



**FRISBIE ON THE PLATTER:** S.L. Frisbie gets roasted. See Page 23.

An Edition of the Sun

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2016

TAKE ONE, IT'S FREE!

## Millions in renovations may come

### Fixing old schools may depend on sales tax money

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Bartow High School may have recently had a minor facelift, but it's now looking at a major overhaul to the tune of about \$25 million, according to Polk Public Schools officials. BHS's neighbor school, Mulberry High is also tapped

for similar improvements with about the same price tag.

Within two years or so, if all goes as planned, BHS could have 120 new classrooms and a whole new, old look. The plan, according to Interim Associate Superintendent for Operations Rob Davis, is to replace classrooms built in the 1950s with state-of-the-art,

high-tech-equipped rooms that will be going up rather than sprawling across the campus.

"We're looking at making the replacement classrooms two-story buildings in keeping with the school's oldest building's look," Davis said Monday. The classrooms to be replaced first are on the campus' east side near Wilson Street followed

a year or so later by those on the west side, paralleling Broadway Avenue, he said.

But it all hinges on two things, Davis cautioned. First, he said was the Polk County School Board's approval which is expected in November when the board OKs the district's five-year capital improvements plan, and the second is coming

up with the cash to pay for the projects.

Davis said Monday the present plans have some \$8 million set aside for the first phase, which would demolish and replace 31 aging classrooms with seats for 450 students with a two-floor building, and create

SCHOOLS | 34

## Feacher is 'Stayin' Alive'



PHOTO BY CHARLES BAKER III

Former Winter Haven city manager Deric Feacher prepares to sing a Sam Cooke song. He got two 10s and a nine in his first performance, one point behind Bonnie Parker. Feacher ended up winning the Celebrity Lip Sync Battle.

## Former city manager wins lip sync contest

By **CHARLES BAKER III**  
and **CASSIE JACOBY**  
CORRESPONDENTS

Flashing a smile of confidence as he danced across the stage, Deric Feacher won the judges' choice first place award in the inaugural Lip Sync Battle last week at Theatre Winter Haven. Raising more than \$25,387, the local version

of the Spike cable network television series benefits the Winter Haven Public Education Partnership and Cypress Junction Montessori. Half goes to the Winter Haven Public Education Partnership and half to Cypress Junction Montessori, Winter Haven's newest school.

LIP SYNC | 33



Winter Haven Mayor Brad Dantzler does his best impression of Elwood Blues on the harmonica. The mayor came in third place.

## Supporters still trumped up

*Despite character flaws, people feel Trump is 'good candidate'*

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Neither rain nor heat could deter Trump supporters from gathering at a local regional airport to hear from their presidential nominee when he made a whistlestop in Lakeland last week.

Republican nominee Donald Trump flew into Lakeland Linder Airport at 3 p.m. Wednesday and was greeted by thousands of his supporters.

As a man who owns real estate in the state, Trump voiced his concern for Florida and promised to make it prosperous under his presidency by ensuring clean water, deterring soaring electricity rates, and supporting the state's agricultural industry.

"We're going to take care of Florida farmers and Florida agriculture," Trump announced.

In an effort to overshadow his divisive image, Trump preached for unity among his fellow Americans by espousing both right-leaning policies such as reducing violent crime and

TRUMP | 31



PHOTO BY CHARLES BAKER III

Donald Trump had a short rally at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport Wednesday with just weeks to go before the election.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wednesday, Oct. 19

Natural Products for Pest Control, noon. Bring your lunch and picnic or opt for a fresh choice from the Blue Palmetto Café. Bok Tower Gardens, 1151 Tower Blvd., Lake Wales.

DIY Centerpieces, noon-2 p.m. Create a centerpiece with fresh greenery, festive colored sprigs & dried citrus slices arranged. Grove House Visitor Center at 20160 U.S. 27, Lake Wales. 863-679-4110

Main Street Bartow Farmer's Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fort Blount Park, corner of Main Street and Broadway Avenue.

Dixieland Twilight Market, 5-8 p.m. Produce, plants & flowers, food trucks, packaged and ready-to-eat foods, specialty foods, beverages. Dixieland Village Shoppes, 1035 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland.

Office hours for Sen. Denise Grimsley's, R-Sebring, 9-10 a.m. Mulberry Public Library, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 905 NE 5th St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow; 1:15-2:15 p.m., Fort Meade Community Center, 10 SW 3rd St., Fort Meade; 3-4 p.m., Latt Maxcy Memorial Library, 15 N. Magnolia Ave., Frostproof.

