



Former Bulldog Austin Adams is hoping to take his pitching talent to a major league team. *Photo Provided*

Former ZHS Pitcher Finds The Zone

by Tom Joyce

There was a point at which Austin Adams struggled to throw a strike and did not see the field in college. Now, he's someone the Washington Nationals are watching closely.

In his first two seasons at the University of South Florida, the Zephyrhills native allowed 17 runs and 23 walks in just 10 innings.

In 2017, however, the Syracuse Chiefs (Nationals Triple-A affiliate) reliever is determined to showcase his talent to the

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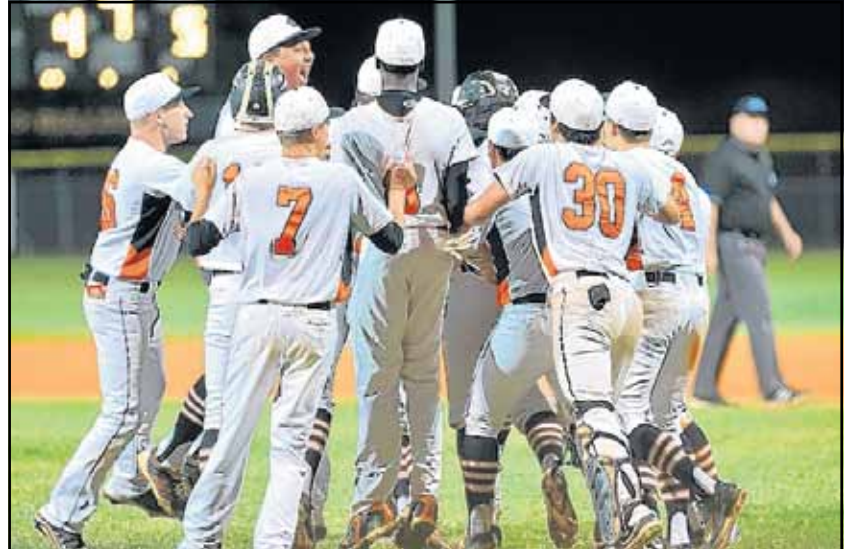
Not This Year Bulldogs Stun Pirates; Keep Rival Streak Alive

by Dave Walters

Zephyrhills put together a five-run rally in the bottom of the seventh inning Tuesday to beat rival Pasco 5-4 in a crucial Class 6A-District 7 game at John Clements Field.

Trailing 4-0 after the Pirates put up four runs in the top of the sixth, the Bulldogs' put together timely hits coupled with fortuitous walks and

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The Bulldogs celebrate after rallying for a 5-4 win against rival Pasco Tuesday night. *Photo by Freeze Frame Photo*



Coach Lucinda Bass shares a moment with senior Cassidee McCullough following the senior night program.

Photo by Freeze Frame Photo

Ladies Win On Senior Night Outlast Seahawks In 11-10 Victory

by Dave Walters

The six senior Bulldogs softball players were emotional heading into Thursday's game with Sunlake. It was senior night, the final time they would share the field at ZHS together.

The emotions were even higher when seniors spear-headed a rally in the bottom of the seventh to send them out with an exciting 11-10

victory.

Trailing 10-6 to the visiting Seahawks, the Bulldogs tied the game thanks in part to a three-run triple by senior Cassidee McCullough. She scored the tying run when Chase Booker reached on an error. Booker scored the winning run when senior Tiayanna Leddick hit a single to left.

