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## Ex With Assault Rifle Fatally Shot

### Sheriff's Office Investigating Woman's Act As Possible Self-defense

#### Staff Report

Frank Harrison, 45, address unknown, was fatally shot around 10:23 p.m. on June 17 when he arrived armed with an assault rifle at the home of his ex-girlfriend, the Pasco Sheriff's Office said.

Harrison had reportedly previously threatened to do harm to Alejandrina Guinn, 38, the PSO said.

Guinn, who had armed herself with a handgun, reportedly opened the door of her home at 5547 Armstrong St. and shot Harrison, according to

the PSO.

It is not known if any words were exchanged between the couple before the shooting took place.

Armstrong Street is east of Lincoln Heights and is in Pasco County.

No arrests have been made and Guinn is cooperating with investigators. The shooting is being investigated as a possible case

of self-defense.

State correctional records indicate Harrison has been a convicted felon for more than 12 years and could not legally possess a firearm.

He was convicted for third-degree homicide in 2003 after he fatally shot Shane Lani Sampson earlier that year when a shotgun he was holding went off. The blast hit Sampson, who was 23, in the stomach. The court found it was apparent Harrison had not intended to shoot Sampson but,

**Shooting • Continued on Page 3A**



**Harrison**

## Summer Nights Welcome Downtown Tunes

### Fifth Avenue Café Hosts Concerts

*Story and photos by Dave Walters*

As Fifth Avenue continues to show strong signs of life, you can hear what sounds like a strong heartbeat coming from Creative Souls Café.

The beat isn't coming from a heart, but from one of the many live bands playing there on Friday and Saturday nights as part of the café's Summer Concert Series.

Anna Bailey, who runs the café with her husband, David, felt the need for a nightlife in downtown Zephyrhills.

Her solution to transfuse life into the downtown after dark was the sounds of live music. She plans to run the concert series every Friday and Saturday from 8 p.m. to midnight through the summer. Not wanting to limit the music to nighttime hours, Bailey also hosts young and solo artists on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

"We've had this place packed," Bailey said as the band The Ignitors played on stage. "Everybody loves live music



The funk band The Ignitors play downtown last weekend as part of the Summer Concert Series at Creative Soul's Café.

**Tunes • Continued on Page 5A**

## Summerfest This Saturday

### Celebrate Summer With Games, Fireworks

*by Keri McApine*

What better way to kick off the start of summer than with an evening full of everything that encompasses the season? Presented by Simply Events, Summerfest is back for its third year in Zephyr Park from 4 to 9 p.m. this Saturday.

Get there early and bring a lawn chair, umbrella and any other desired picnic garb to secure your spot for the

**Summerfest • Continued on Page 9A**



Many different vendors will be set up to entice festival-goers with their wares as attendees enjoy the sights and sounds of Summerfest.

*Photo by Dave Walters*

**INSIDE:** Pg. 3A - City Flag Raised For First Time    Pg. 7A - Surplus Items Bring Thousands    Pg. 1B - New Owner Improves Jomax    Pg. 1B - Local Alumni To Convene  
Pg. 6A - Your Flag And My Flag    Pg. 8A - Free Summer Lunches Provided    Pg. 1B - Gomez Fighting For Family    Pg. 3B - Music Fills Hospice Center Again

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Man Allegedly Beat And Choked Girlfriend

**James William Garland**, 19, of 38607 Fourth Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on June 6 on charges of domestic violence / battery by strangulation and tampering with a witness by intimidation/threat. While involved in a verbal argument, Garland allegedly punched the victim in the face multiple times, causing minor bruises and abrasions. He then allegedly placed the victim in a chokehold, restraining the victim's ability to breathe. He also allegedly smashed the victim's telephone to prevent her from calling the police. Garland and the victim live together and are in an intimate relationship. Another person reportedly witnessed the incident. Garland was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

**Denver Leo Davis IV**, 34, of 3320 Dry Branch St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on June 3 on a charge of violation of a domestic violence injunction. Davis allegedly came into the Fried Penguin Bar, 5534 Gall Blvd., at a time during which his ex-girlfriend was there. Davis allegedly approached his ex-girlfriend, who had obtained a DVI against him, and got into an altercation with her and her current boyfriend. Davis allegedly chose to stay at the bar and exchange words with the victim and her current boyfriend and did not leave until forced to do so by staff. The incident was reportedly recorded on surveillance video. An officer who observed the video determined it to be consistent with what the victim said had occurred. Davis was arrested after an up to date copy of the DVI was obtained and it was determined that he was in violation of it.

