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Brewfest Tapped For Saturday

Hospice Event Still Needs Some Volunteers

by Keri McAlpine

After successfully hosting the first Spring Brewfest for Hospice in Spring Hill, Gulfside Hospice decided to bring the event east and host a fall version of it in Zephyrhills.

This Saturday the beer tasting event will spread out at the yet-unnamed community event venue at 5200 Airport Road, with gates opening at 3 p.m.

For four hours, guests will be able to wander the grounds and sample craft beers brewed from multiple local breweries including: Big Storm Brewing, Brew Bus Tampa Bay, Escape Brewing Company, Florida Avenue Brewing Company, Infusion Brewing Company and, of course, Zephyrhills Brewing Company.

"We're definitely ready. I think it's going to be a great event this year. We've got nine breweries on the list for beer and wine so we're going to have a nice variety," said Gulfside's Community

Brewfest • Continued on Page 3A

Car Event Pushed To 2018



Gas station memorabilia was everywhere at the swap meet area of last year's auto event. Photo by Dave Walters

This Year's Light 'Em Up Zephyrhills Scrubbed Due To Road Construction

by Joe Potter

The Light 'Em Up Zephyrhills car event will take a 12-month hiatus from Festival Park, one of its organizers, Joann Pearson, said Tuesday.

The event has been rescheduled for Oct. 26-28, 2018, because of the pending extension of State Road 56 from Wesley Chapel to Zephyrhills.

The extension will intersect Gall Boulevard near the park at 2738 Gall Blvd.

Work will continue on S.R. 56 through February when the winter version of Light 'Em Up Zephyrhills was scheduled to be held, Pearson said.

Event • Continued on Page 11A

City Inks Deal For Tennis Center

Vande Berg Courts Likely Ready In A Year

by Dave Walters

This week marks the two-year anniversary of the tragic death of former Zephyrhills High School standout Sarah Vande Berg, who died in an auto accident in South Carolina. And also this week City Council approved the operations and management agreement for the new Sarah Vande Berg Memorial Tennis Center.

A district champion while at ZHS, Vande Berg became a scholarship tennis player at the University of South Carolina Upstate. Her career was cut short, but her memory will live on at this new tennis center emerging north of

Eiland Boulevard.

The management agreement presented to city council members Monday is with Pennsylvania-based firm Tennis P.R.O. LLC, to operate and manage the facility.

Tennis P.R.O. is owned by Pascal Collard, the former director of tennis at Saddlebrook Tennis Academy in Wesley Chapel. He also served as the tennis director at The Merion Cricket Club, a private club in Haverford, Pa.

The firm will be responsible for local tennis operations, as well as memberships and fundraising.

City • Continued on Page 9A



Derek Brewer was officially sworn in as the Zephyrhills Chief of Police by retired city clerk Linda Boan on Monday at the Zephyrhills Police Station before the city council meeting. Photo Provided

Taco Rico Opens In Prime Location



After gaining popularity in several other Pasco locations, Mexican restaurant Taco Rico has officially opened a brick and mortar location in Zephyrhills.

Authentic Mexican Eatery Has Loyal Following

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

A new restaurant once again inhabits the small setup at the corner of Gall Boulevard and South Avenue, but this one is showing promise.

Taco Rico officially opened in the location on Oct. 4, and owner Ramon Delapaz said business has been great so far.

"Business is good. The people here like it and the prices. That's why we're making the prices low," Delapaz said on Monday after the lunch rush.

Both Delapaz and his wife are originally from Mexico and now reside in Wesley Chapel. The family business cooks up authentic recipes daily that are simple and to-

Eatery • Continued on Page 8A

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Zephyrhills Arrests

You Wouldn't Like Her When She's Angry

Denethia Antoinette Bennett, 45, of 39338 Sixth Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 29 and charged with aggravated animal cruelty. Two witnesses told police they observed Bennett intentionally cause excessive and repeated unnecessary pain to a small female puppy Bennett owns. She allegedly struck the puppy numerous times with a closed fist, slammed it to the ground, jerked it up in the air by its paw and then walked away with the puppy yelping in pain. Bennett allegedly walked over to the dog in the presence of police and said, "This is what I did because I was angry." She then allegedly jerked the dog by the back of the neck and started walking while the dog was yelping. Post Miranda, Bennett denied causing any injuries to the dog, and stated, "I didn't beat my dog." She was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



money to buy Xanax. A clear glass pipe with white chalky residue was found inside Snee's purse. The substance field-tested positive for methamphetamine. Snee was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Debra Ann Tuten, 51, of 38545 Homestead Way, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Oct. 1 and was charged with grand theft. Tuten allegedly took an electric cart, valued at \$2,000, from Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd. Police stopped her as she was riding the cart east on Pretty Pond Road near Wire Road. She reportedly told police she took the cart because her friends left her at Walmart. Tuten was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



Letisha Ann Turner, 45, of 4044 Kozy Cotton Lane, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 28 and was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Turner was a passenger in a vehicle police stopped for an equipment violation – only one functional brake light. The driver said they didn't know the light wasn't working and gave permission for the vehicle to be searched. A clear plastic bag containing residue consistent with methamphetamine was found in the passenger side door panel. Also, a green plastic bag containing residue consistent with methamphetamine was found in a black purse located on the



Judith Ann Snee, 60, of 36209 Southbrook Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 28 and was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia and retail petit theft. Police were dispatched to Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd., regarding a retail theft. Walmart staff said they observed Snee conceal items valued at \$108.99 on her person and pass all points of sale without paying for the items. Post Miranda, Snee reportedly admitted to stealing the items to sell to get



passenger side floorboard. Both bags field-tested positive for trace amounts of methamphetamine. Post Miranda, Turner denied the methamphetamine was hers. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

David Eugene Dean, 59, of 4248 Ninth St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 29 and was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Police made contact with Dean at 7:46 a.m. at Zephyrhills Municipal Airport, 39450 South Ave. He was allegedly found to be in possession of a small baggie containing trace amounts of a crystalline substance that field-tested positive as methamphetamine. The baggie was in plain sight on the driver's seat of Dean's vehicle. Dean, who is the registered owner of the vehicle, was reportedly sleeping inside it when police arrived at the scene and the engine was running. Post Miranda, Dean said the methamphetamine did not belong to him and he was unsure why it was in his vehicle. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