Job Fair, 7 p.m., free. Haines City Chamber Member Businesses. Lake Eva Event Center, 799 Johns Ave., Haines City 863-422-3751 or info@hainescitychamber.com

**Thursday, Oct. 20-Saturday, Oct. 22**  
Airplane Fly-in, 9 a.m. to

## WELCOME TO YOUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Want to see your event on this page? Call us at 863-533-4183 or email news@heartlandnewspapers.com.

5 p.m. \$10 at the gate, which includes parking and a pit pass. Children younger than 12 enter for free. Paradise Field in Lakeland, the sky will buzz with replica warplanes, biplanes and planes of yesteryear embracing more than six decades of aviation history. Paradise Field at Lakeland Linder Airport, 3875 W. Pipkin Road, Lakeland.

**Thursday, Oct. 20**  
Polk County Public Schools plan "State of the School" 6:30 p.m. To inform parents, students and community members about what efforts are being taken and how the turnaround process will unfold. Crystal Lake Middle, 2410 Crystal Lake Drive, Lakeland, in cafeteria

2016 Champions Cup Business & Industry/Spirit of Bartow Awards, 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner. \$50 per person, \$400 for table of eight. Keynote speaker is U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney. Bartow Civic Center, 2201 S. Floral Ave., Bartow. 863-533-7125

Inspired, opening reception, 6-9 p.m. Artwork by father and daughter, Trent and Harlow Manning. Outer Space Gallery, 30 Ave. C SW, Winter Haven. 863-272-2258 or 863-640-0281.

Candidate Forum sponsored by the League of Women

Voters. Neil Combee Building, 330 W. Church St., Bartow.

The Perfect Pair, 6-8 p.m., \$55 per couple. Showcases the classic Spanish duo of Paella and Sangria. Executive Chef James Lazaros of Winter Haven's La Flor de Espana in the kitchen for this night of romance and delicious Spanish cuisine. Bok Tower Gardens' Outdoor Kitchen and Edible Garden 1151 Tower Blvd., Lake Wales.

**Friday, Oct. 21-Saturday, Oct. 22**  
Haunted Jail Tour, \$5 donation to go to the United Way of Central Florida. Zombie Outbreak as people tour the Polk County Jail. Sponsored by the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Polk County Jail, 455 N. Broadway Ave., Bartow.

**Friday, Oct. 21**  
Football: Sebring at Lake Wales, 7:30 p.m. Lake Wales High School, 1 Highlander Way, Lake Wales

Football: Bartow at Bishop Moore, 7:30 p.m. Bishop Moore High School, 3901 Edgewater Drive, Orlando.

Football: Pahokee at Fort Meade, 7:30 p.m. Fort Meade High School, 700 Edgewood Drive, Fort Meade

Football: Crescent City

at Frostproof, 7:30 p.m. Frostproof High School, 1000 W. Palm Ave., Frostproof

Football: Lake Region at Auburndale, 7:30 p.m. Lake Region High School, 1995 Thunder Road, Eagle Lake

"Art in Transit-Art in Motion" 5:30 p.m. Feature art work provided by the Citrus Center Boys and Girls Club, Skateboard designs by local middle and high school students including some designed by homeless students in Polk County. Hill Lot, 3rd Street SW, Winter Haven. 863-272-2258 or 863-224-8557

Dulcimers in the Park, 5:30-7 p.m. Central Park, Winter Haven.

5K Joggin' for the Noggin; race starts at 6:30 p.m. Presented by Regal Lakeland in Partnership with Florida Blue benefits Polk State College students promises to be a fun and scary, Halloween themed race. Proceeds from Joggin' for the Noggin! 5K will benefit student scholarships and programs on the Lakeland campus. Register online at <https://register.chrono-track.com/r/22687>

Bartow Friday Fest, 6-9 p.m., free. Main Street, Bartow.

STEAM for Home-Schooled, 10 a.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131.

**Saturday, Oct. 22-Sunday, Oct. 23**  
Fall Parade of Homes, 11 a.m.5 p.m. Remodlers Parade. By appointment with builder. [www.pcba.com](http://www.pcba.com)

**Saturday, Oct. 22**  
"Clean It Up to Green It Up" For Bradley, Pierce and Homeland communities. Sponsored by Polk County Beautiful, Inc. and Polk County Board of County Commissioners. 863-875-8911, for information.

