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ZHS Seniors Earn Just Rewards

Scholarships Handed Out To The Best And Brightest

Story and photos by **Dave Walters**

Zephyrhills High School seniors walked away from their final year of high school with close to \$1 million in scholarships thanks to mainly local donations awarded Monday night.

From full scholarships valued at \$250,000 to smaller gifts at just \$300, ZHS grads will open their next educational chapter of their lives with a leg up.

"This will help me tremendously," said Keith Brockington, who will attend FAMU in the fall to study pre-law. "A lot of the assistance I received before tonight was loans that I have to pay back. Getting these scholarships will help



Salutatorian Sarah First, left, and valedictorian Julian Ortega del Toro enter the senior awards night with big smiles and bright futures.

Seniors • Continued on Page 5A

Charity Begins At Tax Office

Fasano's Outreach Adds Up To \$275,000

by **Keri McAlpine**

Since he was appointed to the role of Pasco County Tax Collector in 2013, Mike Fasano has been on a mission to give back.

He was chosen to fill the shoes of longtime tax collector Mike Olson, who passed away while in office, and although Olson left a great legacy, Fasano wanted to do more.

Almost immediately after taking office, Fasano started a program to benefit county charities and non-profit organizations.

During the monthly charity program's 3 1/2 years, the tax collector's five offices have amassed \$275,000 for these organizations.

"I felt that our organization was not involved in the community at all and I'm a big believer that when you have an organization like the tax collector's



Mike Fasano

Charity • Continued on Page 7A



Linebacker Zac Masci has a hold on Zephyrhills quarterback Charles Harrison III during the Orange and Black game last Friday.

Bulldogs Are Hungry To Hit

Sophomore Tears It Up In Annual Clash

Story and photos by **Dave Walters**

Football is back at ZHS and the Bulldogs showed their fans they were ready to hit.

Coach Nick Carroll's Bulldogs put on the pads for the annual Orange and Black game last Friday night. In what was an organized scrimmage, the Bulldogs were playing for keeps in their final preparation for this Friday's home spring game against Crystal River.

On the defensive side, Zac Masci

Bulldogs • Continued on Page 6A

Zephyrhills' Love Evident At Benefit

Community Turns Out To Support Victims Of Fire

by **Keri McAlpine**

It's in times of tragedy when people show their true colors, and in Zephyrhills that means support, kindness and love. That character was on display during a May 7 car show created in an Allen Road parking lot to raise money for two Zephyrhills families.

The five-member Weatherington and Ross families lost everything to a fire that sparked up in the Ross's shed last month, quickly spreading and destroying the two mobile homes.

The car, truck and bike show had more than 100 entries and the event ended up raising about \$2,500 for the families. Organizer Deanna Baker said it was an absolute success and



More than 100 participants took part in a May 7 car, truck and bike show to raise money for two local families who lost their homes to a fire last month.

Photo Provided

Benefit • Continued on Page 8A

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 Pg. 1B - It's More Than Hitting And Cheering

Pg. 3B - Shufflers Win National Championships
 Pg. 4B - ZHS Art Show Delivers Multiple Forms

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Stolen Games Pawned For Gas Money

Willie Jamual Jackson, 21, of 7523 Merchantville Circle, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 9 on charges of burglary and dealing in stolen property. Approximately \$530 in property was removed from a residence in the 38000 block of Hart Circle on May 8, police said. The stolen items included five Xbox video games, two Xbox One games and an Xbox 360 controller. Witnesses told police they had observed Jackson and a codefendant, **Camron Tyreal McKnight**, 20, leave the scene at approximately 12:30 p.m. in a car registered to Jackson's father. McKnight was also charged with burglary. Jackson allegedly pawned the items at Pawn Max for \$30. When police contacted Jackson, he spontaneously stated he pawned the items for "gas money."



driving because it had a shattered windshield obstructing his vision. A strong odor of marijuana could be detected emanating from within the vehicle. A hand search of the vehicle yielded 178.1 grams of marijuana packaged in a clear plastic baggy inside a backpack. A package of marijuana edible candy was also found inside the backpack along with 18 Oxycodone HCL 30mg tablets. Valdes reportedly admitted the backpack belonged to him. Post Miranda, Valdes reportedly told police he had been selling marijuana around town and had sold roughly one ounce on May 6. A single 10mg Cyclobenzaprine tablet was found on the front driver seat. Allen said he had a prescription for the drug but could not produce it. He also admitted his driver's license was suspended.