Jennifer M. Bevell, 30, of 1533 Crystal Springs Road, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Oct. 1 and charged with domestic battery. Police were dispatched to the 5500 block of Fifth Street regarding a battery that occurred. The victim told police his previous girlfriend of approximately one year slammed his arm in a door. His left arm was visibly swollen and he reportedly had several contusions. A witness advised he saw Bevell shut the door on the victim's arm intentionally with the full force of her weight. Bevell said post Miranda she slammed the victim's hand in the door but said he pushed her first. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



gan to record an altercation occurring between him and the victim and she told police she took the cell phone because he was holding it in her face. Komons allegedly wrestled with her until he got the phone back and again began recording with it. He reportedly twisted the victim's left wrist and arm and pushed her away from him while getting the phone back. She had visible injuries consistent with her account of what transpired and two juvenile children who were present corroborated the victim's statement. Komons reportedly told police he tried to stay calm during the altercation and the victim grabbed his phone and he grabbed her arm "gently" to stop her from keeping his phone from him. Komon's fiancée told police she asked the victim to leave several times but the victim left only after the finance threatened to call the police. Komons was booked into the Pasco County Jail after he was determined to be the primary aggressor in the altercation.

Jill Ann Perrette, 46, of Lutz, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 27 and charged with permitting an unauthorized person to drive. Police stopped a vehicle at Ninth Avenue and Gall Boulevard at 11:08 p.m. for an equipment violation – non-illuminated headlight. The officer observed the driver and co-defendant, **Lynsey Margaret Eaton**, 30, also of Lutz, attempting to switch seats with Perrette. A records check disclosed Perrette's driver's license was suspended on May 24 for failure to pay traffic fines. Perrette, who is the registered owner of the vehicle, reportedly told police she knew Eaton did not have a driver's license and was attempting to switch seats with her. Perrette was arrested for letting Eaton drive her vehicle with a suspended driver's license with knowledge. Eaton was booked into the Pasco County Jail and Perrette was released on her own recognizance.



Nikki Denise Sanders, 39, of 39143 11th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 26 on a Hillsborough County warrant charging her with failure to appear – grand theft. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



Lucas Paul Komons, 36, of 39688 Meadowood Loop, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 27 and charged with domestic battery. The victim told police she was returning her son to Komons' residence. He is the child's father and she and Komons are legally separated. The victim said she was afraid to leave her son with Komons because she believed he might be intoxicated. Komons reportedly took out his cell phone and be-



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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27 YEARS IN THE SAME LOCATION

FHZ Hosts Bakery With Health In Mind

Story and photo by Keri McAlpine

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills is always hosting local chefs, restaurants and speakers to educate the public on healthy living. The calendar at the Creation Health Wellness Center boasts the free classes, which only require a phone call to register and save a spot.

On Monday afternoon, the folks at Living Food Bakery & Café had their first appearance in the center's education room, which is equipped with a full kitchen for cooking demonstrations.

While about half of the room at the event had already visited the café, bakery owners Vicky Lin and Bernard Wong were excited to share some of their recipes and passion with newcomers.

The couple started by creating up a mixed flour and veggie pancake, a plant based, vegan and gluten free breakfast option, which is served all day at their shop at 38201 10th Ave.

While Wong began frying the pancakes, samples of a tea were passed out, containing a special and key ingredient at the café: moringa.

Lin discovered moringa when she was looking for crops to plant in her Dade City garden. Today, the plant is used in various forms in their products including bread, soups and smoothies.

Wong told the classroom how moringa is an acquired taste, but once the taste is overcome people normally discover how beneficial it is to their health because it contains various vitamins, minerals and antioxidants.

The veggie pancake contained moringa leaves, sweet potato leaves, chives and scallions, mixed with tapioca and rice flours. The general reaction from the class was one of curiosity and approval, as everyone gobbled down the free sample of the pancake, which was topped with an almond sauce.

Samples of the bakery's moringa bread were passed out next for everyone to sample.

"It's not moldy!" Lin said jokingly as everyone inspected



Cameron Wong and his wife Vicky Lin make mixed flour and vegetable pancakes, a recipe from their local bakery, for attendees of a wellness education program on Monday.

the green bread.

However, she did warn the bread will mold quickly as the bakery does not use any preservatives in any of their products.

Lin said she and her husband had to test at least 100 recipes before coming up with the perfect balance for the bread, which is one of her best sellers.

Since most of the classroom was an older crowd, there

was a big interest in the health benefits of moringa. Lin discussed how moringa can benefit the body when used alongside, of course, other healthy life habits.

Stop by the bakery or visit their Facebook page to learn more about their pastries, breakfast and lunch specials and keep up to date on events and giveaways.

Visit www.floridahospital.com/zephyrhills/events to look up future wellness education courses offered by FHZ.

Brewfest • Continued from Page 1A

Relations Manager Kirsty Churchill.

Admission single tickets are selling for \$25, doubles for \$45, and a 6-pack for \$125. All event proceeds will benefit Gulfside Hospice, a local non-profit organization that serves Pasco County residents facing life-limiting illnesses.

Tickets include entry to the ground, access to craft vendors, live entertainment, and a one-ounce commemorative glass, which guests will use to obtain samples from the different breweries.

Tickets can be purchased at the gate or visit BrewfestforHospice.org or call (727) 845-5707 to purchase ahead of time. All attendees must be 21 years or older. Gulfside's Fundraising Events Coordinator Christina Miller said they are expecting as many as 300 people to attend.

The Spring Hill event raised \$7,500, and organizers are hoping the Zephyrhills version to match or surpass that total.

In order to successfully hold large events, organizations such as Gulfside depend on volunteers. Churchill said the event is still in need of volunteers for all kinds of tasks including pouring beer, checking IDs, set up and clean up.

"We're really excited we really hope the community will come out and support us," said Miller.

The sister event in Spring Hill was catered, but organizers voted for food trucks for the Zephyrhills version.