19th Annual Hispanic Festival, noon-8 p.m. To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, while raising funds for charitable causes and academic scholarships. Lake Mirror Promenade / Barnett Family Park in downtown Lakeland.

Turkey Thumbprint Art, noon- 2 p.m. Grove House Visitor Center at 20160 U.S. 27, Lake Wales.

Murder of Crows, 10 p.m. \$5. Jessie's Lounge at 118 3rd St. SW, Winter Haven.

Operation Kidsafe Safety, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Operation KidSafe captures your child's picture and fingerprints using a digital video capture device, digital ink-less fingerprint capture device and specialized software. Camping World of Bartow, 7400 State Road 60, Bartow. 800-329-7878

"Elvis Returns - Encore," 8 p.m., \$18. Polk Theatre, 121 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland. 863-682-7553 or [www.polktheatre.org](http://www.polktheatre.org)

**Sunday Oct. 23**  
Herman's Hermits with Peter Noone, 6 p.m. Center Stage Buffet available for additional charge. Visit [www.thelakelandcenter.com](http://www.thelakelandcenter.com) for tickets. Lakeland Center, 701

W. Lime St. in Lakeland

Free breakfast, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Pancake and/or waffle, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee, and sausage breakfast in the Myrle Knowles fellowship hall Trinity United Methodist Church, 2551 Havendale Blvd., Winter Haven.

**Monday, Oct. 24**  
Computer Class, 3 p.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131.

**Tuesday, Oct. 25**  
Polk County Public Schools plan "State of the School" This is to inform parents, students and community members about what efforts are being taken and how the turnaround process will unfold. 6 p.m. Eagle Lake Elementary, 400 Crystal Beach Road, Eagle Lake, in cafeteria

Halloween Harvest Festival, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Auburndale's biggest and most spooktacular event. Entertainment, food, haunted house, displays, trick or treat trail, costume contest and more. Sponsored by Stewart Auto Repair. Downtown Auburndale. 863-967-3400

Polk County School board work session (12:30 p.m.) and meeting (5 p.m.). Work session in Superintendent's Conference Room located at 1915 S. Floral Ave., Bartow. School Board meeting in School Board Auditorium, 1915 S. Floral Ave., Bartow. Agenda at <http://www.polk-fl.net/districtinfo/boardmembers/meetings/AgendaTOC.htm>.

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### 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)

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# Our veterans are centerfolds

## New calendar highlights vets, helps emergency services

By CATHY PALMER  
CORRESPONDENT

These 12 people probably never expected to be centerfolds, and most don't fit the general idea, but nonetheless early next month they will be.

Not in a skimpy swimsuit pin-up pose or half-naked in a men's magazine, but featured in the premier edition of the Polk County Veterans' Services Department's Veterans Calendar.

Come 2017, you'll see the likes of Bartow's own J.J. Corbett, a 90-something veteran of the U.S. Army's famous Triple Nickle 'smoke jumpers' unit. Corbett graces the month of February. Corbett also recently was named to the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

Another WWII vet willing to join the calendar set is Harry "Ted" Sharp, 92, who also served in the Army during the war. You'll find his smiling face on the opening pages, honoring January.

Come March, you'll catch a glimpse of Rick Parnell, another Army veteran. Rick presently

serves the county as a member of the Polk Fire Rescue Department.

In April, Harvey Lester graces the colorful pages, though he's not wearing Army green. Today, he serves as a chaplain at Winter Haven Hospital.

Forty-ish and fit, May's selection has been through more than one fight just to be here, much less be honored on the printed page. Chad Mumbauer of Lakeland still looks like a Marine and carries himself ramrod straight, even though he traded his Marine khaki's for LPD's blue many years ago.

June, as if kicking off hurricane season, we find Polk Emergency Management Director Pete McNally, a Navy veteran. McNally has headed up Polk's emergency response operations for many years. Since hurricane seasons starts June 1, his choice for this month was right on target.

Marvin Desselle, now 64, has made a splash outside his military service in the Air Force. He's a vet with PTSD and is taking his own experience



PHOTO PROVIDED

**This collage shows all 12 of the veterans featured in the inaugural issue of the Polk County Veterans' Calendar. It should be available from Polk Veterans Services in early November**

and using it to help others. He found a service dog to help him cope with his disorder and decided to train other animals to help fellow veterans. He does the training for free.