**Robert Coulman**, 49, of 37750 Dunbar Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on June 2 on a charge of driving under the influence. A traffic stop was conducted when Coulman was allegedly observed driving 55 mph in a posted 30 mph zone at 5:22 p.m. An open container of beer was reportedly observed when the officer made contact with Coulman. Also, a 12-pack of beer was next to Coulman. His speech was observed to be slurred, his eyes were glassy and an odor of alcohol was reportedly emanating from Coulman's breath. He reportedly told police he had previously consumed two beers and had taken prescription medicine.

Coulman reportedly performed poorly on field sobriety exercises and refused to provide a breath sample. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

**Twilla Ruth Wimmer**, 51, of Tampa, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on June 1 on charges of retail grand theft and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. She allegedly took 14 items, valued at \$568.19, while at Beall's Department Store, 7425 Gall Blvd., and concealed them inside her purse. She then allegedly passed all points of purchase without paying for the items. Loss prevention personnel made contact with her outside the store and recovered the stolen items. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail where her purse was searched. Two Alprazolam 25mg pills were reportedly found in a small jewelry box within the purse. The pills were identified via drugs.com. Wimmer reportedly did not have a prescription for the pills.

**Michael Edward Etheridge**, 52, of 11817 Orangewood Drive, Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 28 on a charge of retail theft. Etheridge allegedly removed a tag from an item while in Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd., and replaced it with a tag for a cheaper item. He then allegedly scanned the item at the self-checkout area and placed it into a Walmart bag along with other items he had paid for. He then allegedly walked past all points of sale without paying the full value of the one item and exited via the garden center entrance. He was detained by loss prevention personnel and allegedly admitted, post Miranda, to having removed the tag and replacing it with a cheaper tag. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

**Leroy Porter Jr.**, 49, of 14734 12th St., Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 29 on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked habitual. A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle Porter was driving for allegedly failing to stop for a red light. A records check disclosed Porter's driver's license had been suspended indefinitely on April 13. Also, it had been revoked for 60 months on April 11, 2016, for habitual traffic violator and criminal fail to pay fines and for a non-judgement suspension.

Porter was arrested for knowingly driving on a suspended or revoked license (habitual traffic offender) and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

**Toni Ann Chociemeski**, 54, of Douglasville, Ga., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 31 on a charge of retail petit theft. The defendant allegedly selected several items from Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd., and concealed them within Walmart plastic bags. She then allegedly proceeded to the self-checkout area and scanned other items. She then allegedly exited the store without paying \$21 for the seven concealed items.

**Ryan M. Colvin**, 27, of 38402 Corey St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on May 31 on charges of trespass after warning and violation of probation or community control. Colvin was taken into custody at Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd. He reportedly had previously been trespassed from the store on May 22. It was also determined there was an active Pasco County warrant for Colvin's arrest for VOP – possession of methamphetamine. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

**Austin Gregory Keller**, 18, of 7848 23rd St., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on May 28 on a charge of violation of a pretrial release – no contact order. Keller allegedly telephoned his mother from the Pasco County Jail. Keller's mother told police he had been served a no contact order which prohibited any communication with her to include third party communications. The victim reportedly hung up on Keller. Jail records confirmed that Keller had placed an outgoing telephone call on May 28 to the victim's number. He was re-arrested at the Pasco County Jail.

