



**Local adventures for dad:**  
Cook up some cool plans for Father's Day. See Page 27.

An Edition of the Sun

WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 2016

TAKE ONE, IT'S FREE!

# The show goes on

## Despite the mass killing in Orlando, Polk Pride continues

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Despite this past weekend's mass shooting targeting the gay community in an Orlando nightclub, Polk Pride events

June 15-19 celebrating diversity will continue organizers said. Extra security will be added, however, to ensure safety of participants, they added. "Living in fear means they have won," Polk Pride supporter

and organizer Kerri McCoy late Sunday. "We have to continue to celebrate the diversity of our community and we will with our Polk Pride events," she added. Originally contracted with the Lakeland Police

Department for security during Saturday's Pride in the Park event, there will be expanded security at all events, Scott Guira from Polk Pride said. "We are working closely with the Lakeland Police Department

and will be supported with officers at each event and we have hired additional officers exceeding LPD's recommendation," Guira said.

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## Teen court can help erase the error

*Teens try teens and if completed successfully no record filed*

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

The judge is there. The prosecutor is there. The defense attorney is there. The bailiff is there. The clerk is there. The jury is there. You are there. You are in a courtroom. A real courtroom. And your future is on the line. From here, you could go to jail, have a criminal record and kiss your college or good job good-bye. But, you are blessed.

You, a young man or woman from 8 to 18, can now change what would normally be a bleak future. You have the chance to have your crimes heard by your peers — a jury of a dozen teenagers or middle schoolers, not the normal jury. This is Teen Court. It is just as real as the courts downstairs in the Polk County Courthouse. The only difference is that you probably won't get sent to jail and you probably won't wind up with a

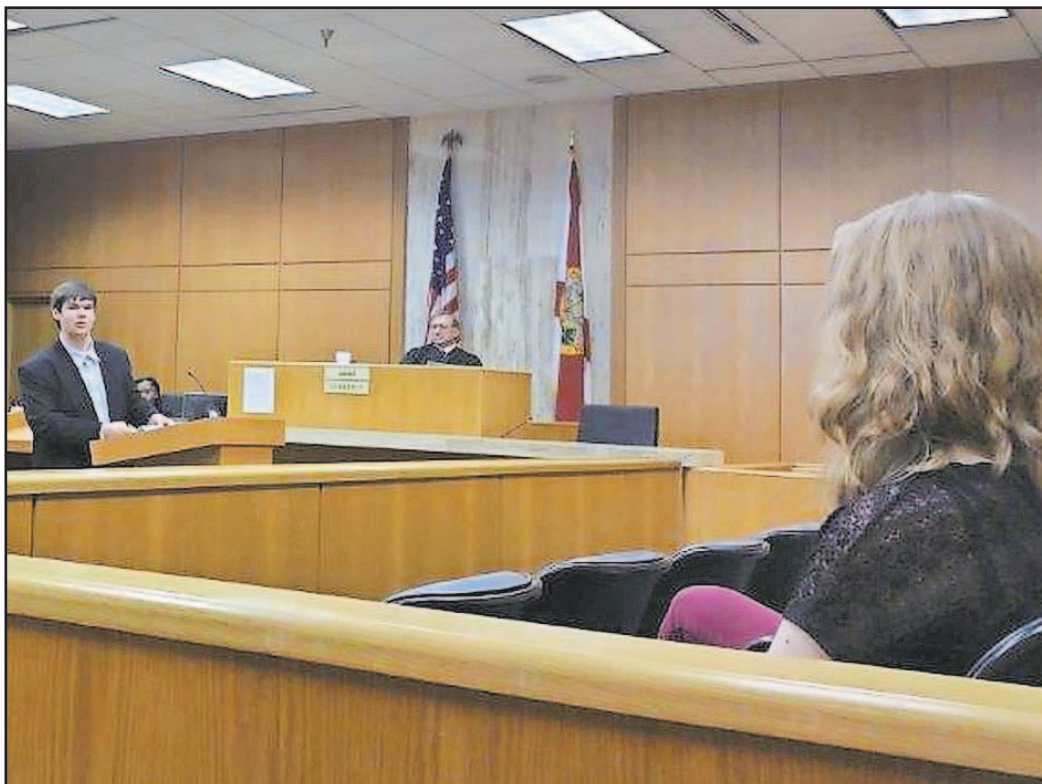


PHOTO PROVIDED

Student defense attorney Andrew Bryan addresses the jury with student prosecutor Adam Evans at a recent Teen Court trial.

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- Mary Carrier honored for devotion to teen court, Page 17

criminal record.

No. You dodged that bullet. Thanks to the officer who arrested you. He or she wrote Teen Court on your arrest form, instead of giving you a case number. Or a forgiving soul in the

court system who may have seen something in you the arresting officer missed.

It's serious business though, just as serious as the real McCoy. The attorneys are all in it for real, the same with the rest of those who make up a modern-day trial.

Started more than two decades ago by a caring judge who knew he could sidestep the often dire consequences young people face when they get into trouble. Judge Dale Durrance was the man and, thanks to him, almost 19,000 kids have left his court with their reputations unblemished by a criminal case number.

The Polk Teen Court is

COURT | 8

## Three storms and it's the third week Tropical season opens with a quick start

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Last week was sort of a dress rehearsal. Tropical Storm Colin and the drenchings left in its wake, that is. It brought into play not only the National Weather Service but the Polk County Emergency Operations Center as well.

First of all, it's only the second week in June and there already have been three, count them, three named storms. Alex, Bonnie and Colin. Alex was the real fluke, forming out in the Atlantic Ocean in January, followed a month or so later by Bonnie who traipsed lightly across North and South Carolina and then there was Colin, whose aftermath we are still identifying and handling.

It's all because of the Ninos — El Nino and his sister La Nina, says National Weather Service meteorologist Rick Davis.

"Last year, we had a strong El Nino," Davis said, explaining that the weather phenomena puts a damper on the winds that form hurricanes. "No El Nino, no storms," he said.

He added that La Nina has the opposite effect, making it easier for storms to form.

"Now here we are without either one and that means we may have a normal

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# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Enjoy the lakeside view

Family friendly sports bar on the Chain of Lakes

By JAMES COULTER  
CORRESPONDENT

Polk County, especially Winter Haven, has plenty of lakes and restaurants; yet despite this, it has very few restaurants that serve affordable food with a lakeside view.

Fortunately, there are eateries such as The Idle Zone Bar and Grill that offers both a scenic lakeside view with affordable yet fresh food.

The Idle Zone is a family-friendly sports bar situated right on the Chain of Lakes, allowing guests to have a great view of the lake, whether they are indoors, on the porch, or even sitting right next to the water.

As a sports bar and grill, it serves all of the sports bar favorites such as burgers, hot dogs, and hot wings, along with a diverse selection of salads, sandwiches, and wraps.

Guests with big appetites can enjoy big selections such as their two-foot half-pound hot dog or any of their quarter-pound burgers, including their



PHOTO BY JAMES COULTER

**Their burgers, including their half-pound burgers, are all prepared from freshly-made, hand-pressed beef patties and other fresh ingredients.**

bacon cheeseburger piled with plenty of cheese and bacon.

No matter what you order, you're sure to enjoy a meal with plenty of flavor, as everything from the fries to the beef patties for the burgers are made fresh.

Their beef patties are hand-pressed from freshly-ground beef, their fries and chicken wings are hand-cut daily, and their wing sauces and salad dressings are all made from fresh ingredients from

homemade recipes.

"I think that helps out a lot when you serve fresh stuff," said owner Alan Prince. "We decided it would be best to always make fresh burgers instead of buying everything frozen premade, that way they can stand out and maintain their own unique taste."

Of course, the only thing hotter than their burgers and wings is the music that plays live nightly, whether it's karaoke on Friday or Saturday, or live music



on select nights. Even their dart tournaments on Tuesday evenings are accentuated with music from the jukebox.

This July for Independence Day, this little eatery is teaming up with Tanner's Lakeside to offer a hot event on a cool evening with live bands and fireworks right on the lake.

The Idle Zone has been under prior management as different venues over the years, having previously been the Lakeside Shanty and the Sand Dollar.

The eatery has been operated as the Idle Zone for the past four years, and has recently been placed under new management by its current owner who purchased it in April.

Prince had previously owned and operated a similar sports bar in Winter

Haven called Anglers for the past five years before eventually wishing to set up an eatery along the Chain of Lakes.

"Opportunity came, and here we are," he said.

The past four months have seen significant changes to the eatery under his new management, with new paint and interior, fans on the porch, new television sets in the dining area, and the wifi service extended.

Ensuring that his new restaurant was up to par in appearance has been the only real challenge, and the upgrades thus far made have proven that challenge to not be so challenging.

With the eatery being right on the water, customers old and new can expect a great lakeside view complete with a dock where they can park their

boat or cast their line.

In fact, Prince and his staff regularly keep the fish within the lake fed so that they're able to be nearby for customers to see, feed, and even catch.

Prince has more expansions planned for the near future, with plans to add onto the building with more seating and staging for live bands.

For now, customers can expect a friendly atmosphere, a good view of the lake, fresh food, cold drinks, and really friendly people.

"We have regulars here every day, and it is all around a good experience," Prince said. "Who doesn't like a view of the water? It's great."

The Idle Zone is located at 615 7th St. SW in Winter Haven. For information, visit their Facebook page, or call 863-875-7949.

### INSIDE TODAY



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**Lake Wales News**  
Pages 11, 12, 13, 14



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### PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Please be advised that the City of Bartow City Commission will hold a Special Workshop on Friday, June 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers located in City Hall, 450 N. Wilson Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830.

The purpose of this Workshop is to receive a presentation from Special Guest Dale Allen, Executive Director of Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation and have open discussion.

If anyone decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's office prior to this proceeding at telephone number 863-534-0100 for assistance; if hearing impaired call 1-800-955-8771 or voice impaired call 1-800-955-8770 (VOICE) for assistance.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Bartow is accepting applications for the following voluntary advisory board(s):

- ❖ **Citizen's Advisory Committee**
- ❖ **Code Enforcement Board**
- ❖ **Zoning Board of Adjustment (Alternate)**

To obtain an application or board description contact the City Clerk's Office at (863) 534-0100 ext. 1256 or visit the City Clerk section on the City's website: [www.cityofbartow.net](http://www.cityofbartow.net)

## Polk County Sun

Published by SCMG

Phone: 863-533-4183 Fax: 863-533-0402  
Advertising: 863-533-4183

### Publisher

Chris Sexson  
Csexson@heartlandnewspapers.com

### Polk County Sun Managing Editor

Jeff Roslow  
jroslow@heartlandnewspapers.com

Circulation, Classified, Legal  
Anita Swain

Office Administration  
Lora Belue

# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Aerospace open house packed

By STEVE STEINER

SSTEINER@HEARTLAND  
NEWSPAPERS.COM

Interest in a career in aeronautics is high, evidenced by the standing room only attendance held June 9 at the Polk State College's center located on the campus of the Lakeland Linder Airport region.

Without question, since its inception several years ago, it has (no pun intended) taken off. In his presentation, the director of the program, Eric Crump told of the brief history of the program, when four years ago he was enticed to head up the department.

"We expected 30 students," said Crump. "We enrolled 147." He added there were an additional 50 people still in high school who were interested.

When it first started it was on the Winter Haven campus there was nothing, no program, no syllabi, nothing. That quickly changed and before too long it outgrew that location. Since that humble beginning, it has now progressed to where it offers four degree-bearing programs and will be adding a fifth one, in maintenance, starting this August.

Crump added Polk State College is the only public institution offering bachelor degrees in aerospace. Although the cost for attending, at \$112 per credit hour, may seem steep, in comparison to the private institutions, it is relatively inexpensive.

"Eighty-two thousand is a lot of money, but it's less than \$382,000," he said.

The purpose of the program he told those in attendance, which was equally divided between parents and potential students, is based on getting its students



PHOTOS BY STEVE STEINER

**Eric Crump, who heads the Polk State College Aerospace department, welcomes attendees of the open house taking place June 9.**

internships and jobs for its graduates. That is being accomplished through partnerships.

"One of the things we love are internships," Crump said. "We want to create so many real life experiences so we can have a 'discussion.'"

One of the major partners is ExpressJet, and Crump turned the program over to Captain John Pittman, who is the head of pilot training. ExpressJet is the leading regional airline with 8000-plus aviation professionals and 1600-plus daily American Eagle, Delta Connection & United Express flights. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of SkyWest Inc., parent company of the air carrier SkyWest Airlines. It is based in College Park, Ga., part of greater Atlanta.

"We're so grateful for the opportunity to partner with Polk State College," said Pittman. He said ExpressJet is similar to Major League Baseball. A pilot may be among the best with a regional airline, but when flying with the major carriers, it's different. "You really don't know how you're doing until somebody says you're doing OK."

Pittman called the

aerospace community amazing, regardless position, be it pilot, mechanic, etc., because there is one thing that binds all in that industry: passion. He also touched upon the cost and said that the benefits will be greater than the investment.

A brief break took place just before attendees broke off into three groups. Among those attending was Stephen Thomas, who is on the board of Sun 'n' Fun. He was there because of a neighbor.

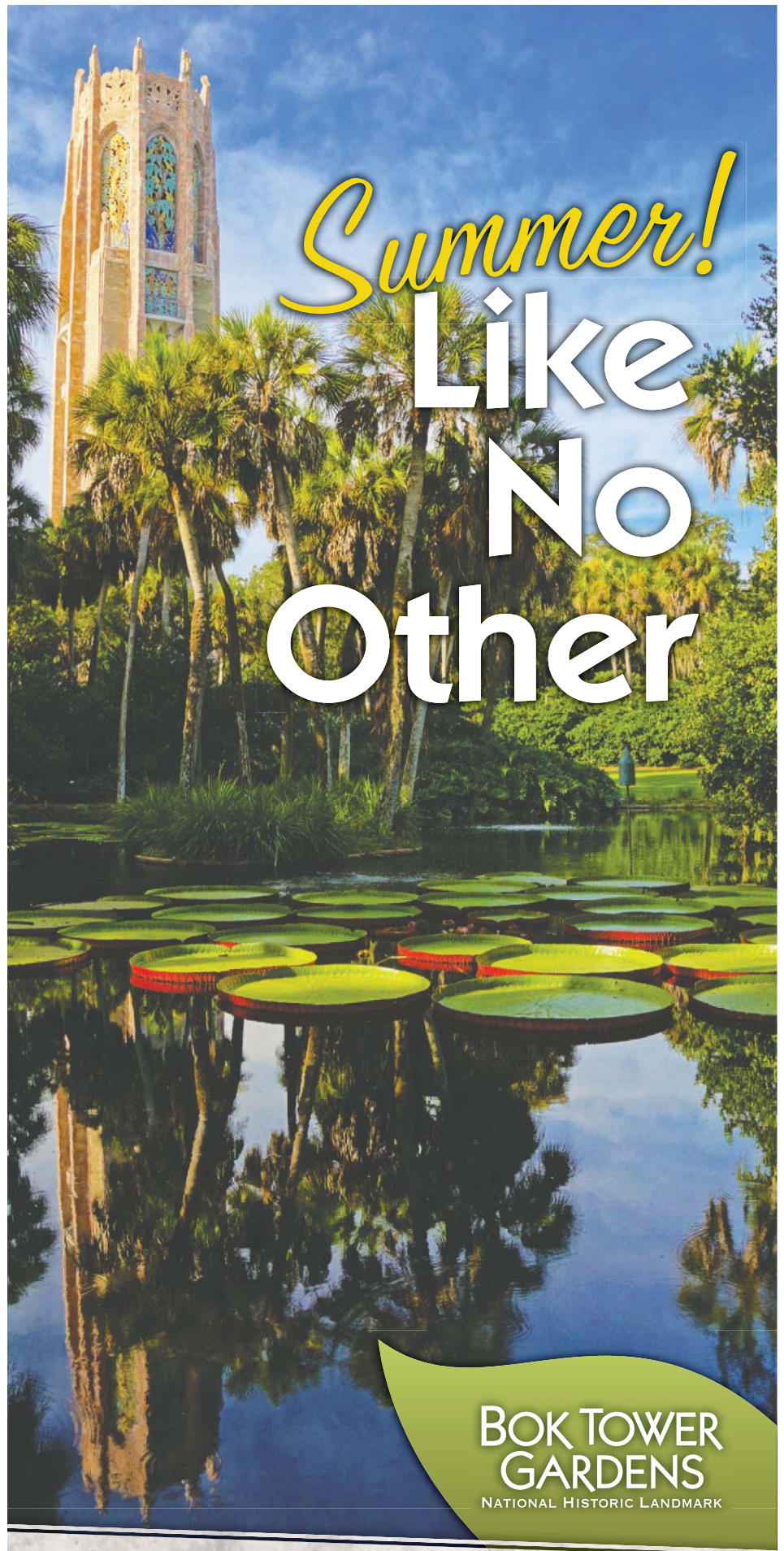
"I have a young lady in my neighborhood looking to become a pilot," he said; she was also in attendance. He was there to learn about scholarship availability for the young lady, who he said is home-schooled.

For Hunter Jackson, who finished up a year at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, a non-profit private independent institution, Polk State College's program is more appealing. One reason is that it is closer to home, but that was not the only thing he found attractive.

"The classes seem more one-on-one," Jackson said. He said his goal was to become a pilot with the U.S. Navy.



Attention was rapt and those attending the June 7 open house at Polk State College's Aerospace facility hang onto every word being spoken.



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# VIEWPOINT

## School funds policy: guilty until proven innocent

Imagine this scenario:  
 You are driving along the highway when you see flashing red and blue lights in your rear view mirror and pull over.  
 You exchange the usual pleasantries:  
 "What's wrong, officer?"  
 "License and registration, please."  
 "But what did I do?"  
 "License and registration."  
 Having determined that you are a licensed driver and that it's your car, the officer says: "You need to post \$500 bond."  
 "Bond? For what?"  
 "I'm not sure, but you have to post \$500 bond because you might have done something illegal. Last week, we stopped a man in Duval County driving a car the same color as yours."  
 "We're not sure if he did anything illegal, either, but we collected \$500 until he can prove his innocence."

### Our Viewpoint

We're stopping cars of this color all over the state and collecting \$500, just in case some of the drivers might have done something illegal."  
 What is the basis for this absurd scenario?  
 The federal government is withholding education funds from Polk County schools because a Duval County lawyer has sued that county's school board, claiming it has failed to meet a federal mandate that both transgender and non-transgender students "can all enjoy a safe and discrimination free environment."  
 So that is Jacksonville's problem, right?  
 Not according to Wes Bridges, attorney for the Polk County School Board, who told the board that until the Duval County case winds its way through the courts, Polk's share of federal Title IX funds is being withheld.