Aloy Pat Thai Food Truck, D&R Specialty Hot Dogs, Up N Smoke BBQ, and Wicked Chickens Deviled Eggs will be on site for guests to purchase food.

"The west Pasco community had such a great time at the Spring Brewfest for Hospice, it's only fair to share the fun with the east Pasco community too," said Carla Armstrong, director of philanthropy at Gulfside. "Come drink local brews to support your local hospice. Every dollar raised will help provide hospice care and bereavement services to patients and families right here in Pasco County."

Retro Fit Tampa, a local rock and country cover band, will take the stage and entertain the crowd during Saturday's shindig. Some seating will be provided, but guests are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs and set up in the grass for an ideal spot. Hits 106 will be doing a live broadcast on site as well.

Pets are welcome to attend provided they are on a leash.

Vendor opportunities for the event are

available until Friday at 10 a.m. Contact Miller, at (727) 845-5707 or Christina.

miller@ghppc.org for information.

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East Pasco Events

Oct. 12 – Craft Fair – This free event is open to the community and held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Rosecastle, 37411 Eiland Blvd. Come by for local crafters, door prizes, handmade items and food. Contact Jennifer Hancock at (813) 783-8100 or rcz.mkt@rosecastle.com for information.

Oct. 12 – Bingo With A French Flair – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will host Bingo in the Creation Café from 2-3 p.m. at 7050 Gall Blvd. Attendees will enjoy homemade French pastries and coffee while they learn about PatientSecure from Mike Vanderbilt, Patient Access Director. The new technology, which was installed earlier this year, provides an extra layer of identity protection for patients every time they come to the hospital. Bingo winners will receive small prizes. Call (877) 534-3108 to register and for information.

Oct. 14 – Fall Brewfest for Hospice – Grab your friends and raise a glass to support Gulfside Hospice at the Fall Brewfest at the Zephyrhills Community Event Venue, 5200 Airport Road from 3-7 p.m. The outdoor beer festival will feature craft beers from local breweries, live music, vendors and food trucks. All event proceeds will benefit Gulfside. Single tickets are \$25, doubles for \$45 and a 6-pack for \$125. Must be 21 or older to attend. Visit BrewfestforHospice.org for tickets and information. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are available.

Oct. 14 – Lawn Care Made Easy – Caring for a lawn is not difficult, once you discover the proper fertilization techniques, water requirements and cultural care your lawn needs in Florida. Come learn how at this seminar, held from 10-11 a.m. at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. Call the UF/IFAS Pasco Extension Office at (352) 518-0156 for information.

Oct. 14 – Dentistry from the Heart – Free dental care will be provided at at Premier Community Healthcare, 37944 Pasco Ave. in Dade City from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. No appointments necessary. This event is first come, first served. Community members 18 and older without access to dental care may choose one of the following: one filling, one extraction or cleaning services. First 100 patients guaranteed to be seen. Call (813) 971-1688 for information.

Oct. 14 – Old Timer's Picnic – The annual picnic will be held in the Clayton Building at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52. Food will be served at noon, but attendees are urged to come early and visit. Bring a covered dish to share, along your their own table service. Refreshments will be provided. Anyone who has lived in Pasco County for 20 years or more is considered an "old-timer". Bring old photos and memorabilia about your families. Prizes will be awarded. Call (352) 567-3996 or (352) 588-3368 for information.

Oct. 14 – Scarecrow Festival – Held at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Stop by to make your own scarecrow, touch a truck, local vendors, pumpkin painting, carnival rides and more. Admission is \$5, children under 5 are free. No coolers, outside beverages or food or pets allowed. Contact the museum at (352) 567-0262 or visit www.PioneerFloridaMuseum.org for information.

Oct. 15 – Halloween Bunco Party – The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Mother Teresa #2582 is hosting a spooky bunco party from 2-5 p.m. at the Zephyrhills Woman's Club, 38549 Fifth Ave. Doors open at 1:45. Tickets are \$20 and will help support local and national charities. Event will include refreshments, prizes and raffles. There is a limited amount of tickets and no tickets will be sold at the doors. Visit the Thrifty Angel Boutique, 38640 Sixth St., St Joseph Parish Office, 5316 11th Street, or call Trish Dunham at (813) 997-6211 to purchase tickets.

Oct. 17 – Stepping Stone – Helping Rock is hosting a homeless community outreach program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 7124 Forbes Road. Community partners are welcome to register and must do so by Oct. 9. The goal of this outreach is to provide the homeless community with various medical services and sustainability options. Contact ahelpingrock1@gmail.com for information and to register.

Oct. 17 – Junk or Treasure? – Find out if your priceless heirloom is really priceless. K&M Treasures and Antiques, located at 38438 Fifth Ave., is hosting Danny Triplett, a certified personal property appraiser from 4-8 p.m. Attendees are welcome to bring one item per person to be appraised for free. Items will be appraised on a first come, first serve basis. Written appraisals require a fee and separate appointment. Contact (813) 312-4282 or info@antiquesbyKandM.com for information.

Oct. 17 – Mobile Medical Unit – The Public Defender Mobile Medical Unit will be at the Church at Chancey Road, 34921 Chancey Road from 9-11:30 a.m. and New Life Assembly of God, 38012 Trilby Road, Trilby from 12-3 p.m. The medical unit provides free basic medical care for the uninsured and no appointment is necessary. Call (727) 324-7823 for information.

Oct. 17 – Alzheimer's Memory Mobile – Meals on Wheels of Pasco presents a day of memory screening with Florida's Gulf Coast Alzheimer's Association and The Stedman Clinical Trials. Stop by 38145 15th Ave. from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. to be tested and gain information on the disease. Call (813) 782-7859 for information.

Oct. 19 – Pink Out Tampa Bay – Alexa Stinnette will discuss breast health and answer questions regarding early detection and more. This free program will be held from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Florida Hospital Zephyrhills' Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for information and required reservations.

Oct. 20-21 – Haunted Woods – The 25th annual event will be held at the Hillsborough River State Park, 15402 U.S. 301, from 6-10 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Visit www.floridastateparks.org/hillsboroughriver for information.