Our Miss August is Tonia Oldham, also wore the blue for her country, singing, dance and serving in the Air Force. The talented Lakeland native joined USAF 'Tops in Blue' and entertained worldwide. She's also one of the very few to attain the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. She's also authored a book about her experiences called

Life Beyond Adversities — Memoirs of a Military Chief.

In September, we take to the skies again, this time with Air Force veteran Carrie Horstan. She traded her USAF blues and military intelligence work for the greens and gold of the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Horstman serves as the public affairs officer for Polk Sheriff Grady Judd.

Fall brings not frost to Polk County, but Faust. Deborah Faust that is. The U.S. Navy veteran is a fairly new addition

to the Polk County staff. Now she also graces the calendar's October pages. She's the head of the Polk County Human Resources Department and has lived in Polk County for just under a year.

Everyone is thankful in November, but a whole city is thankful for the Thanksgiving month's veteran. He's Jose Sanchez, a former Marine who swapped his camo fatigues for a squad car and protects and serves closer to home, Winter Haven. Sanchez is also a Purple Heart recipient, and is no stranger to fame. He's famous to one and all in Winter Haven since he was the model police officer portrayed in the city's bronze statue "The Protector."

Closing out the year for the Polk Veterans 2017 calendar is Harry Alexander who also served in the Navy. He's now 92 and has stories to tell about how he earned his two Purple Hearts while serving aboard a PT-boat in the South Pacific during World War II.

The brainchild of Veterans Services chief

Mike Mason, the calendar should be published and available in early November, said Polk County Communications Department head Mianne Nelson, whose staff is designing, preparing and writing the calendar. Nelson's staff also took the photos of the dozen vets featured.

The calendar will be for sale, Nelson said, but the price had yet been determined.

"It'll be nominal," Nelson said, "Since it was basically produced in house."

Polk County is home to some 54,000 veterans, and Mason's department offers services to them all. Among the services provided are assistance with obtaining military benefits, compensation, education and training, home loans, life insurance, pensions, survivor benefits, vocational rehabilitation and burial assistance information.

Mason said the proceeds from the calendar sales will be used to help provide emergency services for veterans throughout the county.

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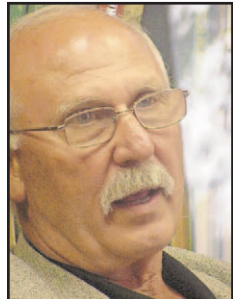
# VIEWPOINT

## Hall and Dimmig deserve re-election

John Hall, the incumbent Polk County commissioner from District 5, and Rex Dimmig, who has been public defender for the Tenth Judicial Circuit since 2012, both bring a wealth of experience to the offices they hold.

Hall is seeking his second term on the commission, the final term he will be permitted to hold due to term limits. But his preparation far precedes his election to office four years ago.

He was director of the county's building division, and retired from full-time employment in county government to run for the commission.



JOHN HALL

We are particularly impressed by his wish to preserve the character of Polk County in the face of continuing pressure to abandon the county's rural heritage in favor of burgeoning home construction.

Polk County is something of a rural oasis between the metropolises of Tampa and Orlando, and we would like to see it retain that character.

### Our Viewpoint

Hall also understands better than most officeholders that the availability of water is the key limiting factor in further development.

On the Mosaic sinkhole, he said the county needs "to set a protocol of how we will notify the public on matters of great concern," something that Mosaic, the county commission, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection all failed to do.

His opponent is Carol Castagnero, a colorful personality in Polk County politics who is unsure how many times she has run for public office, including once for governor.

We recommend re-election of John Hall to the District 5 post on the Polk County commission.

When Rex Dimmig graduated from law school, his first job was in the Tenth Judicial Circuit public defender's office, which represents defendants in Polk, Highlands, and Hardee counties. He originally thought he wanted to become a judge.

"I discovered that isn't where my heart is," he told our

editorial board.

In a 30-year career in the office, he has supervised each division in a staff of some 60 trial lawyers. (The Tenth Circuit public defender's office also handles cases appealed to the Second District Court of Appeal.)

He wants to see a move toward what he calls "smart justice," allowing judges to consider all relevant factors in sentencing defendants, rather than being bound to sentences based on a fill-in-the-blanks numerical analysis or Florida's widely criticized penchant for mandatory minimum sentences.

His opponent is Tanya Stewart, who was employed by the public defender's office from 2006 to 2014 before opening her law office specializing in criminal defense and personal injury cases. She has an upbeat personality, but lacks the breadth of experience of the incumbent.