Polk and several other Florida counties are victims of this "guilty until proven innocent" policy until they can establish that their transgender policies are not discriminatory.  
 Apparently no complaints have been filed this side of Duval County, but to be on the safe side, federal bureaucrats are withholding some of the educational funds to which Polk is entitled.  
 "The message is clear that until you do what we tell you, we can hold onto your money," Bridges said. "Until the money comes we can't spend it."  
 As in our fanciful traffic stop, the government will hold onto money that belongs to Polk County's school children until Polk can prove its innocence of charges that have not been made.  
 And it all revolves around a transgender "problem" that doesn't exist, the latest rallying cry of political correctness zealots who thrive on creating such controversies.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Just drink moderately?

I would like to respectfully share a few thoughts about drinking alcohol moderately.  
 Have you ever over-eaten? I have, many times. Fortunately, I don't drink.  
 What is the first area of the brain that is affected by alcohol? It is our inhibitions, our sense of judgment, our self-control. This aspect defeats moderation.  
 Please keep in mind that we are dealing with a product that contributes to 88,000 deaths a year in America. In 16 short years, that is more than all of the military deaths from all of our wars.  
<http://timetracts.com/Home/controversial-topics/>

alcohol-public-enemy-no-1/  
 Alcohol is a very deadly product. We haven't even mentioned what it does in marriage, family, work, society.  
 Didn't Jesus turn water into wine? In the Bible, the word "wine" is used for both fermented and unfermented grape juice. We are not told whether it was fresh grape juice or alcohol at the wedding. If it was an intoxicant, Jesus could have been justly criticized for violating Biblical principles, such as not doing anything that could cause another to stumble.  
 Doesn't the Bible say, "Take a little



ULLOM | 5

## Newspapers: always a work in progress

Seldom does a week go by that somebody doesn't ask me what I think about the changes that have been made in our newspapers since Mary and I sold Frisbie Publishing Co. to Sun Coast Media Group on Jan. 1, 2007.  
 For the most part, the questions are phrased in such a way as to indicate a negative response is expected.  
 It doesn't happen.  
 When Mary and I announced to our staff late in 2006 that the time had come for us to sell the newspaper group that was begun with creation of The Polk County Democrat by my Granddad and Great Granddad on Aug. 28, 1931, several staff members lamented that our newspapers (The Democrat, The Fort Meade Leader, The Lake Wales News, and Polk County Times) would not be the same under new ownership.  
 I agreed, and told them, "There will be changes. Sun Coast Media Group will do many things better than we did; perhaps they won't do some things as well."  
 And in my opinion, that's the way it has been.  
 Mary and I stayed on under



S.L. Frisbie

S.L. Frisbie can be contacted at [sfrisbie@hedartlandnewspapers.com](mailto:sfrisbie@hedartlandnewspapers.com)

three-year management contracts after the sale.  
 The Great Recession hit in 2008, requiring lay-offs, something Frisbie Publishing Co. had avoided for 75 years. We lost three employees, and our pressroom was closed, with printing moved to the company's plants in Venice and Charlotte.  
 Our publication dates were changed from Monday and Thursday to Wednesday and Saturday. Our publication schedule was changed from afternoon to morning.  
 I remember calling our staff together and telling them, "I don't know how we can make that schedule work, but we will." And we did.

As my retirement date — Jan. 1, 2010 — approached, my boss and successor, Jim Gouvellis, asked if I would continue to write my column twice a week, and later to write one column and one editorial a week.  
 I agreed, with the stipulation that at the start of every year, he and I would meet to see if it was still working.  
 If either of us decided that it was time for me to go into full retirement, we would say so, shake hands, and part as friends.  
 Jim is moving to the company's daily operations in Southwest Florida, and his successor, Chris Sexson, and I have the same understanding.  
 The newspaper industry, in my observation, has been slower to recover from The Great Recession than many others.  
 Newspapers have long competed against each other, against free print products, against direct mail, against radio (both AM and FM), against TV (both broadcast and cable), against billboards, and probably a few others I have overlooked.  
 We have picked up a new competitor in the Internet. Most of us have on-line

products of our own, but as an industry, we have struggled to make money on them. (We were one of the first community newspapers in the state to establish an on-line product, and Mary and I struggled for years to make it profitable.)  
 The reality of this competitive environment, and an economy that is still far less than robust (meaning fewer advertising dollars in the marketplace), is reflected in the size, profitability, and number of newspapers.  
 Most dramatically, look at the Tampa-St. Petersburg market. Both cities once had competing morning and evening papers. The morning papers eventually bought and closed their evening competition.  
 A few weeks ago, a battle-to-the-death between The Tampa Tribune and Tampa Bay Times (which dropped St. Petersburg from its name years ago) finally ended with the Times buying and closing the Trib. The Times is a good paper, but I miss the Trib, to which we subscribed for more than 50 years.  
 Locally, our twice-weekly newspapers

FRISBIE | 5

### We welcome your letters

Letters are welcome on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. Please keep them to less than 250 words. Letters will be edited to length as well as grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name — not initials. An address and telephone number must be included. The phone number and address are not for publication, but must be provided. The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. Readers can send letters and column submissions to [letters@polkcountymedia.com](mailto:letters@polkcountymedia.com) or mail them to 190 S. Florida Ave., Bartow, FL 33830.

# Political chicanery thwarts elective process

Under our system of government, we value the concept of three separate but equal branches of government — the legislative, judicial and executive — and the principle that all political power is inherent in the people.

The executive and legislative branches should not hold great sway over the judicial branch but sometimes try. The courts can rule on the constitutionality of a legislative or executive action but only if legally challenged.

That's what just happened at the Florida Supreme Court over whether Florida Gov. Rick Scott has the authority to appoint replacements for judges who submitted resignation letters or if voters get to decide in the August election.

While I prefer voters to elect their judges, our constitution and laws lend themselves to some political gamesmanship. While it's possible that the appointment process offers a more thorough review of judicial candidates, it could also lead to partisanship, ideological selection and influence over the courts.

Article V, Section 11 of the Florida Constitution speaks to the process used to fill a judicial vacancy. The intent was to fill vacant seats by appointment only if



**Paula Dockery**

## Political Ponderings

Paula Dockery can be contacted at [pdockery@floridavoices.com](mailto:pdockery@floridavoices.com)

couldn't be done timely by election. That has morphed by Scott's aggressive efforts to appoint rather than elect replacements for retiring judges.

Additionally, Florida has a "resign to run" law found in Florida Statute 99.012. To qualify to run for another office, an elected or appointed official must resign from her current office, first. The written resignation must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the first day of qualifying and is irrevocable. The resignation must coincide with the date the officer would take office, or the date the officer's successor is required to take office.

Palm Beach County Judge Laura Johnson decided to run for a seat on the Circuit Court and sent her irrevocable written resignation letter on April 18

— prior to the qualifying period for candidates. It was to take effect Jan. 3, the day her successor would take office.

Defense attorney Gregg Lerman was one of several candidates running for Johnson's seat. He filed the required paperwork. Secretary of State Ken Detzner instructed Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Susan Bucher not to accept candidate paperwork because Scott was going to fill the seat by appointment. Bucher believed the seat should be filled by election and accepted the paperwork.

Scott and Detzner did not back off. Lerman petitioned the court, challenging Scott's legal authority to stop an election and appoint Johnson's replacement. In a unanimous decision, the court sided with Lerman by ruling that voters would elect Johnson's replacement.

In this case, there was no vacancy — Johnson's resignation was in compliance with the state's "resign to run" law and her departure date was the same day her successor would have started.

Three retiring circuit court judges in the 7th, 10th and 12th judicial circuits submitted resignation letters with effective dates prior to when elected successors would have taken office. By

strategically leaving the bench before the Jan. 3 swearing-in date — even by a matter of days — the judges deliberately created vacancies and thwarted elections for their seats. Scott was determined to appoint their replacements.

Potential candidates for the seats filed petitions to the Florida Supreme Court to stop Scott. Because a vacancy would occur, the court had no choice but to rule in Scott's favor.

Even though it was a unanimous decision, four of the justices acknowledged that the outgoing judges manipulated the system. By resigning days before their terms ended, they denied candidates the opportunity to run and the voters the right to choose.

Was it a coordinated effort? Did the judges come up with this or were they asked to do so?

Perhaps we should change what constitutes a true judicial vacancy through a constitutional amendment to stop this chicanery and restore political power to the people.

*Paula Dockery is a syndicated columnist who served in the Florida Legislature for 16 years as a Republican from Lakeland. She can be reached at [PBDOckery@gmail.com](mailto:PBDOckery@gmail.com).*

# Introducing our two new city sergeants

In May 2016, I had the honor of promoting several agency members to fill positions vacated due to retirements. Two of our veteran sergeants — Steve Parker and Darlene Rivas — were promoted to the rank of lieutenant, which in turn created some unique opportunities for two other sergeants. When Steve and Darlene became lieutenants, they vacated the offices in two of our contract cities — Dundee and Frostproof. It is now my pleasure to introduce to you our two newest supervisors there: Doug Tanner, and Lyle Tripp.

As you may know, PCSO provides law enforcement services to six cities within our county, through a contract with each city. We have six different "Sheriff's Stations" in the cities of Dundee, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Frostproof, Polk City, Dundee, and Mulberry. When we are asked by cities to contract with them to provide professional law enforcement and support services, we feel it is a win-win for the residents living in those communities. Each city sheriff's



Station is supervised by a full-time sergeant, who supervises deputies within the city, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our patrol cars are clearly marked with the names of each city, and our deputies are responsible for all the calls for service within those cities, along with all of the PCSO support services at our agency.

Sgt. Tanner was hired as a deputy sheriff in 2005. Prior to that, he volunteered with PCSO as a chaplain. Doug has his Doctorate in Ministry, and is the senior pastor at the First Baptist Church of

Davenport. Doug was promoted to the rank of sergeant in January 2016, after spending many years in the agency's Agricultural Crimes Unit. He also has experience as a detective and in community oriented policing.

When Doug was recently asked why he wanted to supervise the deputies at the Dundee Sheriff's Station, he said, "I am excited about serving the citizens of Dundee, and interacting with each of them in a positive way. Dundee reminds me of my hometown — Christmas, Florida. I love the small-town atmosphere, and I'm already familiar with the area and the business leaders there, having met many of them as an Ag deputy. I hope to be able to provide, or even exceed, the level of professional law enforcement services to which they are accustomed. Lt. Rivas did a fabulous job in Dundee, and we have a wonderful group of deputies there, so I am able to come into the unit and help them continue providing excellent customer service. The city leaders are

warm and receptive, and I look forward to working with them. I feel that my service as a pastor helps me provide empathy and compassion to people — something you need as a law enforcement officer too, as you are often interacting with people during some of their darkest moments."

Sgt. Tripp graduated from Frostproof High School in 1990, then joined the U.S. Navy. Upon being honorably discharged, Lyle did many ride-alongs with the Frostproof Police Department, hoping to be hired there. Frostproof P.D. didn't have any vacancies when Lyle graduated from the law enforcement academy, so he became a Winter Haven Police Officer. In 2003, he became a PCSO deputy sheriff.

Lyle spent many years in community oriented policing, and as a school resource deputy. He taught at the Kathleen High School Criminal Justice

Academy, and is currently an instructor at the Polk State College Kenneth C. Thompson Institute of Public Safety. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in September 2015.

When Lyle saw the opportunity to become the sergeant at the Frostproof Sheriff's Station, he jumped at the opportunity to return to his roots.

"My parents, my sister, and my aunts and uncles all still live in Frostproof," said Tripp. "The seed was planted early on in my life when I wanted to be a police officer there, and now I feel like I have come full circle. I already know so many people in this town, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know the rest of them. Lt. Parker left some pretty big shoes to fill but I am ready for the challenge and I hope to spend as many years here as they'll let me. I don't ever want to leave."

I am very proud of sergeants Tanner and Tripp, and I am excited for our citizens to get to know them and interact with them, especially the Dundee and Frostproof communities.

## FRISBIE

FROM PAGE 4

were reduced to once a week.

A couple of issues back, The Polk County Democrat (established by my family in 1931) and The Lake Wales News (established by the Brice family in 1926, and which we bought in 1998) were merged into The Polk County News and Democrat.

Full-time staffs at both papers were reduced dramatically.

It was yet another step in the economies of scale that become possible as newspaper groups buy papers.

For the record, I was notified of each major change in advance of its implementation. I appreciate that courtesy.

A few days ago, I was

interviewed by a nearby daily newspaper about how I felt about the changes in the newspapers that Frisbie Publishing owned until a decade ago.

My response was that our industry is probably the only one in the country whose product is different every day. Our customers — you, our readers — expect that.

When I got out of the Army and joined our family business in 1964, there were three dailies and seven weeklies in Polk County, all of them published by independent local owners.

Today, there are two dailies owned by one company; our weekly operation; and one locally-owned weekly.

That is the nature of our industry, not just in Polk County, but throughout the nation.

I told the interviewer that every town in America large enough to have a name would

like to have its own locally owned newspaper. That's not going to happen.

The nature of our industry — with or without my approval — is that fewer newspapers will serve larger audiences than was the case when I got into this business more than 50 years ago.

It is the key not just to the survival but to the robustness of our industry.

The excitement of this model is that our industry is always a work in progress, a never ending quest to do a better job of serving our communities.

*(S. L. Frisbie is retired. He can remember when Cokes — and newspapers — cost a nickel, and gasoline was 35 cents a gallon, pumped by a guy who also washed your windshield and checked your oil and radiator. Things change.)*

## ULLOM

FROM PAGE 4

wine for the sake of your stomach"? The "wine" here is grape juice. This is soothing. Alcohol would be a big mistake for an ulcer.

Are there any negative consequences to drinking moderately? Please note that in homes where moderate drinking is chosen as a goal, children are four times more apt to become alcoholics than in homes without alcohol.

It is important to understand that the body's response to alcohol is to get rid of it. It first strives to detoxify it in the liver. The liver can only process a small amount. The rest of the body makes every effort to eliminate it. This is done through the

urine, the stool, the breath via the mouth and nose, and the pores. Our body knows that alcohol as a beverage is not a friend.

Doesn't wine have many health benefits? The alcohol industry has spent billions to persuade especially young America that alcohol is desirable. Please keep in mind that the CDC says, "No one should begin drinking or drink more frequently based on potential health benefits." ([www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/alcohol-use](http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/alcohol-use)).

It is my concern that the moderate-drinking concept is an opening of the chicken-house door to the fox. The best way to love marriage, family, and others, is to do nothing that could cause others to fall.

**VIRGIL ULLOM**  
**Babson Park**

# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## 'Transformations' transforms Winter Haven author's life

By **CASSIE JACOBY**  
CORRESPONDENT

Winter Haven author James Foley Smathers is receiving rave reviews for his first novel, "Transformations." The 322-page romance suspense thriller brings to life two people with shocking personal secrets who are "drawn to each other like moths to a flame" on the Bahama Island of Walkers Cay.

"I always wanted to be a writer, but never really wrote fiction, just ad copy, letters and promotional material," says 75-year old Smathers, whose company, United Energy LLC, manufactures and supplies Conservacap.

"I'm not conventional. I write to write, I don't really write to sell. I do everything for the reader, including publishing in a bold font to make it easier to read."

For sale on Amazon in paperback (\$15.95) or Kindle (\$8.95), reviewers give the book five out of five stars, recommending it as "a terrific summer read."

"Take the plausibility of John Grisham, factor in the gripping story lines of Herman Wouk, fold in the tension of Pat Conroy and leaven the whole creation with Carl Hiaason and you have

the splendid first novel of Jim Smathers — raconteur, bon vivant, decorated Marine vet and story teller par excellence," describes Thomas Oldt.

"He combines Tom Clancy's keen insight into mechanical detail with J K Rowling intriguing characters and story line into a whirlwind of a plot," Oldt said.

"I stayed up all night to get to the end to see how things turned out."

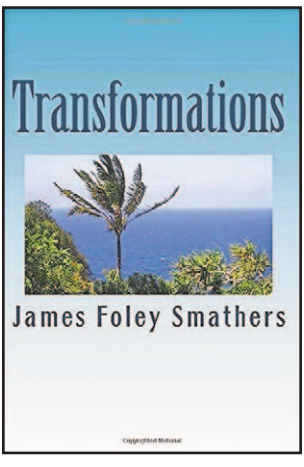
"This book has it all: revenge, a steamy love affair and an amazing plot on how to get even!"

"I can see it as a movie. It kept me spellbound from beginning to end."

"It's the old 'show me, don't tell me.' I write dialogue so it reads like a screenplay," said Smathers, a University of Florida School of Journalism and Communications graduate and U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam combat veteran.

As for advice to budding authors, Smathers recommends drinking fully from the cup of life.

"Do something you like, meet a lot of interesting people, travel around and read. You've got to live and acquire stories. I don't see how you can come out of college and decide to write the Great American Novel. And, I don't like



creative writing classes. As the saying goes, 'those that can do, those that can't teach.'"

Already working on his second book, "Iniquity," Smathers bases his stories on his real life personal experiences.

"I'm not taking any chances so I call it fiction. The names are changed to protect the guilty, but my friends and associates will recognize the characters."

An avid hunter, chef and musician who breeds, trains and raises Golden Retrievers, Smathers regales friends with stories about his colorful family including distinguished politicians.

Visit [www.amazon.com/author/jamesmathers](http://www.amazon.com/author/jamesmathers) or email [jmathers@unitedenergymbe.com](mailto:jmathers@unitedenergymbe.com) for more information.



PHOTO BY CASSIE JACOBY

"Transformations" is getting rave reviews in James Foley Smathers' first work.

## Mears will Lego it up against 10-year-old on track

On Monday, June 20, veteran NASCAR driver Casey Mears is set to race a 10-year-old girl representing Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida at Legoland Florida Resort in a friendly competition dubbed the Miniland 400.

The two-car race #BuiltForKids celebrates the theme park's giant new Daytona International Speedway model in Miniland USA.

From behind the wheel of a Lego version of his No. 13 Geico race car, Mears will face off against a young girl from Orlando. The pair will zoom past Lego

miniatures of such American landmarks as the Statue of Liberty, the New York City skyline, the Las Vegas Strip and Kennedy Space Center before finishing in front of the giant new model replicating the iconic motorsports stadium.

Afterward, Mears will greet fans within the racing-themed Wheels Zone, one of several areas of hands-on Lego building activities inside the Polk County theme park's newly re-imagined Imagination Zone.

The one-day-only event marks the official debut of the new Daytona International Speedway

model, which took a team of Master Model Builders months to create out of nearly 300,000 Lego bricks, and to preview the Nascar Sprint Cup Series' return to DIS for the Coke Zero 400 Powered By Coca-Cola on Saturday, July 2.

The race starts at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 20 at Legoland Florida Resort, One Legoland Way (6000 Cypress Gardens Blvd.), Winter Haven.

Legoland asks people to register Wednesday, June 15, at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rescheduled-miniland-400-tickets-25823910010>.

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# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Hunting for treasure



PHOTOS BY CHARLES BAKER III

Rachel Alfredon, 9, of Winter Haven asks her sister Hannah to take her picture after finding treasure in "The Shop," which was one of the nine participating downtown vendors. Store clerk Lauren Clarke said this treasure hunt was more successful than last because the kids didn't know who Waldo was last time.