**Chauntell Devaun Smith**, 22, of 37945 Seventh Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on June 11 on a charge of domestic battery. Smith allegedly grabbed the strap of his girlfriend's purse, causing her to fall to the ground. He then allegedly punched her on the right side of her face with a closed fist and scratched her on the chest area and the left arm. The victim said she and Smith have been together for two months. Post Miranda, Smith denied having caused any injuries to the victim. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

**Nickoll S. Haughn**, 30, of 38908 Ninth Ave., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on June 1 on an active Pasco County warrant charging her with failure to appear – larceny petit theft. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

**Danny Eugene Lewis**, 48, of 38026 14th Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on June 7 on charges of grand theft and violation of probation. On May 20, Lewis allegedly took two air conditioning units, valued at \$379.98, from Ollie's Bargain Outlet, 5935 Gall Blvd., without paying for them. Lewis allegedly returned on May 24 and took another air conditioning unit, valued at \$189.99, without paying for it. The store manager told police both thefts had been recorded on the store's video surveillance system. Police contacted Lewis at Ollie's on June 7 and he was positively identified from the store video. Post Miranda, he reportedly admitted to having taken the air conditioners. A records check indicated Lewis was on felony probation for petit theft – third conviction. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

**Joseph Christopher Flowers**, 34, of 4850 16th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on June 7 on two counts of battery and one count of violation of probation. Flowers allegedly became involved in a verbal argument with two juveniles for causing his dogs to bark. He allegedly confronted them when they were no longer on his property and struck both victims in the face. Flowers reportedly stopped hitting the juveniles when another person told him they were calling the police. One of the victims had fallen and Flowers allegedly hit that person in the face again when they got back on their feet. At the time of the altercation Flowers was on probation out of Polk County (expiring Aug. 7, 2021) for burglary. Post Miranda, Flowers said he had told the kids several times to leave and that he had walked through an alleyway behind his home to talk to the person he believed to be the older of the two juveniles. Flowers was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

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

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# City Flag Raised For First Time

## Silver Oaks Holds Flag Day Ceremony

Story and photo by **Dave Walters**

The Silver Oaks community showed its Flag Day spirit by honoring the five branches of the military and the City of Zephyrhills.

Five flag poles were erected at the entrance of the community where each of the flags of the United States military branches will fly with the American flag. Flying beneath the American Flag is now the official flag of the City of Zephyrhills.

In an abbreviated program that was moved indoors, members of the community celebrated the new flag poles and the city flag presentation as part of a revitalization project within Silver Oaks.

City officials approved the flag design roughly five years ago, but it wasn't until now that it has flown anywhere in the city.

Rep. Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills, grew up as a Silver Oaks kid and now owns a home in the community with his wife and two children.

"We're the first in the entire city to fly this flag," said Burgess, who was the mayor of Zephyrhills when the flag design was approved. "It's a special day. I grew up in this neighborhood and now I own a home in this neighborhood where I can raise my family. This is truly special."

"When I pull off of Eiland Boulevard into Silver Oaks and see those flags fly, it makes me very proud. It shows you the patriotism this community has today and every day."

Silver Oaks is also the home of city councilman Lance Smith, whose family has been part of the land surrounding Silver Oaks for generations.



Jeff Collins and Rick Failla display the City of Zephyrhills official flag during a Flag Day event at Silver Oaks on June 14.

"It's great. My grandfather would be so proud." Smith said. "That is truly veteran pride with the branch flags flying at the entrance. I'm sure we have people from each of those branches living in here. Flag Day is a great day to do this."

### Shooting • Continued from Page 1A

because he was a convicted felon, he was in illegal possession of a firearm when the shooting occurred.

Harrison had only been out of prison for 10 months when he was shot by Guinn, authorities said.

Recent changes the Florida Legislature made to the Stand Your Ground law will make it necessary for the State Attorney's Office to prove Guinn had another course of action she could have taken to protect herself.

Prosecutors opposed the revised Stand Your Ground law that Gov. Rick Scott signed on June 10. Many said the revision would make it more difficult to convict people who committed acts of violence and then claimed self-defense.

Previously, the shooter had to prove their actions were justified under the

law the state first enacted in 2005.

That was the case when Curtis Reeves Jr., 74, a retired Tampa police captain, asserted a Stand Your Ground defense regarding his alleged fatal shooting of Chad Oulson, 43, on June 13, 2014.