Oct. 21 – Book Sale – The New River Friends of the Library will have their semi-annual book sale from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Along with gently used books at a great price, the Blood Bank will be there for donations, as well as other exhibits. As always, there will be a free craft corner with face painting for children. Call Becky at (813) 310-9165 for information. The library is located at 34043 S.R. 54.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

Losing An Icon And A Friend

I am a Gator fan and have been since I can remember. I recall going to Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in Gainesville years ago and enjoying some awesome tailgating experiences courtesy of Lykes Pasco. They had it all going before, during and after the games. You had to have credentials to join in the fun, as it was always a huge social event. Several tents were set up in a reserved section of the parking area with an awesome barbeque meal, TVs and an open bar. Some of the Gator cheerleaders would stop by and do a couple of cheers and we even got a visit from Mr. Two Bits and mascots Albert and Alberta. What a way to start a game.

Gator fans held a tribute this past Saturday between the third and fourth quarter for Gainesville son, Tom Petty, who passed away Oct. 2. Thousands of fans joined in singing one of his greatest hits, "I Won't Back Down". He was an icon in the music industry and actually worked as a janitor at the University of Florida before his music career kicked in. My wife Jenny and I always admired his music and saw him and the Heartbreakers in concert a few times. He will be missed but his music

will live on.

I also got word Sunday one of my friends, Louis Giella, passed away. He was born on Feb. 8, 1963, and was a major Florida State fan. Jenny and I attended a few college football events when the Gators and Seminoles met head-to-head and Louis was sometimes there. It didn't matter who you rooted for or what team colors you had on, Louis was always a friend to all. His magnetic personality and award-winning smile captured the hearts of everyone he met.

Louis had a very successful business, Giella Insurance Agency. I think I know his secret in business and in his personal life and that was to treat all people fairly. He made a positive impact and has helped so many. He was a great role model and his memory will live on through his family and those who knew him.

As most of you know, I am the stadium announcer for Zephyrhills High School and at every home football game, once a quarter, I announce, "Giella Insurance Agency is family owned and family operated and has served Central Florida since 1987. Why trust your insurance needs to a 1-800 number when you can be protected by family?" I will continue to say those words at each game but with a whole new meaning and purpose. As I do I will quietly say a prayer and thank God for Louis's life and for his family and that I could always call him friend.



Louis Giella

Letter To The Editor...

Editor,

I would like to pass on my compliments to your paper for this past issue. I was so thrilled to read Greg First's column, First Things First. His words touched my heart and I almost stood up and cheered. His words should be printed in all our country's papers.

When he acknowledged NASCAR and their continued beginning each race by saying a prayer and listening/singing the national anthem with everyone standing, I was right there with him. We have been long-standing NASCAR fans and I have often commented that the prayer and National Anthem were

never questioned. We have definitely reduced our TV watching of the NFL and until something is done to change the attitude of the players, owners, and sponsors, they will not have our support and that of many of our friends and co-workers.

It was wonderful to also see the articles/pictures in your paper of the attention given to the first responders. These are the men and women that our youth should be looking up to instead of the way-overpaid athletes that have no understanding of how the real world operates.

Sincerely,
Barbara Crum

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Open Position On Pasco County Tourist Development Council

Pasco County's Office of Tourism Development, Visit Pasco, works to promote Pasco County, Florida as a tourist destination. The Tourist Development Council and the Pasco Board of County Commissioners are looking for a new TDC member who understands the vital role tourism plays in Pasco County. The TDC, comprised of elected officials and tourism industry professionals, is responsible for providing oversight to Staff on the use of tourism taxes – also known as the 'Bed Tax'.

"We're looking forward to finding an individual who is committed to the development and future of Pasco County as a leading Florida tourism destination," said Pasco County Tourism Director Adam Thomas.

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 20. Visit bit.ly/2gWcaXt to fill out an online application. Council members serve staggered, four-year terms. The TDC typically meets on a monthly basis.

Some of the responsibilities of TDC members include: making recommendations to the BCC regarding the Special Event Marketing Program and Sport Event Sponsorship Program; overseeing department policies and procedures; providing funding allocation recommendations and serving as an advocate for tourism and destination development.

Visit [/bit.ly/2xWcu3S](http://bit.ly/2xWcu3S) for more information about the Pasco County Tourist Development Council, including current members and the meeting schedule.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Launches Campaign For Male Mentors

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay is launching its annual campaign to enroll more male mentors, called 100 Men in 100 Days. The need has never been greater, as there are hundreds of Tampa Bay children on the organization's waiting list, and the vast majority of them are boys seeking a positive male role model in their lives. These are boys who, with the approval of their parent or legal guardian, have raised their hand and asked for help from Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The campaign kicked off on Aug. 18 and runs through Nov. 25. Last year more than 150 men completed their Big Brother Big Sisters orientation and training during the 100 Men in 100 Days campaign, and the organization is hoping to exceed

that number in 2017.

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches caring adult mentors (called Bigs) to boys and girls (called Littles) who are facing any number of challenges – including living in poverty, coming from a single-parent home, living with a relative or having a parent who is incarcerated.

Bigs must be at least 18 years of age (there is no maximum age limit) and are asked for a minimum 12-month commitment in the School-Based mentoring program, where they see their Little one hour each week during the school year. They are asked for a minimum 15-month commitment in the Community-Based mentoring program, where they pick up their Little from home (typically on the weekend or in the

evenings) twice a month and engage in activities of mutual interest. Many of the relationships last well beyond the minimum commitment, with the match officially staying together until the child graduates high school, then remaining friends into adulthood.

Those men who have a particular love of sports might consider signing up for the Sports Buddies program which is supported by the Tampa Bay Rays, where the Bigs and Littles spend their time together either watching or participating in sports.

Anyone interested in becoming a Big can get started by attending a Big Orientation and Training sessions. Visit www.bbbsstampabay.org and follow the "Volunteer" links to find a session near you.

County Rabies Alert

A rabies alert has been issued near Zephyrhills after a raccoon tested positive for rabies last week. Residents should be aware that rabies is present in the local wild animal population – domestic animals are at risk if not vaccinated. The alert is for 60 days and focuses on this area: West of Morris Bridge Road | South of State Road 54 | East of Ashton Oaks Boulevard | North of Chancey Road.