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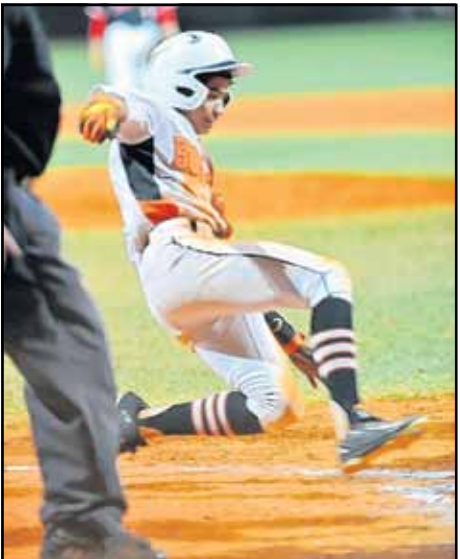


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Bulldogs • Continued from Page 1B

wild pitches to complete the comeback. The win gives Zephyrhills its third consecutive season sweep of Pasco. The Pirates have not registered a win against the Bulldogs since 2014. “This team drives me nuts, but they are grinding out every game,” said Bulldog Coach Rusty Guynn. It was a battle of sophomore left-handed



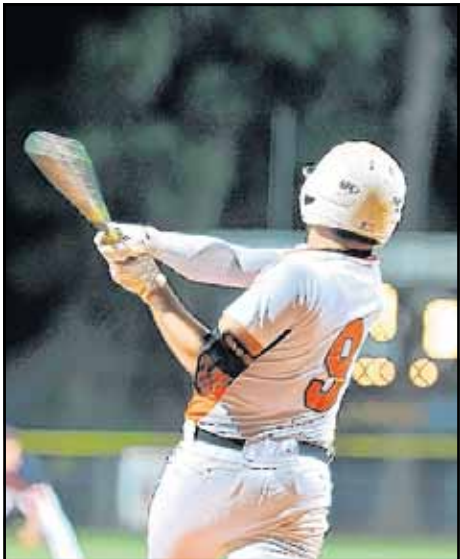
Senior Marcus Gonzalez slides safely into home during a five-run rally in the bottom of the seventh.

pitchers through the first five innings. Bulldog hurler Jaydon Bishop, who picked up the win, kept the Pirates at bay through five innings. He went the distance allowing four runs and striking out six. For the Pirates, Garrett Hester tossed a gem, striking out eight and allowing just two hits, before leaving the game in the seventh. “It was scary-fun,” Bishop said of giving up four runs and then watching his team come back with five. “It’s like riding a roller coaster for the first time, fun. I pitched well and then I left a couple over the plate and they hit it, but my defense got me out of it.” The seventh-inning rally started when Tyrese Wigfall scored on a hit by Dalton Gold. The Bulldogs loaded the bases with a walk and a batter hit. A passed ball scored Gold and Trey Owens to make the score 4-3. Austin Putz walked and Marcus Gonzales stood at third with one out. The Pirates brought in Luby Fields in relief to face ZHS cleanup hitter Kolbe Lupinek. A wild pitch scored Gonzales, moving Putz into scoring position. Lupinek drilled one to shortstop but the ball is bobbled and the throw was late to first allowing Putz to bolt home and slide safely with the game-winner. “It has been a long time since they beat us and we weren’t going to let it happen



Sophomore left-hander Jaydon Bishop picked up the win tossing a complete game with six strikeouts. tonight,” said Putz. “It feels so good. They are a good team and they came close this year.” Bishop and the rest of the Bulldogs brought heightened emotion and intensity to a peak in the dugout during the final at-bat.

“Once we got the first two runners on, the emotion in the dugout caught like fire sparks. It was quick,” Bishop said. “It went from down sitting on the bench to up on the fence screaming. Honestly, that’s the way it should be for every game. “Hopefully we can bring that energy with us Thursday.” That’s when the Bulldogs are back in action at home against Wesley Chapel in another district clash.