Dominic Scott Alexander II, 30, of 39465 Tabitha Drive, and **Melissa Nicole McGavock**, 27, of 39533 Sierra Drive, were arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 7. Alexander was charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and one charge of possession of paraphernalia. McGavock was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. Police stopped a vehicle with an expired tag at 12th Street and North Avenue. An odor of



Alexander



McGavock

marijuana could reportedly be detected emitting from the vehicle. McGavock, who was driving the car, spontaneously stated, "I have a bottle of Hydrocodone in my bag that's not mine." She and Alexander were removed from the vehicle and a search of the vehicle yielded 15 white 500mg Hydrocodone pills in the driver's bag. A green plastic container found in the center console reportedly contained a crystalline substance identified as methamphetamine. A silver metal container found on the vehicle's floor where Alexander had been sitting reportedly contained seven pills identified as Alprazolam. Also, two metal spoons with opiate residue and multiple syringe needles were found in Alexander's backpack along with a fragment of a white pill. Alexander said post Miranda that the pills were not his but admitted ownership of the spoons that had been found in his backpack. Alexander reportedly told police he smokes marijuana regularly and has an addiction to prescription pills.

Sara Elizabeth Sanchez, 21, of 5410 Fourth St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 30 on a charge of simple domestic battery. Sanchez allegedly hit her boyfriend several times after he took her car keys to prevent her from driving while she was medicated. The couple have a child in common. The victim had visible injuries on his arms that were consistent with his account of what had occurred.



Nickolas Lee Wilson, 47, of Land O' Lakes, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 7 on a charge of battery. Wilson allegedly shoved a victim from behind and then struck him in the side of the face with a closed fist at Zephyr Park at 6:16 p.m. The victim had injuries consistent with his claim of having been struck and the incident was reportedly observed by several witnesses. Post Miranda, Wilson admitted he shoved the victim but denied striking him in the head.



Clint Lowell Wood, 31, of 38132 Palm Grove Drive, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 5 on charges of possession of controlled substance without a prescription and possession of marijuana – less than 20 grams. A car in which Wood was a passenger was



stopped for a window tint violation. A hand search of the interior of the vehicle yielded a partially smoked marijuana cigarette tucked into a cigarette pack in the front passenger side door beside where Wood had been sitting. Wood spontaneously stated he had "weed pills" in his front right pocket. Police located nine Tramadol 50mg HCL tablets in the pocket along with a plastic baggie containing 6.1 grams of marijuana. Wood spontaneously stated he had obtained the pills from his mother who provided them to him for a toothache.

Michael Tobit Bohannon, 54, of 7631 Forbes Road, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 2 on charges of driving while license suspended or revoked, possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Police stopped a car Bohannon was driving because a computer check indicated his license was suspended. Five Hydrocodone pills were found in his right front pocket during a search following his arrest. An inventory search of the vehicle disclosed 6.8 grams of marijuana in a plastic bag under the driver's seat and a marijuana grinder behind the driver's seat.



Alexis Arce-Baez, 42, of 38646 Charles Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 4 on charges of false verification of ownership to a pawnbroker and violation of probation or community control. Arce-Baez allegedly pawned a stolen "Snap On" vehicle scan tool at Pawn Max and used his driver's license to pawn the item. He was on probation in Pasco County for an unrelated case and his arrest on this charge reportedly violated Arce's probation.



Richard Hamilton III, 35, of Trilby, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on May 5 on a Hernando County warrant charging him with violation of probation – possession of marijuana. The warrant was confirmed after Hamilton was reportedly stopped because a child was not wearing a safety belt while riding in a car that Hamilton was driving.