Wildlife such as raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats and coyotes need to be avoided.

Domestic animals that have not been vaccinated against rabies are at risk. If your pet is bitten by a wild animal, get to the vet immediately. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals by leaving pet food outside, or garbage cans open.

Contact Pasco County Animal Services at (727) 834-3216, (813) 929-1212 or (352) 521-5194 to report animal bites or scratches and for information on stray dogs and cats.

Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1 (863) 648-3203 for concerns about wild animals.



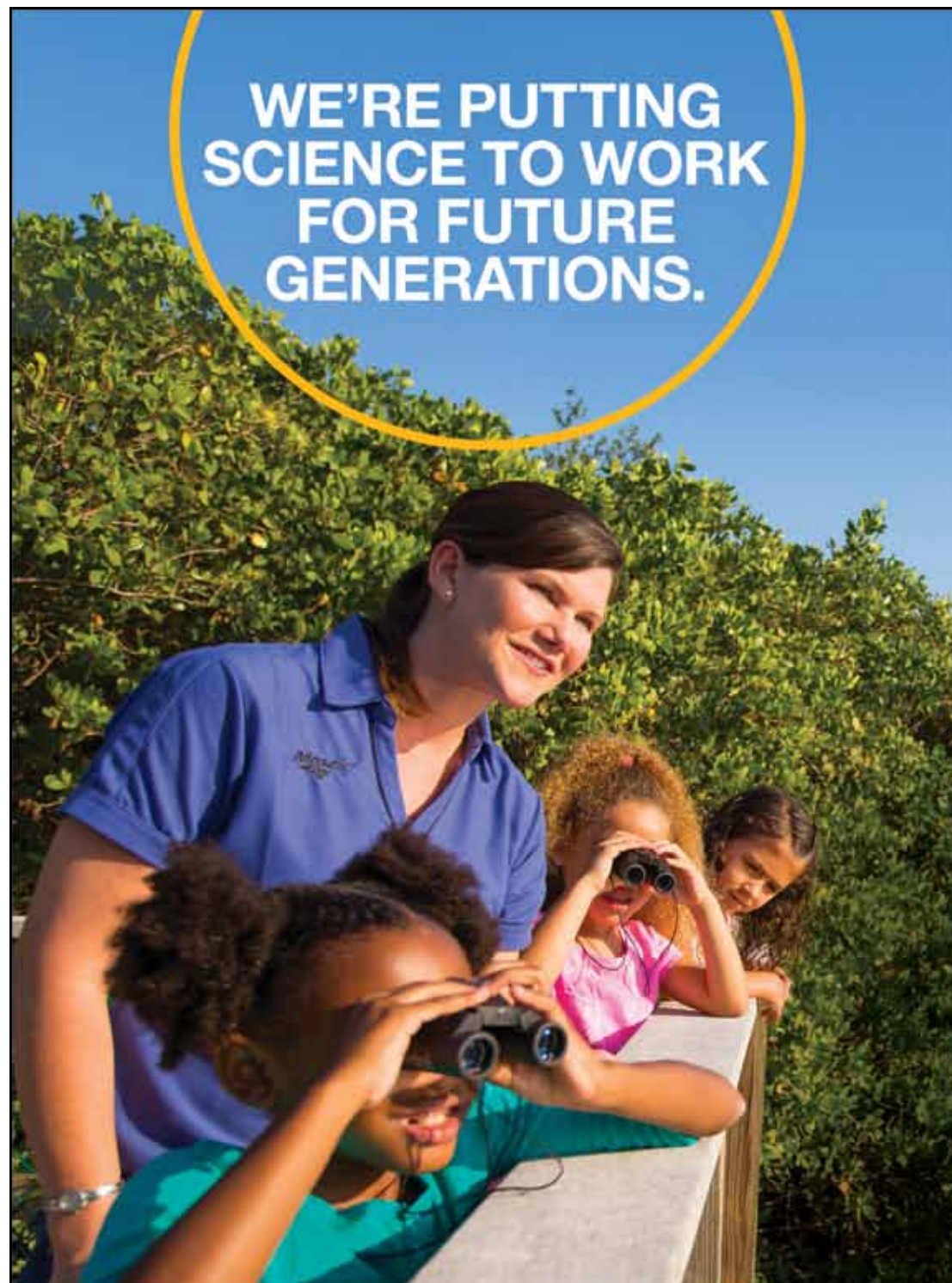
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To learn more about Mosaic's support of STEM education, visit Science.MosaicCo.com.



Festival Sets First Roots

County Gardeners Host Huge Plant Sale

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine



Children were infatuated by a net containing dozens of butterflies. Some of the butterflies are rare finds while others are commonly seen in Pasco County.

San Antonio City Park was buzzing Saturday as county locals flocked to a gardening haven created by the Pasco County Master Gardeners.

The inaugural Gardening 365 horticulture festival expanded on the gardeners' previous annual plant sales events.

Chair for the event and co-president of the Master Gardener Association in Pasco, Dorothy Moore, was thrilled as she scanned the full park.

"We thought it was time to expand because really our whole goal is to educate the public and if we're selling the plants it's hard to do some of the education," Moore said of the change.

The festival brought in vendors from local nurseries and businesses to sell plants and other garden accessories, allowing the master gardeners to manage the event, speak in educational seminars, and be available to answer questions.

There are about 100 master gardeners in Pasco County, and a majority of those attended Saturday's festival, Moore said.



Master Gardeners Leonard Daszkievicz, left, of Dade City and Bobbie McLeod of Zephyrhills available to answer questions at the inaugural Gardening 365 event.

"We're really pleased to see a nice turnout. There's a lot of people with a lot of questions. People are excited and are glad we're here and that makes me feel good," she said.

Seminars were presented in St. Anthony's Catholic School throughout the six-hour event.

Popular topics included hydroponics,

drip irrigation, container veggie gardens, hummingbirds and herbs. Multiple of the seminars filled the classroom to the brim with people eager to learn and perfect their gardens.