Zephyrhills Senior Dalton Gold rips a hit in Tuesday's 5-4 come-from-behind win. Photos by Freeze Frame Photo

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Nationals in hopes for a major league opportunity in a new organization. This past winter, Adams, who has a knack for generating whiffs (61 strikeouts in 41.1 innings for the Double-A Arkansas Travelers in 2016), was dealt to the Nationals as a part of a trade that sent second baseman Danny Espinosa to Los Angeles. “It was unexpected, but once I got that news, it was pretty awesome,” he said. “I’m really blessed to have such a wonderful opportunity with the Nationals.” Although he struggled early in his collegiate

career, Adams blossomed his junior year going 1-2 with a 1.95 ERA in 18 appearances, while striking out 34 and walking 10 in 27.2 innings. It was a performance strong enough to justify the Angels selecting him in the 8th round of the 2012 MLB draft. Adams said the difference-maker heading into his senior year was a newfound confidence in his ability and extensive work with former USF pitching coach and current Atlanta Braves pitching coach Chuck Hernandez. “I remember having countless conversations with

him and he was always very passionate about his job,” Adams said. “He made it very clear I had the talent to play at the next level.” With that in his past, Adams is now one rung below the big leagues and in his first two Triple-A outings, he has been dominant striking out eight in 4.2 scoreless innings. If all goes well, this could be the year he makes it to ‘the big dance.’ “It’s what all the work up to this point has been for,” he said. “I’m really looking forward to the opportunity when they need me.”

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Haylee Karpe led off the inning and reached on an error. Tucker was hit by a pitch and Lauren Heath walked to load the bases.

McCullough stepped up and ripped a standup triple to the corner in left field, clearing the bases and pulling the Bulldogs closer to 10-9.

“It felt good,” McCullough said as the tears flowed. “These girls mean a lot to me. We had to work for each other. We finally played as a team and we finally came out on top.

“This one meant the most. This was our senior night. It’s tough to think this was our last game on this field but there are new chapters in our lives coming up. We just have to look forward to it,” McCullough said.

Booker hit a ground ball to third base and reached on an error to score



Zephyrhills pitcher gets ready to deliver a pitch against Sunlake Thursday night.



The Bulldog seniors honored Thursday night were Nekia Tucker, Madison Cross, coach Lucinda Bass, Tiayannna Leddick, Cassidee McCullough, Alexis Christopher and Meghan Transue.

Photos by Freeze Frame Photo

McCullough and knot the score at 10 apiece. She moved to third on a steal and a fielder’s choice off the bat of Alexis Christopher.

Following a strikeout, Leddick stepped up to the plate with two outs and the winning run at third. She tapped a fly to a spot in shallow left field. Seahawks’ left fielder Jenna Gabrielli moved in, dove, but the ball was just out of her reach, giving Leddick the walk-off single.

“It’s like exhilarating being the one that got the hit,” Leddick said, wiping away her own tears. “I’m not playing college ball so this game meant everything to me. This is it and I’m so glad I went out this way.”

It was the final home game for the Bulldogs and seniors McCullough, Leddick, Alexis Christopher, Meghan Transue, Nekia Tucker and Madison Cross were honored during a post-game ceremony.

“We came in here together four years ago,” Leddick said. “We have grown together and they are my best friends. It means everything to play with them. It’s been great. These girls are my family.”



Senior catcher Meghan Transue takes a moment before the start of an inning during Thursday’s matchup against Sunlake.



Senior Alexis Christopher shares a smiling moment with her mom during the senior night festivities flowing the Bulldogs 11-10 win over Sunlake.



Madison Cross gets her senior night gifts during a special ceremony Thursday night.



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Church News

Email Church News to
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First Baptist Church – Pastor Rob McKinney invites everyone to visit a going church with a coming Savior.

Our teen ministry (TRUTH Ministries) is held on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. with director Jason Hicks and youth leaders Barbara Hicks and Kaylee Hickey. Bus transportation is available.

Church visitation is every Monday at 5 p.m. The Sunrise Prayer Warriors meet weekdays from 6-7 a.m. in the church conference room. Everyone is welcome.

The Sunday services are: Sunday school for all ages, 9:30 a.m.; worship service, 10:45 a.m.; evening service, 6 p.m.; and Wednesday mid-week service, 6:30 p.m. Children’s activities and choir practice are at 6 p.m. Call the church at (813) 782-5574. The Fort Baptist downtown church is located at 38231 Fifth Ave. in Zephyrhills.

