, enjoys every second on the baseball field as part of a Challenger Division of Little League in Dade City.

This fall, Kole will be part of the inaugural Zephyrhills Little League Challenger Division where dozens of players with mental and physical challenges ages 4-18 will enjoy the game of baseball with hundreds of other baseball

and softball players in Zephyrhills.

The Challenger Division was established in 1989 as a separate division of Little League. Today, more than 30,000 children participate in more than 900 Challenger Divisions worldwide.

"It's about his social development and interaction with kids," said Kole's father, Mike Allen. "It teaches him physical development and coordination in a fun atmosphere."

"It also gives children like Kole the opportunity to do what some may think they can't because of his special needs."

There's another aspect that can't be overlooked.

Challenger • Continued on Page 3A

INSIDE: Pg. 3A - Woman Faces Drug And Driving Charges
Pg. 8A - Tell The County What's Important

Pg. 1B - Bulldogs Keep Rival Streak Alive
Pg. 1B - Former ZHS Pitcher Finds The Zone

Pg. 1B - Ladies Win On Senior Night
Pg. 4B - Bulldogs Take Care Of Andote



NOW OPEN

Mon-Sat • 7am-3pm | Sunday • 8am-2pm

Phone in orders **813-312-4697**

**38426 5th Avenue
Downtown Zephyrhills**

- Best Cuban Sandwich in Town
 - Homemade Anna Banana Pudding
 - Biscuits & Sausage Gravy
Made from scratch daily
- Plus much, much more!**

Zephyrhills Arrests

Woman Batters Disabled Adult As ‘Discipline’

Virginia Katherine Merkel, 49, of 12007 Old Lakeland Highway, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 5 on a charge of battery on a disabled adult in connection with an incident that occurred on Dec. 11, 2016. Police responded to a report of a disturbance at Coney Island, 5327 Gall Blvd., and were told by several witnesses that Merkel had grabbed and struck the victim several times. The witnesses said the victim appeared to be disabled. A video reportedly showed Merkel grabbing the victim’s face twice while waiting in line. Merkel also allegedly grabbed the victim’s face and threw it back while they were eating. She appeared to intentionally strike the victim with an open hand in a way that would reasonably be expected to cause injury. Merkel lives with the victim who reportedly has Down’s Syndrome with autistic tendencies and is nonverbal. Merkel told police post Miranda that she had struck the victim and advised that is how they discipline the disabled. Merkel was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Paula Marie Barnett, 26, of Kenton, Ohio, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 2 on a charge of domestic battery after she and the victim reportedly became involved in a physical confrontation involving the pushing and scratching of one another. Barnett and the victim are cousins but do not reside at the same address. The victim and a witness positively identified Barnett.

Kristina Ann Darby, 32, of 5719 13th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 30 on a charge of retail theft and apprehended on a Pasco County warrant charging her with failure to appear – larceny. She allegedly removed a bag of Starburst Gummies, valued at \$4.49, from a shelf, concealed it and left 7-Eleven, 38544 Fifth Ave., without paying for the item. Post Miranda, Darby said she didn’t pay for the item because she thought a friend had paid for it.

Kelli Nicole Carter, 25, of 3651 Florida Ranch Blvd., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 31 on a charge of criminal mischief – \$201-\$999. Carter was reportedly involved in an argument with the victim’s girlfriend at Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd. That argument did not become physical. Carter and the victim’s girlfriend reportedly had prior knowledge of one another. Carter allegedly “keyed” the victim’s vehicle while it was parked in the Walmart parking lot and she was recorded on a surveillance video while doing so. Carter admitted while talking to an officer at the police department that she had “keyed” the victim’s vehicle.

James Michael Doggett, 28, of Tampa, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on April 1 on two Hillsborough County warrants charging him with failure to appear – unlawful possession of personal identification and FTA – petit theft. Contact was made with Doggett at Hibbett Sports, 7435 Gall Blvd., and he was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrants.

Ramiro Lee Castro, 23, of 15141 Manatee Ave., Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 1 on a charge of disorderly intoxication. Police were dispatched to the Zephyrhills Woman’s Club, 38549 Fifth Ave., regarding a fight in the area. Castro was observed on the ground, crying and yelling at other people and swearing at officers standing near him. A family member told police that Castro had recently lost a family member and that he was intoxicated. He reportedly exhibited indications of intoxication, including slurred speech, watery eyes and a smell of alcohol on his breath. Castro allegedly threatened to strike a family member or a police officer if they tried to stop him from attempting to bang on walls and kick things in his vicinity.

Willie Lavan Fredrick, 24, of Bartow, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 6 on a charge of possession of cocaine and two Polk County warrants charging him with failure to appear – false report of a crime (\$500 bond) and violation of probation – resisting an officer with violence (no bond). Fredrick waved down officers on Chancey Road at 1:20 p.m. and appeared to be in need of assistance. A small plastic bag containing a white powdery substance was found when Fredrick was searched after he was arrested. A field test indicated the contents of the bag were 0.03 grams of cocaine. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail after the warrants were confirmed.

Dallas Cameron Wimberly, 21, of 5932 15th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on March 29 on charges of possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. Police stopped a car Wimberly was driving because one of the car’s headlights was not working. An odor of marijuana could be detected emanating from within the car. Wimberly spontaneously stated, “I have marijuana in the car, and it’s a lot.” Police found a black bag inside the car and the bag contained a large amount (226.6 grams) of a green leafy substance that field tested positive as marijuana. A glass pipe with marijuana residue was also found in the car along with a wooden pipe with marijuana residue. Post Miranda, Wimberly told the police that the marijuana was his and that it was for personal use.

