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*Museum Continues
To Honor Pearl
Harbor Survivors*

Story and photo by **Sam Newlon**

At 11 a.m. on Dec. 2, an audience gazed into the sky above the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History as a skydiver descended in with a massive American flag trailing behind him. Once he hit the ground, a ceremony commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor began as students from the Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron raised the flag into the air.

The crowd of about 50 consisted of families, history buffs, World War II veterans and three survivors of that 'day of infamy' – Wig Wigmore, Charles McClelland and Earl Anderson.

"It's important to remember the event itself," Wigmore, 97, said. "People forget about the attack on Pearl Harbor. They don't teach a lot about it in schools anymore."

History • Continued on Page 5A

Zephyrhills

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Adventist Buying Hospital

FHZ Parent Purchasing Bayfront Health Dade City

Staff Report

Adventist Health System, the parent company of Florida Hospital, has signed an agreement to purchase all of the assets of Bayfront Health Dade City hospital and its related outpatient services.

The sale of the 120-bed hospital at 13100 Fort King Road includes its physician clinic operations and outpatient services.

The transaction is likely to be completed before April and once that happens the facility will join the West Florida Division of Adventist Health System.

"We are excited about the opportunity to offer advanced health care services in Dade City that match the needs of the community and deliver the Florida Hospital brand of inspired, whole person care," Mike Schultz, president and CEO of the

Hospital • Continued on Page 5A



The hospital will remain under current ownership until the transaction is completed, most likely until April. *Photo Provided*



Santa Claus, the guest of honor for the annual Festival of Lights Parade, sits high in his sleigh aboard the Goin' Postal float.

Let There Be Lights!

*Holiday Parade
Delivers Cheery Spirit*

Story and photos by **Dave Walters**

Thousands of spectators from Zephyrhills and beyond opened the holiday season in grand fashion Saturday night as the Main Street Zephyrhills Festival of Lights Parade rolled down Fifth Avenue.

Spectators, some ten-deep in spots, were lined up from 17th to Seventh

Lights • Continued on Page 7A

Christmas Celebration Glows With Love

*Beautiful Trees, Fireworks
And A Solemn Message*

Story and photos by **Dave Walters**

The hospital grounds and the sky lit up Sunday evening as part of the 33rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills.

More than a thousand people sat on the front lawn of the hospital to enjoy a special program with musical entertainment from the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, the East Pasco Adventist Academy's Bell Choir, and the Entertainment Revue. Following the program, FHZ CEO Amanda Maggard flipped the switch to light the 50 state-themed trees as well as the hospital, signaling the fireworks display to launch.

Raymond Pichette, lead pastor of the East Pasco Seventh-day Adventist Church, delivered the inspirational message

Celebration • Continued on Page 6A



Members of the Entertainment Revue perform as the featured entertainment at Sunday's Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Tree Lighting Celebration.

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Man Allegedly Stabs Another Man

Anthony Terrel Strong, 41, of 4830 Ninth St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 26 and charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and two counts of violation of a domestic violence injunction. Strong allegedly used a knife to stab another man in the upper torso. When he was apprehended, he was a passenger in a vehicle driven by a person who had obtained a domestic violence injunction against him, the arrest report said. Further investigation disclosed Strong was present at the home of a person who obtained a DVI against him. Strong was released from the Pasco County Jail on Nov. 27 after posting \$22,000 bond.

Yesenia Delacaridad Brito, 43, of 5331 Satsuma Drive, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 17 on a Pasco County warrant charging her with failure to appear – petit theft. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

Lehman Glenn Brannon, 38, of 5920 12th St., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 20 on two Pasco County warrants charging him with failure to appear – driving while license suspended or revoked and FTA – attached tag not assigned. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

Andrew Wayne Cobb, 43, of 5254 Sixth St., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 20 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with failure to appear – second hand stores permitted uses violation. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

Roger Wayne Powell, 36, of Tampa, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 22 and charged with burglary to a dwelling, burglary to a conveyance and violation of a domestic violence injunction. Officers who were responding to a burglary complaint in the 39000 block of Park Drive reportedly observed Powell leaving the residence. The victim told police she saw the back-door window of her home was broken out when she came home, and she said Powell was

sweeping up the glass. Powell allegedly began yelling at her when she told him to leave, and she went to a neighbor's house to call 911. Powell then allegedly got into her vehicle and pulled the rear-view mirror off the windshield and threw it onto the driver's side floorboard. The DVI was confirmed and Powell was taken into custody. He reportedly told police while he was being taken to jail that that he went to the residence because the victim invited him.