Amanda Copp of Haines City helps her 2-year-old daughter, Amelia, find a semi-hidden Lego figure during the Main Street Winter Haven Downtown Treasure Hunt Saturday afternoon. Nearly 1,000 children participated, according to Main Street Winter Haven director Anita Strong. Each child who found all nine of the Lego figures inside the participating stores won a prize. Main Street Winter Haven staff tried something similar recently with a Where's Waldo event, it worked, so they tried organizing a similar event.

## Montessori names administrators, community partnerships

Karen Winningham was named Cypress Junction Montessori's executive director and Casey Moyer Caswell named principal. Winningham was born and raised in the Bronx, N.Y. She has spent the last 13 years with the United States Postal Service, most recently serving as an Operation Industrial Engineer implementing process improvement methods and coaching a national network of industrial engineers. She moved to Winter Haven in 2012 with her family and quickly realized this is where she is meant to be.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Karen Winningham, right, and Casey Moyer Caswell at the Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night where families of students were able to meet them for the first time.

In 2014, she helped create the founding group that worked to open a Montessori charter school in order to offer this unique educational choice to all children of our community. She brings enthusiasm, business acumen and strong leadership skills to her new role at Cypress Junction Montessori. Moyer Caswell is coming on board in June as CJM's principal. She began her career as a Montessori teacher right out of college and holds an American Montessori Society certification in lower and upper elementary. While working as an Upper Elementary Montessori teacher at North Vista Elementary in South Carolina, she was also an FLL Robotics coach and advisor of National Honor

Society. Casey holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Northcentral University and is currently working towards her doctorate in education for educational leadership. "I believe that Montessori allows students the freedom and independence to be themselves and explore their passions. I enjoy watching the concentration and 'light bulb' moments when Montessori students can solve problems on their own," Casey said. CJM is gearing up to welcome 174 students on Aug. 15. Students are enrolled, teaching staff is being hired and the school's building is nearing completion.

"August 15 is going to be a great day for our team. Watching the community really come together to help make this school happen, and meeting our CJM family has been the most satisfying and exciting part of this entire process so far," said Winningham. The school's new downtown facility is a prime example of the community partnerships that are making the founding group's vision a reality. "We always wanted to be downtown because it would offer our students a variety of opportunities to plug into the community and collaborate with local businesses all within walking distance," said Katrina Hill of CJM's Board of Directors.

SECOND ANNUAL

# Blues Brews & BBQ

PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

**TUCCI**

**DAVE POWERS**

**RANDY MCALLISTER**

## Blues Music, Local Brews & Hot-out-of-the-Smoker BBQ

**June 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

On the Great Lawn behind Four Points by Sheraton, Punta Gorda, right on the water, shade available, from 1PM to 6PM, Noon to 6PM for VIPs. The Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to present the Blues music of Grammy-nominated Texan singer/songwriter Randy McAllister. He will be accompanied by Dave Powers and Tucci! What a line-up! Tickets for this event are AVAILABLE NOW by entering the Online Payment Center at [PuntaGordaChamber.com](http://PuntaGordaChamber.com) or by calling 941-639-3720 during regular business hours.

<p><b>Friday Event</b>  <b>Craft beer &amp; food pairing</b>                      7:30-9PM around the pool at the Four Points by Sheraton. Emceed by master craft brewer. Purchase tickets at the online payment center. Limited to 100. \$40 per person</p>	<p><b>Saturday Event</b>                      1:30-6PM (VIP noon-6) Brews provided by local craft beer brewers, BBQ and other foods by local BBQ specialists. Music by Randy McAllister and the Scappiest Band in the Motherland, Dave Powers, and Tucci.</p>	<p><b>Sunday Event</b>                      Blues Cruz 4:30-6 PM hosted by King Fisher Fleet. Sail the harbor, enjoy the sights, listen to the great Blues music of Paul Cottrell, and enjoy appetizers, all for \$30. Limited tickets! Call King Fisher Fleet at 941.639.0969 to reserve!</p>
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**VIP Tickets: \$60<sup>P/P</sup>**  
 Along with Friday night's **VIP TICKETS** entry opens at 12 NOON, music starts at 6:00 PM. **SOLD OUT!** festival cup. Limited tickets!

**Regular Tickets: \$30<sup>P/P</sup>**  
 Gate opens at 1PM, music from 1:30 to 6 PM. Special festival craft beer sampling cup.

# COURT

FROM PAGE 1

technically a juvenile diversion program — a way for kids to avoid being labeled a crook, a trouble-maker or even a felon the rest of their life. When a youngster gets into trouble, he or she can be sent to Teen Court, but first the juvenile has to admit guilt. Guilty of shoplifting, fighting in school or a host of other petty incidents, but guilty.

They have to come to court with their parents, agree to appear in Teen Court and be willing to take whatever punishment the jury of their peers hands out. It could be an essay, it could be community service, it could be a consequences of crime class, an anger management class, a drug program, counseling, traffic and safety class, jury duty, a letter of apology, and the list goes on. It all depends on what those peers decide.

One such case involved a young man who just wanted a joy ride. He got caught trying to take the car from a mechanic's shop. Instead of heading for jail as a burglar and would-be car thief, the young teen forfeited his Christmas gifts that year and was grounded. He got his second chance.

Young would-be criminals aren't the only ones who wind up in Teen Court, said program director Clever English, who has been steering the program for the past 16 years.

English says the lawyers are teens, the bailiff and clerk are teens, everybody in that courtroom is a student, except the judge.

"Cases are tried by local high school students trained to handle the roles of defense attorney, prosecutor, etc.," she explained. The only adult involved is the judge or an attorney magistrate. "Everybody else is a teen."

For their volunteer duty, the teens earn community service hours, enhanced leadership skills and a working knowledge of their court system,"



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Student prosecutor Adam Evans addresses the court in a recent Teen Court trial.

English explained. "The kids in trouble learn valuable lessons from their peers and the volunteers also learn why some kids get into trouble."

Last year, 1,224 young people were referred to Teen Court, most of them boys. There were 110 volunteers who devoted more than 4,000 hours to the program.

"If you are reading this you know I've made some mistakes," one Teen Court defendant wrote his parents. "I got involved with drugs and I regret it. I've brought shame to everyone ... I hope my family, and community can forgive me. I promise it will not happen again."

It hasn't. Another youngster who wrote a lewd note to a classmate wrote in his punishment essay: "You don't treat women like a piece of trash. You treat them with dignity and hospitality. Treat her like she is your mom or your boss."

A fourth grader who got into trouble for fighting also was sentenced to write an apology letter to his victim.

"I am sorry for punching you. I should have kept my hands to myself. I hope your tooth does not hurt. I did not mean to punch you so hard in your face. I did not like the consequences I got from punching you, that is why I am sorry ... I hope your tooth grows back."

Young offenders get two shots at Teen Court, but it also depends on

their offenses.

"If they are repeat offenders or involved in violent crimes, that's a different story. A fight at school is one thing, but to assault someone is another thing," English explained.

Another bonus for kids who wind up in teen court is that it only costs them or their family \$50. No court fees, no restitution unless that is part of their sentence. No supervision fees. Just a flat \$50.

"The program is fully funded by fines in the regular court system," English explained.

Teen Court is in session every Monday evening at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome to sit in on the proceedings, English said. Usually, the Teen Court sessions follow the school calendar, but some summer sessions are also arranged, depending on the case load, she added.

While the primary goal is minimizing the impact of relatively minor infractions on youngsters, there also is a side benefit of which English is most proud.

Several of those who either volunteered at Teen Court have gone on to attend law school and are now practicing attorneys.

"A few went to Ivy League colleges and came back with law degrees or some went to medical school," she said. "I like to think they were inspired here."

Yes, they were.



Judge Dale Durrance, who founded the Teen Court program is shown with Teen Court Case Managers, from left, Mary Rose Antone, Clever English, Stephen Willis and Susan Strickland.



Teen Court Program Director Clever English has led the program at the Polk County Courthouse for the past 16 years.



PHOTO BY JEFF ROSLOW

In less than hour the water was deep enough in downtown Bartow it had these car owners concerned about the wake. This picture was taken about 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, well after Tropical Storm Colin left Florida and was in the Atlantic Ocean.

# STORMS

FROM PAGE 1

storm season," he said.

What is normal? He said it's about a dozen named storms, with three or four making it into the hurricane category.

"But we have different models that predict different things," he added. The dozen storms and three with hurricane force winds is the average from the top predictors.

While Colin passed Polk County by, the

storm fostered a pot-load of rain last week. Davis said Friday Central Polk County reported between 10 and 12 inches of rainfall within the last seven days.

"That's a lot of rain in such a short time and well above normal," he said. "Even if we are in the rainy season now."

He also said flood watches had been in effect and the Peace River just east of Bartow was already at flood stage and could go higher. Peace Creek was already overflowing its banks on Thursday.

"We expect the river

to stay at flood stage at least until next week," he said.

Earlier in the week, the Polk County Emergency Operations Center wasn't officially open, but was on "monitoring" status, according to Paul Womble, the EOC Communications Director.

He said the county's Emergency Management staff was on alert and "watching everything."

While the EOC wasn't on full-red-alert status as it would be in an actual hurricane scenario, the county's 15 sandbag sites

were open to residents who wanted to prepare for high water.

"We've had some people come into Willow Oak," he said. "Over the last several days we've had quite a few." The county provides bags and sand, but residents must fill their bags themselves.

A complete listing of those locations is available on the emergency management website at [www.polk-county.net/boccsite/countyservices/sandbag-fill-sites](http://www.polk-county.net/boccsite/countyservices/sandbag-fill-sites). Other emergency information is also available at the website or by calling



# PRIDE

FROM PAGE 1

Sgt. Gary Gross of the Lakeland Police Department doesn't like to say how many police officers will be on hand for Saturday's event, but they will be on extra alert. "In addition we will re-direct manpower in those areas," Gross said. "We work these events and use the hired and redeploy the manpower."

Usually in event situations like this in Lakeland, where permits have to be pulled, extra manpower is usual. But the increase this week, Guira said, is in direct response to the massacre in Fort Pierce.

However it is not likely that more security — from the Polk County Sheriff's Office for example — will be necessary but the Sheriff's Office is available, said spokesperson Carrie Horstman.

Sheriff Grady Judd encourages the events scheduled from Wednesday to Sunday for Polk Pride Week to go on, "to celebrate the lives of the victims" and not give in the terrorists.

"For us to continue with our celebrations of life and condolences of the victims is important for a number of reasons," Polk County Judd said. "For one, it sends the clear message to the terrorists: You don't win, we win."

This is in reaction to what happened at Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Accused gunman Omar Mateen opened fire in the nightclub, killing (at present) 49 people and injuring at least 53 in the gay nightclub. Before he was killed by officers, he had pledged allegiance to ISIS.

Because of this, Guira said, there is a thought of humanity people go through and perhaps being in the spotlight this week maybe some steps can be taken.

"When something like this happens everyone reflects on their feelings about people who are different," he said. "We want this to be about everyone in the community."

This is the second year of Polk Pride. Last year

more than 1,000 people attended, Guira said.

## The events

Polk Pride events, which range from music and activities for all ages, kicks off at the Pride 4 Youth festivity for those age 13 to 20, organized by the Lakeland Youth Alliance, at 6:30 p.m. today at St. David's Episcopal Church on Edgewood Drive in Lakeland.

Thursday, there will be Pride in Faith at 7 p.m., also at St. David's, which will feature an interfaith worship service as it joins faith-based LGBT affirming organizations, families and allies.

Friday, the solo musical comedy by Jade Esteban Estrada "Icons: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World" will be presented by the Lakeland Community Theatre at the Lake Mirror Theater on South Lake Avenue in Lakeland. Tickets are \$10 for the 8 p.m. performance and are available at [www.PolkPrideFL.com](http://www.PolkPrideFL.com).

Estrada has delighted audiences all over the country and abroad with his host of characters in a performance "that will be one you won't want to miss," organizers said.

From 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Pride in the Park will be presented. An event for the entire family, at Munn Park in downtown Lakeland, the festivities will feature a variety of live entertainment, food trucks, vendors, community groups, and family-friendly activities. The main stage will feature dance, comedy and musical acts. The event is free. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the day.

From 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday, will be Pride After Dark. The day's after-party will be held where one may enjoy a cocktail, dance and enjoy the entertainment as Kathryn Nevets hosts a memorable evening and Pride-themed drag show. The event will be at Club Main Street at 1295 Main St. in Lakeland. The event is for those over 18 and identification is required.

On Sunday, June 19, the Pride events will conclude with the 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

discussion at Frescos Downstairs. Pride Talks is an LGBT community speaker forum featuring various expert panelists who will provide resources and answer important questions.

"Come and gain knowledge, empowerment and perspective on the future of equality in our community," says McCoy.

## No proclamation

All the events are hosted by the non-profit Lakeland Youth Alliance and Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Polk County.

"Polk Pride is an event dedicated to the awareness and acceptance of the LGBT community in Polk County," McCoy said.

McCoy appeared at the Polk County Commission meeting last week using public speaking time to present a proclamation in support of Polk Pride. She said she would read the proclamation that the Board of County Commissioners refused to approve.

"Polk Pride creates an inspiring and dedicated culture of support and aspires to be the premier platform for education and entertainment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals as well as their friends and allies," she said.

"Polk Pride seeks to unite the Polk County community in promoting history, diversity and future prosperity of the Polk County LGBT community," she said. "And that seems even more important after what just happened in Orlando."

While it may be more common for people to be more cautious after an event in Orlando, Gross emphasized one of the keys to helping thwart violence is maybe to be overly cautious. Any help from people seeing what they may be suspicious to the police is a key.

"If you see anything (that may seem suspicious) report it," he said. "We are going to put on more focus and we are set up to handle this so for those who see anything suspicious or a suspicious person let us know."

Jeff Roslow contributed to this article.



# LORIN BICE

branch manager,  
financial advisor

Well, okay then. I hear you. You want an answer re: "How should my I invest my retirement account?"

First, however I must offer the required disclaimer lest I run afoul of securities laws and regulations. I cannot and do not offer investment advice for anyone without discussing both their particular financial situation and goals, and determining the suitability of any investment recommendation.

That said, when we fund our IRAs, we generally have four main categories to consider: stocks, bonds, cash and what are now being grouped into "alternative investments". Alternative investments include things like Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS), commodities, managed futures and the ilk. We will leave that topic for another day.

The bulk of what your IRA should probably consist of stocks and bonds. Note the word "probably". While I don't wish to be mealy mouthed, I can't emphasize strongly enough that portfolios should be based upon an individual's (or couple's) goals and concerns, not upon a general formula. That's why I keep harping upon creating a financial plan and then sticking to it over the long haul.

But let's get back to stocks and bonds. A quick look at historical data from various sources indicates that the average annual return for stocks, bonds and inflation for the period 1926 through 2015 is approximately:

Large company US Stocks:	10.0%
Long-Term Government Bonds:	5.5%
Inflation:	2.9%

If you study the data over a long period of time you will see that after taking inflation into consideration, stocks have returned about twice what bonds have in the last century.

So why, pray tell, would anyone ever invest in bonds as opposed to stocks? You know that answer, of course. It's those periods when the stock market goes down.

You have heard, perhaps said, "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch." The price you pay for excess returns of stocks over bonds is those downturns. An inexact approximation is that on average, every three years you give back one third of your gains. Furthermore, you also know that it goes way beyond gains: Some years you give back gains, plus principal, plus, perhaps, hope and joy.

I can give you information on bear markets, down turns, crashes and corrections, but it's up to you to decide how you feel about stock market volatility.

And by volatility, I particularly mean down markets. I don't think I've ever received a call from anyone complaining about how fast their account balance went up.

In February of this year, the S&P 500 had dropped by just over 10% from January 1. If you panicked, or lost sleep over that, you probably shouldn't be invested in the stock market. That was a normal market fluctuation. However, if you're not invested in the stock market, you are probably shut off from investment growth you need to fend off the effects of inflation over time.

'Tis a dilemma. The only solution I can offer you is to have a portfolio of stocks, bonds and cash (the stocks and bonds via mutual funds, most likely) that best meets your needs financially and emotionally.

The only way to get there is through investing and planning. And to not forget to enjoy the journey.



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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
**CASE NO. 2015CA-003720-0000-00**  
THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET MORTGAGE PRODUCTS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-RP4 Plaintiff,  
vs.  
MICHAEL ERWIN SCIPIO, et al. Defendants

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**  
(Please publish in THE POLK COUNTY DEMOCRAT)  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 24, 2016, and entered in Case No. 2015CA-003720-0000-00, of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Polk County, Florida. THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL

ASSET MORTGAGE PRODUCTS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-RP4, is Plaintiff and MICHAEL ERWIN SCIPIO, CAROLYN ELAINE BRAGG A/K/A CAROLYN E. BRAGG A/K/A CAROLYN BRAGG; POLK COUNTY FLORIDA; POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; are Defendants. Stacy Butterfield, Clerk of Court for POLK, County Florida will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash via the Internet at [www.polk.realforeclose.com](http://www.polk.realforeclose.com), at 10:00 a.m., on the 28TH day of JUNE, 2016, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:  
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Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.  
June 15, 22, 2016-3326868

adno=3318624

# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Cosmic renovations

### Cosmic renovations Gram Parsons' Derry Down concerts set

By **CASSIE JACOBY**  
CORRESPONDENT

As the finishing touches on the renovation of Gram Parsons' Derry Down are being completed, tickets are on sale for two concerts. Originally set for June 11, Les Dudek, a Southern-rock blues guitarist from Auburndale and buddy of Parsons, was moved to Sept. 10. The 2nd Cosmic American Music Festival at Gram Parsons Derry Down will be from 6-10 p.m. on Sept. 16-17.

"Please accept our apologies for postponing this show," said Anita Strang, Main Street Winter Haven executive director. "If you already purchased a ticket, you are all good for the September 10 show. If you have purchased tickets and are not able to make the show, please give us a call at 863-295-9422 to make arrangements."

Strang says she is thrilled that a challenge by a private donor who agreed to meet \$8,500 in pledges was successful so the city didn't have to pay for construction. However, more money will be needed for tables and chairs.

Instead of demolishing the building at 301 Fifth St. NW, Six/Ten, a real estate company, donated it to the non-profit that began renovations in June 2014.

Worn and forgotten by time, the Derry Down was a popular stop on the Central Florida teen

circuit, hosting The Allman Brothers Band, Tom Petty and many others who went on to become legends. It was a place to hone the talents of Parsons' up and coming musician friends: Jim Stafford, who suggested Parsons become a "country Beatle," Jim Carlton, Kent "Lobo" LaVoie, Jerry Mincey, Jon Corneal, Carl Chambers and others.

Parsons, who named the club bought by his stepfather Bob in 1964, began his career headlining with his first band, the Shilohs, and went on to play with the International Submarine Band in 1966; The Byrds from 1966 to 1968; The Flying Burrito Brothers; and toured with Emmylou Harris. Although he died in 1973, Parsons ranks 87th on Rolling Stone magazine's "100 Greatest Artists" and is credited with creating a new genre of music that he called Cosmic American Music.