Molly Hannah Adams, 23, of 38651 Rose Lane, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 4 on a charge of domestic battery. The victim told police she had been involved in a verbal argument with Adams, who is her wife. The victim reportedly confronted Adams while she was passed out in her vehicle with a meth pipe in her lap and tried to talk to Adams after they went inside their residence. Adams allegedly struck her on the mouth with a closed fist. The victim then reportedly flushed Adams’ meth down the toilet and Adams allegedly became upset and struck her on the mouth again with a closed fist. The victim said she tried to leave the room but Adams pulled her by the hair and struck her over the head and on her hand with a hair brush. The victim had a swollen lip that was consistent with her account of having

been struck. Children who were on the scene reportedly told police Adams told them to call the police before she beats their mother up. Post Miranda, Adams denied the allegations.

Ronald Edward Hummerick, 57, of 4444 Clay St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 8 on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting an officer without violence and failure to register a motor vehicle. Police stopped Hummerick for allegedly driving 44-mph in a posted 30-mph zone. No tag was attached to the vehicle and a records check indicated that the vehicle was not registered and no tag had been assigned to it. It was impounded on scene and an inventory was conducted during which a black pouch, containing a digital scale with white residue, was found in the center console. The substance field tested positive for oxycodone and Hummerick said he did not have a prescription for the drug. While being placed in handcuffs, Hummerick reportedly pulled away, and resisted the officer.

Justin Ryan Whitman, 33, of 10831 Hilldale Drive, Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 2 on a charge of retail theft in connection with a Jan. 13 incident at Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd. He was observed on surveillance video entering the store through the grocery entrance with a used car battery on his shoulder and going to the automotive department while it was closed. He allegedly placed the used battery on the checkout counter and took a new battery from the shelf and placed it next to the used battery. He then allegedly placed the color-coded caps of the new battery on the old battery and left without paying for the new battery that was valued at \$66.75.

William Brett Pace, 33, of 38053 Lawanda Loop, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 10 on a charge of petit retail theft in connection with an incident that occurred on April 2 at Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd. He allegedly selected two items, valued at \$138, and placed price tags for lower priced items on them. He then allegedly went through the self-checkout area and paid \$4 for the items and left the store. He was arrested after he was located at the store on April 10. Post Miranda, Pace said he did not recall the incident and requested to speak to an attorney.

Kevin Richard Hill, 54, of 38710 Waverly Ave., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on April 6 on to Pasco County warrants charging him with failure to appear. Police had been on their way to Hill’s residence but stopped him on State Road 54 when they saw him driving a car on State Road 54. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail after the warrants were confirmed.

The information provided in the Zephyrhills Police report is taken from public record. All parties are considered innocent until proven guilty.

BOGO: BUY 1 ADMISSON AND GET 1 ADMISSION FREE!

WITH COPY OF THIS AD

JOY~LAN Drive In Theatre

Fri. thru Sun.
April 21-23

Wed. & Thurs.
April 26-27

\$5.00 per person
Children 4-9 \$1.00

Closed
Monday
& Tuesday

The Fate of the Furious

PG - 8:30 PM

Get Out

PG-13 - 10:50 PM

COMING SOON

THE GREAT WALL

APRIL 28

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

MAY 5

SWAP SHOP • FLEA MARKET

SUNDAYS ONLY
GATES OPEN AT 5AM

www.JoyLanDriveIn.com

352-567-5085

US 301 • NORTH OF DADE CITY

BUY 1 ADMISSION AND GET 1 ADMISSION FREE

Cash For Your Coins!

HAVE A COIN COLLECTION YOU WANT TO SELL?

CHARLIE'S COINS & COLLECTIBLES

Fair prices for pre 1964 Gold & Silver U.S. Coins & Old U.S. Currency

Call Charlie Proctor

813-780-1858

5529 8th Street, Zephyrhills

27 YEARS IN THE SAME LOCATION

Woman Faces Drug And Driving Charges

Staff Report

Shannon Michelle Boyd, 43, of 37914 Bailey Hill Road, Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police two weeks ago on various charges.

On April 9, she was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia and two counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription (hydromorphone and synthetic opiates).

On April 10, she was charged with leaving the scene of a crash and driving while license suspended or revoked with knowledge.

Police were called to Dollar General, 5919 Gall Blvd., on April 9 regarding an unwanted guest.

Boyd was arrested there on an active Pasco County warrant charging her with failure to appear – petit theft.

A search conducted after she was arrested resulted in the discovery of one large methamphetamine pipe with residue and one small methamphetamine pipe with residue, a loaded syringe which field tested positive for methamphetamine, a metal cylinder with 1.3 grams of meth and

1.5 white pills that were identified as hydromorphone, a Schedule 2 controlled substance.

A small bag found inside Boyd’s purse also reportedly contained .8 grams of a powdery substance identified as synthetic opiates.

Boyd first said Post Miranda that the bags did belong to her and the hydromorphone pills belonged to her and that she had a prescription. She said none of the other contraband items belonged to her.

Boyd also allegedly left the scene of a crash that occurred at Gall Boulevard and Eiland Boulevard at 7:28 p.m. on Feb. 27. Boyd reportedly told the driver of the other vehicle that she didn’t have a valid driver’s license or insurance and asked that the police not be called.

Boyd allegedly nearly struck a nearby witness when she left after seeing that the other driver was calling the police. The witness had told her to not leave. Boyd refused to be interviewed and hung up on a police officer when he called her. The victim was able to positively identify Boyd through a photo pack on March 23. Boyd was arrested while incarcerated at the Pasco County Jail on the drug charges.