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

Pedro Antonio Valdes, 26, of Miami, and **Bradley Ross Allen**, 26, of Kathleen, were arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 6. Valdes was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Allen was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked and possession of a legend drug without a prescription. Police stopped the vehicle Allen was



Valdes



Allen



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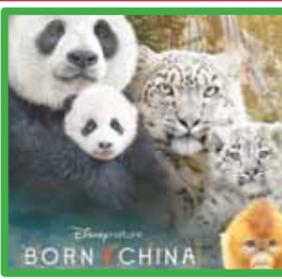
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Bingo Players Give And Give Lions Club Delivers Thousands To Local Charities

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

After already donating close to \$13,000 to local organizations and charities last month, the Zephyrhills Lions Club members realized they could do more.

Lions president John DeLorenzo took the stage once again to greet more than 200 Bingo players before their weekly game Friday night.

He told the crowd how after the previous donations, the club realized they had more funds to hand out and had identified two more organizations who could benefit from such. He reminded everyone that the donations were because of them, the weekly Bingo players.

A total of \$4,000, accumulated from previous Bingo days, was donated to The Broach School of Zephyrhills and Blink Today. Representatives from both organizations were present and explained what the donation would help do.

Jessica Gonzalez, a math teacher for the Broach School, took the microphone first. She explained how the generous donation would go toward new materials for the school including textbooks, tablets

and even repainting the halls before the new school year.

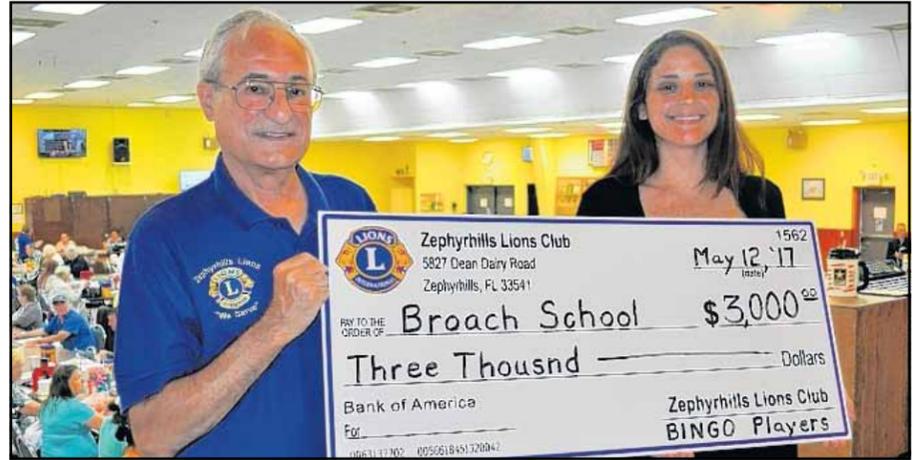
The Broach School, located on Fifth Street, focuses primarily on students with special needs in education. Gonzalez said many of the students transfer from public schools for a more desirable environment, with smaller classrooms.

"We are very grateful. We depend on donations from people like you at the Lions Club. I'm glad you guys like Bingo," Gonzalez said.

The second organization the Lions Club recognized was Blink Today, a nonprofit group dedicated to helping the blind and visually impaired. Founder Daniel Light was present to accept a check donation from the club.

At 9 years old, Light was diagnosed with a disease that left him blind at the age of 12. A single father, Light has dedicated himself to making life easier for all visually impaired. Blink Today helps to provide adaptive technology that allows the blind and visually impaired to navigate their world around them, much of which bears a hefty price tag.

"Going through what I had to go



Zephyrhills Lions Club President John DeLorenzo presents a check for \$3,000 to Jessica Gonzalez of the Broach School of Zephyrhills.

through losing my sight, I went through a lot of barriers and obstacles ... We want to bridge those gaps that are out there and help others succeed at home as well as in the workforce," Light said. "Thank

you so much for your support." Visit www.blinktoday.org and the Broach School of Zephyrhills Facebook page for information on the organizations.



Daniel Light, founder of Blink Today, receives a check for \$1,000 from Zephyrhills Lions Club President John DeLorenzo.

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East Pasco Events

May 18 – Medicare 101 – SHINE will be offering free answers to Medicare questions at the New River Library, 34043 S.R. 54, starting at 11 a.m. Call (813) 788-6375 for information. SHINE provides free, unbiased one-on-one insurance counseling and information about Medicare options and prescription drug assistance for elders and their families and caregivers. Volunteers are needed. Contact Sue at sue.samson@aaapp.org or (727) 570-9696 ext. 234 for volunteer information.