"Gram Parsons single-handedly invented a never-before-heard genre of music, steered the Byrds into radical new musical territory, influenced the Rolling Stones and performed with a young Alabama girl who eventually become his musical soul mate — Emmylou Harris," said Strang. "The ultimate vision is to make it a place where young and seasoned artists can perform and showcase their talents for fans who appreciate authentic



PHOTO BY PENNY JACOBY BRADFORD

**Take a trip back in time: Winter Haven teens dance at the Derry Down in 1965.**

music, born from the spirit of true creativity — the kind of music Gram Parsons would have proudly endorsed."

Call 863-224-1135 and visit [www.derrydownproject.com](http://www.derrydownproject.com) or [www.Facebook.com/TheDerryDownProject](http://www.Facebook.com/TheDerryDownProject) for more information.

## Father O'Brien earns honorary membership

Father Nicholas O'Brien of Winter Haven has been accorded honorary membership in the Knights of Columbus, a worldwide Catholic men's charitable and fraternal organization based in New Haven, Conn.

Grand Knight George Marhefka of Knights of Columbus Council 7091 presented Father O'Brien with his honorary membership card issued by the K of C Supreme Council during a council meeting on May 24 at the K of C meeting place in Winter Haven.

Father O'Brien is pastor at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Winter Haven and serves K of C Council 7091 as chaplain. He also is a member of the Frank



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Father Nicholas O'Brien, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Winter Haven and chaplain of Knights of Columbus Council 7091 of Cypress Gardens (left) accepts his honorary K of C membership card from Grand Knights George Marhefka in a brief ceremony during a council meeting in downtown Winter Haven.**

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# LAKE WALES NEWS

## Lake Wales Depot Museum opens

*Grand opening celebration planned in October*

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Where can you find a pre-historic canoe, a replica of a train depot office, and a scale model of Bok Tower?

The Lake Wales Depot Museum.

After being closed and renovated for more than a year, the Depot Museum is now open to the public under new management, with grand plans for further expansions and projects in the future.

The museum celebrated a soft opening on May 31, with plans to celebrate its grand opening this October.

Until then, guests can experience a diverse array of exhibits both old and new that encompass the history of the city, ranging from pre-historic times to the town's founding and settlement, and up until recent history.

Such exhibits include the original Articles of Incorporation that declared the settlement to be an official city in 1911, a preserved pre-Columbian canoe dating back to 94 AD, and several other artifacts including clothing and other items from past residents.

"Right now, I would love for everybody to come in, and take a look," said Museum Director Monica Lewis Drake. "We have worked very hard to put them (the exhibits) all together, (and) it is really coming together quite beautifully."

### A little change

Drake was hired to be the new museum director last year soon after the former museum director, Mimi Hardman, was forced to step down earlier that year.

When Drake first arrived to the museum, she noticed that what few exhibits and artifacts were showcased at the museum had little to no historical context to interpret their significance. As such, Drake's main priority was to provide historical background to the exhibits and displays as to better tell the history of the small town in a more comprehensive narrative.

The first step was to catalog the artifacts they already had, which proved quite challenging as most of their items were not cataloged.

"A good start in making great exhibits is knowing what you have in your collection," Drake said.

Within the past year, Drake focused on cataloging the museum's items and researching historical data as to provide better interpretation of the artifacts and their significance within the grand scheme of the town's history.

As such, when guests arrive at the museum, they can expect a more organized layout with artifacts compiled into neat displays presenting the comprehensive history of the town.

Such a task proved to be almost be a Herculean labor for Drake, as, despite

having some assistance from the city, she was the only staff person at the museum.

"The biggest challenge was to turn the museum around and make it a viable museum as just a sole staff person," she said. "From where we had started, I think we have come a long way in getting a lot of objects cataloged and the entire museum permanent exhibit laid out."

### The next steps

Now that Drake has finished organizing the permanent exhibits and setting up the museum's layout, she can focus on further expansions and improvements to the museum to not only make it a historical resource, but also a community space.

"We don't just want to stop at being an exhibit space where people can come and passively look at exhibits," she explained. "We want to focus on being an active space where people can come and look into their history and the history of the area."

Her next step is to redesign and refurbish the museum's website with plans to create an online database by which visitors can research artifacts and other historical and genealogical information. She expects to have such a database created within the next year.

She also plans on planning for temporary exhibits to be imported into the museum to better facilitate the permanent

exhibits, and thus further accentuate the town's history.

Aside from refurbishing the main depot building, Drake also plans on utilizing the three other out buildings on the property as to further expand the size and scope of the museum.

Current tentative designs for the proposed expansions include a community garden, a historical archive, and a community space with a gift and coffee shop and venue for events such as weddings, showers, and other celebrations.

Later this year, the museum will be releasing a downtown walking tour app that will allow users to tour the downtown area and use their cellphones and other mobile devices to pull up information for up to 15 different locations and buildings. Earlier this year, Lake Wales was chosen by the Florida Humanities



PHOTO BY JAMES COULTER

**Before becoming the museum, the depot served as a train station that serviced passengers from up north heading south to Florida.**

Council to be part of the its Florida Stories series. It will feature historical tours that is accompanied by an online application people can follow on their cellphones.

"That is one of the things we want to make the history of Lake Wales not simply in this spot, but extend out into the community and give them

resources that are accessible and easy for them to use and get a hold of," Drake said.

The Lake Wales Depot Museum is located at 325 S. Scenic Highway, and is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Admission is free. For information, visit their Facebook page, or call 863-676-5160.



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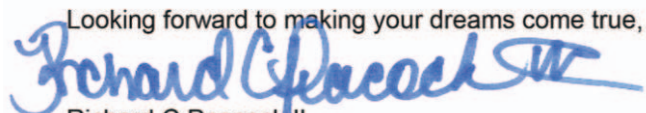
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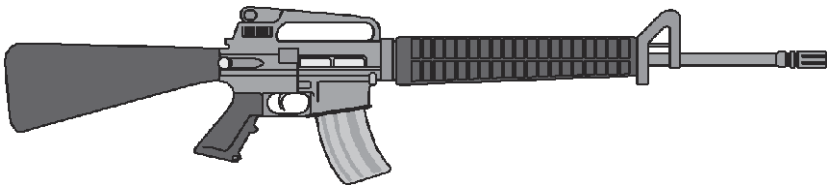
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# LAKE WALES NEWS

## Fire fee reduced across the board

### Single-family houses to be charged \$4 less

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Lake Wales residents living within single-family households will pay \$4 less for their fire fees, with other residents and most commercial properties also having their fire fees reduced later this year.

In a 4-0 vote, Lake Wales City Commissioners at their meeting last Tuesday approved new fire assessment rates that will go in effect with the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Not only will the new assessment reduce the rates from most city residents, but it will also create two additional categories by which local residents have their properties assessed.

Under these new rates, single-family dwelling units will be levied \$146, four dollars less than their current rate of \$150. Multi-family units will be levied \$72, while mobile home units will be levied \$129.

Both commercial and institutional properties will also have their rates

reduced to 6 and 8 cents per square feet respectively (from their current rates of 8 and 12 cents per square feet), but industrial and warehouse rates will remain at their current rate of one cent per square foot.

Despite this reduction, the new rates are expected to collect the same dollar amount that had been projected for this year at an 80 percent collection rate, Lake Wales Fire Chief Joe Jenkins explained.

The overall reduction in total estimated net revenue will be \$249,524 (approximately 45.25 percent of the fire department's budget) from the current revenue of \$1,274,428 (57.5 percent of funding).

The Lake Wales City Commission had adopted the city's original fire protection assessment rate on June 16, 2015, with rates going in effect at the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1, 2015.

The methodology for the assessment is based on the number of fire runs to different

types of residential and commercial properties, thus assessing properties on their actual usage of the city's fire protection services.

The assessment rates previously only had one residential category for single-family dwelling units. The new rates add two additional categories for multi-family and mobile home units.

These two categories were able to be created based on new data the city's fire department was able to obtain this year that was otherwise inaccessible last year.

The new categories were also created in response to complaints from both residents of mobile homes and multi-family units, with those residents insisting that the previous rates would have forced them to pay more.

The city currently has 478 mobile homes in three separate parks. The largest city mobile home park, with approximately 418 permitted lots, is

estimated to save \$10,935 under these new rates, Lake Wales Fire Chief Joe Jenkins explained.

"Hopefully, landlords and mobile home park owners will pass on the savings onto their tenants," City Manager Kenneth Fields said. "The city has done more to make this a more equitable approach."

The rates themselves are merely a cap, which means that fire assessment fees for each resident or commercial property cannot exceed those rates, Chief Jenkins explained.

Had the city not adopted the new rates, they could have opted to fund their fire protection services solely on ad valorem taxes.

Despite these new rates being passed for the sake of being more equitable, a few residents were skeptical about how "fair" the reduced rates really were.

For example, the new assessment rates exempt vacant lots and service-based non-profit

organizations.

Christopher Lutton asked why non-profits were exempt even though the fire department provides the fire protection services.

"They really need to share the burden with all these auxiliary non-profit spaces, because they are getting the benefit of the service," he said.

Fields explained for most non-profits only the spaces and buildings reserved for religious or non-profit services were exempt, whereas other buildings on the property such as a pastor's home or the space used for retail and office space were levied the fire fee.

Another resident, Charlene Bennett, inquired as to why all properties within the same category were charged the same rate regardless of their size or value, claiming that such a fee was "regressive."

"If I own a two-bedroom shack, that I pay the same rate of a seven-bedroom mansion," she explained.

"That mansion will take more fire trucks and water if they have a fire. So why not charge them more then?"

Fields explained the city's methodology for the fire fee assessment has been tested and defended by courts within the United States for more than 20 years, thus making it perfectly legal.

He also insisted that a methodology that would have placed more emphasis on the value or size of a home would have shifted more of the tax burden onto residential property.

For example, Haines City employs such a methodology, and the result is that their residential rates are higher than that of Lake Wales.

City Commissioners also voted that evening to ban unmanned clothing donation boxes within the city and to accept \$488,000 from the Florida Department of Transportation to resurface the runway at the city's municipal airport.

## Mayor Fultz one of four named HERO by League of Cities

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Mayor Eugene Fultz is a leader who speaks with passion, whether speaking on behalf of the Lake Wales City Commission, or simply addressing a small event within the city.

Carrying such gravitas, his speaking ability has allowed him to influence and persuade state legislators to pass motions that better the collective interests of both his city and many other municipalities within central Florida.

For this, and especially for his outspoken protection for municipal home rule during the 2016 legislative session, Fultz was one of four other elected officials in central Florida to be conferred the Florida League of Cities' Home Rule HERO Award.

Fultz was presented the award at the Ridge League of Cities dinner in Lakeland on June 9. The award was conferred to him by Rebecca O'Hara, Senior Legislative Advocate for the Florida League of Cities.

"I know that I have a bit of boldness when I speak, and I also have a pretty big mouth, so I am heard wherever I speak," Fultz said. "I think that I am using my voice in the right way in order to get things done, and I think it is good that someone is here hearing my voice and knowing that I am using it

in the right manner."

The award is conferred by the Florida League of Cities to elected officials and representatives who demonstrates commitment to advocating for municipal issues within the Florida legislature.



FULTZ

"The mayor has served the League of Cities in multiple capacities," O'Hara said. "He has been an active member

of the legislative policy committee for a number of years, and in that role, he plays an active part in initiating, developing, and shaping the League of City legislative policies."

During the first legislative session in Tallahassee this year, Fultz had the opportunity to speak with state legislators about items that directly affected his city and many others within the Florida Ridge, and in turn, has convinced them to vote in favor of those measures in a manner that would better greatly benefit those municipalities.

"I guess because I have a big enough mouth, and a bit of boldness to step in and to talk about these issues, (that I have) actually made a difference," Fultz said.

As a member of the Ridge League of Cities Advocacy Committee, Fultz would meet to

discuss issues with legislators before any of their legislative sessions initiated, and would discuss afterwards strategies to tackle legislation moving forward in the future.

One issue Fultz helped tackle was legislation that would have changed voting dates for all municipalities to November. As each municipality has their own schedule and term limits, this legislation would have thrown off the schedules for many of the municipalities off, and thus Fultz advised against it.

Fultz also tackled cancer policies for fire and emergency service personnel that would have grandfathered every individual with cancer, regardless of their cancer and how they obtained it.

Such a policy would have allowed emergency personnel who contracted lung cancer for smoking cigarettes or contracted gum cancer for chewing tobacco to potentially deem their condition "job-related."

"We fought against that because we didn't want municipalities to suffer a great financial burden because of something not job-related for those particular workers," Fultz said.

Fultz also opposed additional service use taxes that would have been placed on residents who receive service from satellite or cable providers, which in turn would have

siphoned money from the general fund, something that he considered to be unacceptable.

"With most municipalities being close to the border or near a deficit, it would have hurt us immensely had we taken those funds out of the municipalities. So we talked about that and told them that we needed those funds," Fultz said.

His success, both with this recent award and with his overall mayorship, has been due to his ability to develop relationships, both with other people and as partnerships with local businesses.

His past term has

especially seen business flourish within his city thanks to the business-friendly policies under his leadership, and he hopes that individual citizens will continue to partner together to make the city a better place for everyone.

"My time as mayor within the city of Lake Wales has been very enjoyable and challenging at times, and definitely rewarding in the sense that we see our city now as business friendly," Fultz said. "We are also seeing a unified commission where we are talking and communicating with one another during meetings and

accomplishing things that we need to accomplish together."

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# LAKE WALES NEWS

## Principal Edwards retires after 35 years in education

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Principal Eric Edwards of Spook Hill Elementary School in Lake Wales received the greatest surprise during the last day of school last Thursday.

Near the end of the second assembly that morning, after the awards for the best students had been administered, Assistant Principal Rubie Kauffman called Edwards to the stage.

Upon stepping onto the stage, Edwards was presented a teal ship's helm wheel with Prov. 3:5 inscribed in a gold plate in the center, a testament to both his love of fishing and to his faith.

This special gift was presented on behalf of the school's social committee for his eight years of dedication to the elementary school as its principal.

The students gave a collective sigh upon learning that this was his last day serving as principal, while Kauffman had to hold back tears and remind herself to be "a big girl" as she presented the award to an equally teary-eyed Edwards.

To lighten the mood, the student body began to snap and clap along as "Don't Worry, Be Happy" played over the intercom and teachers help up paper plate smiley face masks.

"I'm a little bit overwhelmed," Edwards said. "It was overwhelming thinking about how I would not have the opportunity to be interacting with children on that level again."

For him, the interaction he had with the students and the youthful energy he drew from them was more than motivation enough to allow him to come to work ever day for the past eight years.

He had served the school as their principal, and within those eight years he has helped the school change for the better, change which he would have otherwise not accomplished had it not been for the love and dedication of the staff, students, and parents.

As much as he allowed the students to learn from him and his dedicated staff, so to did he feel that he had learned much from them, with the very

satisfaction that he had helped make a difference in their young lives.

"That is something that drives you, and that will be a little bit difficult to replace," he explained. "I feel that we have accomplished a lot, there is a lot still left to do, and it has been a wonderful time here."

During his eight years of leadership, Spook Hill Elementary has excelled with outstanding test scores, grades, and overall recognition. For the past five consecutive years, the school has maintained a B average.

However, these very accomplishments have also proven to be challenges, as the change of standards and the increase of rigor to the curriculum has required constant effort to maintain them.

Fortunately, Edwards has had a dedicated staff to help aid him and to provide the students with the care and attention that they require in order to meet these challenges.

"He's made everybody feel like they have been a family member at the school," said Media Specialist Michele

Trantham. "He is very caring. If something happens to your family, you can talk to him about it, and he care about the students and their families too."

His staff commend him, not only as a leader who leads by example, but also as someone who serves others with a true servant's heart, placing their needs before that of his very own.

"It's hard to put in a few words what he means for Spook Hill, but he has been with us for eight years, and during those eight years, we have been here as a family," said Assistant Principal Kauffman.

Such a friendly environment, where both students and parents feel welcome, and staff members feel comfortable with their work, has developed a sense of community within the school.

As such, Edwards humbly acknowledges



Eric Edwards

that he cannot take sole credit for his school's success, as it has been due to the cooperation of his dedicated staff, supportive parents, and overall loving students.

"I don't feel I can take all of the credit individually, it is a collective effort from a lot of people," Edwards said. "My staff is the most dedicated and committed around with their near commitment to our kids and making a difference. So I think it is a combination of hard work and dedication to commitment...and ensuring that we stay focused."

A Lake Wales native, Edwards attended the Polk County public school system until the ninth grade, when he transferred to a private school in Orlando from where he graduated in 1973.

He would go on to receive his associate's degree from Polk Community College, his bachelor's from Warner University, and his master's from the University of South Florida.

For the past 35 years, his career has been spent in education, with 18 of those years in the classroom and

17 in administration. Such experience made him the ideal candidate to be the principal of Spook Hill Elementary School.

He is happily married to his wife, Debra Edwards, who is the principal at Roosevelt Academy in Lake Wales.

Together, they had two sons: Caleb, who serves as an educator in Jacksonville, and Jared, who lives in the city and works for Mosaic; and two grandchildren.

Now that he is retired, he will be spending more quality time with his family, engaging in his favorite hobby of fishing, and volunteering in his community and church.

He loved having the opportunity to help influence the life of children and will miss having that opportunity.

"For me, this was a calling," he said. "This is something that I feel strongly about. Hopefully I have been passionate about throughout my career. I believe very much in the value of teachers and education and I feel very privileged to have been able to work with the children and adults."

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# LAKE WALES NEWS

## Four inducted into Hall of Fame

*Ceremony closes the school year for Polk County*

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

A naval officer, an entrepreneur of a Fortune 500 company, an experienced surgeon and college administrator, and a longtime educator were inducted into the Polk County Public School Hall of Fame for 2016 during a dinner celebrating the end of the school year last Thursday.

The Hall of Fame was founded in 1985 to honor notable individuals who are former graduates from the county's public school system and who have made significant contributions to society at large.

This year's four inductees included Rear Admiral Adrian Jackson, Leslie Muma, Dr. Patrick O'Leary, and Neriah Roberts, the latter of whom, having passed away in March, was conferred the award posthumously.

All four were honored during the Hall of Fame invitation-only ceremony last Thursday at the Lake Ashton Clubhouse in Lake Wales.

Also honored that evening were the salutatorians and valedictorians from 24 high schools, which included valedictorian Mariah Daly and salutatorian Sydney Brewner from the charter school Lake Wales High School.

"Tonight, on this last day of school, we also celebrate the closing of another school year and another advancement

of our students to their next level," said Leah Lauderdale, Senior Director of Public Relations.

### Rear Admiral J. Adrian Jackson

Admiral Jackson, a Summerlin Institute alumni, served 35 years in the Navy as both an aviator and officer, overseeing operations around the world in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

One such operation had him coordinate a humanitarian effort in Afghanistan where he helped provide \$500 million in assistance to civilians.

For his many valiant efforts, he has been awarded countless military decorations such as the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Following his retirement in 2006, he would go from serving his country to serving his city of Bartow as a city commissioner and twice as mayor.