Reeves is charged with second-degree murder and aggravated battery. He allegedly shot Oulson after the two men argued over Oulson using a cell phone to send text messages during previews being shown prior to the start of a movie at the Grove Cobb 16 theater in Wesley Chapel.

Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Susan Barthle denied Reeves' Stand Your Ground defense on March 10 and he will stand trial for the two offenses. If convicted, he could be sentenced to a minimum of 25 years in prison.

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East Pasco Events

**June 22 – Summer Education Series** – Rosecastle of Zephyrhills presents a summer education series from 5:30-6:30 p.m. with featured speaker Craig Mayers from Olympian Research, who will present various health topics with a focus on Alzheimer’s and memory care. Dinner is included. Contact Jennifer at jhancock@rosecastle.life for information and to RSVP. Rosecastle is located at 37411 Eiland Blvd.

**June 23 – Eight Secrets to Weight Loss** – Are you curious about how to shed pounds? Best kept secrets are shared. Held from 1-2 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills’ Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Reservations required by calling (813) 779-6476 for this free program.

**June 24 – Zephyrhills SummerFest** – This family friendly event celebrates summer, families and our great country. Held from 4-9 p.m. at Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave. Bring your lawn chairs and a blanket. Event will feature watermelon eating and dance contests, a kids area, local food vendors and fireworks over the lake. Family and pet friendly. Entry and parking is free. Proceeds benefit the Samaritan Project of Zephyrhills.

**June 25 - 47th Annual ZHS Alumni, Teachers and Friends Reunion** – Held at the Zephyrhills Lions Club, 5827 Dean Dairy Road. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with a covered-dish luncheon at 1 p.m. followed by announcements and recognitions at 2 p.m. This reunion is for anyone who attended, taught or worked at any of the Zephyrhills schools from elementary through high school and their families. Dress is casual and no admission charge. Bring a covered-dish to share. Contact Clereen Morrill Brunty at Clereen@tampabay.rr.com or (813) 782-8763 after 6 p.m. for information.

**June 26 – Summer Smoothie Demo** – Sample a patriotic and nutritious smoothie. Held from 2-3 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills’ Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Program is free, but reservations are required. Call (813) 779-6476 for information.

**July 1 – Fireworks at Skydive City** – Stick around after sunset and enjoy a firework display right out in the landing area. OneBlood blood drive will be at Skydive City from 3-8 p.m. Donate a pint of blood and receive a free regular jump ticket (experienced skydivers only). Skydive City is located at 4241 Sky Dive Lane. Call (813) 783-9399 for information or visit skydivecity.com for a full list of 4th of July weekend activities at Skydive City. Share the power of giving blood and save the life of someone in need. Help spread the word about the important role blood donations hold in our community.

**July 1 – Johnny Shelton at Rhythm & Brews** – Back by popular demand, bi-monthly Saturday throughout the summer will feature a local fan favorite and a finalist on America’s Got Talent. Cover charge is \$5. Held from 8-11 p.m. at Rhythm & Brews, 4711 Gall Blvd. Call (813) 395-6957 for information.

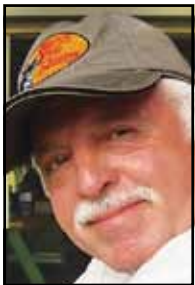
**July 4 – Sparklebration** – Celebrate the 4th of July at the Pasco County Fairgrounds’ annual Sparklebration event. Held at 36722 S.R. 52 with gates opening at 4 p.m. Parking is \$5 and entry for adults is \$5. Children 12 and under are free. Live music, watermelon eating contests, delicious food vendors, games and a nighttime fireworks display will be featured. A kids zone offers a \$10 all you can play wristband. Call the Fair office at (352) 567-6678 or visit www.pascocountyfair.com for more information about Sparklebration.

**July 8 – The Lives of Butterflies** – Kids, come learn the exciting life cycle of butterflies. Hear how they get their wing color, what they eat and more. This seminar will explain many facts you probably didn’t know about these beautiful friends. Adults are welcome also. Registration required on Eventbrite. Held from 10-11 a.m. at Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. Call (813)996-2411 for information.