Zephyrhills First Church of the Nazarene – Men’s breakfast is held on the first Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. in the Errickson Auditorium. Church bowling is held the second Saturday of every month at 2 p.m. at Pin Chasers.

Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. and contemporary worship is at 10:45 a.m. Sunday evening services start at 6 p.m. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for Generations Bible study for all ages.

ZFN is located at 6151 12th St. in Zephyrhills. Call (813) 782-7032 or visit zfnfamily.org for information.

Christway Baptist Church – Come visit our new church located at 38543 Fourth Ave. in Zephyrhills. Sunday service times are: Sunday school at 10 a.m.; morning service at 11 a.m. and evening service at 5:30 p.m. There is also a mid-week Bible study on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Call (813) 838-0086 or visit christwaybaptistchurch.com for information.

Cornerstone Community Church – Service times are Sunday school at 9 a.m.; Sunday worship at 10 a.m.; children’s church at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study at 7 p.m.; and Saturday Night Life at 6 p.m.

Worship with us at 8527 Old Lakeland Hwy. in Zephyrhills. Call Pastor John Faughnan at (352) 567-6494 or visit www.mycornerstonecc.com for information.

Heart of Worship – Heart of Worship is a family friendly non-denominational church located at 10628 U.S. 301 (at the Market Hill Shopping Center) between Zephyrhills and Dade City. Pastor Tony Disano is committed to his faith in God and preaching the Bible.

Sunday service is at 11 a.m. You are welcome to come early for a cup of coffee and a bite to eat. Bible study class is at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. We have a praise team and great music. Family fun night is the last Sunday of the month with

activities for children and adults. There are graded school rooms for the children and teens as well as a nursery. All are welcome to attend. Visit www.thehowchurch.org for information.

Drong Ngur Buddhist Dharma Center – Sunday meetings are open to all and are held from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Located at 30520 Lynne Drive in Wesley Chapel. Visit www.dnjus.org or call (727) 809-0867 for information.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Worship with us on Sundays at 10 a.m. at 6040 Eighth St., Zephyrhills (behind the post office).

Communion is available at all of our services and is open for all believers. We have morning and evening Bible studies; an active women’s service group, men’s breakfast and more. Call (813) 782-1071 for information.

First Congregational Church of Zephyrhills – Regular church service is at 10 a.m., with Sunday school from 9-9:45 a.m. An evening Bible study is held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We are currently studying First Corinthians.

The Men’s Breakfast is held in the education building at 8 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

Our Men’s Work Group (aka The God Squad) performs small handy work for our church members in need.

The church is located at 7900 Fort King Road. Visit www.fcczhills.org or contact the office at (813) 780-6027 or fcczh@aol.com for information. Office hours are 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Faith Baptist Church – Sunday morning worship service is held at 10:15 a.m. The church is located at 38634 C.R. 54 in Zephyrhills. Faith Baptist Church has been loving the Zephyrhills community for 44 years, providing answers for a changing world, strengthening marriages, and giving practical help in times of trouble. Check us out on the web at fbczephyrhills.org or call the church office at (813) 782-0880 for information

St. Elizabeth Episcopal/Anglican Church – Service times are Saturdays at 4 p.m., Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. The church is located at 5855 16th St. (corner of 12th Avenue and 16th Street). Everyone is invited to attend. Our Sunday school meets at 9 a.m. Children of all ages are welcome to attend.

Wesley Chapel Church of the Nazarene – You are invited to join us for a traditional church service every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. and an evening service at 6 p.m. Our Sunday school classes start at 9:30 a.m. There is also a Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.

Everyone is welcome and invited to attend any or all of our services. The church is located at 34106 State Road 54 West and you may call (813) 780-7600 for more information.

Just Church – Join us at 5221 Eighth St in Zephyrhills. Pastor Ken Ringeisen invites you to services on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and at 7 p.m. Children’s church and nursery are provided.