While adults had plenty of shopping and tutorials, the kids also had many

Plants • Continued on Page 7A

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Plants • Continued from Page 6A

intriguing booths to check out.

A pumpkin patch was set up for visitors to get Jack o' Lantern necessities as well as a great photo opportunity, provided by a local rancher.

Bert's Beekeeping provided honey samples and had a live enclosed beehive set up so kids could learn just where the sweet nectar comes from.

Across the park, a netted box enclosed dozens of colorful butterflies, which fluttered into the air when they were released in the early afternoon.

The master gardeners set up a booth on ladybugs and were selling bags of the spotted insects. The ladybugs feed on unwanted garden pests, and once placed in a garden will continue to reproduce and protect the plants.

County students and 4H members provided a "valet plant" service to festivalgoers, by loading wagons and



Ragans brothers, from left, Owen, 1, Riley, 5, and Chase, 3, of San Antonio took advantage of the pumpkin patch for a fall photo shoot with their mom at the Gardening 365 event in City Park on Saturday.



A tower of succulent plants for sale from a commercial vendor at the inaugural Gardening 365 event held in San Antonio last weekend.

coordinating a pick up area to easily load the new greenery into vehicles.

Master Gardeners are specific to counties in Florida because of the state's varying climates. So, the Pasco County Master Gardeners are the experts when it

comes to gardening in this specific region. To become a master gardener, candidates must complete a 75-hour training session equivalent to a university minor in horticulture, Moore said.

Candidates learn everything from soil

testing and plant diseases to irrigation systems. Pasco MGs are instructed through the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Pasco County extension office.

Moore became a master gardener five years ago, and loves having the knowledge to teach others about gardening.

"I like to see things grow. It makes me feel good and hopefully it makes my neighbors say, 'Hey, that's a neat yard. Maybe I need to learn more about how to garden myself,'" she said.

In addition to the festival, Pasco County Master Gardeners are continually holding community seminars, which are free and open to the public. They present at nine locations throughout Pasco at libraries, the extension office in Dade City and a Home Depot in west Pasco.

Visit pasco.ifas.ufl.edu or the UF IFAS Extension Pasco County Facebook page for information on the master gardener program and a calendar of events and seminars.



Bert Blackburn, left, and his son Tyler provided honey samples of their locally harvested raw honey and educated visitors on bees and how honey is made.



Shoppers were able to select from dozens of vendors to find the perfect additions for their gardens at Saturday's horticulture festival.

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K & M Treasures and Antiques offers everything from jewelry, furniture and other knick-knacks, and specializes in collecting Disney memorabilia. Photo by Keri McAlpine

Is It Junk Or Treasure?

Appraiser Due At Downtown Antique Store

by Joe Potter

People who wonder if their family heirlooms are priceless will have an opportunity to have that question answered next week.

K & M Treasures and Antiques is hosting "An Evening With Danny Triplett" next Tuesday from 4-8 p.m. Triplett is a certified personal property appraiser who owns Full House Liquidations, a Tampa Bay area estate sale company specializing in entire household liquidations.

Triplett will look at one item from each person who attends the event at 38438 5th Ave., and will offer a free verbal appraisal. People desiring a written appraisal will need to contact Triplett and schedule an appointment with him at a future date.

Attendees will be given a ticket as they enter K & M on Oct. 17 to have their item appraised. The items will be appraised on a first-come, first-served basis during the

four-hour event.

Light refreshments, such as coffee, cookies, soda and water, will be served, said Ken Murphy, who owns K & M with Kathy Stepp.

Those wishing to have an appraisal done are encouraged to look at K & M's inventory as they wait for their number to be called, Murphy said.

K & M opened about 18 months ago on State Road 54 near Lake Bernadette and moved to its current location in December.

The store offers a variety of antique and collectible merchandise, ranging from 1700s ephemera to furniture, mid-century kitchenware and militaria, coins and jewelry.

He may offer to buy some of the items that are appraised on Tuesday should the owners be interested in selling.

More information about this event may be obtained at K & M's site on Facebook, or by calling (813) 312-4282.

Eatery • Continued from Page 1A

the-point tasty. Delapaz prides himself on the flavors contained in everything on the menu from tacos and burritos to quesadillas and flautas.

Their classic recipes contain a choice of meat on a soft corn tortilla with onions, cilantro and salsa, with a squeeze of lime on top. Taco Rico's salsa is one thing on the menu that's creating repeat customers, Delapaz said.

Other Mexican restaurants dress up their food and use inauthentic ingredients like ground beef, Delapaz said. Taco Rico does offer a taco supreme option for those who can't go without toppings on their tacos like lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream and cheese.

Taco Rico first opened near the Zephyrhills Eagles on State Road 54 near New River Road. They then had a food truck located in Thonotosassa, which recently closed to focus on the Zephyrhills hub.

Delapaz said customers would come from all over at his original location on S.R. 54, and now many of them are returning to him in Zephyrhills and helping to spread the word.

The Zephyrhills location has a walk-up order window with only the kitchen and reception area inside. Picnic tables and umbrellas are set up in front for customers to wait or eat al fresco.

Since Taco Rico opened last week, the sight has been a refreshing one



Ramon Delapaz is excited for his new location on Gall Boulevard and invites new and returning customers to try the authentic Mexican cuisine.

compared to past restaurants that have come and gone. Customers have been spotted enjoying their authentic tacos every day since its opening, even in the rain.

Delapaz said the location's history does not concern him – perhaps his food will withstand the bad luck associated with it. In just the past year, the

location has served as a burger joint, an ice cream parlor and a hot dog stand, to name a few.

"I don't understand why, but I know what kind of food we've got and we're trying to handle it. If we can stay here we want to stay here," he said. "We found this location and we love this location."

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We've Got It Made – Inexpensive Housing Helps City

Survey Says Zephyrhills In Top Four Of Most Affordable Places To Live In America

by **Max Zimmerman**

If you consider dollars and cents you might say we're 'living the dream' in the City of Pure Water.

That's according to SmartAsset, a data-crunching online firm, which recently ranked Zephyrhills as the fourth most affordable place to live in America.

The company factored in median income, average annual mortgage payment, homeowner's insurance, property tax and closing costs to reach its rankings.