Joshua Michael Davis, 32, transient, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 17 and charged with trespass after warning. Davis was reportedly at Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd., after having been trespassed from the business on Sept. 18. He reportedly spontaneously said he was unaware the trespass warning applied to Walmart's liquor store and added he visited the store approximately five times since he was trespassed without prosecution. He was released on his own recognizance.

Master Larnard Brown, 25, of Lakeland, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 22 and charged with felon in possession of ammunition of violation of probation – homicide/manslaughter. Brown was a passenger in a vehicle police stopped for an equipment violation. The vehicle was searched because an odor of marijuana was emanating from within the vehicle. A .38 caliber revolver and 21 rounds of .38 Special ammunition were found inside a backpack on the floorboard directly where Brown was seated. Police learned Brown was on felony probation out of Hillsborough County. Brown spontaneously stated the gun was fake, but he knew the .38 caliber rounds were real. He further stated he was carrying the revolver and rounds as a show of force due to him not knowing the person who was driving the vehicle. He also reportedly said he knew he shouldn't be carrying the ammunition.

Brandon Lee McRae, 21, of 37403 Stanford Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 22 and charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. He was driving a vehicle that was stopped for an equipment violation. A search was conducted after an odor of marijuana was detected emanating from within the vehicle. McRae reportedly denied there was any marijuana inside the vehicle. Police did a pat down search of McRae for officer safety after a passenger in the vehicle was found to be in possession of a .38 caliber revolver and 21 rounds of ammunition. A small plastic bag containing what field-tested positive as 1.2 grams of marijuana fell from McRae's person while he was being searched. He immediately shouted that it wasn't his.

Terry Paul Few, 38, transient, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 18 and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of marijuana. Police stopped Few for allegedly disregarding a stop sign while riding a bicycle. He spontaneously stated he was in possession of a small amount of marijuana and opened his backpack. A sin-

gle syringe could be observed in plain view in the outer compartment of the backpack. It contained a clear white substance that field-tested positive as methamphetamine. A search following arrest led to the discovery of a gum container with a substance inside it that was positively identified as marijuana. Post Miranda, Few admitted the needle and the marijuana belonged to him.

Wesley Matthew Griffis, 45, of 38213 Seventh Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 18 and charged with possession of methamphetamine. Police stopped Griffis for allegedly disregarding a stop sign while riding a bicycle. Without being told to do so, Griffis reportedly opened a pack of cigarettes. A clear plastic baggie containing what was positively confirmed as 4.8 grams of methamphetamine was found inside the pack.

Zachary Ephraim Bullock, 22, of 39127 Seventh Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 18 and charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia. Police stopped a car Bullock was driving for allegedly failing to yield. A strong odor of marijuana was reportedly emanating from within the vehicle. Bullock reportedly told police he had drug paraphernalia on him. Two oxycodone hydrochloride pills were found inside a metal box in a cupholder inside the vehicle. Also, a plastic bag with a green leafy substance consistent with marijuana was found inside a purse belonging to the front seat passenger. A marijuana grinder was also found inside the same purse. The passenger, whose name wasn't listed, was searched after a bulge was observed in their waistband. A total of 56.6 grams of confirmed marijuana was recovered from the purse and from the passenger's waistband. Post Miranda, Bullock reportedly told police any illegal contraband found on the passenger belonged to him and that he asked her to take possession of it while police were stopping the car. He also stated post Miranda that the pills belonged to him and he did not have a prescription for them and he sells narcotics as a primary source of income.