First Presbyterian Church – Located at 5510 19th St. Worship services are at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Dinner is served on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. followed by classes from 6-7 p.m. for all ages, including an adult Bible study. Choir practice begins at 7 p.m. Call (813) 782-7412 for information.

Zephyr Park Christian Church – We are close to God and close to nature. Located under the large American flag behind Zephyr Haven. We meet every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with singing and praising the Living Lord. We are giving you a challenge: visit us for four weeks and you will be so blessed you won’t be able to stay away. Bible study is available. Call (813) 484-9906 for information.

Trinity Church of Wesley Chapel – Sunday school is at 9 a.m. and services are at 10:15 a.m. every Sunday. Family night is every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. There is a monthly Fish Fry on the last Friday of every month from 4-7 p.m. The price is \$7 for fish, two sides, dessert and a drink. The church is located at 33425 S.R. 54 in Wesley Chapel. Call (813) 788-2898 for information.

Thrifty Angel Boutique at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church – Open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-noon. Donations

accepted on Mondays from 8 a.m.-noon. The store carries gently used clothes, shoes, handbags, jewelry, knick-knacks and household goods. Located at 38640 Sixth Ave. in Zephyrhills. (813) 780-7309.

United Methodist Mission Thrift Shop – The United Methodist Mission Thrift Shop at the corner of Sixth Avenue and 11th Street in Zephyrhills has a nice selection of housewares, small appliances, Christmas decorations, jewelry, books and men’s, women’s and children’s clothing. Store hours are Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Episcopal/Anglican Church – Service times are Saturdays at 4 p.m., Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. The church is located at 5855 16th St. (corner of 12th Avenue and 16th Street). Everyone is invited to attend. Our Sunday school meets at 9 a.m. Children of all ages are welcome to attend.

Waters Edge Community Church – Join us at 30200 Overpass Road in Wesley Chapel. Pastor Richard Crist invites you to attend prayer service Sunday at 9 a.m. followed by a worship service at 10 a.m.

Our Savior Lutheran Church – Worship with us at 10:15 a.m. at 5626 20th St. in Zephyrhills. Holy Communion is on the second and fourth Sundays. Call (813) 782-1369 for information.

First Baptist Church of Crystal Springs – 39607 Central Ave., invites you to weekly services: Sunday school at 10 a.m., Sunday worship service 11 a.m., Sunday night service 6 p.m., Wednesday night prayer service 6 p.m. Call Pastor John Foster at (813) 767-9307 or email Efoster23@tampabay.rr.com for information.

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AMVETS Post #550
AMVETS Riders is being formed. Do you like to ride? Like to meet new people? Like going fun places? If you answered yes to any of those questions, please join us on May 11 at 7 p.m. as we work to start the formation of the AMVETS Riders. The meeting will be in the screen room at AMVETS Post #550, 4645 Airport Road in Zephyrhills. Come check us out and help to get this started.

Monday is Bingo from 1-4 p.m. and the kitchen is open from 12-2 p.m. Every Tuesday is Karl Sapp from 4-7 p.m. with the kitchen open from 4-6:30 p.m. Wednesday is Ship, Captain and Crew from 1–3 p.m.; the Queen of Hearts is at 5 p.m.; and Corn Toss is also on Wednesdays. Music on Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. along with a meat raffle. Friday is our famous Fish Fry from 4-7 p.m. with several other menu choices available. Entertainment is from 7-10 p.m. Steak dinners are on Saturdays from 4-7 p.m. and a variety of entertainment from 7-10 p.m. On Sundays join E-bowling at 1:30 p.m. Randy’s Music Trivia is every Sunday from 4-7 p.m.

AMVETS is located at 4645 Airport Road in Zephyrhills. Find us on Facebook or call (813) 780-8180 for information.

Military Order of the Purple Heart
Chapter #705 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is calling all combat wounded veterans to join us promoting patriotism, history, fraternalism and assistance. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at AMVETS Post #550, 4645 Airport Road, Zephyrhills. Life membership is available for all combat wounded veterans, their dependents and survivors, for \$50, payable in two convenient payments of \$25 each. Call Earl McMillan at (813) 782-3425 or email emcmillan1@verizon.net, or contact Guy Patterson at (864) 561-6644 for information.