The report pegged the average income at \$32,973 and the monthly mortgage payment at \$1,775. The three most affordable cities ahead of Zephyrhills are Kermit and Pecos, Texas, and Federal Heights in Colorado.

SmartAsset looked at the total cost over five years for the average home in every county in the U.S., and every city with a population greater than 5,000. They used that five-year cost as a proportion of median household income to determine its affordability.

But the biggest driver of affordable living is starting to push upward especially for new homes.

"I have a considerable amount of land development parcels that will increase" the prices for new homes in the area, according to Bill Nye of Century 21.

"You can't produce a house for anything less than \$200,000 ... but you go into Wesley Chapel and north

Tampa and you're looking at considerably more than that because [of] their land costs."

Nye noted how the feverish development falling into place along State Road 56 and its extension to U.S. Highway 301 is fueling the spike in the price of land.

"The land costs are amazingly higher than the Zephyrhills-Dade City market ... they're not going to be cheap," because of the infrastructure costs and impact fees which will be added to the price of a home.

Will Bingham said residential agents at Bingham Realty have been busy reeling in folks from Wesley Chapel and Tampa who are looking for cheaper housing. Bingham himself just finished a 55+ community off Dairy Road, which is already filled.

"We're 100 percent full and we got there pretty quick," Bingham said of the single-story Garden Villas. "Those people are coming from the north."

The realty company also manages about 200 apartment units in the Dade City-Zephyrhills market and Bingham said that while affordable, rents have "increased dramatically in the last three years."

He pointed to 100 percent apartment occupancy rates and housing competition for the increases.

"It's been crazy how much the market has increased," Bingham said.

Despite the hike in rental rates Zephyrhills remains a mecca for northerners seeking affordable housing

and it's easy to know why: the mobile home market.

"There's 160 RV/mobile home parks in Zephyrhills," Nye said. "You can get into a single mobile home for anywhere between \$50,000 to \$100,000 and then they just pay the land lease that they would be under."

Nye said his office does more sales than the average Century 21 group but that doesn't necessarily translate to a lot of dollars.

On a somewhat lighter side of the affordability scale, the North Carolina-based RoadSnacks company, which claims "to deliver infotainment about where you live that your real estate agent won't tell you," weighed in with their own numbers on Zephyrhills. RoadSnacks fashions data, analytics and a sense of humor to determine the best places to live in the country.

They ranked Zephyrhills as the 57th worst place to live in Florida, not bad when you consider Brooksville came in at 12th and New Port Richey at 28th. Pahokee, a community near Lake Okeechobee, was deemed the worst, with a startling jobless rate of 34.2 percent for a population of 6,500.

RoadSnacks listed Zephyrhills as having 14,275 residents with an unemployment rate of 11.1 percent and a median home value of \$86,900. By contrast Brooksville, with only about 8,000 residents has an unemployment rate of nearly 19 percent. Home values for the county seat of Hernando are a paltry \$48,200.

City • Continued from Page 1A

City Manager Steve Spina told council the 20-year arrangement is very similar to the one the city has with the East Pasco Family YMCA. The city owns the building and property, but the Tampa Metropolitan YMCA handles the programs and the management of the facility.

"This is probably the most exciting moment of my life," Collard said following the meeting. "This is going to be something new. I always worked for big entities in tennis here in the U.S. and Europe. With this project, I want to make

a difference.

"I want to touch kid's lives who can't afford tennis and bring something special to Zephyrhills."

According to Collard, the project will break ground in March. The construction of the courts will take three to four months; the building construction for the center will take eight to 12 months.

"We should be complete somewhere between September of 2018 and January of 2019," Collard said. "It is exciting. I want it to be unique."

The center will be located on 4.7 acres of donated land at The District at Abbott's Square, a development being built north of Dean Dairy Road and west of Simons Road.

The \$2.19 million project includes eight clay courts and two hard surface courts. There will be three mini-courts and an exhibition court. A proposed pro shop built, community room and offices are included in the plans.

The agreement calls for the facility to be operated as a municipal tennis center

open to the public while operating a minimum of 80 hours per week, as weather permits. It also requires Tennis P.R.O. to implement year-round programs and events for all ages including instruction, clinics, drills, camps, leagues, tennis socials, fundraisers and tournaments.

According to Spina, City Attorney Matt Maggard, Finance Director Brian Johnson, Planning Director Todd Vande Berg and Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc negotiated the agreement with Collard.



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Pet Fest A Tail Waggin' Good Time



A Great Dane had a fun time playing dress up during this year's pet extravaganza.



Trina Messano and Jason Longo of Doggie Cakes are the creators and organizers of Pasco Pet Fest.

Photos Provided

The Fifth Annual Pasco Pet Fest was held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at Florida Estates Winery, west of San Antonio.

Attendees of this pet-friendly, free event enjoyed wine tasting, music, food, vendors and visited with adoptable pets in the beautiful Pasco County setting. As many as 50 vendors and rescue organizations attended.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 6.5 million companion animals enter shelters across the nation each year. This is putting a severe burden on shelters, resulting in approximately 1.5 million shelter animals being euthanized annually (670,000 dogs and 860,000 cats). A goal of Pasco Pet Fest is to help local pet rescue groups to nurture and find permanent, loving homes for homeless and abused pets, and to promote pet adoption and responsible pet ownership.

Proceeds from this year's event were donated to Florida Skunk Rescue, Inc., a local nonprofit domestic skunk rescue and education group. Visit www.floridaskunkrescue.com to learn more.



Many well-behaved pets visited the Pasco Pet Fest this year, including two pigs, a lemur and a lizard.



Brother Apollo and Brother Lucius from Saint Leo Abbey offered a pet blessing in the afternoon.



Renee Gerstein, a volunteer at Pasco Pet Fest, visiting with a friend at the Florida Skunk Rescue tent.

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Gulfside Hospice For more information, contact Christina Miller at 727-845-5707 or christina.miller@ghppc.org.