David Donald McCullough Jr., 41, of 5827 11th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 25 and charged with fleeing to elude and possession of cocaine and marijuana. McCullough allegedly tried to elude an officer who was attempting to stop him for driving 43 mph in a 30 mph zone. The officer reportedly observed McCullough throw two small bags out of the passenger side window. One of the bags contained what field-tested positive as 1.68 grams of cocaine. The other bag contained what field-tested positive as 1.11 grams of marijuana. Police found and arrested McCullough after they went to the address of the registered owner of the vehicle.

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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They’ve Got the Beat

American House Drummers Ready To Make Some Noise

Story and photo by **Emily Kochanski**

It seems the older one gets, the more hobbies and creative outlets a person gives up. But two residents at American House Zephyrhills have found that, even in their advanced age, they still have plenty of rhythm to spare. Marilyn Guthman, 90, and Anthony Mazza, 89, are making some beautiful music after learning to play the drums.

The two began taking drumming lessons three to four months ago. Guthman wanted to start drumming because she is a fan of rhythm, but Mazza was looking to regain a chance he never had.

“When I was about six or seven years old, I had drums for a whole day,” laughed Mazza. “I got them for Christmas and I played them at my grandmother’s house, but my uncle was sleeping and I woke him up. The next day they were gone. I was so mad!”

Though Guthman suffers from a medical condition that would normally

impede others from playing the drums or other musical instruments, she doesn’t let that stop her from performing. She’s even found a way around her issue that makes playing the skins a piece of cake.

“I use a piece of Velcro to secure the stick to my hand,” Guthman said. “I haven’t got use of my right hand.”

Both she and Mazza will show off their skills at American House’s annual Christmas party. Mazza will be playing the popular Michael Jackson Hit “Billie Jean” and Guthman will perform “Celebration” by Kool & The Gang.

The two are uncertain if they will continue to play the drums after their performance or if they will move on to other activities, but they have enjoyed are grateful for the new experience.

“I’ve always had that rhythm that I had to put out,” said Guthman. “Playing the drums has been the perfect outlet for it.”

“I had fun [playing the drums],” added Mazza. “It makes me feel good when I do it. It comes easy to me.”

Guthman and Mazza are living proof that you are never too old to try something new or continue doing what makes you happy. If it makes you happy, it’s always worth doing.



Marilyn Guthman and Anthony Mazza took up the drums for different reasons, but both have earned a similar feeling of joy from doing so.

Help Homeless Pets This Season

The Pasco County Animal Services Adoption Center is hosting a special Holiday Pet Adoption event on Saturday from noon-6:30 p.m. at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O’ Lakes. With a pet food, toy or treat donation, adoption fees for cats or dogs will be waived.

Cat and dog adoption fees will then be half price for the rest of the year.

These offers exclude pets under six months old and dogs weighing less than 25 lbs.

Make this holiday season extra special by giving a loving pet a permanent place to call home. Visit www.pascocountyfl.net/PAS for more information, including volunteer opportunities.

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East Pasco Events

Dec. 7 – Partial Knee Replacement Education Program – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Dr. Randolph Knight will present this topic as part of the hospital’s series of free orthopedic education programs from 1-2 p.m. in the Cypress Room, 7050 Gall Blvd. Reservations required. Call (877) 534-3108 for information and to reserve a spot.

Dec. 7 – Grief Workshop – Gulfside Hospice will be holding a Holiday Grief Workshop to help those struggling with the grief of losing a loved one at 4 p.m. at the Gulfside Center for Hospice Care, located at 5760 Dean Dairy Road. Free and open to the community, the workshop will include talking about loved ones and favorite holiday traditions, learning how to address and work through grief, and creating a holiday craft project to help remember lost loved ones. Call (800) 561-4883 or visit www.GHPPC.org for information.

Dec. 7 – Lions Club Sight Program – The Zephyrhills Lions Club, located at 5827 Dean Dairy Road, will be accepting applications for its Sight Program from 9-11:30 a.m. Applicants must bring required documents, which can be found on www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills. The program is open to all Pasco County residents in need of basic eye care. Contact the clubhouse at (813) 788-1441 for information.