We recommend re-election of Rex Dimmig to the office of public defender of the Tenth Judicial Circuit.



REX DIMMIG

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Biblical election truths

From the time of President George Washington, our presidents have placed their hands on the Bible and said, "So help me God." America has become a great nation as we've honored and lived according to God's truths.

America has experienced great turmoil and loss when we have strayed from His truths and placed on the Supreme Court those with errant views.

In 1857 the Supreme Court ruled that a slave was not fully human and could not be a citizen. Abraham Lincoln's party strongly protested. The Civil War was our most deadly war.

In 1973 the Court ruled in *Roe vs Wade* that the human in the womb could not be protected. Some 58 million babies

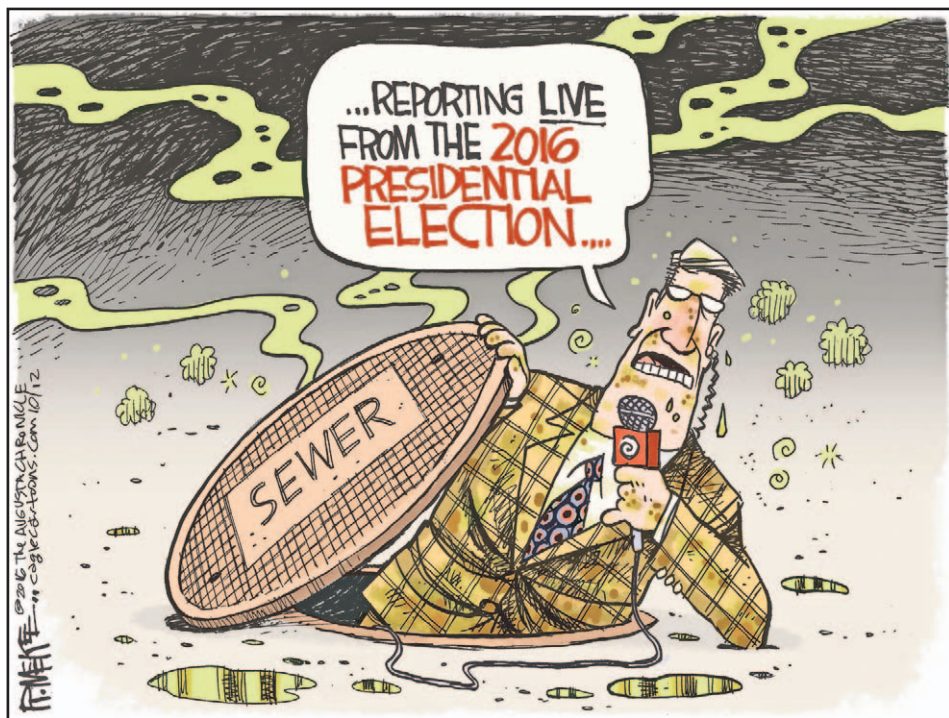
have perished. The Republican platform is pro-life and pro-family. See the diametrically opposite worldviews expressed in the two platforms. [www.frcaction.org/2016PartyPlatformComparison](http://www.frcaction.org/2016PartyPlatformComparison).

In 2015, again a Democrat-influenced Court ruled in the *Obergefell vs Hodges* contrary to God's Word.

No one loves us more than God. He created us in His image. If same-sex were constructive, God wouldn't be adamantly opposed. When this pattern is introduced, it starts spreading. In Jude 7, we read that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, as were the surrounding cities.

All of God's creation is good — including male and female. To deny this

ULLOM | 5



## 2016 election: One for the books (a horror story)

Political scholars, I predict, will hold up the presidential election of 2016 as the single most bizarre campaign in American history.

On the opening day of each of the national conventions, party leaders of both parties lamented that they were on the verge of nominating the only candidate who the other party could defeat so easily.

Each had low credibility, even among people who said they would vote for them.

A common theme among voters is that they are struggling to determine which candidate would do the less harm to the nation, or the world. Polls show third party candidates whose names are hardly known receiving double-digit support.

Hillary Clinton exhibits an attitude of entitlement, whether by using a personal e-mail server to conduct government business, including the transmission of classified documents, or accepting "speaking fees" of two-thirds of a million dollars for speeches to Wall Street moguls she routinely attacks in public, explaining to them that politicians are entitled to take different positions in



S.L. Frisbie

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public and in private.