**July 12 – Stronger Bones, Safer Homes** – Tips for preventing home injuries so you will stay out of rehab. Held from 1-2 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills’ Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for information and required reservations.

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

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

AMVETS Not Just For Veterans

Many people think several military and fraternal organizations here in east Pasco County are private and you have to become a member in order to check them out. As most of you know, there is always something going on almost every day at each and every one. I am not sure about what it takes to become a member of most, but I can speak about the nonprofit organization AMVETS.

Short for American Veterans, AMVETS is the largest and oldest veteran’s service organization. It was founded on July 23, 1947 when then President Harry Truman signed Public Law 216, which granted a Congressional Charter to AMVETS.

Years ago, I was the co-announcer of the Magical Night Christmas Parade in Dade City with my good friend Joey Wubbena. Between both of us we knew just about every organization and person represented in this parade. At one parade I saw a group I wasn’t familiar with and I came to find out they represented AMVETS. After the parade someone from the group invited me to come and check them out. I asked one of my friends, Gordon Hyde, a Vietnam

veteran, to check it out with me. Upon arrival, we signed in as guests and immediately felt like family. After visiting several times and enjoying great fellowship, good food and some awesome music, we both decided to join. Even if you didn’t serve in the military you might have a blood relative who did. AMVETS has different groups within it like The Sons of AMVETS and the Auxiliary for women, just to name a few. You can come as a guest as often as you like provided you sign the guest book. You will probably find something that really interests you and hopefully will come back again and again as many do.

If you like to play BINGO then come on Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m. Every Tuesday Karl Sapp, a great country artist, plays from 4 to 7 p.m. You can dance or just listen as you enjoy an adult beverage. You can play corn toss on Wednesdays. On Thursday they have a meat raffle from 4 to 7 p.m. Fridays are the famous fish dinners from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. If you don’t like fish they have shrimp or chicken tenders. Friday night is country music from 7 to 10 p.m. and Saturdays is anything but country from 7 to 10 p.m. Oh, and the dance floor is open both nights. Sundays is e-bowling beginning at 1:30 p.m.

This group gives back to the community and helps veterans and to me that’s what it is all about. They would love to welcome you so why don’t you check them out?

The AMVETS is located at 4645 Airport Road in Zephyrhills. Stop in and get a calendar of upcoming events or check them out on Facebook at AMVETS POST 550. You can also give them a call at (813) 780-8180 for more information.

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# Commentary



## The Rest Of The Story

Dave Walters

# Movie Man Will Live On In Memories

When you think of your childhood, you can probably pinpoint a wonderful memory or two featuring a family outing to the drive-in movie theater.

For us in east Pasco County, those memories come from taking the family to the Joy-Lan Drive-In in Dade City. Whether you were from Zephyrhills, Dade City, Ridge Manor, Crystal Springs, Wesley Chapel or beyond, a Friday or Saturday night at Joy-Lan was part of the fabric of your family's memories.

Wednesday marked the 88th birthday of the late memory maker Harold Spears, esteemed owner of the Joy-Lan Drive-In and the Silver Moon Drive-In of Lakeland.

Originally founded in 1950, Joy-Lan is one of less than 10 drive-ins remaining in the state, including the Lakeland theater.

Spears kept a dying breed of entertainment alive for all of us and fortunately, we took advantage of his passion for the movies.

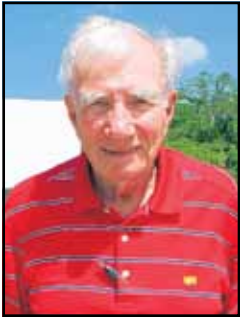
We backed our car, truck or SUV into

the space. We put the speaker into the window or drained our battery listening to the feed on the car radio.

I'm sure many of you unfolded your outdoor chairs, put the cooler next to you and made a family night out complete with drinks and snacks. No matter what you may have brought to the party, you always hit the concession stand for a favorite item.

It could have been a hot dog, ice cream, nachos, but everybody purchased their bag or bucket of popcorn. There is nothing like hot popcorn and a movie and you didn't have to be in a theater to enjoy.