Dec. 8-10 – Walk Through Bethlehem – Richland Baptist Church, located at 40443 Stewart Road, welcomes the public to walk through a real-life reenactment of Bethlehem. Hours of operation are Friday and Saturday from 6-10 p.m. and Sunday from 6-9 p.m. Contact (352) 567-2990 or richlandbc.org for information.

Dec. 9 – Comedy Hypnotist – Hypnoclyde Comedy Hypnotist presented by Rotary Club of Zephyrhills Daybreak will be held at the Lions Club, 5827 Dean Dairy Road. The first show will be at 5 p.m. and the second at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Call Jodi at (813) 997-7194 for information.

Dec. 9 – ZBC Anniversary Party – Zephyrhills Brewing Company is holding its first anniversary party from Noon to 11 p.m. On tap will be 28 different beers made at the brewery and three different types of non-alcoholic sodas made on premises, including a special soda made just for the event. Live music, door prizes and food trucks will also be featured. Located at 38530 Fifth Ave., ZBC is dog and kid friendly and is a non-smoking facility. Call (813) 715-2683 for information.

Dec. 9 – Photos With Santa – Stop by Outside the Box, 38430 Fifth Ave., from 2-4 p.m. to snap a photo with Santa for \$5, just in time for Christmas cards. Call (813) 312-4697 for information.

Dec. 9 – Hoop Shoot – The Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 presents a free throw competition at the East Pasco Family YMCA, 37301 Chapel Hill Loop, for boys and girls ages 8 to 13. Registration is from 9-9:30 a.m. with the competition starting at 10 a.m. An awards ceremony will be held and lunch will be provided for participants and family at the Elks following the contest. Call Jay at (813) 782-2861 for information.

Dec. 9 – Charity Golf Tournament – Sallybrating With A Cause presents its third annual golf tournament to support cancer patients. The tournament will be

held at Silverado Golf & Country Club, 36841 Clubhouse Drive, with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Entry is \$50 per person which includes golf, food, prize payouts and a donation to the charity. A prize pack option is also available. Visit www.golfsilverado.com, call the pro shop at (813) 788-1225 or email Sally at sallybratingwithacause@yahoo.com for information.

Dec. 9-10 – Tampa Tour De Clay – The 10th anniversary of this event will be held at San Antonio Pottery, 11903 Curley St. in San Antonio and four other Tampa Bay area studios. Visit www.tampatourdeclay.com for schedules and maps to the studios. Stop by your local studio for live music, handmade holiday gifts for purchase, pottery demonstrations, kiln openings and more. Contact (352) 588-4228 or potteryboss@gmail.com for information.

Dec. 12 – Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Made Easy – Presented by Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Dr. Randolph Knight from 1-2 p.m. at The Elks Lodge located at 6851 Wire Road. Reservations required. Call (877) 534-3108 for information and to reserve a spot.

Dec. 16 – Photos With Santa – Stop by Outside the Box, 38430 Fifth Ave., from 2-4 p.m. to snap a photo with Santa for \$5, for a Christmas memory. Call (813) 312-4697 for information.

Dec. 16 – Christmas and Ivory – A Moment With The Classics presents a taste of the Christmas season with music performed by James A Williams and featuring some of the top performances from the Tampa Bay Talent Showcase. Come out and enjoy some great food and a special Christmas shopping experience. Held from 7-9 p.m. at Harvester United Methodist Church, 2432 Collier Parkway in Land O’ Lakes. Visit www.amomentwiththeclassics.com for information and tickets. Sponsorship and vendor opportunities available.

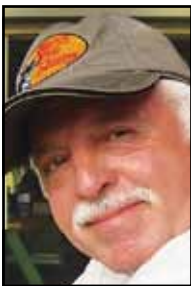
Dec. 16–DadeCitySymphony–Attend this free Christmas concert provided by talented local musicians. The concert will be held at the Pasco Middle School auditorium, 13925 14th St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert will start promptly at 7 p.m. Be sure to get there early as seating is first come first serve. Song sponsorships are available. Visit www.dadecitysymphony.com for information.