Challenger • Continued from Page 1A

“You should see the smile. It’s a big highlight in his week for sure,” Mike Allen said. “All of the kids enjoy it. It puts a big smile on our faces for sure. Kole is very special to us.”

Spearheading the charge to start a Challenger Division in Zephyrhills was Zephyrhills Little League coach and umpire Adam Wilkes.

“It’s a program that has been a long time coming and in my opinion long overdue in our community,” Wiles said. “With the approval of the board, I put together some information regarding what it would take and the impact it would have, not only in our organization, but more importantly in our community and presented it to the board. The board heard my request and voted unanimously to start the division.”

Wilkes pointed out that adding the Challenger Division means ZLL could give what may be dozens of children the opportunity to play a sport. It’s an opportunity not afforded by many other youth sports program in the community.

As a former Little Leaguer and now a coach, Wilkes stresses that Little League is more than just baseball. The game taught him life lessons.

“I know Little League has probably taught me more about life and values than it probably has about baseball,” he

said. “No child – and I mean no child – even if I have to carry this child down the baseline, should be left out from the Little League experience. I set a goal to get this deal done and thankfully the board is very motivated and to get it done. I’m thankful for them.”

Teams are set up according to abilities, rather than age, and can include as many as 15-20 players. Challenger games can be played as tee ball games, coach pitch, player pitch, or a combination of the three.

In a Challenger game, each player gets a chance to bat. The side is retired when the offense has batted through the roster, when a pre-determined number of runs have been scored, or when three outs are recorded. Little League recommends that no score be kept during Challenger games. The players wear the same uniforms, shoulder patches and safety equipment as other Little League players.

One of the benefits of having a Challenger Division is it encourages the use of “buddies” for the Challenger players. The buddies assist the Challenger players on the field, but whenever possible, encourage the players to bat and make plays themselves. However, the buddy is always nearby to help when needed.

“We will have kids in other divisions

Solemn Observance



Seven stops were made between St. Joseph’s Catholic Church and the First United Methodist Church during the Good Friday Walk of the Cross held on Good Friday.

Photo by Chris Drews

of Little League come out and pair up with a challenger player and assist them,” Wilkes added. “This puts them in contact with a child that is mentally or physically handicapped. That alone can teach these children more about handicaps and how to work with these kids and befriend them.

“We live in a very diverse community. This is one small way we can all help each other out.”

Tired of being



BUGGED?

MURRELL

PEST CONTROL, INC

McLeod Family Owned Since 1984

20718 US 301, Dade City

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
LICENSED & INSURED

FREE INSPECTION & ESTIMATES

Foundation Pre-Treatments
Termite & Household Pest Control • Tent Fumigation
Lawn & Ornamental Pest Control • Rodent Control

 (352) 583-3332
(800) 843-7074



IERNA Your Trust - IERNA Your Business

Licensed, Bonded & Insured #CAC1813676 / CFC1429475



IERNA'S

HEATING, COOLING & PLUMBING

KEEPING YOU & YOUR WALLET MORE COMFORTABLE

Angie's List SUPER SERVICE AWARD 2016

SPECIAL FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE



SAVE up to **\$2,350** WITH COMBINED REBATES

*Total savings of up to \$2,350 is based on combined manufacturer, energy company & dealer rebates. Total savings will vary depending on equipment purchased and customers participating energy company. Bryant® rebate ends June 30th, 2017. FINANCING **No monthly interest charges will be assessed if the promotional purchase balance is paid in full with in the promo period. If the promo purchase balance is not paid in full by the end of the promo period, interest will be imposed from the date of purchase at a rate of 9.99%. Fixed monthly payments are required equal to 2.50% of the highest balance applicable to this promo purchase, rounded to the next highest whole dollar, until paid in full. See dealer for details.

TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE CALL 813-948-6355

21-Point Clean & Tune

Dirty Coils? Low Refrigerant? Loose Connections? Clogged Drain Lines?

\$29⁹⁵ \$80 Value

PLEASE PRESENT COUPON TO TECH.
Not available for same-day or weekend service. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Price is per unit. System must be in working condition.
IERNA's Heating & Cooling | 813-948-6355

Coupon Code: PSC0020417

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT REPAIR

\$25 OFF

Cannot be combined with any other offer. Not available with Clean & Tune or Drain-line Service. See dealer for details.
MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE
IERNA's Heating & Cooling | 813-948-6355

Coupon Code: PSC0020417

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

813-948-6355

www.IernaAir.com

bryant

East Pasco Events

April 20 – CareerSource Mobile One: Job Search and Career Assistance – Held from 9:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at New River Library, 34043 S.R. 54. Job seekers, get the help you need searching for work, creating and printing resumes, accessing local and statewide job listings, and getting information about programs provided by CareerSource – all for free. The One Stop is Pasco Hernando CareerSource’s Mobile Unit. It is a self-contained resource room on wheels with 12 computer stations; satellite internet and telecommunications; and printing/copying capabilities. Call (813) 788-6375 for information.

April 22 – Project Patriotism Golf Scramble – Benefiting Zephyrhills High School JROTC. Held at Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club at I-75 and State Road 52. Event kicks off at 7:40 a.m. with the presentation of our nation’s colors followed by 18 holes of team scramble golf. Lunch follows golf in the newly remodeled country club where the winners will be announced, and prizes awarded. A silent auction and raffles will also be featured. Contact Jen Wedge at (813) 323-8034 or Jen-wedge@yahoo.com for information.