Jackson was unable to attend the ceremony to receive his honor, as he had prior obligations.

Accepting his induction that evening was Summerlin cadet Natasha Stewman, who read a statement on his behalf.

"As a son of two former Polk County school teachers, I know my parents would be especially proud tonight," Jackson wrote in his statement.

"Ironically, 50 years ago this month, I graduated from Summerlin Institute; and tonight

for these cadets of Summerlin Academy to accept this honor on my behalf is only fitting," he continued. "These young people represent the future of our nation, and are the very reason public schools exist."

### Leslie M. Muma

Muma is the co-founder of Fiserv Inc., a Fortune 500 company that provides financial services technology.

Having graduated from Winter Haven High School, he attributes his success to his education, and as such, has made generous donations to the school system to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities and education as him.

One such donation was to the University of South Florida's College of Business in 2014 with a donation of \$25 million — the largest donation the school has received to date.

Accepting his induction, Muma addressed the valedictorians and salutatorians and provided them with five principles of success that have proven pivotal to his own career.

His five principles were to work harder than your competitors (because success is 5 percent inspiration and 95 percent perspiration), maintain a positive attitude, continue to learn, focus on the moral and ethical high ground, and always have fun.

"A wise man once



PHOTO BY ROBERT BLANCHARD

**Polk County School Deputy Superintendent John Small and District 1 Board Vice-Chair Hunt Berryman induct Leslie M. Muma (center) into the 2016 Polk County Schools Hall of Fame.**

told me very early in my career, when you find a job or pick a career, make sure you pick something you love," Muma said. "If you pick your career that way, you will not work a day in your life, it will all be fun."

### Dr. J. Patrick O'Leary

Dr. O'Leary currently serves at Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine as the Executive Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Associate Vice President for Medical Affairs.

Considered an authority in the field of surgical gastroenterology, O'Leary has served on numerous medical boards, taught at universities and hospitals across the country, and written more than 200 peer-reviewed

scientific publications.

For his accomplishments and contributions, he has received countless awards including the Distinguished Service Award from the Southeastern Surgical Congress.

As he was unable to attend the ceremony, his wife, Sheila, accepted his nomination on his behalf that evening.

"If he had been here, he would be speaking to the students rather than praising himself," she said. "These young graduates are of one accord. They have gained knowledge to open new ideas, and this brings them one step closer to success."

### Neriah E. Roberts

Roberts graduated from Rochelle High (now

Rochelle School of the Arts) where he would go on to teach and coach before eventually becoming assistant principal.

He dedicated his life and career to further improving the public school system, serving as a principal at several schools before living out the rest of his career as deputy superintendent until his retirement in 1996.

Roberts was especially pivotal during desegregation by ensuring that everyone within the system, both students and educators, regardless of their race, received the same opportunity.

Having passed away earlier in March, he is survived by his wife, Yvonne, who accepted his award on his behalf.

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# POLK COUNTY PEOPLE

## Bartow High IB student earns National Merit Scholarship

Neeshi R. Patel is the latest Polk County student to join this year's list of National Merit Scholarship winners. Patel, a senior from the International Baccalaureate School at Bartow High, is one of about 3,000 winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities.



The awards provide between \$500-\$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship; Patel's scholarship is financed by the University of Florida.

Patel is the sixth student from Polk County Public Schools to win a National Merit Scholarship this year, which includes scholarships worth \$2,500 each and those sponsored by corporations. An additional group of National Merit winners will be announced in July.

### Local artist to work with families at Bartow Library

Glenda Santiago from the Polk Museum of

**Brenda Eggert Brader**  
bbrader@tampabay.rr.com

Art will create a unique work alongside your whole family from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 18, at the Bartow Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave. For information on the program call, 863-534-0131.

### Three K of C members attend convention

Three members of Knights of Columbus Council 7091 of Cypress Gardens were among hundreds of knights who attended the 2016 Florida Knights of Convention May 27-29 in Orlando. They were part of a delegation from K of C District 45 (eastern Polk County).

Serving as official representatives of Council 7091, which is associated with St. Matthew Catholic Church in Winter Haven, were Grand Knight George Marhefka and Trustee Jim Sharak, a past Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator of the council's Frank J. Durbin Fourth Degree Assembly 2608. Scott Sharak, the council's inside guard, attended as an observer.

In addition to attending

the general session and special meetings, members of Council 7091 met and socialized with fellow knights from all over Florida.

The District 45 delegation was led by District Deputy Everett Evans, a member of Dr. L. J. O'Rourke Council 4726, which is aligned with St. Joseph Catholic Church in Winter Haven.

### Submit any news from anywhere

The Polk County News and Democrat and The Polk County Sun want to print all those happy family occasions that make sharing them with the community part of that pleasure. And don't forget photographs.

We would like anything from births, graduations, engagements and weddings, to community honors, business people new and work honors, retirements including briefs on club-related or area events.

Just send me the what, why, when and where and who in an outline or a list form with a contact phone number and I do all the rest. So share your news and photographs by sending all information to Brenda Eggert Brader at bbrader@tampabay.rr.com.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Relaxing on a sofa during a break in the action at the 2016 Florida Knights of Columbus convention in Orlando, May 27 to 29, are, from left, Scott Sharak, inside guard of K of C Council 7091; his father, Jim Sharak, a current trustee and past grand knight of Council 7091; and Arnold Saunders, a past grand knight of Council 11651 in Lakeland. The Sharaks and Saunders are also current officers of the Frank J. Durbin Fourth Degree Assembly 2608, the patriotic/ceremonial arm of Council 7091.



Go find us on Facebook!

## Sandy's MusicGirls Legal Matter



with Kent Lilly

### Sandy's MusicGirls Carry On Her Beautiful Music And Spirit

This is Steve Morrison writing this month's column.

I asked Kent if I could write a few words. I go back with Kent and his brother, Hunter to Lake Wales High School days when there was no air conditioning in the old high school building on Orange Avenue. That didn't kill us, and we're maybe a little more resilient from surviving that experience!

Kent and his firm have been generously supporting a small music scholarship program that I started in 2014. After my wife, Sandy Greer, passed away from lung cancer at age 60. I had the idea to create a music program for girls in Sandy's memory. Lots of folks enjoyed Sandy's performances with JR & the MDs, a local Classic Rock band. In the 1990s, Sandy and I performed as a folk duo in the Lake Wales area. Those were good times for Sandy and me, and listeners marveled at Sandy's pure vocals ( I was just the bass player...but I had the best seat in the house!) I remember some times seeing tears running down cheeks when Sandy sang heart-felt songs like *Diamonds and Rust*, *Starry, Starry Night*, and other great ballads of our era.

I am happy to report that Sandy's spirit lives on today in the hearts of the more than two dozen girls participating in Sandy's MusicGirl Scholarship, thanks to the support of individuals and businesses, including Lilly, O'Toole & Brown, LLC. The MusicGirl program supports girls 9 to 19 by providing private lessons, donated instruments, hosting workshops, organizing camp-outs at Florida music festivals, and sending girls to summer music camps. Sandy's MusicGirl Scholarship is a project of the Lake Wales Arts Council which has hosted several MusicGirl benefit concerts and will be hosting more in the future. So stay tuned!

Sandy's MusicGirls have already started spreading their wings! You may have seen them perform at "Make it Magical", at the Lake Wales Public Library, the Polk State Arts Center, the Orange Blossom Review, or the Ritz Theatre in Winter Haven. The MusicGirls have twice hosted a Youth Jam at the Barberville's "Spring Frolic". At last year's Florida Folk Festival, a MusicGirl performed on the Young Musicians Stage. My goal is to help Sandy's MusicGirls have fun learning and performing the craft of music and get some great experience doing it.

If you know a girl with a budding interest in music, perhaps she could become a Sandy's MusicGirl. I would be happy to pursue that with her parents to see if she would benefit from the program. I can be reached at (863) 443-4716. And, if all this sounds like something you would like to support, you can send a check made out to Lake Wales Arts Council and mail it to PO Box 608, Lake Wales FL 33859-0608. Denote that it is for Sandy's MusicGirls. For more info, go to [www.lakewalesartscouncil.org](http://www.lakewalesartscouncil.org). I want to thank Kent and his partners at Lilly, O'Toole & Brown, LLC for their support of Sandy's MusicGirl Scholarship. Together we're doing great things!!

**P.S. from Kent** - Sandy was truly a special lady with an angelic voice, and this is truly a unique program for our local girls, so please let Steve know you care and support this wonderful effort by contributing as you are able - many, many thanks for that. Also, I want to congratulate our winner of last month's Jeopardy: LW History Contest - none other than Dick "Voice of the Highlanders" Howell, who will enjoy dinner for 4 and tickets for 4 to a Rays or Bucs game soon.

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# BARTOW NEWS

## Reception honors Judge Dale Durrance

By STEVE STEINER

SSTEINER@HEARTLAND  
NEWSPAPERS.COM

After 36 years and having served as the longest circuit judge in the history of the 10th Circuit, Dale Durrance announced he would be stepping down from the bench come July. In tribute to him and his years of dedicated service, a special Polk County History Center Lunch 'n' Learn program feted the judge, chaired by the Hon. Mary Catherine Green.

In what was part "trial testimony" and part celebrity roast, six people who have known and worked with Durrance over the years spoke of him, beginning with a PowerPoint presentation by Jerry Hill, who heads the State Attorney Office; Hill himself is retiring after his term expires and will be replaced by Brian Haas, who ran unopposed. The others to speak about Durrance were Mary Carrier, his judicial assistant; Judge Marcus J. Ezelle, from Hardee County; Sheriff Grady Judd; Judge Michael E. Raiden; and Kathy Whitlock, Highlands County Clerk of Courts/Probate.

Hill could not attend in person as he was in Tallahassee. He spoke of the first campaign Durrance undertook in 1984 to get elected to the bench. The judge, said Hill, ran a vigorous campaign.

"He wore out several pairs of shoes and shook a lot of hands," said Hill. However, the most important thing Durrance did, said Hill was bring to Polk County the teen court program, designed to keep juveniles to

"get it straight" without incurring a criminal record. The topic of the teen court program would come up several times.

Hill emphasized Durrance's character and religious faith. A tactic often used by defendants is to enter the court clutching a bible. When that happens, Durrance will pepper the defendant with questions, inquiring whether the defendant has read the bible, what is that person's favorite verse, and most important of all, what has the defendant learned from it.

"We need more judges like Judge Durrance," said Hill, who added on last bit of advice, which brought the turnout to laugh, which was to not write poetry during trials.

Another example of Durrance's character was presented by Mary Carrier, who was with Durrance as his judicial assistant until three years ago, when she retired and moved to Tennessee. She spoke of a murder trial in which Durrance presided.

The defendant had robbed a bank in Lakeland and in doing so shot and killed a security guard. When found guilty, Durrance imposed the death penalty. His decision was overturned by the Florida Supreme Court and Durrance was instructed to impose a different penalty. Instead, Durrance issued the death penalty yet again. It took the Florida Supreme Court to overturn the penalty and impose a different one.

In another anecdote, one which evoked more laughter, Carrier told

how Durrance was the first full-time sitting judge in Hardee County. While on the surface it may have appeared to be an imposition, according to Durrance, it was quite the opposite. The furnishings were quite lavish, despite Durrance's insistence these be kept simple. He gave instruction to Carrier if she should ever be queried.

"Don't tell the other judges how nice it was down there," Carrier said she was told. "They'll want to be assigned there."

Time and again, Durrance's character was at the forefront. Ezelle rhetorically asked what the difference between Durrance and an airport is, to which he answered: wind sock; a wind sock indicates in what direction the wind blows and sometimes the sock gets caught in crosswinds. Durrance, said Ezelle, was no wind sock.

"He is a man of steadfast convictions," said Ezelle.

Judd echoes that same sentiment.

"For Dale Durrance, right is right and wrong is never right," Judd said, who later spoke of their friendship yet professionalism. It never affected his ability to be neutral while on the bench.

Like the others, Judd also shared a light-hearted memory. It involved a drug dealer who was found guilty and given a lengthy sentence. Afterward the deputy who had been present in the court told Judd of his reaction.

"The sentence scared me so much I got weak in the knees," Judd said was the deputy's



PHOTO BY STEVE STEINER

Looking on as Judge Dale Durrance spoke are (from left) Mary Carrier, Judge Michael E. Raiden, Sheriff Grady Judd; Judge Marcus J. Ezelle and Kathy Whitlock.

reaction to the sentence imposed.

The tribute to Durrance's love of the law, his effort to be fair and impartial and his religious faith were also touched upon by Judge Michael Raiden, who remembered going before Durrance before he, Raiden, also ascended to the bench. He was scared, that's how much Durrance's reputation preceded the judge himself. Often, the best one could hope for on behalf of a client was that the jury, not the judge, would reduce — in a hypothetical case of 10 charges — one of the charges to a misdemeanor. Without question, Durrance was strict, according to Raiden, but there was more to it than just that.

"He would bend over backwards to be fair," Raiden said. In closing he touched upon Durrance's favorite Bible verse. "It's from the Book of Popeye: 'I yam what I yam.'"

Whitlock said

Durrance had a soft spot for people and a way of dealing with the most cantankerous. There were two things that stood out in her heart, the first being Durrance's role in helping Whitlock and her husband adopt their son. The second incident was Durrance's wedding, which he was able, with Whitlock's assistance, keep a secret until the moment of the event, which took place on Valentine's Day.

Finally, when Durrance was given the floor, he mentioned that over the years he had attended many retirement parties, but this one was, for obvious reason, special.

"This is the first time I've been to a retirement even for me, and it's been the most fun," Durrance said as he joked. Growing serious, he told how each of those who had spoken about him were people from whom he had learned.

From Carrier he had learned phone courtesy,

and he gave a humorous example of an exchange in which Carrier would be polite yet firm with someone who was being abusive on the other end. From Raiden he learned that friendship endures, especially when facing off in the courtroom.

"You can be fierce adversaries, take different positions," Durrance said. "At the end of the day we left as friends."

But Durrance emphasized the significance of what once was known as Courtroom B, which now serves as the main hall in the History Center, which was the former courthouse. Both sets of grandparents were married in Courtroom B; his paternal grandparents in 1911 and maternal grandparents in 1914. So too were his parents, in 1934; and he himself was married in Courtroom B.

"It is a part — not just of my career — it's part of my heart and soul," he said, and he attributed all of it to Divine

**DURRANCE | 17**

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# BARTOW NEWS

## Durrance: Carrier can't get enough thank yous

By STEVE STEINER

SSTEINER@HEARTLAND  
NEWSPAPERS.COM

Three years ago, when Mary Carrier retired on July 17, 2013, as the judicial assistant to Judge Dale Durrance of the 10th Judicial Circuit Court, it was with little, if any, fanfare. On Friday, June 10, that was rectified in a ceremony on the eighth floor of the courthouse.

"Things were so hectic then that we didn't have time to properly honor her," said Durrance to a gathering of Carrier's former peers and courthouse associates. It was, according to Durrance, a long association and the highlight of the 33 years together started in 1990.

"Mary and I were assigned to the juvenile justice system," he

recalled.

Around that time, the pair was asked by Susan Barbosa, a reporter with the Lakeland Ledger, whether they had considered establishing a teen court similar to the one in Sarasota County. Durrance recollected that he and Carrier were not even aware of such, so they made it a point to travel to Sarasota County and learn more; they were accompanied by several others.

"The consensus was, we've got to bring this program to Polk County," said Durrance. That summer a training session was set up and on Sept. 17, 1990, the birth date of the U.S. Constitution, said Durrance the first session of teen court occurred. "It was a great success, to say the least."

So successful was it

that when it was first established there was no funding. However, the program grew throughout the state and eventually the legislature passed a statute that allowed counties to set up a tax to fund teen courts.

"Although we were the second teen court, we have never been second to anything we've done," said Durrance, who added that the Polk County teen court is the nationwide model.

"I think this speaks volumes of all that Mary has done." So successful has it been that a number of those who first participated have gone on to become attorneys. "Mary, there cannot be enough thank yous for all that you've done for teen court."

A framed photo of Carrier was unwrapped

and Durrance placed it on the wall, so it will be one of the first things seen when people exit the elevator. The judge said a plaque would accompany the photo; it joins a photo and plaque dedicated to Barbosa.

For her part, Carrier deferred much of the credit and instead attributed to others.

"I'm not the one who drummed up support, it was the judge," said Carrier, who then credited others. She spoke of one of the very first teen volunteers, Evan Mathiesen, who was so diligent that he was urged to work for the federal government; today Mathiesen is with the State Department.

One of those cited was Mary Rose Antone.

"I'd help Mary out," said Antone, who began



PHOTO BY STEVE STEINER

**Judge Dale Durrance hangs Mary Carrier's portrait on the wall where teen court is held. A plaque will later join the portrait.**

as a volunteer and is now an employee of the courthouse; her husband was Durrance's bailiff. She remembered the teen court's humble beginnings.

"At first it was only once per month. Now we do 30 cases a night, every week."

Another person extensively involved with teen

court was Nick Sudzina, who had nothing but the fondest memories of Carrier. No matter whatever took place, he said, Carrier handled a situation with professionalism.

"She and Judge Durrance are the reason we have teen court," Sudzina said. "It took off with Mary's leadership."

## DURRANCE

FROM PAGE 16

Providence. "We know

that was God's plan. I'm so glad He graced that."

With that he referenced Psalm 117, the shortest in the Bible, and Psalm 119, the longest.

He then mentioned Psalm 118, widely known as the center verse.

"There are 594 verses before Psalm 118, and 594 verses after Psalm

118," he said. "Add these together and they total 1188." He then cited Psalm 118:8.

"It is better to place your confidence in the

Lord and not in man." (According to www.PrayerFoundation.org, the wording is as follows: "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put

confidence in man.")

Durrance concluded with a final thank you.

"You have humbled my heart," he said. "I am a blessed man."

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# BARTOW NEWS

## Travel trailer park coming

By JEFF ROSLOW

JROSLOW@HEARTLANDNEWSPAPERS.COM

There's a new travel trailer park coming to town, and it may provide some business for the Bartow Municipal Golf Course which is next door.

William F. "Buddy" Wise offered a high bid of \$250,000 at a June 9 auction for what used to be the Peace River Country Club.

"Travel trailer park," he said without any hesitation when asked what he plans to do with the 7.67-acre lot.

Wise said he had no timeline to get the park up and running

nor plans on when to start renovating the country club and area, but he anticipates a decent return on his investment. Not currently zoned for a trailer park, he said he talked with city hall officials on being able to change that.

"There are some zoning problems, but I talked to the city about it," he said.

The country club opened in 1966 and closed in 2013. It was owned by members of the Peace River Country Club. Wise, who was not previously in the ownership, was a member of the country club for 50 years, he said.

The golf course next to

it is owned by the city. City Manager George Long was on hand for the auction as was Mayor Trish Pfeiffer and Commissioner James Clements. The city did not bid on the property.

Other than that there was a handful of other bidders on hand for the auction as well as some onlookers who have personal history with country club.