May 18 – “I Can’t Trust My Body” – Wellness Director Casio Jones, MHA, will help you identify and interpret what your body is craving and what it’s trying to tell you. Call Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Wellness Center (813) 779-6476 for required registration and information. Held from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 38233 Daughtery Road.

May 19-21 – The Wizard of Oz – Follow the yellow brick road to Arts In Motion Community Youth Theater’s performance at Pasco Middle School, 13925 14th St. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$7 for students K-12. Show times are Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Visit ArtsInMotionPasco.com or call 352-834-IAIM (1246) for information.

May 20 – Community Clean Up – The City of Zephyrhills’ clean team needs you. The next focus area will be Lincoln Heights and the Depot Museum. Held from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Staging area will be at the Depot Museum, 39110 South Ave. Contact Rodney Corriveau at rcorriveau@ci.zephyrhills.fl.us for information.

May 20 – WoofStock – Pasco Animal Services will hold the third annual WoofStock from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Florida Estates Winery, 25241 S.R. 52 in Land O’ Lakes. We will have live bands, kids crafts, pony rides, vendors, food, wine tastings and more. Funds raised will go for the care of sick or injured animals that come into the shelter. Tickets are \$5 and kids under 10 are free. Tickets available at www.FPCAS.org. and at the winery. The winery is always pet friendly.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

May 21 – Blink Today Fundraiser – Blink Today is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the blind and visually impaired. A fundraiser for the organization will be held from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Rhythm and Brews, 4711 Gall Blvd. Live music, food, games, raffles, and a corn hole tournament will be featured. Call (813) 395-6957 for information. Learn more about Blink Today’s services by visiting www.blinktoday.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BlinkToday.

May 23 – Homebuyer Education Class – Presented by Tampa Bay Community Redevelopment organization, the class will be presented at Alice Hall Community Center, 38116 Fifth Avenue, from 6-9:30 p.m. The class is free but registration is required. Visit tampabaycdc.org/hbeclass/#event_content_62 to register and for information.

May 24 – Mobile Vet Center and Homeless Outreach – The Pasco Mobile Vet Center (MVC) and Pasco CareerSource will be onsite at 6038 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Homeless outreach personnel, readjustment counseling services and CareerSource will be providing services to Veterans in Zephyrhills and the surrounding area. Contact AJ Jones, Readjustment Counseling Tech at (727) 372-1854 for information.

May 24 – Ask a Cardiologist – Come prepared to ask any questions you have about heart disease or heart-related issues. Jaime Caballero, MD, will be the featured guest at this open forum. No reservations necessary. Held from 3-4 p.m. in the education room of Florida Hospital Zephyrhills’ Creation Health Wellness Center, located at 38233 Daughtery Road.

May 26 – Great Morning to You! – Get awesome tips on becoming a morning person from Myriam Parham, RD, CDE and Veronique Polo, MBA, CLC. Call Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Wellness Center (813) 779-6476 for required registration and information. Held from 1-2 p.m. at 38233 Daughtery Road.

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

The First Step Takes Courage

I met a guy more than a year ago when he stopped into my office to see if I could offer him any information on a project of his. He seemed pretty cool and we both had one thing in common: we both loved to talk.

One of the subjects that came up was Sunrise of Pasco, Inc. I told him I had many friends who worked there and mentioned I was the past Chairman of the Board of this awesome organization. He told me they have helped him in many ways and to this day they continue to encourage and offer positive reinforcement to him.

I got a text while I was in church this past Sunday morning. I don’t usually look at my phone during the service but decided to take a quick look while the praise team was leaving the stage during the contemporary worship service, and I am glad I did. It was from my friend, who shall remain anonymous. Here is what it said, “Today I am one year and FREE! Totally clean of alcohol, nicotine and drugs and I am only beginning! Carpe diem.”