April 22 – Rugged Maniac – Held at the Little Everglades Ranch, 17951 Hamilton Road. Come for the 25 epic obstacle course over three miles of fun and one rockin’ party. Visit www.ruggedmaniac.com for tickets and information.

April 24 – Supplements: Get the Real Story – What kind of supplements will truly benefit your wellbeing and nutritional intake? This free informative presentation is facilitated by exercise physiologist Felix Bangkuai, BS. Call (813) 779-6476 for required reservations. Held from 2-3 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Visit FHZeph.org for information.

April 25 – Benefits of Coconut – Doctors Duane and Nancy McEndree will explain the marvelous benefits of this versatile fruit. Held from 3-4 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for required reservations. Visit FHZeph.org for information.

April 26 – Denim Day – Wearing jeans on denim day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault. Sunrise’s Denim Day

campaign is in support of the effort to wear jeans with a purpose, support survivors and to educate yourself and others about sexual assault. For a \$5 donation, you and your staff can wear jeans with a purpose, support survivors, and educate yourself and others about sexual assault. To sign up, please contact us at (352) 521-3358 or events@sunrisepasco.org.

April 27 – Veteran Benefits Information – Attention all veterans. An informational meeting on VA benefits will be held at the American Legion Post #15 at 37745 Church Ave. in Dade City at 6 p.m. Learn about your benefits and how to file a claim. There will be service officers from both the American Legion and the DAV there to set up appointments and assist you in filing a claim.

April 28 – Cooking Demo: Indian Cuisine – Back by popular demand is an Indian cuisine cooking demonstration with new recipes. Join the fun and live healthfully. Co-facilitated by Myriam Parham and Veena Batra. Reservations required, call (813) 779-6476 by April 26. Held from 2-3 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for required reservations. Visit FHZeph.org for information.

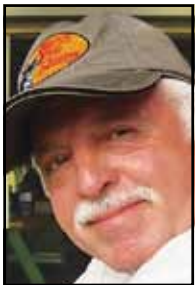
April 29 – YMCA Healthy Kids Day – The community is invited to free Healthy Kids Day events hosted at the local East Pasco Family YMCA, 37301 Chapel Hill Loop, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The goal of Healthy Kids Day is to teach healthy habits for kids and families, encourage physical and mental play and inspire a lifetime love of exercise. Call (813) 780-9622 for information.

May 13 – Unusual Plant Propagation Methods – Join us to learn of the many easy and unusual ways we can propagate plants at this seminar, held from 10-11 a.m. at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. We will discuss the methods as well as take a look at some hands-on examples. Registration required. Call the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Office at (352) 518-0156 for information.

To submit an event, email your information to Events@PascoNewsPubs.com or call (813) 783-1300 – one week BEFORE the Thursday publication date. Maximum 50 words. Subject to available room and editing.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

Time For A Rain Dance

In case you didn’t know there are restrictions on watering right here in Pasco County and it doesn’t take a genius to know who isn’t following the guidelines. The rules are set for a reason and clearly limit how often you are allowed to water: ignorance of the law is no excuse. I walk early just about every morning and it’s pretty easy to tell who is ignoring the specified watering days.

The county’s watering restrictions allow residents to water only one day a week until further notice.

I am pretty sure many of you don’t know, so below is your watering day.

You may water on: Monday, if your house number ends in 0 or 1; Tuesday, if your house number ends in 2 or 3; Wednesday, if your house number ends in 4 or 5; Thursday, if your house number ends in 6 or 7; and Friday, if your house number ends in 8 or 9.

You are not allowed to water between

8 a.m. and 6 p.m., and watering is not allowed on Saturday or Sunday. The washing of vehicles, mobile homes, campers, boats or any other type of motor vehicle must be done on the day you are authorized to water provided that your watering device has a shut-off. The rule says a self-canceling nozzle or automatic shut-off device must be used. I have a hose with a shut-off like most people. No bending the hose to shut off the water is allowed, like some of us have been known to do.

There are some exceptions to the rule.

New plant materials – lawns and landscaping – can be watered daily for the first 30 days. This exception begins on the day of installation. From day 31 to 60 new plant materials may be watered three times a week. Pressure washing is allowed for painting or maintenance. Car wash fundraisers on behalf of nonprofit organizations are allowed.

The county has also set a burn ban because of the threat of wildfires. There have been multiple fires in the western part of Pasco and the chance of rain isn’t forecast until the end of the week. Unless you have a burn permit about the only thing you can do is use an outdoor grill whereby the fire is contained.

These rules have been established to protect all the citizens of Pasco County and as dry as it is any spark could ignite a fire that can quickly spread as we have seen recently. If all of us follow the rules we can keep from getting into a tragic situation.

It is up to us as citizens to follow the rules and for the ones who choose not to follow them shame on you.

S.R. 54/56 Task Force Meeting
Phase Two Public Vision Study Held Today

The Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is hosting a public vision 54/56 task force meeting to continue evaluating transportation solutions for the State Road 54/56 Corridor, from U.S. 19 to Bruce B. Downs Boulevard. Anyone interested in the Vision 54/56 Study is invited to attend. Citizens will be able to listen to the task force discussion and take part in a public comment session.

This study is designed to determine the best solutions for addressing congestion, safety and mobility along the SR 54/56 Corridor. During Phase 1, the task force recommended six major highway and transit alternatives, five complementary alternatives and one do-nothing alternative. The MPO Board approved these alternatives for further evaluation in Phase 2 of the study.