American Legion Post #118
The honor society of American veterans, the 40/8, is now in Zephyrhills. Our promenades are the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 am. at American Legion Post #118.

American Legion Zephyr Post #118 meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 5340 Eighth St., Zephyrhills, at 7 p.m. Auxiliary meets at 1 p.m. the third Wednesday. The club is open for Legion members, veterans and guests at 3 p.m. Monday-Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. Canadian veterans are welcome. Membership is open to all eligible veterans. Call (813) 782-0481 for information.

Humana Clubs and Events
The Zephyrhills Humana neighborhood location is open to the public and offers a variety of fun and educational health/wellness, nutrition, technology, games and social events all month long at no charge. Come play Canasta on Tuesdays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Bridge on Thursdays from 12-3 p.m. and more. Give us a call at (813) 780-7300 for information or stop by and see us for a full calendar.

Do you enjoy group exercise or do you need to kick up a notch? BOOM MOVE IT meets every Monday from 2-2:45 p.m. at the Neighborhood Humana, located in the Zephyr Commons Shopping Center at 7920 Gall Blvd. Call (813) 780-7300 for information or visit us in person to get a copy of our full calendar of events for this month.

Disabled American Veterans #65
The new Commander of DAV Post #65 wants to meet you. Dale Sloan, a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Navy served from 1971-1992 on three destroyers and three aircraft carriers. Sloan wishes to convey his gratitude for your service. Due to the condition of the present building in Zephyrhills and money constraints, the DAV will be selling the building to the City and relocating to the American Legion Post #15 at 37745 Church Ave. in Dade City. Meetings will be held at the new location on the second Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. We have service officers from both the Legion and DAV to handle your claims and concerns on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Please join us.

VFW #8154
Veterans of Foreign Wars #8154 is located at 3954 Paul Buchman Highway (State Road 39). Post and Auxiliary meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Friday Night fish fry is back from 4:30-7 p.m. for \$9. Wednesday Night Dinner by The Auxiliary is from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at \$7 each (except steak at \$9). Wings and Things will continue to be from 1-6 p.m. on Sundays with music from 4-7 p.m. Monday Meat Drawings begin at 4:30 p.m. with music by Billy Cole from 5-8 p.m. Come enjoy and participate in Karaoke on Saturdays from 5-8 p.m. Call (813) 782-7194 for information.

Zephyrhills Family Moose Lodge
Mondays – Corn Hole Toss, 7 p.m. in the SQ and Spagetti/Chicken dinner from 5-7 p.m.; Tuesdays – Ship Captain Crew at 2 p.m. in the SQ, darts at 7 p.m. and taco Tuesday from 5-7 p.m.; Wednesdays – Dance on Hall Side and Karaoke with Cathy on SQ Side Wind Night from 5-7 p.m.; Thursdays – Live music in SQ from 2-5 p.m.; and burgers from 5-7 p.m.; Fridays – Fish Fry 4-7 p.m. every Friday.

All events are for members and qualified guests. Public Bingo on Thursdays at 6:30 pm is open to the general public. The lodge is located at 3211 Gall Blvd. and can be reached at (813) 782-1771.

Elks Lodge #2731
The Zephyrhills Elks Lodge is located at 6851 Wire Road. Fish Fry every Friday evening 4:30-6:30 p.m. with music and dancing. Menu is fried or baked Haddock, shrimp or baked chicken, baked potato or french fries, coleslaw or applesauce. Cost is \$10. Karaoke by Dudley is every Tuesday with dinner at 4:30 p.m. with varying menus. Karaoke begins at 6 p.m. All events are open to Elks and invited guests. Call (813) 782-4604 for information.