What a great text to receive while in God’s house. I have been praying for this guy ever since he told me some of the things he was going through. The prayers couldn’t have been answered at a better time. The only thing I wasn’t sure

of is what does carpe diem mean? I did take Latin when I was in high school but I wasn’t a very good student so I decided to Google it and here is what Dictionary.com says – “Latin. Seize the day; enjoy the present, as opposed to placing all hope in the future”. Now I get it. To me it means to take one day at a time.

My friend attends regular Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and I am guessing he has been following the 12-step plan. I am not going to go over all of these steps but joining AA is a big leap forward and is freely available. The only requirement to join is a desire to stop drinking. The program uses a spiritual approach that includes a belief in a higher power. Having a sponsor helps to understand the program and if you need them they are there to help keep you from drinking.

According to Recovery.org, one study found 67 percent of the people who attended at least 27 weeks of AA meetings during the first year of treatment remained abstinent in a 16-year follow up.

There are AA meeting locations in Zephyrhills and Dade City. To find a location near you go to www.aatampa-area.org/meetings/eastPasco.

They would love to welcome you and provide some much needed help.

You are not in this alone.

To my friend I am excited about the great accomplishment you have made. You have been an inspiration to me. I am thankful our paths have crossed and I am excited to hear about the great things that have already begun to happen in a positive way because of your commitment. I will continue to pray for you and all those who are going through any type of addiction.

This is one of the many verses in God’s holy word that has helped me in all types of situations and it can help you, too. “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” – Mark 11:24 (NIV).

FHZ Introduces New Birthing Option

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills has introduced ProNox, a new pain management technology for women in labor that offers a middle ground between an epidural anesthesia and natural childbirth.

“When a woman feels a contraction coming, she can breathe through her ProNox mask and remove the mask when she wants, thereby controlling the amount of gas or pain control she’s receiving,” according to Dr. Marian A. Sampson, a board certified gynecologist and obstetrician with East Pasco Women’s Care.

“The childbirth experience is an extremely physical and emotional event, so effectively managing pain and anxiety is important. ProNox can interrupt the fear-pain cycle and provide patients with a

pleasant delivery,” Sampson said. “ProNox also allows mom to get up out of bed and walk around after childbirth, which is not usually possible with an epidural and narcotics, both of which can leave one feeling drugged and sleepy.”

With ProNox, the patient breathes a 50/50 blend of nitrous oxide and oxygen. There is a rapid onset that brings quick pain relief but it’s also swiftly eliminated from mom and baby. ProNox is safe, effective, inexpensive and non-invasive. It’s also great for patients who dislike needles, Sampson added.

Expecting mothers who want to know more about ProNox can talk to their obstetrician or call (813) 783-6124 and ask to speak with Jennifer Powers, RN, FHZ Nurse Educator at The Baby Place.

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Seniors • Continued from Page 1A

reduce that amount.”

It seemed like Brockington was called to the stage most of the night to receive scholarships from the dozens of local organizations who support the students at ZHS.

From the American Legion to the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce, money has been raised throughout the year to present at the senior scholarship awards night.

For most, this was a way to give back to the school that gave them an education and a lifetime of Bulldog pride.

“I walked across that stage when I graduated in 1986,” said Amy Chappell, who presented as a representative of the Rotary Interact Club and the Daybreak Rotary. “It’s fantastic getting back to your old stomping grounds. It all comes rushing back when you get on that stage.

“I walked across that stage when I graduated and now I’m seeing my friends’ kids walking across the stage to receive scholarships.”

Long-time educator Jerald Pricher presented several scholarships from the Zephyrhills Historical Association, proving that the community continues to support the children of Zephyrhills.

“It’s great to do this,” said Pricher, who taught many of the parents of the recipients. “It means a lot



Jerry Pricher of the Zephyrhills Historical Association joins scholarship recipients Jasmine Sanchez, left, and Sarah First.



The 10 recipients of the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce scholarships were, in front, Keith Brockington, Katarina Aspedon, Sarah First, Jasmine Sanchez, Lyndra Davis; back, Alexis Christopher, Joselee Burgos, Lily Ostrander, Taylor Sanders and Brianna Edge. Presenting the awards were Melonie Monson, Carolyn Hodges and Andrew Nagy.

to the association. This touches all of us. It’s a lot of fun.”