For a full list of the alternatives being considered, visit bit.ly/2mYm9z3.

During Phase 2, the task force will take a more detailed look at the recommended alternatives and complementary alternatives to ultimately select the preferred alternatives that support the vision for the SR 54/56 corridor.

The meeting will be held today from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Rasmussen College, 18600 Fernview St. in Land O’Lakes.

This is the first of three Vision 54/56 Task Force meetings to be held in 2017. Representatives from Pasco County Planning and Development, the MPO, FDOT and the consulting team will be available to take comments and answer questions.

Visit the project website at: www.vision54-56.com for more information about the Vision 54/56 Study.

Visit the MPO website at: www.pascompo.net for more information about transportation planning in Pasco County.

BAHR'S
PROPANE GAS AND A/C INC.
Lic. CAC043948

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
Franklin Rinnai
Air Conditioning & Heating TANKLESS WATER HEATERS

LENNY BAHR & KEVIN BAHR
Proud to be Your Community
Propane Gas and Air Conditioning
Company Since 1988

www.bahrspropaneandac.com

• Ask about Rebates of up to \$750 for new A/C installs!
• Extended Labor Warranties Available!
• Up to \$600 in Rebates on Gas Appliances while funds last!

\$10⁰⁰ OFF A Service Call ZFP
\$2⁰⁰ OFF 20 or 30 LB. Cylinder ZFP

\$5⁰⁰ OFF
A/C Maintenance Check
• Thorough Unit Inspection • Clean Coils
• Check Pressures and all Electrical Components
• Clean Drain Pans • Calibrate Thermostat ZFP

813-782-5013 352-567-7678 813-782-5013
4441 Allen Rd • Zephyrhills 15229 US 301 • Dade City 3708 Copeland Dr • Zephyrhills
M-F 8am-5pm • Sat 8am-Noon M-F 8am-5pm • Sat 8am-Noon M-F 8am-5pm • Nov-March

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

Publisher
Chris Drews
cdrews@pasconewspubs.com

Editor
Keri McAlpine
keri@pasconewspubs.com

Reporters
Joe Potter
jpotter@pasconewspubs.com

Accounting
Linda Wood
lwood@pasconewspubs.com

Design
Edwin Pitts
pasconewspubs.design@gmail.com

Dave Walters
walters@pasconewspubs.com
Max Zimmerman
mzimmerman@pasconewspubs.com

Sales
Stephanie Stephenson
pasconewspubs@gmail.com

Public Relations
Greg First
gfirst@pasconewspubs.com

Sports
Mark McLeod
Jeff Hupp

Zephyrhills Free Press | www.zephyrhillsfreepress.com



38440 5th Avenue - Zephyrhills, FL 33542
(813) 783-1300 - www.pasconewspubs.com

NEWS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Monday at 12:00 noon • CIRCULATION ISSUES: Please call the office at (813) 783-1300
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Letters to the editor should be limited to 200 words. Pasco News Publications reserves the right to edit published letters. Letters to the editor are the writer’s opinion and do not reflect the opinion of Pasco News Publications. Please include your name and phone number.
ADVERTISING ERRORS: Pasco News Publications is not responsible for the validity of claims made by advertisers or for advertisers errors. Pasco News Publications is responsible only for the cost of space for the first insertion.
PASCO NEWS PUBLICATIONS IS A MEMBER OF: The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce.
COPYRIGHT: Contents copyright of Pasco News Publications, all rights reserved. Reproduction in part or whole prohibited without prior, written permission of the publisher.

Hospital Receives Safe-Sleep Certification

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills was recently recognized by the National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program as a “Bronze Safe Sleep Hospital” for its commitment to best practices and education on infant safe sleep. FHZ is one of the first hospitals in Florida to receive the title.

The National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program was created by Cribs for Kids, a Pittsburgh-based organization dedicated to preventing infant, sleep-related deaths because of accidental suffocation.

“Our hospital is committed to reducing infant, sleep related deaths by promoting and educating our community on best safe sleep practices,” said Sonia Yaksich, Women’s Health Services Navigator for FHZ. “We are proud to be recognized as one of the first hospitals in the State of Florida to earn this certification.”

In addition to being Cribs for Kids partners, FHZ was recognized for following the safe sleep guidelines recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics

and providing training programs for parents, staff and the community. Community outreach includes education at local events, hospital events and inpatient baby care classes.

“Sleep-Related Death (SRD) results in the loss of more than 3,500 infants every year in the U.S.,” said Michael H. Goodstein, MD, neonatologist and medical director of research at Cribs for Kids. “We know that consistent education can have a profound effect on infant mortality, and this program is designed to encourage safe sleep education and to recognize those hospitals that are taking an active role in reducing these preventable deaths.” This program is well-aligned with the Maternal Child Health Bureau’s vision of reducing infant mortality through the promotion of infant sleep safety as outlined in Infant Mortality CoIIN Initiative. Thirty-six states have designated SIDS/SUID/SRD as their emphasis to reduce infant mortality.

City Seeks Help To Win Park Makeover

The City of Zephyrhills is asking residents to nominate the city to earn a \$20,000 “Meet Me at the Park” grant for a park makeover.

The winning grant will be provided by the National Recreation and Park Association through a partnership with the Walt Disney Co., the Disney/ABC Television Group and ESPN to revitalize parks across the United States.

The city receiving the most nominations by the end of April will receive the \$20,000 grant.

Supporters can vote each day for Zephyrhills at NRPA.org/BeInspired though April 30.

Road • Continued from Page 1A

on the north side of the road and include 7-foot bicycle lanes on the shoulders in each direction.