Jan. 4 – Lions Club Sight Program – The Zephyrhills Lions Club, located at 5827 Dean Dairy Road, will be accepting applications for its Sight Program from 9-11:30 a.m. Applicants must bring required documents, which can be found on www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills. The program is open to all Pasco County residents in need of basic eye care. Contact the clubhouse at (813) 788-1441 for information.

Jan. 13 – Raising Cane – Stop by the Pioneer Florida Museum, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road, for a sweet and spicy event from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. Children 5 and under are free. Locals are invited to compete in a people’s choice chili cook off. A fully sanctioned chili cook off will also be held. Also featured will be a pancake breakfast, syrup tasting, iron skillet tossing and more. Visit pioneerfloridamuseum.org for information and a complete list of scheduled events.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

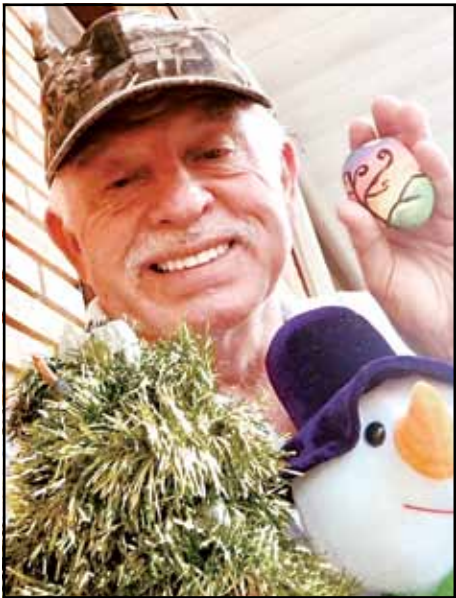
Get Ready To Rock East Pasco

I was honored to be the master of ceremonies of the Main Street Zephyrhills Festival of Lights Parade last Saturday. I believe this was one of the largest parades I have ever been associated with in Zephyrhills. There were thousands of people having a great time enjoying the cooler weather and visiting many vendors up and down Fifth Avenue. All of the stores that were open looked busy and kids were having a great time having their picture taken with Santa.

Marcus Price from Goin’ Postal loved shooting his snow cannon while sitting on top of the Santa float, which came at the end of the parade. I found out later every time he pulled the trigger he got an electric shock. Price is a thrill seeker so he probably enjoyed it and can just add it to his list of wild and crazy things he has done. He could write a book, and probably will, someday.

I was on the stage with the judges, who by the way have the hardest job of anyone determining the winners. I was a judge one year and it was tough. I wanted to give everyone a top score.

Before the parade started a young lady handed me a rock that said, “Post pic to FB East Pasco Rocks,” which I did. Over time I have found a special rock or two in Zephyrhills or Dade City and have always posted them to Facebook. It is great fun to see the comments come in. The talent to produce these East Pasco Rocks is awesome. The only type of painting I ever did was when I was a kid and painted the numbers that corresponded to a color. It was a no-brainer but I still managed to



screw most of them up.

East Pasco Rocks has some pretty easy rules to follow. If you find a rock in our part of the county take a selfie with it like I did and post it to Facebook or keep the rock and paint one or two of your own and hide them around town making sure you print, “Post pic to FB, East Pasco Rocks” on it. You can go to EPR, East Pasco Rocks on Facebook and find out all the rules and how you can join in the fun. It is like finding a treasure every time I happen on one of these rocks. Oh, this is not just for kids, adults are having a great time with this as well.

I have lived in east Pasco County for just about my whole life. My wife and kids were born here. The small town community spirit is alive and well not only in Zephyrhills and Dade City but everywhere on this side of the county: It’s always exciting to see what is around the corner. We have always enjoyed the slower pace of living here, however some people think we want to be like the big cities. Speaking for myself and many of my friends we don’t and a lot of folks from bigger cities are envious of what we have. It is our responsibility to try and preserve this heritage. In my opinion we don’t want to become just another big city. There is more to life here than that.

As our winter friends return to this area let’s always try and show them some southern hospitality in hopes they will return the love as well.

Online Law Books Auction

The Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller’s Office is auctioning off almost 6,000 legal books. There are lots available made of different collection sizes with plenty of options. Visit Atkinson Realty and Auction at www.atkinsononline.com and register to bid.