There's something about being out under the stars with a movie playing on the giant screen. For a kid, that screen



Harold Spears

was the biggest TV they ever saw. It was larger than life.

So was Harold Spears.

The lives he impacted through his theaters is a number I can't even fathom. For us in in east Pasco, the place we found joy with our families was ironically called Joy-Lan.

His obituary said he was a devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to many. What it fails to mention is that Harold brought families closer together. He brought the traditional family outing back and shared it with a new generation.

I'm sure he knew exactly what he was doing and he did it because he loved people and he loved the movie business.

Thank you, Harold.



Live entertainers can be seen and heard from outside the Creative Soul's Café on Fifth Avenue.

### Tunes • Continued from Page 1A

and this is going to be the downtown, live music place to go."

The café was just a breakfast/lunch eatery when it opened in March, but that quickly changed to have the doors open for dinner and evening entertainment.

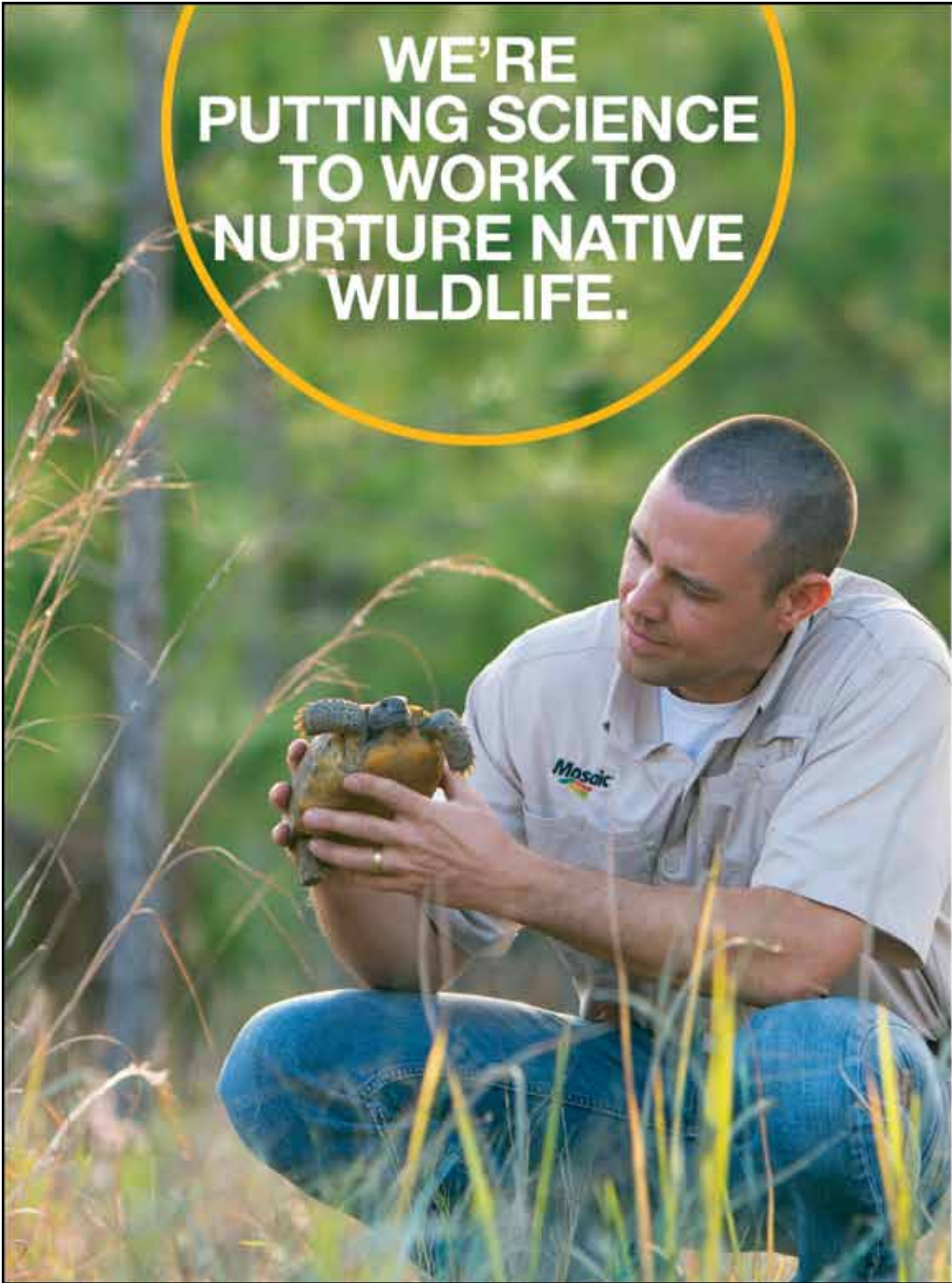
Bailey would like to see other establishments downtown feature live music to bring more life to Fifth Avenue.