As the extension intersects Morris Bridge Road, turn lanes to access S.R. 56 will be added to the north-south artery and new asphalt will cover about a half-mile. A traffic signal is set for installation in the spring of 2018, according to David Botello, public information officer for District 7 of FDOT.

An FDOT project update sheet indicates the road is projected to open to traffic in 2020.

Cone & Graham is conducting the preparation work and Atkins has been contracted to oversee the construction.

The project comes with a price tag of nearly \$58 million and does not include \$8 million that will be paid in interest. The City of Zephyrhills will pay \$152,000 of the project’s cost; the rest will paid by the county and state.

Pasco County and Zephyrhills see a big payoff for the road extension in the future.



Crews recently cleared and burned a path east of Morris Bridge Road for what will eventually become part of the State Road 56 extension from Wesley Chapel to U.S. Route 301.

It took pressure from Zephyrhills City Council and state Rep. Danny Burgess to beat back the state’s decision to scale down the extension as only a two-lane connector.

But once the county came on board with the necessary infusion of grant

money, the plan ended up to be a four-lane road as originally pitched.

Also in the works to ease the east-west angst, the widening of State Road 54 is in its early stages.

City officials have long dreamt of the connector serving as an economic boon

for the Chancey Road industrial zone and municipal airport.

But those who enjoy the rural peace below Zephyrhills aren’t likely to share their glee: four developers are planning to add up to 11,000 homes along the new route.



Your biggest blessing deserves The Birth Day Experience™

Let The Birth Day Experience™ team guide you as you start discovering your child’s unique personality. Our birth advocates will provide support and helpful tips on your baby’s growth and development. And, our education programs and support groups will connect you with helpful resources including a community of new moms. Celebrate your baby’s only real Birth Day at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills. We’ll support you every step of the way on one of life’s most precious journeys.

This is inspired obstetrical care.

Find a physician or take a virtual tour at InspiredBirthDay.com • (844) 441-BABY

Dream • Deliver • Discover



FLORIDA HOSPITAL ZEPHYRHILLS

A MEMBER OF  Adventist HEALTH SYSTEM

www.badcock.com

Badcock & more.

HOME FURNITURE

Prices and offers effective April 11 - April 24, 2017

NO CREDIT REFUSED!

*see store for details

LIVING ROOMS DEALS!

EVELYN SOFA 118849/50
loveseat \$578

SAVE \$201.95
reg. 780.95

\$598

also available in cream

SADDLE RECLINING SOFA 117882/83
reclining console loveseat \$698

SAVE \$301.95
reg. 999.95

\$698

OPTIONS
(Shown with 3 Armless, 2 Corner & Ottoman)
Your choice of: Armless chair 119123, Corner wedge 119124, or Ottoman 119125

Accent pillows sold separately

TANNER 885204
2PC SECTIONAL - includes LAF sectional and RAF sectional

SAVE \$201.95
reg. 1199.95

\$998

Accent pillows sold separately

RECLINERS
from
\$298

DINING ROOMS DEALS!

SAVE \$201.95
\$398 REG. \$599.95

Mindy 882175
table & 4 chairs

SAVE \$201.95
\$498 REG. \$699.95

Peyton 882271
Table & 4 chairs

SAVE \$201.95
\$798 REG. \$1299.95

Sheffield 881691/884299
counter table & 4 counter chairs

24 INTEREST FREE!*
months

*Promotional 24 month no interest offer is subject to credit approval and applies to a single-exception qualifying financed amount of \$1,500.00 or more on an approved Badcock account. During the promotional period, equal monthly payments are required, calculated by dividing the financed amount by the length of the promotional period. If each equal monthly payment is not made when due or the purchase is not paid in full by the expiration of the promotional period, FINANCE CHARGES WILL BE ASSESSED from the promotional period start date at the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) specified in the Badcock Easy Purchase Plan Credit Agreement. See more for details.

5 PC BEDROOMS DEALS!

METALINDO II

SAVE \$401.90
reg. 899.90

\$498

B: 5pc Q: 882372 K: 882711
M: 5pc Q: 882718 K: 882720
W: 5pc Q: 882723 K: 882724

HEATHER 882490/2547

SAVE \$601.90
reg. 1099.90

\$598

includes: Queen bed (headboard, footboard, rails, dresser & mirror. Save on King, too!)

DALTON 884696/97

SAVE \$301.90
reg. 999.90

\$698

RAVEN 882614/15/1993/94

SAVE \$401.90
reg. 1199.90

\$798

OPEN SUNDAYS 5500 6th Street
ZEPHYRHILLS-813-782-4370
MON. - FRI. 9AM - 6PM; SAT. 9AM - 4PM; SUN. 11AM - 4PM



This conceptual drawing that was created a few years back shows the original design for the building. It will still have the same “French quarter feel” but the location of the patio doors have been changed and a walk up service area has been added. *Photos Provided*

Venue • Continued from Page 1A

the team decided to purchase the old bank building from Biston-Rogers' father.

After starting reconstruction in mid-February, a two-story live entertainment venue, bar and lounge is projected to be finished around December.

Cougars On Fifth is the name of the game for the upscale lounge designed to have a French Quarter/Ybor City vibe.

“To me it’s going to fill a big void in Zephyrhills. I’m hoping it will help boost the downtown activities,” Biston-Rogers said. “We’ve envisioned this for a while and thought Zephyrhills needed something like this ... restaurants in that area that don’t get enough foot traffic. People don’t think of coming to Zephyrhills for a full night.”