The auction will end Dec. 15. Once purchased, books can be picked up at the West Pasco Judicial Center

in New Port Richey, 7530 Little Road, Suite 108.

In April, a similar auction of more than 15,000 legal volumes housed in Dade City wound up with approximately 9,000 books sold. The balance was donated to the Pasco County Library system, according to Communications Officer Tom Jackson of the Clerk & Comptroller’s Office.

Call (813) 641-3822 for information.

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Dec. 9 – Breakfast and Photos With Santa – First Baptist Church, 38231 Fifth Ave. in Zephyrhills, invites everyone to enjoy breakfast with Santa from 9-11 a.m. along with crafts and family fun for everyone. Photos will start at 9:30 a.m. Call (813) 782-5574 for information.

Dec. 9 – Photos With Santa – Stop by Outside the Box, 38430 Fifth Ave., from 2-4 p.m. to snap a photo with Santa for \$5, just in time for Christmas cards. Call (813) 312-4697 for information.

Dec. 9 – Breakfast With Santa – First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills invites families and kids up to 5th grade to stop by for breakfast with Santa at 38635 Fifth Ave. from 8:30-10 a.m. Free pancakes and crafts will also be set up. Call (813) 431-6555 for information.

Dec. 16 – Photos With Santa – Stop by Outside the Box, 38430 Fifth Ave., from 2-4 p.m. to snap a photo with Santa for \$5, for a Christmas memory. Call (813) 312-4697 for information.

Know another place Santa can be spotted this holiday season? Send the details in to events@pasconewspubs.com.

Hospital • Continued from Page 1A

Adventist Health System West Florida Division, said in a press release.

“Bayfront Health is a valuable asset to Dade City and its residents, and we want to continue the long history of providing essential care in that facility.”

The due diligence and discovery process continues in order to allow for both Adventist Health System and Community Health Systems to best plan for the future of Bayfront Health Dade City.

The transaction is subject to customary regulatory approvals. Until the transaction is complete, current ownership will remain in place.

Financial terms were not disclosed.

Florida Hospital, the West Florida Division of Adventist Health System, is currently composed of nine hospitals including Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, Florida Hospital Tampa/Florida Hospital Pepin Heart Institute, Florida Hospital Carrollwood, Florida Hospital at Connerton Long Term Acute Care, Florida Hospital North Pinellas, Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center Sebring, Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center Lake Placid and Florida Hospital Wauchula.



Charles McClelland, Wig Wigmore, and Earl Anderson, seated from left, watch as a parachuter drops in carrying a giant American flag to initiate the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day event at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History.

History • Continued from Page 1A

Japanese Imperial forces initiated the bombing on Dec. 7, 1941. The surprise attack killed 2,335 U.S. military personnel, 68 civilians and left another 1,246 injured. The bombing of Pearl Harbor provoked the United States to join the Allied forces and to become a major part of World War II.

Among those injured in the Pearl Harbor attack was Charles McClelland, 94, who attended the service on Saturday. McClelland was on the USS Helena the morning of the attack and an explosion threw him into the air and he broke his leg in two places when he landed. McClelland was raising the Union Jack on the ship’s bow when as the attack unfolded.

Another survivor, Earl Anderson, recalled his experience on the USS Curtiss on that fated Sunday morning in Hawaii. The Navy veteran was in the mess hall eating with his friend when he heard a loud explosion. At first, he thought little of the disturbance because he thought someone on the base was using dynamite for construction. The next thing he knew, there were alarms and loudspeakers blaring, “This is not a drill!”

Anderson, 94, was assigned to help operate the anti-aircraft guns. The guns’ hydraulic systems had not been installed at that time, so Anderson and other mates had to aim the large weapons by hand in their bid to take out enemy planes.


The ceremony concluded with a round of applause from the crowd for all the veterans in attendance before the men were escorted inside the museum to take pictures and answer questions from visitors.

When asked what his secret to old age was, Wigman, the eldest survivor laughed and responded: “Well, I do eat a lot of ice cream.”