"I want it to be where people come here to listen to music and then go across the street to another place and listen to music and keep it going," Bailey said. "Then it could be a cool place where people come downtown and stay local."

"We need people to realize that downtown has stuff going on. We need to get people to come down here. There are 13,000 people in Zephyrhills. If they came out one time a month and do something fun, think about how that would grow this downtown. It will take community support."

She started her first business, Outside the Box on Fifth Avenue in August 2016 and opened Outside the Box, Too two doors down around Christmastime. Sandwiched in between the craft and art stores is Creative Souls Café.

"I don't dream small," Bailey said. "I don't know how to dream small. That's why we're making this a big thing for downtown."



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American House Director Virginia Rice has worked at the facility coming up on nine years. “My favorite part will always be the residents and being a part of their lives,” she said at last week’s Flag Day event.

# Your Flag And My Flag

## Pasco County Celebrates Flag Day

Story and photos by **Emily Kochanski**

Every year, Flag Day is honored to recognize the history behind the iconic stars and stripes of the United States flag. On June 14, members of the American House Zephyrhills and American Legion Post #15 in Dade City honored the flag and all it stands for by engaging locals with some patriotic fanfare.

American House Zephyrhills residents, staff and guests all adorned in red, white and blue gathered outside the facility’s main entrance at 11:45 a.m. to watch the flag ascend. Afterwards, all were invited into the lavishly decorated dining room to partake in a patriotic lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers while local band Elwood’s Trio provided some mood music.

Since the facility became American House, it has hosted a number of events sporting the “American” theme. Executive Director Virginia Rice loves to see the smiles such ceremonies bring to the faces of her residents and to members of the community.

“Flag Day is an American House tradition,” said Rice. “Anytime we have a patriotic event, the Zephyrhills community embraces it with positive attendance.”

Before American House Zephyrhills opened its doors to the public for their second annual Flag Day celebration, the American Legion Post #15 in Dade City had already concluded their own event.

At 10 a.m., the American Legion

invited members of the community to join them in paying tribute to the American flag. County Commissioner Ron Oakley, District 1, city commissioners Jim Shive and Nicole Deese Newlon, and Bob Hatfield from the office of U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis attended to reflect upon our nation’s history. The ceremony was led by Edward Gorecki, the newly elected leader of the American Legion Post #15.

“As a veteran and an American, it’s a day that we honor the flag in the courteous way,” said Gorecki. “It irritates us when we see people destroying the flag, spitting on it, throwing it on the ground. But, unfortunately, some of us fought under that flag to give people that right to express themselves.”

The event concluded with the disposal of worn and weathered flags collected from the community. Almost 300 flags were burned in the traditional fashion. Many may balk at the idea of burning a symbol of country, but Gorecki and his fellow veterans see it as an act of the utmost respect.

“That way we know it’s destroyed properly,” Gorecki explained. “It’s not going to go to a landfill under a heap of garbage. Cremation is the way a veteran usually goes; the flag goes the same way.”

Both events embodied the spirit of true patriotism. Just as the flag served as a source of inspiration for veterans as they fought bravely in grueling battles for our freedom, it acts as a symbol of hope for others in today’s trying times.