The bar will operate with a full liquor license, but will not serve food in order to try to help steer business to already established downtown restaurants. Biston-Rogers said she hopes with the addition of Cougars, more people will consider visiting Zephyrhills for a full day of shopping, eating and evening entertainment.

"I hope we can all work together to boost Zephyrhills and bring people to the area to see what we have to offer," she said.

Cougars' addition to Main Street will make for four establishments serving alcohol along the downtown strip with Manolo's, 4/1 Gentlemen's Quarters and Zephyrhills Brewing Company. Biston-Rogers said she was a little worried she might be met with some resentment for that fact, but that overall everyone has been supportive and excited.

“Members of the community are excited to see something happening downtown,” she said.

The management team plans to organize



Melissa Swanstrom, left, and Jodie Biston-Rogers do demolition work.

several activities for the business, including live concerts, line dancing nights, and making the venue space available for local organizations and groups to hold events.

Originally built in 1972, the 10,000 square foot building's previous tenants have been a slew of different banks throughout the years.

In the downstairs area, 5,000 square feet will serve as a live music venue, and will probably remain open only on weekend nights or for special events. Upstairs, 600 square feet were gutted in order to make a balcony to overlook Fifth Avenue as well as the venue and stage inside. The upstairs sports bar area will be open “all the time.”

Biston-Rogers and Swanstrom do not want to commit to hosting a specific genre of live music – they are open to all forms and want to provide a space for what the people of Zephyrhills want.

"It's going to be a big thing for Zephyrhills ... there's so much potential," Biston-Rogers said.



**Monday -
Thursday**
**ANY SIZE
PIZZA
BUY 1
GET 1
HALF
PRICE**

Piccola Italia



**Italian – American
Restaurant**

*All Dinners
Homemade*

N.Y. Style Pizza • Spaghetti & Meatballs • Homemade Cheesecake

DINNER SPECIALS

**HAPPY
HOUR
ALL DAY!**

**2 for 1 on
select wines
and draft beers**

**\$3.95
Stella Artois**

MONDAY	THURSDAY
Shrimp & Broccoli Cavatelli\$14.95	Pork Osso Buco.....\$12.95
Spaghetti or Ziti, 2 meatballs or 1 sausage.....\$9.50	Chicken Parmesan.....\$13.50
TUESDAY	FRIDAY
Baked Spaghetti\$10.95	All You Can Eat Whitefish\$9.95
Rigatoni Pomodoro\$10.75	Haddock\$11.25
WEDNESDAY	Lobster Ravioli.....\$13.95
Spaghetti or Ziti, 2 meatballs or 1 sausage.....\$9.50	SATURDAY
Chicken Penne Alfredo\$12.95	Lasagna\$10.95
	Alla Romana.....\$12.95

All dinners include soup or salad & garlic bread

HOURS : Mon.-Thurs. 11:00am-8:00pm • Fri. 11:00am-9:00pm
Sat. 4:00pm-9:00pm • Closed Sun.

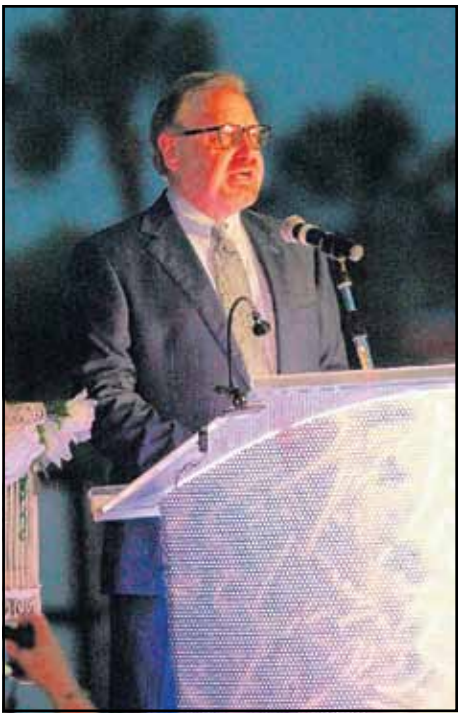


37502 SR 54 West • Zephyrhills • 782-2856

PLACE ORDERS ONLINE • VALUABLE COUPONS

Email Sign-Up • PiccolaItaliaRestaurant.com





Florida Hospital Zephyrhills CEO Randy Surber welcomes the hundreds of people in attendance to the Easter Sunrise Service at FHZ.

Sunrise • Continued from Page 1A

angels ask the women who have come to Jesus’ tomb why have they come to the place. Deford said that Jesus is the living one, and that basically too many times we go looking for answers among the dead when we should instead focus on the living.

“We need to spread that message to as many people as we can come in contact with,” Deford said.

He also told the crowd that 73 percent of the residents of Pasco don’t have a religious affiliation.

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills CEO Randy Surber felt as blessed as anyone seeing the sprawling lawn filled with people enjoying the Easter sunrise service.

“You can’t get any better than this,” Surber said. “This is such a great event for our community and for our hospital. It is wonderful. I always think they can’t get any better and they always do.

“This is where we should be on this morning.”

Presented in partnership with the



Hundreds of people filled the lawn at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills to take part in the Easter Sunrise Service.