All together the property is 7.67 acres, has a pool in back of the 12,121-square-foot building. Behind the main building is a 2,000-square-foot building where parties were sometimes held when it was a country

club.

The property and building comes as is and there is some work to be done to the building. Closed for nearly three years there has been disrepair including the fact the previous day's rain had drips falling inside the building and a large puddle in the banquet room.

"We're going to have to fix the roof and stop that leaking," Wells said.

The total money (priced at \$275,000 with fees added) will be in an escrow account manned by Boswell and Dunlap law firm and the closing should take place in about 30 days.



PHOTO BY JEFF ROSLOW

Under the awning at the former Peace River Country Club Scott Oglesby leads the auction as Buddy Wise makes a bid on the building and property.

## Summer has some super shows

Hello again. We hope you're all doing well as we head towards the Summer Solstice.

We here at Bartow Public Library want to remind the families in our community that the Summer Reading Program is in full swing and we hope that your children and teens are participating by reading enjoyable books.

Our library's Super Summer Shows rolls onto Week Two Wednesday, June 22, with Ronald McDonald visiting between 10:30-11:30 a.m. to present a special magic show for our families.

Our Story Times programs started Tuesday, June 14, with a program for 3 to 5 year olds in the morning from 10-10:45 a.m., followed by a program for 6- to 8-year-olds in the afternoon from 3-4 p.m. We also have Book Babies for 18-month to 2 year olds from 10-10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 16. These Story Time events will run all summer until the first week of August.

We are joining with the Polk Museum of Art for a hands-on program for the



Paul Wartenberg

Bartow Public Library

Paul Wartenberg is the reference librarian at the Bartow Public Library.

whole family with guest artist Glenda Santiago

from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 18.



PHOTO BY CATHY PALMER

A sparse turnout blamed on nasty weather braved the elements to see the movie "The World's Greatest Athlete" on Friday at the Bartow Public Library. The movie, complete with soda and popcorn, officially launched the library's summer programs. For information on the programs, call the library at 863-534-0131 or go to the website at www.cityofbartow.net.library.

On Monday, June 20, Bartow Library is proud to host A Brief History of Gospel Music and the African American Experience. Presented by the Luster All African American Heritage Museum, the show will include a musical performance of Gospel selections that reflect the various styles over time by Bishop Horace Riley and

Minister Barbara Riley.

The presentation starts at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. You can call the Heritage Museum at 863-800-6872 if you have any questions.

We still have ongoing Chair Yoga exercise classes every Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:30 -10:30 a.m. We will also have the ongoing Adult Coloring program

from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and you can bring your own lunch as you relax while coloring sheets.

Our address is 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. You can call Bartow Library at 863-534-0131 if you have any questions about our events.

Paul Wartenberg is the reference librarian at the Bartow Public Library.

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# BARTOW NEWS

## Bartow police cars to get defibrillators

*Community raises money to supply all cars with device*

By **JEFF ROSLOW**

JROSLOW@HEARTLAND  
NEWSPAPERS.COM

Matching donations from the Bartow Health Care Foundation, the Bartow Rotary and Kiwanis clubs will allow Bartow Police to have an Automatic External Defibrillator in each patrol car.

"This is thousands of dollars of equipment that will be so valuable," Bartow Police Chief Joe Hall said. "With money from Rotary, Kiwanis and Bartow Health Care we can do this."

Well, not totally from those three, but most of the way. Hall said the department needed \$25,000 to equip each police car with an AED. Donations from Rotary and Kiwanis put the total dollar amount, with the matching funds, at \$22,500.

"With \$5,000 from Bartow Health Care matching our donation comes out to \$10,000 and with what Kiwanis kicked in and I talked to a few others and this makes it a communitywide project," Bartow Rotary President Tommy Griffin said.

That seems to put the police department in the financial situation to reach \$25,000.

Hall pointed out there are six AEDs right now in police cars and, while police officers are not tabbed as the first responders to incidents, they usually are. The Bartow Fire Department and county EMS are first responders, but "nine out of 10 times police get to the call before firefighters," Hall said adding it's because officers are already patrolling.

The AEDs, Hall said, could be helpful to

cardiac problems.

"The idea came to me because one of our officers had a tragic call with his family," Hall related to Bartow Rotary Club brothers at their meeting. "If they had an AED it would've saved his father's life."

He said the department came up with money for six of them — at about \$1,000 apiece — with the goal of getting one for each car. As with everything, the BPD tested whether there was an advantage.

"I knew the benefit of having one but we

didn't have the money to get them," he said.

And when Hall let it be known what he was doing, he said the community jumped in, and that didn't surprise him.

"In the last seven years we worked on getting this city into shape and get leveled back to a manageable level," he said. "And the crime rate has gone down 30.56 percent in the last eight years ... that's pretty amazing. That took police officers, the city and the people in this city. There are 20,000 people who

live here and 41 police officers and a true partnership happened."

Hall emphasized the AEDs won't solve all problems with medical help people need but officers get some health training and with the ease of use of the AED machines, saving lives can be accomplished in some cases.

"They are battery operated and they are dummy proof. Our officers are not paramedics," he said. "But if some cardiac case comes up, the officers have the luxury of having these."

## Youth summit gets new sponsor

*CRA to become a sponsor of early Parent/Teen Summit*

By **JEFF ROSLOW**

JROSLOW@HEARTLAND  
NEWSPAPERS.COM

In a roll call vote, the Bartow Community Redevelopment Agency last week changed how it will participate monetarily in the annual Parent/Youth Summit.

It voted 6-0 — CRA member Alvin B. Smith Jr. was not present — by roll call to become a sponsor of the annual event at the Carver Recreation Center rather than give it money. But the way it is drawn up, the CRA must follow the rules of how and why it can sponsor an event.

The Youth/Parent Summit, which has been put on for six years by the East Positive Action

Committee — known as EPAC — has annually asked for about \$9,000 from the CRA to fund redevelopment activities in the CRA district in east Bartow. However, with the change in how the CRA will spend its money, this year the group was seeking a \$5,000 sponsorship from the public agency.

"The CRA can sponsor if redevelopment is specific," said board attorney Sean Crawford. "If we are trying to get people to this redevelopment area or if there's a promotion and use of this area," he added must be in the sponsorship agreement.

That thought is so about the summit, said Joyce Thurman, a representative from EPAC

who was at the May 25 meeting.

"Under the CRA mission there is redevelopment and under this there are key things and we want safety to the city. The summit indirectly makes a great difference in crime in the area. Both the chief of police and city manager know this. And this year (the summit) had a more diverse crowd. It's an invaluable tool for the city."

She said children ask her about when the next summit is and children have told her because of this, they want to pursue law enforcement — whether it be a police officer, firefighter or lawyer.

"These are things the children may never be exposed to ... that is

having knowledge and a worthwhile cause," she said.

When asked about how much it would cost to become a sponsor, Thurman said \$5,000, adding about \$2,000 has been raised already for next year's event, which takes place in April.

While the CRA board members didn't have too much of problem of becoming a sponsor, some did express the concern of a policy.

"While I believe (the Parent/Teen Summit) is a proven worth, we spent a long time on the application process and the application is essential," CRA member Karen Guffey said. She wanted to know if other agreements could come up and will the board avoid the application

process again.

At last month's CRA meeting the application process for CRA money was extended two weeks because no one had filled in the new forms to request money from the CRA and that would hold up the board from making a budget.

Before a vote could be taken on whether or not to become a sponsor of the event, board member Brian Hinton, offered, "If we do this are we opening up to anyone. If we do this are we stepping

outside," what the board should do?

Chairman John Bohde expressed similar concerns.

"I have concerns about the same as Karen and Brian," he said.

To that, Hinton suggested the motion be changed that the \$5,000 sponsorship could be voted on, but it should include economic findings for this area to make it stand alone.

"That makes this more like a grant," Bohde said. "It's like a donation but more like a grant."



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# BARTOW NEWS

## Check out what we have in Polk County

### *Photos of wildlife, animals on display at History Center*

By **STEVE STEINER**

SSTEINER@HEARTLAND  
NEWSPAPERS.COM

Practically everyone in Polk County knows of Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd. There are many who are familiar with who Jeff Spence is (hint: he is the Parks & Natural Resources Director for the Polk County Board of Commissioners). After that, though, and perhaps only to those who are aficionados, there probably are a smattering of people here and there — excluding family and friends — for whom the names Lynette Spence (yes, she is wed to Jeff Spence) and Willie A. Smith register.

The reason these four people are being mentioned is onefold: They are the four photographers whose works make up the latest temporary exhibit at The Polk County History Center, “Through the Lens,” which will be on display through the end of October.

For Lynette Spence, she got into photography via her husband, Jeff.

“I wasn’t into it until I married Jeff,” she said at the opening day reception of Thursday, June 2. She added her beginning foray was simple. “I began with a point and shoot camera.”

It quickly became obvious that was inadequate and so she followed suit with what Jeff Spence used and now she boasts using a Canon 7D Mark 2 DSLR. She joked that it is expensive.

“It’s good, because we’ve found something we both enjoy, but we’re both competitive,” Lynette Spence said. “As a result we don’t share lenses, so when we buy equipment, we buy two of each thing.”

While both enjoy outdoor photography, each has a particular preference. According to Lynette, Jeff is more into landscapes while she tends to focus on nature and animals. For approximately the past three years, she has focused a lot of her shoots on birds. One of her photos is an extremely tight close-up of an owl. Another is of baby woodpeckers poking their heads out



**Willie A. Brown, one of four photographers whose works will be on display through the end of October at the Polk County History Center, is especially proud of this photo.**

of nest made in the hollow of a tree.

However, one of her photos that captured the eye of many at the exhibit is not of birds but of a bobcat that was in the Circle Bar B Reserve.

“According to Jeff, Lynette took that picture because she had heard something behind her,” said Maria Trippe, with the History Center.

“She turned around and there was the bobcat.”

In a number of photos, said Trippe, it was — as the cliché goes — a matter of being in the right place at the right time. One of those photographers, she pointed out, was Willie A. Brown.

“He’ll literally stop his car, get out and crawl on the ground to capture a shot,” said Trippe. She added this was the second time his work is on display at the history center; the first time he had an exhibit, which was a solo exhibit, was in 2006.

Like Lynette Spence, Brown’s introduction to photography was through a fortuitous circumstance.

“I first started when I was 10 years old,” said Brown. “My mother gave me a Polaroid camera.” (For those not familiar, before the advent of digital cameras, photos were taken using film and most film had to be sent away to be developed. However, photos taken on a Polaroid camera differed in that when a photo was taken, the film would eject from the camera and then develop in front of a person’s eyes in a matter of several minutes.)

One year his wife

bought him a film camera, a forerunner to the digital cameras he now uses. From there he truly began to blossom as a photographer. Today he is a professional photographer who does many portraits and wedding shoots, as well as other special events. Those, he said, earn him a living, while his nature shots, are for his pleasure. He has now been at it almost 20 years.

Two of his shots garnered much attention from the gallery. One of those is of a small bird, a kestrel, in flight. Many people found the photo engaging, what with the angle of the bird, with its wings fully spread.

“I thought it was pretty cool, because he was flying at me,” said Brown. The photo was taken just as the bird twisted its body away. The photo on display was one of 18 that he shot.

However, another photo, this one also of a bird caught many people’s fancy, and Brown said there was a story to how he managed to capture the moment.

“I was at Lake Morton (in Lakeland), watching an eagle,” he said. However, the eagle did nothing, except eye Brown. “Then this bird flew in front of me.”

The bird, a great white egret, continued to stare at him. Then, suddenly, it jabbed its beak into the water. It had speared a fish. No, make that two fish, although Brown did not know it at the time. It was only when he was viewing the shoot that he saw something unusual.

“I thought, why did this fish have two tails,” he said. Then he saw



PHOTO BY STEVE STEINER

**This bobcat had just emerged from the bushes when Lynette Spence took its picture.**



**Jeff Spence (left) points something out to Stacy Butterfield at the opening of the “Through the Lens” exhibit.**

what it was. Just as the egret speared the fish, the fish that had been speared had begun to swallow a smaller fish. It is, said Brown, one of his more enjoyable photos.

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# BARTOW NEWS

## Valedictorian: We can change the world More than 400 celebrate graduation from Bartow High School

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

The Lakeland Center arena was jammed with family and friends last week as the 2016 graduating classes from Bartow High School, Summerlin Academy and Bartow International Baccalaureate filed in to receive their diplomas.

The remnants of Tropical Storm Colin dumped a steady rain on families as they plied their way through heavy rain and gusty winds from overcrowded parking lots into the arena as BHS celebrated the last group of Polk County seniors to get their high school degrees for the year.

Speeches were brief as the graduating classes totaled more than 400 seniors, all waiting to grab their diploma from BHS principal Emilean Clemons, Bartow IB Principal Brenda Hardman or Summerlin

Academy Commandant Steve Cochran.

After the welcome by Master of Ceremonies Lloyd Harris, senior class President Alexandra Ramirez offered a brief welcome, followed by the invocation offered by Cassidy Collins. Salutatorians Candace Garcia, Brenda Wang and Alexis Mace were followed by valedictorians Olivia Brister, Aaron Sandoval and Michael Sawyer.

"It's amazing to look at the potential in this room," said Mace. "Look at all you've already done and look forward to what you can do."

"We have to admit our fears," said Brister. "And believe in our ability to succeed on our own. We can truly change the world. We can make ourselves a person to be proud of and make our community a better place. We need to run to achieve our goals. You,"



PHOTOS BY AL AND CATHY PALMER

BHS graduates-to-be sing the school's Alma Mater just before receiving their diplomas.

she exhorted her fellow graduates, "have the unlimited potential to change the world."

Joining the principals on the stage for the receiving line were Superintendent of Schools Jacqueline Byrd, Assistant Superintendent John Small and Polk School Board Members

Hazel Sellers and Hugh Berryman.

The traditional processional "Pomp and Circumstance" was performed by the Bartow High School Band which also provided the musical

selection "We are the Champions."

Colors were presented by Summerlin Academy Color Guard members Joshua Williams, Jose Martinez, Matthew Crowley and Michael Harman.



Olivia Brister, BHS valedictorian for the class of 2016, talks to her classmates about their future during her brief comments at Monday's graduation exercises at the Lakeland Center.

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# BARTOW NEWS

## Cooking camp starts next week

By **JEFF ROSLOW**

JROSLOW@HEARTLAND  
NEWSPAPERS.COM

There is still time to get in on the first week of the cooking camp that will debut this summer at Mosaics Community Cafe.

From June 20-July 30, middle and high school students can attend a cooking camp at Mosaics on East Main Street for four hours a day and possibly even have one of their dishes sampled at the Community Hunger Dinner scheduled July 30.

The camp runs from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday

through Friday — lunch is included — for those weeks at a \$100 per week (except for the week of the fourth of July which is \$80 because it is a four-day week). Each week will have a different theme and children will learn everything from budgeting to cleaning to cooking to nutrition.

To register for a week people have to be signed up by the Friday before the following week. That way Mosaic can make sure they have the right amount of supplies for the week. Each class will have eight to 10 participants.

"We want to educate

the children on hunger," Mosaics' owner Libbie Combee said, adding they will also learn nutritional values, how to handle themselves safely in a kitchen, how to properly use the equipment and budget the right amount of food for recipes and what to purchase. On one of the weeks the children will take a field trip to Publix supermarkets and they will be led around the store to see how a supermarket operates. They will be shown how the same food can cost different amounts of money and the same food can sometimes be

different.

"There are four different kinds of apples and you've got to know which one to use according to flavor and other choices," Combee said.

The different themes of the camp include Taste of the USA, Latin America, Journey through Asia, Eastern Europe, Western Europe and South Pacific Islands. There will be teachers from the outside lending a hand. The final week will be a Community Hunger Dinner.

The Community Hunger Dinner, which is scheduled from noon-1 p.m. July 30 is

open to everyone. For \$10 per ticket people will learn about the Hunger Outreach Group Project to feed those in the community. The meals will be prepared by students in the camp and the winning dishes from each week will be served. Local celebrity judges will be chosen to judge.

Students from the Bartow High School culinary academy as well as culinary academy teacher Rosalind Chan will help teach. Also, students from the Dietetic Nutrition program at Keiser University, a Mosaic partner, will lend a hand.

A sign-up sheet for the camp is available at the cafe, 315 E. Main St. For more information call 863-602-9202.

This is a first-time project for Mosaics' and Combee believes it will be effective for the children in a couple of different ways — and probably a relief to some parents.

"I hear parents tell me their kid is going away to college and they don't know how to cook," she said.

"We're not starting out big, but I have a feeling this is something that can grow."

## Engle earns Eagle Scout Badge



Thomas Engle

It took about four months, but the fire pit and rest stop Thomas Engle planned to build along a busy walkway in Fort Meade is complete — earning him the Eagle Scout Badge for Troop 147.

The fire pit is 16-by-16 feet, has two benches on

each side and a 4-foot-by-4-foot fire pit in the middle.

The fire pit is built on the property of Fort Meade First Church of God on South Perry. It is a heavily walked area the church's Pastor Tarvis Risner said. He thought it would be a good idea if people could have a place to relax. The Eagle Scout award is the

highest achievement a Boy Scout can earn. In order to get one a Scout has to earn at least 21 merit



The firepit Thomas Engle built at Fort Meade First Church earned him an Eagle Scout award from the Boy Scouts. The firepit is three feet deep.

PHOTOS BY HENRY ROSLOW

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Junior Service League helps the Achievement Academy

The Junior Service League of Bartow bought \$1,000 worth of developmental toys and activities for the Achievement Academy's Bartow Campus.

The Achievement Academy has a longstanding relationship with The Junior Service League of Bartow that began in the 1980s. The League has hosted holiday parties and has delivered many needed items for the teachers to enrich the learning environment for students. For the past several years the JSL has hosted parties for the children at the Achievement Academy's Bartow Campus and at the end of each school year the League has given a large donation of items from a wish list that is given to them by the teachers. In the past the Junior Service League of Bartow also held a Walk/5K Run that raised much needed funds for the Achievement Academy.

### DOH congratulates school district on being healthy

The Florida Department of Health in Polk County congratulated the Polk County School District on its Silver level recognition as a Florida Healthy School District.

This recognition, developed by the Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership, aims to recognize the hard work and success of school districts related to physical, mental and social health of students and staff.

"The Healthy School District Award is a great way to recognize and celebrate the hard work of our school district related to physical, mental and social health of students and staff," said Dr. Joy Jackson, director of DOH- Polk. "Polk County Public Schools demonstrated strong policies and processes in health services, a healthy school environment, and employee wellness."

The Florida Healthy District recognition is



**Christine Roslow**

### Our Schools

Christine can be contacted at [croslow@heartlandnewspapers.com](mailto:croslow@heartlandnewspapers.com).

based on the successful submission of the Florida Healthy District Self-Assessment and lasts for a period of two years, after which districts will need to reapply for recognition. The Self-Assessment is divided and scored based on the following categories: district infrastructure; physical education; health services; and counseling, psychological and social services.