Zephyrhills Eagles #3752
Smoking and non-smoking Bingo is held every Saturday at 1 p.m. Come early to enjoy our kitchen’s burger sliders – two for \$2. Friday fish fries are from 5-7 p.m. and stay for Billy Cole Karaoke from 7-11 p.m. Monday night is good home cooking for \$6. Wednesday and Thursday are open menu items, and Sunday morning breakfast from 8-11 a.m. Stop in to visit and stay for a while. Calendars are on Facebook at Zephyrhills Eagles #3752 or call (813) 780-1558 for information.

Marine Corps League
The Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Curtin Detachment #1124 of the Marine Corps League (MCL) are looking for a few good Marines and Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Navy

Corpsmen to join their ranks. The MCL meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #8154 located at the southeast corner of State Road 39 and Tucker Road at 3954 Paul Buchman Highway in Zephyrhills. Call (813) 788-5676 for information.

Marine Corps League Auxiliary
The Marine Corps League Auxiliary meets the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Zephyrhills V.F.W. Post #8154 located at 3954 State Road 39. Call Vanice Holland at (772) 480-0658 for information.

Ladies Oriental Shrine Cairo Court #97
There are 22 Shriners’ Hospitals for Children in North America. Children with scoliosis, cleft palate, burns, spinal cord injuries, orthopedic conditions, and other serious conditions are eligible for care. Patients are cared for in a family-centered environment and are provided with medical treatments, psychological support services, transitional services and rehabilitation, regardless of race, color, creed, gender or sect, disability, national origin, or the ability of a patient or family to pay.

The local LOSNA group, Cairo Court #97 of Zephyrhills, meets on the third Wednesday of each month (September through May) at the Zephyrhills Masonic Hall at 5950 12th St.

Zephyrhills Historical Association
The Zephyrhills Historical Association meets every first Tuesday at the Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth Street. The business meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by the program at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served. Contact Clereen Brunty at (813) 782-8763 or clereen@tampabay.rr.com for information.

Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary
The Eagles Ladies Auxiliary is a great way to volunteer your time to make a difference in someone’s life. We are a community-based organization that is not for profit located at 4149 New River Road in Zephyrhills.

Alcoholics Anonymous
If you have, or even think you may have, a problem with alcohol, call (813) 933-9123 (24 hours) for a local meeting or just someone to talk with.

Overeaters Anonymous
Meetings are held at the Seventh-day Church, located at 7333 Dairy Road in Zephyrhills on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Newcomers are welcome.

Narcotics Anonymous Hotline
Information about various Narcotics Anonymous meetings that are held several days a week in East Pasco may be obtained by calling (813) 527-3853. Narcotics Anonymous can help those who have drug problems and who are willing to participate in the program. Narcotics Anonymous is not affiliated with any of the places at which its meetings are held.

Tools to Quit Tobacco Cessation Program
This program gives people support as they seek to break their tobacco addiction. It is a two hour session to guide the group members toward a successful quit attempt. Learn about Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) and receive free NRT. Call (813) 929-1000 for information on free tobacco cessation classes.

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Pictured, from left, are Bob and Peg Benjamin, Elk members; Barbara Wilson, Zephyrhills Elks ENF Chairman; Marlies Sarrett, Facility Administrator and Pamela Gallion, Elk member.

Photo Provided

Elks Lodge Gives Boost To Veterans Nursing Home

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 was recently awarded a \$2000 Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation, along with a \$2,000 matching amount from the Florida State Elks. This grant was used to purchase items and equipment for the veterans at the Baldomero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home in Land O’ Lakes.

March Student Citizens




Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce Student Citizens for March 2017 with Chamber representatives at the Student Citizen of the Month ceremony held March 15 at the Church at Chancey Road. From left are Gabrielle Flinn, 9, Hope Ranch Learning Academy; Alex Hoffman, 11, Heritage Academy; Melonie Monson, GZCOC executive director; Kameron Paige, 10, The Broach School; Carolyn Sentelik, president, Chamber Board of Directors; Ariana Cotto, 8, Woodland Elementary School; Jovonne Guzman, 14, Raymond B. Stewart Middle School; Johnathan Alford, 16, Zephyrhills High School; Alejandra Padilla, 9, Chester W. Taylor Elementary School; Lucas Burnham, 13, East Pasco Adventist Academy; Roxxy Geisenheimer, GZCOC marketing and events coordinator; Benjamin Will, 11, West Zephyrhills Elementary School; Katy Boyd, GZCOC ambassador chairperson and Nicholas Rivera, 8, Zephyrhills Christian Academy.