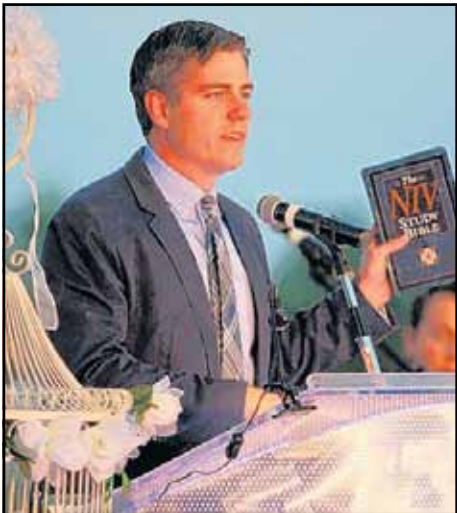
Zephyrhills/Wesley Chapel Ministerial Association, the event featured musical entertainment from The Sound.

Deford was honored to have such a large audience of many different denominations.

“This is one of the biggest honors I get,” said Deford, the vice president of the Zephyrhills/Wesley Chapel Ministerial Association. “I never set out to be a rock star. This is as close as I get to it.”



The musical group The Sound provided the musical entertainment for the crowd at the Easter Sunrise Service.



Garret Hamblen, Director of the Loving Hands Ministries of Dade City, takes the podium for the offering during the Easter Sunrise Service at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills.



Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Senior Chaplain Doug Higgins delivers the invocation during the Easter Sunrise Service.




Protection
you need,
service you
deserve.

Since 1916, Auto-Owners
has partnered with
independent agents
to provide local service
and trusted protection.



LEE REED INSURANCE
Zephyrhills • 813-782-5502
www.leereedinsurance.com


Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS



Signs of a heart attack
are rarely this obvious.

During a heart attack, every minute matters. So, know the warning signs. If you experience them, call 911. And count on the Nationally Accredited Chest Pain Center at Bayfront Health Dade City for emergency heart care.





Bayfront Health
Dade City

13100 Fort King Road, Dade City • BayfrontDadeCity.com



I Should've Bought A Car From THOMAS AUTO MART

Dade City Location Only!

**FINANCING FOR EVERYONE
RATES FROM 2.0%**

**OVER 40 YEARS IN BUSINESS
NEW INVENTORY ARRIVING DAILY
Vehicle History Report On All Vehicles
Power Train Warranty On Most Vehicles**

"We understand that bad things happen to good people"

Divorce • Bankruptcy • Repossession
~ We have financing for you!

NO DEALER FEES!

 <p>2008 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 4X4 #58699 \$199⁰⁰*/MO</p>	 <p>2012 MINI COOPER COUNTRYMAN #05002 \$214⁰⁰*/MO</p>	 <p>2009 KIA RIO #50435 \$4,495⁰⁰*/CASH</p>
 <p>2011 HYUNDAI GENESIS #39181 \$229⁰⁰*/MO</p>	 <p>2011 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY TOURING #35800 \$177⁰⁰*/MO</p>	 <p>2008 FORD F-350 LARIAT #35767 \$325⁰⁰*/MO</p>
 <p>2014 CHEVROLET CAMARO LT #49209 \$303⁰⁰*/MO</p>	 <p>2015 HONDA CIVIC LX #26553 \$244⁰⁰*/MO</p>	 <p>2011 HONDA CR-V EX-L #19935 \$229⁰⁰*/MO</p>


Shop Online 24/7 at
www.ThomasAutoMart.com

13815 21st Street (Hwy 52) Dade City
352-567-7011

A+ Rating MEMBER

Payment based on 2% for 60-72 months. Plus tax, tag, title. With Approved credit.
**With purchase. Photo for illustration purposes only.

The Moose Lodge #2276 Donates \$1,000



The Moose Lodge #2276 in Zephyrhills recently donated \$1,000 to Gulfside Hospice. Pictured, from left, Chuck Plourd, Carla Armstrong and Larry Glass. Photo Provided

Members of Moose Lodge #2276 in Zephyrhills raised money for Gulfside Hospice through bingo nights, and then received a matching donation from the lodge to increase the total to \$1,000.

Since 2013, the Moose Lodge has donated more than \$3,000 to support Gulfside Hospice to show their appreciation for the quality care given to several of their members during the past years.

"The members of this group have always been supporters of the local community, and we are always grateful for the support we receive from the Moose Lodge as their local hospice in Zephyrhills," said Gulfside Hospice Director of Philanthropy Carla Armstrong.

Tell The County What's Important

Annual Online Survey Has Effect On Budget

Staff Report

Pasco County has released its annual public survey, providing residents a chance to sound off on important local issues.

Results of the survey "are often used" for budgetary purposes, according to a press release from the Public Information Office.

The Citizen Survey is available online and will remain open through May 31.

The survey focuses how often citizens use county government-provided services and solicits feedback on how well the county is providing those services.

Last year's survey produced 4,642 responses, an impressive 250 percent increase from 2015.

"We had an incredible response to the Online Citizen Survey last year," said Dr. Marc Bellas, Organizational Performance Management Director. "The survey is a way for residents to be a part of the decision making process. It's vital for the Board [of County Commissioners] to know what issues are important to our citizens."

To take the survey, visit the Pasco County website at www.pascocountyfl.net and click on the survey link on the homepage.



Call or visit today for your FREE 7 DAY PASS

ANYTIME FITNESS

7341 Gall Blvd. • Zephyrhills, FL 33541
813-395-5963 • anytimefitness.com

SPECIAL OFFER FOR THE FIRST 50 NEW MEMBERS!
\$0 TO ENROLL AND 2 FREE P.T. SESSIONS
WITH MEMBER SIGNUP (A \$200 VALUE)

24HR TRAINING | PERSONAL TRAINING | SMALL GROUP TRAINING | ACCESS TO 3000+ LOCATIONS