Since 2009, the Coordinated School Health Partnership, in cooperation with Florida Action for Healthy Kids, Florida Association of School District Superintendents and Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, has recognized 47 districts for establishing a culture and climate that embraces the Coordinated School Health approach to reduce and eliminate barriers to learning and support academic achievement.

For information and a complete list of recognized healthy districts, visit <http://www.healthydistrict.com>.

### Polk State: 123 Associate in Arts Degrees, 122 with GPAs of 4.0 or higher

It's graduation time at Polk State College's three collegiate high schools.

Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School held its commencement ceremony on the evening of Friday, June 3. The ceremony featured remarks by guest speaker Rick Jeffries. Jeffries served as assistant principal at Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate before being named principal of Polk State Lakeland Collegiate earlier this year.

Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School will graduate its third class on Monday, June 6.

All three of Polk State's collegiate high schools allow students to simultaneously complete high school requirements and earn college credits. In many cases, students graduate with both their diplomas and Associate in Arts degrees. Polk State Lakeland Gateway specializes in helping students between the ages of 16 and 21 who have in most cases disengaged from studies at their traditional high schools.

For PSC the valedictorian is Rene Respicio of Winter Haven, who has a 4.724 GPA. The salutatorian is Victoria Whiting of Winter Haven, who has a 4.636 GPA.

The the collegiate high school, the valedictorian is Addison Gokee of Lakeland, who has a 4.708 GPA.

The salutatorian is Taylor Boyd of Lakeland, who has a 4.619 GPA.

### Ready for Camp READY?!

The Learning Resource Center of Polk County Inc. is offering summer enrichment programs for the 2016 season for kindergarten through high school grade levels.

Rising and repeating kindergartners can gain the skills necessary for school at LRC's Camp READY! featuring multi-sensory learning experiences in a fun, engaging format at ten locations throughout Polk County. On average, Camp READY! students who attend the full program

demonstrate learning gains of seven months in vocabulary development.

Camp READY! Is through July 29. Each camp will take place Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. for four weeks except for Poinciana and Fort Meade camps, which will take place from 8 a.m.-noon Monday-Thursday.

The cost is \$25 for the entire month.

Students entering first- fifth grades are invited to PEP summer camps in Winter Haven. A collaboration between LRC, Polk County Public Schools and the Winter Haven Public Education Partnership, this enrichment program will offer students three week-long camps at the PEP Center or Inwood Elementary. Camps will focus on science, sports and art & music with math and reading components and will take place from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Monday-Thursday on

June 13-30. The cost is \$25 per week.

Students who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade are encouraged to attend Super Summer Success, an enrichment program that helps students maintain their mental momentum through the summer with a fun and active approach to reading, writing and math. Super Summer Success will take place from 8 a.m.-noon June 20-July 14, at South McKeel Academy in Lakeland. The cost is \$395.

Middle school and high school students may consider study skills courses that provide motivational strategies and study techniques to become more effective learners. Study Habits of Successful Students for grades 6-8 will take place from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. July 11-15, while Get the Competitive Edge ... College Success Planning for grades 9-12 will take place from 1-3 p.m. July 11-15, Both

will take place at the Learning Resource Center in Lakeland. The cost for each is \$145.

High School students will benefit from LRC's ACT and SAT summer test preparation courses. Preparation courses are designed to build confident, successful students, helping them achieve their best possible score through problem-solving strategies tailored towards each test. The ACT Summer Preparation Course will take place July 18-22 at the Learning Resource Center, while the SAT Summer Preparation Course will take place July 25-29 at the Learning Resource Center in Lakeland. The cost of each course is \$440.

Scholarships are available for families with documented financial need for any of these programs. For questions or to enroll in any of the courses, please visit the Learning Resource Center online at [LRCPolk.com](http://LRCPolk.com) or call 863-688-9477.

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# OBITUARIES

## Homer L. Adkins

Homer L. Adkins, 84, passed away June 10, 2016, in Lakeland, Fla.

Born Oct. 11, 1931, in Enterprise, Ala., he was the son of Ira Leroy and Annie Dovie (Horsley) Adkins.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served in the Florida National Guard.

He retired after being the maintenance coordinator for Polk General Hospital in Bartow.

He was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Fort Meade, where he previously taught the men's



HOMER ADKINS

adult Sunday school class.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Patricia Adkins.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Duke Adkins of Fort Meade, Fla.; his three children: Royce L. Adkins (Jane) of Lakeland, Kevin Adkins of Bartow, Fla., Beth Adkins Luckett (Bill) of Winter Haven, Fla.; and his sister, Annie L. Franz of Sidney, Mont.; he also leaves behind two stepdaughters and one stepson; along with seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m., Monday, June 13, 2016, at Whidden-McLean Funeral Home, 650 E. Main St., Bartow.

Funeral service will follow at 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at the funeral home chapel.

Condolences to the family at [www.whiddenmcleanfuneralhome.com](http://www.whiddenmcleanfuneralhome.com)

## Annie Ruth Hulsey

Annie Ruth Hulsey, 78, of Lake Wales, Fla., passed away from heart failure Friday, June 10, 2016.

She was born Sept. 6, 1937, in Winter Haven, Fla., to the late John and Marie Mincey.

She was the bookkeeper at Bryan's Collision Center in Lake Wales. She was well loved by the men at Bryan's Collision Center and they called her "mama."



ANNIE RUTH HULSEY

She was a member of the Lake Wales Church of Christ.

She loved to travel and was always packed for a cruise. She was a talented southern cook and loved to cook for everyone. She loved life and everyone around her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Curtis "Bud" Hulsey; a son, Allen; and a granddaughter, Amanda.

She is survived by Tonya and Jacob Taylor, Bryan and Gail Hulsey and Keith Hulsey.

Memorial service will be held 6 p.m. Monday, June 13, 2016, at the Lake Wales Church of Christ.

Condolences may be sent to the family at: [www.marionnelsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.marionnelsonfuneralhome.com).

## Audrey Ella Rigney

Audrey Ella Rigney, 89, passed away on Sunday, June 5, 2016, at her daughter's residence in Vinemont, Ala.

She was born Oct. 19, 1926, in Napa, Calif., to Fred William Gross and Eva Belle Dow Gross.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Paul Rigney; and a son, David Rigney.

Survivors include her daughters, Debbie Pearce and Paula Stewart; a son, Michael Rigney; and seven grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service was held June 9, 2016, at Lawrence Cove Cemetery with Pastor Brad Sheats officiating.

Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Kip A. Collett

Kip A. Collett, 53, of Lake Wales, Fla., passed away Friday, June 10, 2016, at his residence.

Marion Nelson Funeral Home in Lake Wales is handling the arrangements.

## Martha S. Gentry

Martha S. Gentry, 93, of Bowling Green, Fla., passed Wednesday, June 8, 2016, in Lakeland.

Whidden-McLean Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

## Doris Ray Harp

Doris Ray Harp, 75, passed away Monday, June 6, 2016, at her home in Bowling Green, Fla.

Hancock Funeral Home, Fort Meade, is handling the arrangements.

## Patrick Parker

Patrick "Crash" Parker, 51, of Lake Alfred, Fla., passed away Saturday, June 4, 2016, at his residence.

Marion Nelson Funeral Home in Lake Wales is handling the arrangements.

## Joan Sherman

Joan Warren Giberson Sherman, 88, of Lake Wales, Fla., passed away Sunday, June 12, 2016, at the Grove Center.

Marion Nelson Funeral Home in Lake Wales is handling the arrangements.

## Lisa Waterman

Lisa Waterman, 55, of Indian Lake Estates, Florida passed away Thursday, June 9, 2016, at Lake Wales Medical Center.

Marion Nelson Funeral Home in Lake Wales is handling the arrangements.

## James F. Cochran

James F. Cochran, 78, passed away Monday June 6, 2016, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center.

Born Nov. 16, 1937, in Parrish, Fla., he was a lifelong resident of Bartow, Fla.

He was a diesel mechanic in the phosphate industry for many years.

He was a member of the Wildwood Baptist Church of Bartow.

He enjoyed fishing, baseball and football.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years: Joan B Cochran, of Bartow; two sons: James "Griff" Griffin, (Air

of Bartow, and Michael W Cochran (Kristen), Seattle, Wash.; a daughter: Deborah Davis (Maurice) of Lakeland, Fla.; and 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m., Monday, June 20, 2016, at Whidden-McLean Funeral Home, 650 E. Main St., Bartow.

Service will follow at 11 a.m., at the funeral home.

Condolences to family at [www.whiddenmcleanfuneralhome.com](http://www.whiddenmcleanfuneralhome.com)

## Joan Marie Klein

Joan Marie Klein, 81, of Bartow, Fla., died June 6, 2016, in Lakeland, Fla.

Born in Detroit, Mich., she was a resident of Polk County the past 31 years.

She is survived by loving husband of 62 years, Gilbert Klein The loving couple celebrated their 62nd anniversary on June 5, 2016. She is



JOAN MARIE KLEIN

also survived by her daughters, Robin (Dean) Biondi, Mich., Sharon (Jack) DeLeonard, of Nevada, and Cindy (Tony) Morelli, of Michigan; and a son, Steven (Gail) Klein, of Michigan; grandchildren: Sandra, Nikki, Brooke, Paige and Lindsey; and great-grandchildren: Madelyn, Easton and Morelli; a brother, Donald Grebeck, of Michigan.; and sisters Judy (Tom) Smyczynski and Kathy (Jim) Sylvester, both of Michigan; a sister-in-law Beverly (Gene) Turchyn, Fla.; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Robarts Family Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## Patricia Stoltz Riggan

Patricia Stoltz Riggan, 70, passed from this life, after a long battle with cancer on June 8, 2016.

Pat as born to Esther and Walter Stoltz on March 17, 1946, in Indianapolis, Ind.

The family moved to Florida in 1951. She was preceded in death by both parents and her sister, Judy Stoltz Kraemer (Tom).

She was survived by her husband, Ray Riggan; son, Michael, nad her siblings, Eda Marchman (Mike) in Bartow, and Walter Stoltz (Jackie) in Eagle Lake.

Her church was Good News Church in Leesburg.

Her education degrees were from FSU and she and her family are

dedicated to 'Noles returning to Tallahassee often for homecomings and special games.

She taught (and moved) handicapped children for over 40 years in Indiana and at Lake Hills School in Howie-in-the-Hills. The special Olympics were especially important to Pat where she was part of the organization and many years she accompanied "her kids" so that they could compete in their local and state competitions. She retired in 2010 and continued to substitute until her illness.

A memorial service will be held at McLeod Presbyterian Church on June 18, 2016, after regular services. Donations could be sent to Special Olympics in her honor.

## Joyce Lavonne DeVane

Joyce Lavonne DeVane, 85, passed away at her home in Fort Meade, Fla., on Sunday, June 12, 2016.

Hancock Funeral Home, Fort Meade, is handling arrangements.

## Michael J. Dechene

Michael "Mouse" J. Dechene, 65, of Frostproof, Fla., passed away Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at his residence.

Marion Nelson Funeral Home in Frostproof is handling the arrangements.

### Words of Comfort

What strikes the oyster shell doesn't damage the pearl.

- Rumi



What befalls the body, doesn't damage the beauty of the eternal spirit that lies within.

- Michael Dunn-Rankin

### Words of Comfort

Looking back, may I be filled with gratitude;  
Looking forward, may I be filled with hope;  
Looking upward, may I be aware of strength;  
Looking inward, may I find peace.

- Author Unknown



# POLICE BEAT

The information is gathered from police, sheriff's office, Florida Highway Patrol, jail and fire records. Not every arrest leads to a conviction and guilt or innocence is determined by the court system.

## Operation Camp's closed

### WINTER HAVEN PD Operation Camp's closed

Based on numerous complaints regarding criminal activity including reported shootings, drug activity and the illegal sales of alcohol, Winter Haven Police detectives conducted "Operation Camp's Closed" on Friday. The operation also included assistance from the Polk County Sheriff's Office and Lake Wales Police Department.

In mid-May, an investigation was started on the property at the corner of Ave. P NW and 3rd St. NW in Winter Haven, locally known as Camp Eight. Over the past month, numerous complaints had been received from local residents regarding code enforcement issues, block parties, loud music and possible sales of alcohol on the property.

On June 3, search warrants were obtained for the properties and officers executed the warrants at 5 p.m. A total of 39 people were at the property and detained while a search of dwellings, vehicles and the whole property was conducted. Nobody attempted to run or resist.

Officers found weapons, alcohol and narcotics all around the property, obviously thrown on the ground in haste and then also hidden in several areas including in trees, inside of cereal boxes, in a grill and a makeshift bathroom that had been constructed on the property.

Overall, 10 people were arrested. Others on the property were released.

Four firearms were recovered: two .22 caliber RG revolvers, one .22 semi-automatic Mossberg rifle; a Smith and Wesson M&P .40 caliber (stolen out of Osceola County); and the following items were seized: \$532.69 cash, three vehicles, 307.6 grams of marijuana, 5.2 grams of cocaine, 30.3 grams of MDMA (ecstasy), 14.5 grams of synthetic cannabis and 0.4 grams of methamphetamine. The illegal sales of alcohol netted more than 400 cans of beer and 400 large bottles of liquor being destroyed onsite.

### Fighting with WHPD

A Winter Haven man is facing serious charges after he attempted to take an officer's car and grabbed for the officer's gun over the weekend.

Andrew Allen Bailey, 31, 1538 Foxridge Road SW, Winter Haven, is charged with Carjacking w/o firearm, aggravated assault on law enforcement officers, two counts of battery on law enforcement officer, burglary of conveyance, resisting officer with violence and battery after a fight with his brother turned violent towards police.

On June 5 at approximately 3:15 a.m., WHPD responded to a disturbance call at 1538 Foxridge Road SW. Lt. Gaskin approached the home and knocked on the door. When nobody answered, the officer walked back to the marked patrol vehicle in an attempt to get further information regarding the call. As the officer approached the vehicle, two people were walking in the roadway towards the officer from several houses down, one female, one male. The female was walking in the roadway with Andrew Bailey. The female identified herself to the officer as the person who called in the disturbance. According to the female, she stated that Bailey and his brother were "tripping" on acid and they got into a fight.

The officer was standing at the open door to her patrol vehicle, which was running, while speaking with the female and asked Bailey to step back and he complied. During the conversation with the female, Bailey once again stepped towards the officer who once again told Bailey to step back and he immediately went behind the officer and shoved the officer away from the vehicle and jumping into the driver's seat.

The officer reached into the vehicle and turned the vehicle off just as Bailey reached for the gearshift. Bailey grabbed the officer's right arm in an attempt to pull the officer towards him. The officer pinned Bailey's shoulder to the seat and Bailey stated he was going to take the officer's gun and

reached for the gun, which was in the holster on the duty belt. The officer grabbed his left arm and leg and pulled him out of the vehicle, falling to the ground. Bailey immediately jumped back up and charged at the officer with clenched fists and yelling.

At this time, Bailey's brother, Jedaiah Bailey, 21, came out of the home and Andrew Bailey immediately lunged at his brother. The officer deployed the department-issued Taser, but Bailey pulled the prongs out. Once again, Andrew Bailey defied commands to get on the ground and he charged the officer, yelling that he was going to get her gun. The officer maneuvered behind Bailey and deployed the Taser once again gaining compliance over Bailey. By this time, backup officers were on scene.

While attempting to handcuff Bailey, he continued to resist officers. Emergency Medical Services was called to transport Bailey to the hospital and while at the hospital, Bailey grabbed another officer's tactical vest several time trying to pull items from the vest.

Bailey was treated at Winter Haven Hospital and transported to the Polk County Jail.

### LAKE WALES POLICE Drug arrest

On June 3, LWP conducted a search warrant at 1048 Hiawatha Ave., the residence of Harold Sidney "Sid" Watford.



WATFORD

During the search of the residence miscellaneous drug paraphernalia was discovered, as well as methamphetamine, marijuana, anabolic steroids and prescription medication. Watford was arrested and transported to Polk County Jail.

### Possession of meth and paraphernalia

LWP was dispatched to a suspicious person call at 1048 Hiawatha Ave. The caller stated a black male wearing a gray shirt, brown shorts, and slides was walking around

the residence at 1048 Hiawatha Ave. Calvin Parker Jr., who matched the above description, was located in the Tractor Supply parking lot. Parker admitted to being at the address. He appeared nervous and denied consent to be searched, police reported. However, he agreed when asked to empty his pockets. In doing so he attempted to conceal a clear plastic baggie in his left hand, when asked, Parker handed over a baggie of crystal methamphetamine. Parker was arrested for possession of meth and drug paraphernalia.

### Criminal mischief to a vehicle

On June 2, LWP met with a manager at Wendy's on U.S. 27, who reported being harassed by an employee, Andre' Warner. The manager explained she had to write him up for being late and Warner assumed he was going to

be fired. On his day off, he went to the Wendy's and confronted her about the write up. She reported while working she observed Warner drive into the parking lot, go to her vehicle, and scratch her vehicle. Warner then fled before she could contact law enforcement. A complaint affidavit has been completed charging Warner with criminal mischief. On June 3, Warner was arrested and transported to the Polk County Jail.

### BARTOW POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### Domestic violence, witness tampering

On May 25, Oneish Kimanie Shaw, 31, of 303 Laurel Circle, Bartow, was arrested and charged with domestic violence-battery cause bodily harm and tampering with a witness.

According to the victim, Shaw began poking her about the

face because the TV was too loud and Shaw was trying to sleep prior to work. He accused her she was "always provoking him."

He grabbed her by the wrist as she tried to call police, snatched the cellular phone when she said she she was trying to call police, and grabbed her by the hair and knocked her eyeglasses off her face.

Victim said she heard Shaw cock his gun but never saw him with a gun or pointing it at her. She said he did head butt her, causing her nose to bleed.

Shaw was located in the parking lot of the Bartow Fire Department after he called the victim and told her he would meet her at the police station.

The victim said Shaw's actions were against her will and that she had sustained minor abrasions to her wrist along with a nose bleed as a result.



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<p><b>3 BED 2 BATH IN COUNTRY OAKS</b> over 2,300 ft. of living area, 2 car garage, screen porch, fenced back yd. <b>\$169,900</b></p>	<p><b>1/2 ACRE BUILDING LOT</b> Near Lake Wailes Lake, on Carlton Avenue, near Hillcrest Elementary. <b>\$23,000</b></p>

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

See more calendar of events at [www.polkcountymag.com](http://www.polkcountymag.com)

**Wednesday, June 15 - Wednesday, June 29**  
Polk State College Talon Robotics, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For students entering sixth-12th grade; Polk State College, Winter Haven and Lakeland. <https://www.polk.edu/talon-robotics/>

**Wednesday, June 15**  
Super Summer Shows, John Storms World of Reptiles, 10:30 a.m., second show at 2 p.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

Polk Pride Weekend: Pride 4 Youth. The Lakeland Youth Alliance will kickoff festivities with music, food and fun interactive activities for ages 13-20 at their Pride 4 Youth Event. Begins at 6:30 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 145 E. Edgewood Drive, Lakeland. [info@PolkPrideFL.com](mailto:info@PolkPrideFL.com) or [www.PolkPrideFL.com](http://www.PolkPrideFL.com)

"How to Talk to the CEO" by J. Lenora Bressler as guest speaker at Dick Pope/Polk County chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association meeting, 7:30 a.m. Cleveland Heights Golf & Country Club in Lakeland. Email [bruhmann@crewsbankcorp.com](mailto:bruhmann@crewsbankcorp.com) or 863-662-0699; or <http://www.fprapolk.org/calendar/june-professional-development-meeting/>.

Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fort Blount Park, Bartow. 863-519-0508, or email [lsimpson@mainstreetbartowfl.com](mailto:lsimpson@mainstreetbartowfl.com)

**Thursday, June 16**  
Book Babies, 10 a.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150

## WELCOME TO YOUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Want to see your event on this page? Call us at 863-533-4183 or email [news@heartlandnewspapers.com](mailto:news@heartlandnewspapers.com).

S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

Computer Coding, 2 p.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

Polk Pride Weekend: Pride in Faith. Fellowship with community and enjoy an interfaith worship service at Pride in Faith. Bring together Polk County's faith-based LGBT affirming organizations, friends, families and allies. The service begins at 7 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 145 E. Edgewood Drive, Lakeland. [info@PolkPrideFL.com](mailto:info@PolkPrideFL.com) or [www.PolkPrideFL.com](http://www.PolkPrideFL.com).

Fun Run, about 6 p.m. People take a 5K run starting and ending at the Wine Stable restaurant each Thursday. Usually they stay at the Wine Stable afterward. They start at approximately 6 p.m. Wine Stable, 150 S. Broadway, Bartow.

Service Dog Training, 9-11 a.m., 1-3 p.m. Call Marvin Desselte at 863-214-0601 for details. American Legion Post 71, 1230 Scenic Highway, Lake Wales. 863-589-5689

**Friday, June 17 - Saturday, June 18**  
Juneteenth, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., free. K9 demonstrations, health fair, face painting, Muppet show, bounce houses, horse-shoes, deejay, praise dance. Over the Branch Gateway,

Polk Street and State Road 60 Underpass, Bartow

**Friday, June 17**  
Friday Fest, 6-9 p.m., free. Annual Juneteenth Celebration. Live music, kids games, vendors. Along Main Street in Bartow. 863-519-0508.

Transforming Communities with Trails, 10 a.m. Dale Allen, Executive Director of Florida Greenways & Trails, Florida Trail System speaks on the Polk County Trail system by the TPO. Bartow City Hall, 450 N. Wilson Ave., Bartow.

Summer Kickoff Party, 5-7 p.m. Rock Band, Dance Central, Orlando Youth Circus, Cardboard Box Relay Race, Smoothies from Bambu Body Bar, Slither.io, All ages, sign up for the Gametize Challenge. Winter Haven Public Library, 325 Avenue A, NW, Winter Haven. 863-291-5880

Polk Pride Weekend: Icons: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World - A Solo Musical Comedy by Jade Esteban Estrada, 8 p.m. Hilarious trip through time with the most notable names in lesbian and gay history. The Lakeland Community Theatre presents this at the Lake Mirror Theater, 121 S. Lake Ave., Lakeland. Tickets \$10 and available at [www.PolkPrideFL.com](http://www.PolkPrideFL.com). [info@PolkPrideFL.com](mailto:info@PolkPrideFL.com) or [www.PolkPrideFL.com](http://www.PolkPrideFL.com).

# Local adventures for dad

By **CASSIE JACOBY**  
CORRESPONDENT

Instead of making dad sweat over the barbecue grill on Father's Day this Sunday, June 18, cook up cool plans for a walk on the wild side while staying close to home.

## Safari Wilderness

If you've always dreamed of taking the family on an African safari, but couldn't afford it, check out Safari Wilderness in Lakeland. Voted Top 10 Safari in the nation by Forder's Travel in 2015, the 260-acre multi habitat preserve has one the largest herds of Defassa Waterbuck in the country along with lemurs, eland, Red Lechwe, zebras, fainting goats, ostriches, llamas, camels and more. Call 800-828-7655 or visit [safariwilderness.com](http://safariwilderness.com) for more information.

## Streamsong Resort

Hit a hole in one with a golf day at Florida's newest premier golf resort, the 36-hole Streamsong Resort. Built on reclaimed phosphate mining land,

it features two critically-acclaimed golf courses, world-class bass fishing, a sporting clays facility, a unique grotto-style spa, exceptional food offerings, stunning vistas, wildlife and more in a natural Florida setting. Call (888) 294-6322 or visit [www.streamsongresort.com](http://www.streamsongresort.com) to book a tee time.

## Fishing

Dreaming of catching the big one? With more than 550 lakes in the "Largemouth Bass Capital of the World," Dad can tackle a "reel" experience in the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes, Lake Walk-in-Water, Crooked Lake, Lake Kissimmee and many more. In addition to Largemouth bass, Florida's state freshwater fish, Polk County produces quality bluegill, crappie, bream, sunshine bass, catfish, gar, tilapia and chain pickerel. A dozen local fish camps including Camp Mack, Grape Hammock, Cherry Pocket, Camp Lester, Bannon's Fish Camp and Jennings Resort offer cabins and fishing guides.

## Preston Aviation Biplane Rides

Father's Day will hit new heights up, up in the air with a flight aboard Preston Aviation's Boeing Stearman and Piper J3 Cub at the Winter Haven Municipal Airport. Biplane rides and instruction are available. Call 863-956-2526 or visit [www.flytailwheel.com](http://www.flytailwheel.com) to book your high flying adventure.

## Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo

Bring out Dad's inner cowboy with horseback riding, Saturday night rodeos, a trap and skeet shooting range, airboat rides, lodging, and more at Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo. The authentic dude ranch is spread out over 1,700-acres and surrounded by more than 400,000-acres of state and federally protected wetlands east of Lake Wales where accommodations include glamping, "glamorous camping." Call 863 692-1321 or visit [www.westgatedestinations.com/RiverRanch](http://www.westgatedestinations.com/RiverRanch) to schedule a stay-cation.

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# HEALTH and WELLNESS



## Zika problems haven't increased with extra water *But officials say drain the water and continue to be vigilant*

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

If it isn't one thing, it's another ... as if Zika wasn't a big enough worry, now we have to deal with making sure Tropical Storm Colin's remnants haven't created even bigger problems by leaving behind even more breeding places for the dreaded mosquitoes that carry the baby-deforming virus.

There have been three confirmed cases of the Zika virus flu in Polk County as of last week, and statewide numbers continue to mount, according to state and local health department officials.

So far, the state says there have been 175 confirmed Zika cases, some 38 of which involve pregnant women, but the DOH isn't specifying in which counties those women live for their protection and privacy, officials said.

Gov. Rick Scott has been on the bandwagon about both testing and prevention since February when he asked the federal Centers for Disease Control for additional testing materials and mosquito abatement funds.

Most of the reported cases are directly related to outside the U.S. travel, health department officials say,

but all suggest "it's just a matter of time before the virus is found here in mosquitoes."

The Tallahassee Department of Health office alerts say that eight of the confirmed cases in Florida are still exhibiting symptoms which usually last between a week to 10 days.

The Zika flu virus is generally mild with a rash, fever and joint pain and low to moderate fever. The big issue with the virus is its devastating effect on fetal growth. Zika has been directly linked to cases of microcephaly, a major birth defect where the infant's brain fails to develop in the womb, leaving it malformed and health-compromised.

While much of the literature and information disseminated by the health communities relates to mosquito-borne spreading of the disease, recent research indicates it also may be transmitted sexually. The CDC recommends that if one has traveled to a country with local transmission of the Zika virus, one should refrain from engaging in unprotected sex.

In addition to those measures, residents are continually cautioned to take steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites, especially in



AP PHOTO

Gov. Rick Scott along with surgeon general and secretary Celeste Philip and Miami-Dade county mayor Carlos Gimenez speak to local officials about ways to combat the spread of the Zika virus at the Miami-Dade Health Department on Thursday.

the wake of high levels of rainfall like those Polk experienced last week.

"We must do all we can to quickly eliminate new sources of standing water brought on by Tropical Storm Colin," said Florida Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip. "While we haven't experienced local transmission of Zika in Florida, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to protect ourselves from

mosquito bites in and around our homes."

Drain and cover are the buzzwords used to identify methods to minimize possible exposure.

Drain all standing water, discard old tires or any items that hold water, empty and clean birdbaths, protect boats and vehicles with rain tarps so water doesn't collect, and maintain swimming pools with proper chlorine

amounts and empty kiddie pools.

Cover doors and windows with screens, cover your skin with long sleeves, shoes, socks, long pants and use mosquito repellent to protect bare skin and clothing. Use DEET, picardin, oil of lemon eucalyptus and IR 3535 chemical repellents for effective chemical protection.

Use mosquito netting to protect infants

younger than two months old.

Questions about Zika or how to combat it or if one believes one may have come in contact with either the virus during overseas travel or with someone who has visited a country with active Zika status, may be directed to the Polk County Health department at 863-519-7900 or to the web site at [www.polk.floridahealth.gov](http://www.polk.floridahealth.gov).

## Pregnant 'Today' anchor won't attend Olympics because of Zika

By **AHIZA GARCIA**  
SUN WIRE SERVICES

NEW YORK—Savannah Guthrie isn't taking any chances.

The 'Today' anchor announced her pregnancy on Tuesday and said she won't travel to Rio for NBC's coverage of the Olympics because of concerns about Zika virus.

The disease, which is spread by mosquitos, has afflicted large areas of South America and Rio

de Janeiro, Brazil, where the games will be held this summer.

Zika has been linked to severe birth defects and microcephaly — abnormal brain development that causes a smaller than usual head size and intellectual disabilities.

"I'm not gonna be able to go to Rio," Guthrie said. "The doctors say that we shouldn't because of the CDC — because of the Zika virus. So I'll miss it."

Both the World Health

Organization and the Centers for Disease Control have advised pregnant women to avoid traveling to areas with Zika if possible.

The pregnancy is Guthrie's second. She made the announcement during the 'Today' show and posted footage of the reveal on Twitter. Guthrie, 44, said the baby is expected in December.

NBC gave all of its employees the option to skip Rio.

"The safety of our



PHOTO PROVIDED

"Today" anchor Savannah Guthrie recently announced her pregnancy and said

team members is always our first priority," NBC said in a statement. "NBCUniversal's medical department has advised all of our Olympic personnel to consult with their personal physicians, and continues to provide the latest information from the CDC and WHO, including basic prevention steps. No NBC personnel assigned to work in Rio will be required to travel if they believe their personal health or safety

is at risk." Only a handful of the more than 2,000 employees assigned to Rio have opted out, according to an NBC spokesperson.

During a press conference on Tuesday, a reporter asked whether the Rio Olympic committee was concerned about Guthrie's decision. A spokesperson said personal decisions would be respected but that the committee was 110 percent prepared to protect attendees at the games.

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HEALTH and WELLNESS

# Healthy food for peanuts

Peanuts, among America's favorite foods, are everywhere: in parties, on office desks, in sandwiches, and in the cracks of your plane seat when you get up to leave ... We all know that peanuts, especially roasted ones, are scrumptious. What is less known, is that they are rich in good fats, vitamin E, protein, manganese, folate, niacin, fiber, and a variety of antioxidants. Because of their high fat content though, they should be consumed in moderation.

Extensive scientific research has shown that eating peanuts several times per week helps prevent heart disease and certain types of cancer. Contrary to popular belief, peanuts are not nuts. Botanically, they are related to the Legume family of peas, beans, and lentils. Native to South America they have been used for thousands of years.

Peanuts in their shells should be stored in a dry cool place, whereas shelled ones need to be refrigerated to prevent them from turning rancid. Roasted peanuts are the mature seeds of the plant that were dried before roasting. Boiled peanuts, popular in Southern U.S. cuisine, are prepared from green peanuts that are soft and not fully matured.

The ever popular peanut butter, made from ground roasted peanuts, is used primarily for sandwiches, but also for mouth-watering sauces, salad dressings, and in baking. Who doesn't love PB cookies? You can actually make health-boosting ones with whole wheat pastry flour and a reduced amount of sugar.

When selecting a jar of peanut butter, the label's ingredient list should read: Roasted peanuts and salt (usually a tiny amount). If any other ingredients are listed, they turn this nutritious product into an unhealthy junk food – friends, this includes jelly! When you first open a jar of genuine peanut butter it is necessary to mix the ground peanuts with their oil which became separated. This can be easily accomplished with an up-down motion using a fork. Once you refrigerate the mixed PB, separation will not recur. Some people are allergic to peanuts and should strictly follow their doctor's orders.

Enjoy the following easy and scrumptious recipes and snack ideas:

**SNACKS**

- 1 rice cake with additive-free peanut butter
- 1 slice of toasted whole wheat bread with pure peanut butter
- 1 slice toasted whole grain bread with peanut butter topped with slices



**Judy E. Buss**  
Mission Nutrition

Health Correspondent

**of apple**

- 1 celery stalk cut into 3 pieces and filled with pure peanut butter
- 1 handful of dry-roasted peanuts
- Trail mix of roasted peanuts, and raisins or chopped dried fruit

**ASIAN-STYLE COLESLAW**  
4 servings

- 4 cups finely shredded green cabbage
  - 2 cups finely shredded red cabbage
  - 1 large carrot, grated
  - 4 green onions, thinly sliced, including their whites
  - 4 tablespoons roasted sesame seeds
- DRESSING:**
- 4 tablespoons wine vinegar
  - 3 tablespoons soy sauce
  - 4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
  - 2 tablespoons creamy additive-free peanut butter
  - 3 teaspoons ground ginger
  - Salt and pepper to taste

In a medium bowl, whisk all the dressing ingredients. Mix in all the vegetables, then add the sesame seeds.

**CURRIED TOFU-COCONUT STEW**  
2 servings

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 2/3 package cubed Firm tofu, or a brick Firm tofu
- 3/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 tablespoons curry powder
- 3 tablespoons whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup water
- 1-1/4 cups coconut milk
- 3/4 cup roasted unsalted peanuts
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 4 tablespoons shredded unsweetened coconut

In a medium saucepan heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onion, cover, reduce the heat to medium-low and cook slowly 8 minutes. Add garlic and cook about 4 more minutes, until

the onion is translucent.

Meanwhile, drain the tofu, place on a plate and wrap it in paper towels to blot the excess moisture. After a few minutes, remove the paper towels and cut the tofu into small cubes.

When the onion is translucent, mix in the ginger, salt, curry, and flour until well blended. Adjust the heat to medium-high and gradually add the water and coconut milk stirring constantly. When the sauce begins to boil, reduce the heat to medium-low, cover, and

cook slowly about 7 minutes, until thickened, stirring frequently.

Gently mix the tofu into the coconut milk mixture and cook slowly 3 more minutes.

Serve over cooked brown rice and top with the peanuts, raisins, and shredded coconut.

*Judy E. Buss is a nutritional cooking instructor, and a blogger for the American Holistic Health Association. Like her on Facebook for more recipes and tips.*

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**HEALTH and WELLNESS**

# LRH to unveil expanded Grasslands Campus

Lakeland Regional Health has expanded Grasslands Campus at 3030 Harden Blvd. in Lakeland.

“We feel privileged to begin serving patients at this beautiful new campus,” said Jon A. Boyette, vice president of Physician Group and Ambulatory Operations. “This is one example of how Lakeland Regional Health is dedicated to providing our community with convenient access to high-quality primary and specialty care.”

When it opened its doors to patients on June 13, the Grasslands Campus will be a medical home for primary and specialty care, as well as Lakeland Regional Health’s Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine program and Wound Care Center and Nemours Children’s Health System children’s specialty care. It will house 18 primary care physicians and specialists, ranging from pediatricians to

pulmonologists.

Among the highlights at the Grasslands Campus:

- 30 orthopedic exam rooms, an increase from seven.
- Enhanced orthopedic procedure room and casting rooms.
- HydroWorx 3500 therapy pool, featuring an underwater treadmill, resistance jets and underwater cameras to monitor progress.
- 100-foot Vector Gait & Safety System in gym that allows patients requiring physical rehabilitation to practice standing and walking without the risk of falls.
- Gym area devoted to pediatric therapy, featuring a rock climbing wall and trampoline.
- Outdoor rehabilitation garden, allowing patients to experience various walking surfaces and providing play area for children.
- Therapy equipment to help with hand rehabilitation and eye-hand coordination.
- A second, leading-edge digital X-ray

machine for orthopedic patients.

- Complimentary parking lot shuttle service.
- State-of-the-art audiology testing booth.

The campus also will allow for greater collaboration between pediatricians and LRH audiology and orthopedics departments.

“We are excited to be offering so many care options in one centralized location,” said Danielle Drummond, Lakeland Regional Health Executive vice president and chief operating officer. “Our patients are at the heart of all we do, so our focus is on providing them with access to groundbreaking technology that can improve their outcomes.”

For information, call 863-284-5000.

**New optometrist hired**

Watson Clinic hired Dr. Yuliya Faynberg, to the department of optometry.

Faynberg is licensed

optometrist who will provide a host of services related to eye health, including routine eye examinations, eyeglass and contact lens prescriptions, the diagnosis of glaucoma and cataracts, and alternative treatments for eye disorders.

Faynberg received her Doctor of Optometry degree from the

Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia, Penn. She completed her residency in Cornea, External Ocular Disease and Refractive Surgery at Northeastern Eye Institute in Scranton, Penn. She is a member of the Florida Optometric Association and the American Optometric Association.



**DR. YULIYA FAYNBERG**

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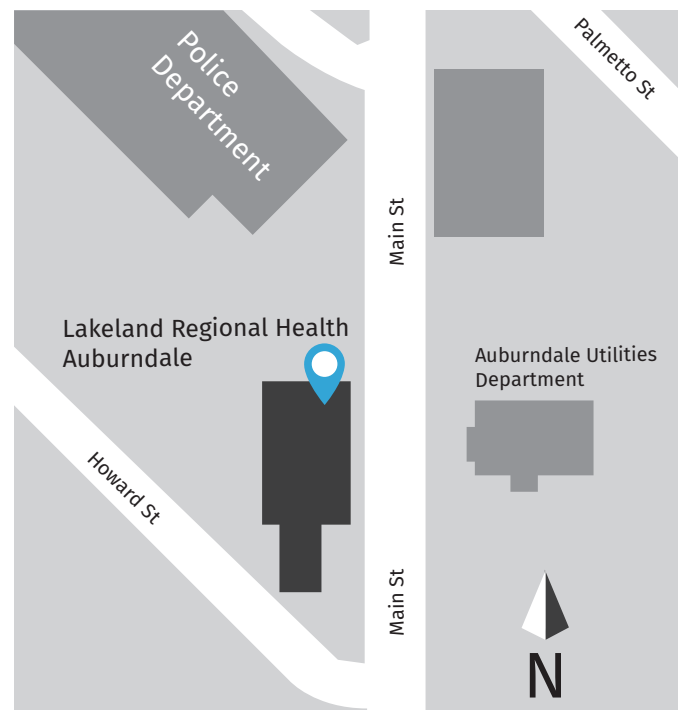


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