The Chamber of Commerce, who used the Pigz ‘N Zhills BBQ and Blues Festival to raise funds for scholarships, awarded 10 scholarships this year.

Chamber Executive Director Melonie Monson, along with officers Carolyn Hodges and Andrew Nagy stood proudly at the podium announcing their selections.

“This is so exciting to see all the hard work that our members do to earn this money to give away to these kids,” said Monson, herself a 1979 graduate of ZHS. “This is just wonderful.”

Hodges, a former educator, said that out of all of the events she takes part in with the chamber, the scholarship awards presentation is by far her favorite.

“This is the best,” said Hodges, who taught for 17 years. “Every little bit helps these children in the next phase of their lives.”

Brianna Edge was rewarded for her hard work with

scholarships to assist her as she ventures on to the University of Miami to study psychology and social work. Edge is way ahead on the collegiate path by finishing an associate’s degree at Pasco-Hernando State College while attending high school.

“It is huge to be going to Miami,” Edge said holding all of her awards. “It is one of the hardest schools to get into and it has one of the best psychology programs. It’s meant so much to go to Zephyrhills High School. My entire family went here and I just wanted to continue that legacy.”

ZHS Principal Angie Stone presented scholarship awards of her own along with special awards to the honor graduates.

“It is awesome, because you see them reap the rewards for their hard work,” said Stone. “It’s the kids you have seen being involved in everything. It’s the kids who are working hard in the classrooms. It’s the kids who are here every day. They are the ones who are getting the rewards.”



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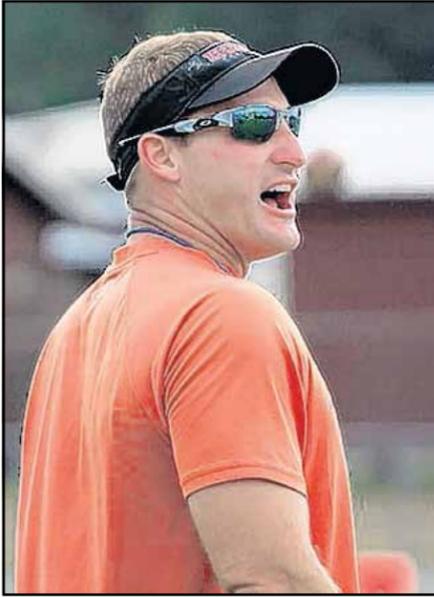
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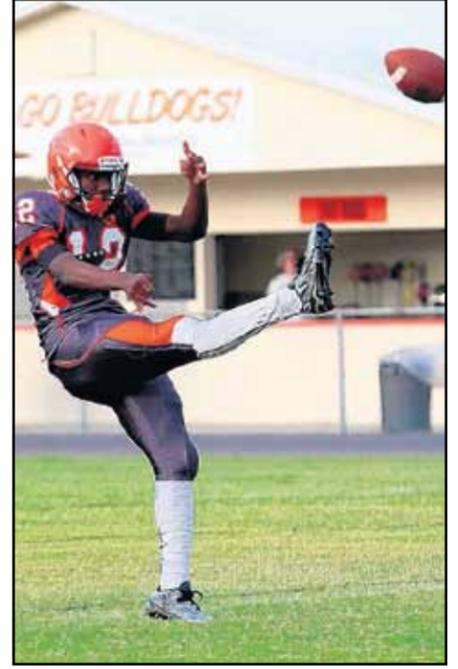
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Bulldog head coach Nick Carroll had his team ready to square off in the Orange and Black game and has been preparing this week to face Crystal River Friday night at home.



Jaquan Sheppard (7) puts down would-be tackler Jake Adams (11) during action in the Orange and Black game last Friday night.



Charles Harrison III took double duty Friday running the offense as quarterback and as punter.

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terrorized quarterback Charles Harrison III, while defensive back Cartrell Strong found his way to the line of scrimmage to stuff the running game.

Junior defensive end Sterlin Williams picked up four sacks as he put backup quarterback Jake Adams on the ground.

"It was great chasing quarterbacks again," Williams said. "It's sad that this will be my last Orange and Black game. I can't wait to hit somebody who isn't in a Zephyrhills uniform."