While visitors were in awe of the stories from the three survivors, the main reason the military museum hosts the event is to educate citizens about the significance of Pearl Harbor and to honor local veterans.

During opening ceremonies, museum president Cliff Moffett delivered an emotional speech after introducing and thanking all of the survivors.


“If it wasn’t for these people here and all the Americans in World War II, this whole world would be totally different. What they did for the world is phenomenal.”



The City of Zephyrhills is now accepting paper and cardboard with your normal recycling items in our curbside recycling program!


EXAMPLES of Cardboard:

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- Shoe boxes
- Shirt inserts
- Box inserts



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- Plastic containers that have #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 or #7 on the bottom are acceptable. This includes most milk jugs, soda bottles, and some household cleaning products. Unmarked plastics and all other numbered plastics are not acceptable for this program.
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Please do not include the following items: Aerosol cans, batteries, oil/paint cans, hazardous chemicals, ceramics, crystal, light bulbs, mirrors, pyrex, window panels, metal caps, aluminum foil, eggs cartons, and pie tins.



The recycling calendar is available at: <http://www.ci.zephyrhills.fl.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/297>.

The City no longer accepts recyclables in any type of plastic bag. Recyclables must be placed loose in the containers provided for curbside collection.

Curbside recycling service is offered bi-weekly, on Wednesdays. For additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at (813) 780-0022 or email publicworks@ci.zephyrhills.fl.us



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Mark Warren, Pastor of the Richland Baptist Church served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Tree Lighting Celebration.



Beth Gibbs, assistant conductor of the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, speaks to the crowd during the performance of Christmas Classic during the Florida Hospital Zephyrhills celebration last Sunday.



Florida Hospital Zephyrhills CEO Amanda Maggard prepares to flip the switch to light the more than 50 trees and the hospital as part of the conclusion of Sunday's extravaganza.

Celebration • Continued from Page 1A

during the celebration citing that it is time to make a change in our world. “Today, there is too much hatred and prejudice all around us,” Pichette said before thousands of people on the hospital’s front lawn. “Perhaps we’re filled with too much pride and prejudice. We find out that wherever there are people, there are conflicts and killing is far too common.

“I believe that we must do much more

than tolerate each other. I believe with all my heart that we need to love and respect one another. Love or hate is a choice. We can choose to hate or we can choose to love. Let’s choose love.” Tree decorating kicked off the day’s activity with civic groups, families, and several other organizations giving each tree a theme indicative of its respective state. Gulfside Regional Hospice and Palliative Care staff and supporters have participated in the tree decorating for 13

years and there’s always been consistent reason to return year after year. “It’s all about a sense of community with this event,” said Tammy Johnson of Gulfside. “The community has been so gracious to us with their donations to the thrift shop, we just want to give back to this great community. “It’s also a lot of fun. We enjoy it and our volunteers enjoy it.” The circle of trees made for a perfect setting for the Chancey Road Christian Church Live Nativity performance. It was the fifth year for the ever-growing cast to act out the nativity scene complete with a donkey, goats, plenty of angels, shepherds, three wise men, and Mary and Joseph. Narrated by pastor

Tim Mitchell, the nativity has become a staple to FHZ’s annual event. “It’s definitely an honor to be part of this,” Mitchell said. “Thankfully they keep inviting us back every year to keep the nativity as part of their focus.” The annual tree-lighting celebration doesn’t come together in the closing months of the year. Planning starts immediately. By 1 p.m. Sunday, all 50 trees were already claimed for next year’s event. “We start planning today for next year,” said Jane Freeman, Community relations manager. “We are so excited that we have all the trees reserved for next year. Our kickoff for 2018 is today.”



Dave Domino, Renee Stringer, Gary Johnson, Mary and Gene Carpenter, all of the Zephyrhills Moose Family Center spent Sunday afternoon decorating a tree representing the state of Indiana at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills.

Photo by Richard K. Riley



Katy Day and Ryan Stoner put the finishing touches on the Ohio tree at the Florida Hospital Zephyrhills tree lighting event Sunday.

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With Dale Barnett at the wheel, the Zephyrhills Fire Rescue antique fire engine makes its way down the long parade route.