Residents and guests gathered in the dining room for an all-American lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs.

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# Surplus Items Bring City Thousands

## Only One Desk Remaining After Auction

Story and photos by Joe Potter

When auctioneer Robert Milic shouted “Sold” for the final time on Tuesday, the city netted \$7,600 from the surplus items.

The treasure trove consisted of old computers, office furniture, electrical devices, a lightbar from a police car, paintings, clocks and hundreds of other assorted items.

Many of them had been tucked away in storage for years and the rest were deemed unnecessary for use when the new City Hall opens in 2018.

Milic, of Tampa Liquidation Center, LLC, has more than 30 years of experience as an auctioneer. His skill was apparent as he stood on a ladder, high above the crowd, while the auction was held in the former city council chambers at 5335 Eighth St.

Using a microphone to bark out suggested prices, Milic cajoled the approximately 30 bidders and pointed at them while trying to get them to bid higher. It worked in some cases when bidders became competitive in their quest to buy that special item they had set their eyes on.

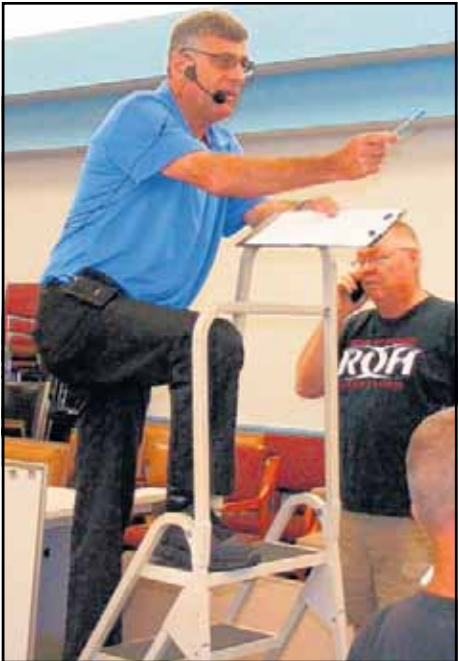
Arjay Morgan was particularly happy with one of the items he won during the two-hour auction.

“I ran against (Councilwoman) Liz Geiger and she won by one vote,” Morgan said of the 2004 election. “I couldn’t win a council seat, so I bought one for \$10.”

It only took him 13 years to get it.

Ian Anderson outbid others for some computers on Tuesday. He had carefully inspected many of them during a two-hour preview for bidders before the auction started promptly at 10 a.m.

Anderson operates the New Port



Auctioneer Robert Milic works the room during Tuesday’s auction held in the former City Council chambers.

### Men look over several available items before the start of Tuesday’s auction of Zephyrhills City Hall surplus equipment.

Richey-based AndersonTech. He said he avoided many of the computers with damaged capacitors because he didn’t want to repair them. He was looking for good equipment he could quickly resell, Anderson explained.

A light bar that had once graced the roof of a Zephyrhills Police Department cruiser was purchased by Semanco Enterprises. Since Semanco Enterprises is a Thonotosassa-based auction company, there’s a good chance the light bar may be back on the auction block soon.

Total sales were close to \$8,400 as winning bidders had to pay a 10 percent premium on their purchases. Tampa Liquidation received close to \$800 for conducting the auction.

Karen Miller, of the city’s purchasing department, said she was pleased with

the money the city received through the auction. Miller suggested holding the auction when city leaders were pondering what to do with all the surplus items.

Space is limited at the City Hall Annex, located at 5344 Ninth St., where most of the offices relocated to from the old City Hall. It wasn’t practical to keep items because much of the equipment wouldn’t meet the city’s needs after work is completed on the new City Hall.

“We just figured it’d be a good way to get a little money back from these items,” City Manager Steve Spina previously told the Zephyrhills Free Press. “We’ve got a lot of old equipment that we’ve had for years.

Including, it appears, the one desk that didn’t sell on Tuesday.



Arjay Morgan waited 13 years to be able to sit behind the dais in the former City Council chambers. He won this former councilman’s chair with a bid of \$10.



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**Photo by Dave Walters**

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