The first team offense and defense held each other at a stalemate, but the reserves put up most of the points.

Rising sophomore Ja'varrius Wilson was the player of the game with four rushing touchdowns of 6, 29, 63 and 80 yards. Wilson set up at running back and

as a wildcat quarterback and in fact did run wild.

"I just tried to make something happen," Wilson said. "We had a few mistakes here and there, but we can fix them. I'll play wherever they need me to help the team. If somebody gets hurt, I can fill that spot. That's what I'm here for."

Starting quarterback Harrison also added an 80-yard touchdown run. He will be the starter under center to face Crystal River.

"It felt good," Harrison said. "I gave it all I got and had some fun out there. We have to do more in the passing game."

Masci, who will be a senior in the fall, was anxious to get out there and crack pads.

"I can't wait for Friday," Masci said. "That is what it's all about."



Ja'varrius Wilson (32) takes off on one of his four touchdown runs in Friday's Orange and Black game.

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Pasco Addressing School Threats Sheriff Says Incidents Can Lead To Felony Charges

by Max Zimmerman

After last week's panic at Stewart Middle School it appears things are returning to normal as the academic year winds to a close.

Problems began on May 10, when rumors bounced around social media that two students were planning violence against the school.

"The hysteria started when one of the mom's posted what she had heard," said Linda Cobbe, the public information officer of Pasco schools.

Cabbe said whether an actual threat was ever made is still part of the ongoing investigation by the sheriff's department. Two Stewart students were interviewed the morning of May 11 and extra law enforcement was posted on school grounds.

Of the school's 900 students nearly 400 were absent from school on May 11, disrupting a week where year-end exams were underway.

Cobbe said sometimes a direct threat is made on social media, which is easier to track down, but rumors can make untangling the source and its seriousness more difficult to determine.

She said in some instances a student or teacher will overhear an ominous conversation or comment and then

report it to authorities. But once the news or rumor ends up on Facebook or Twitter it can take on a life of its own and quickly spread.



Sheriff Chris Nocco

On the heels of two other school threats within five days in Pasco County, Sheriff Chris Nocco held a May 11 news conference to address the issue of school violence and indicated such threats constitute a felony – no matter what the age of the individuals involved. Under Florida's "terroristic threats" law, which came into effect Oct.1, making a threat of violence against a school is a second-degree felony.

"This year we've seen quite an uptick in at least over the last month," Cobbe said in regard to the spate of threats. "Since the incident at Stewart it's slowed down and that could be because we put out pleas to the parents to remind them (students) what the consequences are."

Last year, Superintendent Kurt Browning took to Facebook to issue a stern warning to anyone making a threat against any school and indicated at that time that felony charges would ensue.

Benefit • Continued from Page 1A

locals stuck around for the entire seven-hour event, and then some.

"The turnout was amazing for little Zephyrhills," Baker said.

Scott Weatherington and Eric Ross serve as correctional officers in the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution across the street from where they lived. The institution owns the property for its employees to settle on and live close to work.

Cassandra Ross, who had lost her engagement ring and wedding band in the April 12 fire, had a surprise gift waiting for her at last week's event. Valentino's Fine Jewelers in Zephyrhills personally delivered a new ring and band for her.

Southeast Bottling Company in Dade City donated 30 cases of water to sell at the show, with all benefits going to the Weatherington and Ross families. Boy Scout Pack #177 helped sell water and volunteer in other ways.

"There was enough water left over that the two families donated the leftover water

to the fire station that helped when their houses burned down," Baker said. "They also took some to the firefighters that are currently fighting Starkey Park fires."

Two disk jockeys donated their time to keep the energy up while the crowd meandered through rows of classic, new, lowered, lifted, jumping, fast, slow, and even kid-driven cars, trucks and bikes.

If cars weren't people's thing, they had other entertaining options including eating contests, cart races and a dog-judging contest where anyone could rate the pooches.

A bounce house was donated for the day by Simply Events.

Baker said the support and involvement from the community exceeded her expectations.

"Everyone was there all day helping in every way they could," she said. "As I worked I kept seeing people pull up and bring donations in almost all day. It was wonderful feeling to see."





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