Lights • Continued from Page 1A

streets to enjoy the more than 50 parade entries that culminated with the much-anticipated arrival of Santa Claus, perched atop the Goin’ Postal float.

Children hung on the barricades along Fifth Avenue to have that up-close view of the floats, marching units, classic cars and animals as they made their way down the parade route.

Ashley and Josh Alexander, who are new to Zephyrhills, brought their young daughters, Emma and Abigail, to their first Festival of Lights parade to start a new holiday tradition in their new hometown.

“We wanted to enjoy something together as a family,” Ashley said. “It’s important for these kids to be part of traditions especially for the holidays. I love the events like this for families.”

The Festival of Lights Parade is a tradition that has been part of the Zephyrhills holiday season for decades.

“I’ve been in Zephyrhills for 30 years and I have been coming to this parade for 25 of them,” said resident Nick Mason.

“It’s a good parade. We love coming here.”

There were also some awards at stake with Beth Aker, Jodi Wilkeson, Carol Scheckler and Linda Boan serving as judges.

Kids Korner took the Best of Parade entry while Crossroads Pentecostal Church won for the best theme.

The remaining winners were Wiregrass Lions, Most Original; Elves in the City, Best Light; Academy of Spectrum Diversity, Best Costumes; Goin’ Postal, Best Business; New Era 4H, Best Club Entry; Buddy Foster, Best Car/Truck; First United Methodist Church, Best Religious entry; Cub Scouts 311, Best Youth Organization; and Zephyrhills High School Marching Band, Best Marching Unit.

“I’m glad I wasn’t a judge,” joked Main Street Coordinator Anna Stutzriem. “The entries were amazing and we had more than last year. The crowd was excited about this parade and so was I.

“This parade is an opportunity for the whole community to come together. Everybody was happy and this is best way to start the holiday season.”



Children portray the land of misfit toys characters from Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer on the award-winning float from First United Methodist Church.

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Habitat Kicks Off 2018 Efforts

Robert Wheeler Wins Dream Playhouse

by Joe Potter

One hundred volunteers turned out Saturday to help Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco kick off its efforts for 2018.



Jessica Werckman holds the winning ticket for the dream playhouse which her daughter, Elizabeth, drew Saturday.

Photo by Joe Potter

The dozens helped frame a house during a Raise The Roof and Community Fair event held in the parking lot of Habitat's ReStore at 4700 Allen Road where several vendors set up booths for the event.

The winning ticket was also drawn for a dream playhouse Habitat raffled off as part of its fundraising efforts. Robert Wheeler won the play house and Habitat will deliver it.

Aaron and Jason Wilcox and their daughter, 4, and son, 2, will occupy the Dade City house the volunteers began constructing on Saturday. The Buford Avenue home will be finished in the spring, said Crystal Lazar, Habitat's chief administrative officer.

This will be the 142nd home the local Habitat affiliate has constructed since the nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry was founded in Dade City in 1994.

The Wilcox family has completed half



Laural Weightman, left, development director for Habitat, stands in the playhouse that was raffled off at the event. Betty and Bob Bratton of Wesley Chapel sold raffle tickets.

Photo by Richard K. Riley



Before each building project, the group is asked to celebrate the occasion and repeat that Habitat provides not a "hand out, but a hand up."

Photo by Richard K. Riley

of the required 400 hours of sweat equity needed to be able to move into their home, Lazar said.

Habitat's mission is to eliminate poverty housing and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

The organization merged with Habitat For Humanity of Central Pasco several years ago.

The local Habitat affiliate is located at 36739 S.R. 52, Suite 202 in Dade City.

Habitat families receive interest free mortgages and the proceeds from

those mortgages help to pay for the construction of new homes for other families. Occasionally, a business will sponsor a home, which helps to defray the construction costs.

A sponsor hasn't stepped forward yet for the Wilcox family's home, said Jessica Werckman, chairwoman of Habitat's board of directors.

Habitat has built or remodeled homes in Dade City, Zephyrhills, Lacoochee, Wesley Chapel, Crystal Springs, Land O' lakes and Spring Hill.



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