Photo Provided

Obituaries

Email Obituaries to
jpotter@pasconewspubs.com

 **James W. McElwee**
MCELWEE, James W., 91, of Zephyrhills, passed away Jan. 30, 2017. He was the beloved husband of the late Joan (nee Flanagan), devoted father of Michael (Jean), Patricia May (John), and the late William; loving grandfather of Michael, Jr. (Mary Ellen), Maureen Sharp (Morgan), and Brendan, Kevin and Ryan May; great-grandfather to Madeline, Michael III and Thomas McElwee and Jillian and Allison Sharp. He was a proud World War II U.S. Navy veteran serving on the USS Custer. He was a longtime employee of New York Telephone. Funeral services were held at the Charles J. O’Shea Funeral Home in Wantagh, N.Y. Interment of ashes was at Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, N.Y.

Ellen Shirah Puckett
PUCKETT, Ellen Shirah, 91, passed away April 11, 2017. Ellen was one of five children and was born in 1925 in a tiny town in southern Georgia. Ellen left home early and found work in the Union Bag and Paper Corporation in Savannah. It was there that a friend set her up on a movie-and-ice-cream double-date with her brother, Charlie Sargent, a good-looking sailor just returned from World War II service in the Merchant Marine. Four dates later, he proposed. The couple had two sons, Bill and



Rick, and moved from Savannah to Dade City in 1948. Charlie ran Sargent’s Pest Control, and the couple raised their children in Dade City. In 1963, when Bill was a senior in high school, Charlie became ill and died, leaving Ellen struggling to run the pest control business alone. She decided to earn her high school diploma, and was helped in her lessons by her sons. She then took the courses necessary for certification as a pest control operator. Later, she sold the business to Young’s Pest Control and got a job working in the Pasco County Courthouse. Later, she met Warren Puckett, who served as a Navy Seabee in World War II, and they were married in 1968. Warren’s daughter, Toi Puckett (Basso), added a feminine element to the family. Warren and Ellen ran E.S. Puckett Pest Control, first in Dade City and later in Lake Panasoffkee, selling the business and retiring only after Warren turned 80 years old. In 2010, Warren and Ellen sold their home in Lake Panasoffkee and moved into the Edwinola, only a few months before Warren died. Ellen continued to live there until 2014, when she moved into The Commons, more recently known as American House. Ellen enjoyed spending time with friends and family, and loved to get together for feasts, or to go out to eat. The family used to tease her for “eating like a lumberjack,” which was unexpected because she was a tiny person. She was an independent, feisty, strong-minded, funny, loving woman who will be sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved her. Ellen is survived by two sons, Bill and Rick; and a

daughter, Toi (Basso); four grandchildren, Susie, Brian, Jeremy and Josh; and six great-grandchildren, Brad, Shawn, Abigail, Cody, Nicole and Mateo; as well as a sister, Mary Bradshaw of Dade City. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Friday, April 28, at the U.S. 301 Chapel of Hodges Family Funeral Home in Dade City.

Jimmie Darrell ‘Wolf’ Riley
RILEY, Jimmie Darrell “Wolf,” 67, passed from this earthly home on April 12, 2017. He is survived by his spouse of 45 years, Joni; children, Emily (Darren) Register and Weylin (Jessie) Riley; grandchildren, Oakley, Macoy, Cheyenne and Justin. A Celebration of Life for family and friends will be held April 21 from 4-8 p.m. at the Dade City Garden Club, 13630 Fifth St., Dade City. Hodges Family Funeral Home is in charge of



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