#FallBrewfest2017

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While all kinds of shoes are welcome, Shoes 4 Schools primarily focuses on collecting athletic shoes for needy students in Pasco County. Photo Provided

Shoes Program A Step Ahead

Raffle Raises More Than \$1,000 For Students

by Keri McAlpine

Shoes 4 Schools, a non-profit 501c3, is always accepting shoes for needy students in Pasco County. Members and friends of the group came together last Friday for an evening of raffles and raised \$1,845 for the much-needed shoes.

Program Director Janet Chubinsky extends a big “thank you” to all who participated and to event coordinator Sarah Brown and her team. The raffle was held at Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club west of San Antonio.

Although the event was successful, Chubinsky said the organization still needs to raise about \$3,000 more by the first day of 2018 to reach their goal for the year. Monetary and shoe donations are always welcome and needed.

Shoes 4 Schools works year-round to provide new and gently used shoes for children. The organization works with the ABC programs at more than a dozen schools in Pasco County, including Rodney B. Cox Elementary, Lacochee Elementary

School, West Zephyrhills Elementary School and Zephyrhills High School. The schools relay information on sizes and specific shoe needs of the children.

The volunteers at Shoes 4 Schools work almost every day, picking up donations, delivering shoes and working to get others involved. They also make sure to volunteer during other community events.

Shoes 4 Schools mainly provides athletic shoes, but will occasionally buy dress shoes. When they get what they call “quality new” or brand name shoes, they mainly deliver these to high school students so they can wear them to interviews or other important events.

When the organization receives donated “quality used” shoes, Chubinsky said there is a group of volunteers who work to clean those shoes and make sure they are in tip top shape for their new owners.

Visit the Shoes 4 Schools Facebook page or contact Janet Chubinsky at (813) 505-1378 for information on the organization, volunteering, upcoming events and how to donate.

Event • Continued from Page 1A

Craig and Joann Pearson encourage folks to participate in the 26th annual Winter Extravaganza scheduled for Feb. 9-11 at the Sumter County Fairgrounds in Bushnell.

The Bushnell show will have the same format as the four events the Pearsons have held at Festival Park.

There will be a car corral where

people may buy parts and supplies from vendors. An auction will be held, and there will be food vendors.

Light ‘Em Up Zephyrhills debuted at Festival Park two years ago after Carlisle Events relocated the Zephyrhills AutoFest to Lakeland. The AutoFest had been held at Festival Park for more than 20 years.

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DINNER SPECIALS

<p>MONDAY</p> <p>Spaghetti or Ziti, 2 meatballs or 1 sausage.....\$9.95</p> <p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Baked Spaghetti.....\$11.50 Rigatoni Pomodoro.....\$10.95</p> <p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Spaghetti or Ziti, 2 meatballs or 1 sausage.....\$9.95 Chicken Penne Alfredo.....\$12.95</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Pork Osso Buco.....\$13.25 Chicken Parmesan.....\$13.50</p> <p>FRIDAY</p> <p>All You Can Eat Whitefish.....\$10.25 Haddock.....\$11.95 Lobster Ravioli.....\$14.50 Shrimp & Broccoli Cavatelli.....\$14.95</p> <p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Lasagna.....\$11.50 Alla Romana.....\$13.50</p>
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All dinners include soup or salad & garlic bread

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

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ANY SIZE PIZZA BUY 1 GET 1 HALF PRICE

HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY!
2 for 1 on select wines and draft beers
\$3.95 Stella Artois



Car Show Makes For Grand Event

Several Hot Rods, Trucks And Motorcycles Also Exhibited

Story and photos by Joe Potter

John DiCarlo of Zephyrhills beamed with pride as he displayed his 1987 Buick Grand National at Saturday's car show in Dade City.

He has owned the car for 15 years and has done a lot of work on it. The black paint job goes perfectly with the grey interior.

Lurking under the hood is a turbocharged and intercooled 3.8 liter V-6 coupled to an automatic transmission. The engine produces 245 horsepower and 355 pound-feet of torque making for plenty of power to get the 3,472-pound coupe moving quickly, especially when the turbocharger kicks in.

The car can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in less than six seconds and has a top speed of more than 120 mph. The Grand National is a performance car based on Buick's popular Regal.

DiCarlo also owns a 1986 Chevrolet El Camino with the same drive train as the Grand National.

He only drives the Grand National to car shows but uses the El Camino to run errands such as going to his local Walmart store.

Other vehicles shown Saturday included hot rods

based on early model Fords and Chevrolets. Many of them sported modern features such as air conditioning, automatic transmissions, power steering and brakes and showed off colorful paint jobs.

A 1970s era Chrysler Imperial and a 1950s era Edsel Villager were also shown at the event sponsored by the Dade City Merchants Association and organized by Ronnie Setser.

Three or four Corvettes, a smattering of Mustangs, and several Dodge Chargers and Challengers were also exhibited.

The format of the show debuted last month as it is a show rather than a cruise in.

Participants may pay a \$10 fee if they wish to have their car judged for awards that are presented at the end of the show that is held from 3-7 p.m. People who just want to come in, show their vehicles, and leave when they want to do not have to pay the fee.

The car show is held the first Saturday of each month except during July and August.



John DiCarlo stands beside the 1987 Buick Grand National he has owned for 15 years.



A chrome dress-up kit was installed on the 3.8 liter turbocharged and intercooled V-6 that sits between the fenders of John DiCarlo's 1987 Buick Grand National.



Black is beautiful in the eyes of the owner of this 1930s Ford hot rod powered by a modern V-8 engine.



A custom paint job and grille helped separate this 1940s street rod from many of the others exhibited during Saturday's car show downtown.

RATTLESNAKE
20 FESTIVAL 17

\$5.00 PARKING

BRING A CHAIR

SAN ANTONIO, FL

**October 21st
9am-5pm**

**October 22nd
11am-4pm**

This popular annual event began in 1967 and put San Antonio Florida on the map! It is the primary fundraiser for charitable projects organized by the Thomas Promise Foundation. The event kicks off with the annual Rattlesnake Run, and features free admission, traditional snake shows and wooden gopher tortoise races, live music, handmade arts and crafts, children's games, pony rides, food vendors, beer garden and so much more. 2017 marks the 51st anniversary of this great community event.

Now taking applications for food and craft vendors

Call for more information

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