She dismisses fully half of the voters who support her opponent as a "basket of deplorables."

Donald Trump represents himself as the anti-establishment candidate, but bases his populist candidacy on disparaging remarks about women, immigrants, soldiers, religious minorities, prisoners of war, Gold Star parents, and others, reserving his strongest diatribes for the press and, of course, Hillary.

He has become famous for Tweeting out rants in the middle of the night.

When it appeared The Donald could do nothing more to alienate the voters, an 11-year-old video of his own essay on entitlement — that he was entitled

to kiss and grope beautiful women because he was a TV star — came to the fore. He excuses his gutter language by calling it "locker room talk."

And when women began coming forward saying that they were kissed and groped by Trump in exactly the ways he boasted, he accused all of them of lying.

Republican leaders in unprecedented numbers withdrew prior endorsements.

The Speaker of the House basically declared "every man for himself" on the issue of supporting Trump, and said his priority will be maintaining the Republican majority in both houses of Congress, not securing election of his party's candidate for president.

Many prominent figures on the American scene declared that they would — or wished they could — write in another candidate for president.

What will be the final outcome? That chapter hasn't been written.

Consider this admittedly unlikely but not inconceivable outcome:

Might the Republican Party so completely implode that it splits into two parties, with the eventual outcome that the surviving group (since the American

political system historically has had only two major parties) will have a new identity?

The first American political party was the Federalist Party (Alexander Hamilton). Have you hugged a Federalist lately?

The second was the Democratic-Republican Party (Thomas Jefferson and James Madison) which split into the Democratic Party (Andrew Jackson) and the Whig Party (Henry Clay).

In 1884 the Mugwumps left the Republican Party to support the Democratic candidate, Grover Cleveland.

By definition, a Mugwump was a Republican who refused to support the party's nominee, James G. Blaine. Another definition is a person who cannot decide on an issue, particularly a political issue.

(S. L. Frisbie is retired. In this year's election, he finds himself entertaining Mugwumpian tendencies. Considering the two choices on the ballot this year, James G. Blaine — whoever he was — might not be such a bad candidate.)

### 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@polkcountymugwump.com](mailto:letters@polkcountymugwump.com) or mail them to 190 S. Florida Ave., Bartow, FL 33830.

# Support candidates with your issues

The election is just weeks away. Ballots are going in the mail for voters who requested them and early voting is starting. Florida voters have a lot of decisions to make.

I've given my opinion on two of the constitutional amendments. As a reminder: Vote "no" on Amendment One; the deceptive utility-backed solar amendment that would stifle solar expansion. And vote "yes" on Amendment Two to legalize medical marijuana under a doctor's care.

Readers have asked me who to vote for in legislative races throughout the state. Rather than endorsing legislative candidates, let me offer some guidance.

The best indicator of how someone will act is past performance. It's easier to judge candidates who have served in office because you can check their records. Did they do what they said?

A good strategy is to pick three or four issues that matter most to you, and ask the candidates their positions. Then check their voting records. If they haven't done what they said or acted against your interest, give someone else a chance.

If you know the bill number and the year it was considered, you can look up how state legislators voted:

- For senators: [www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bills/2017](http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bills/2017).

- For House members: [www.myfloridahouse.com/Sections/Bills/bills.aspx](http://www.myfloridahouse.com/Sections/Bills/bills.aspx).

Let's look at some major issues with bill numbers and how candidates currently serving have voted.

## Issue — Fracking

Fracking is the process of drilling and then pumping water and chemicals into wells at great depths and pressures to release oil and gas from rock formations. It's water-intensive and uses up to 600 chemicals in fracking fluid, including known carcinogens and toxins.



**Paula Dockery**

## Political Ponderings

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

In the 2016 session, HB191 and SB318 would have granted the state sole authority to regulate fracking by preventing local governments from regulating or banning the process. At the time, 31 Florida counties and 46 cities had passed ordinances or resolutions banning or opposing fracking.

Fracking is dangerous and poses environmental and health risks. And limiting local governments' ability to do what's in the best interest of their residents is wrong.

The bill passed in the House on a 73-45 vote. Only seven Republicans bravely voted "no." Three of them are up for re-election — Chris Latvala (Clearwater), Mike Miller (Winter Park) and Holly Raschein (Key Largo). Another — Greg Steube (Sarasota) — is running for the state Senate.

Some candidates who voted "yes" are trying to claim they supported a ban on fracking with their vote. That is extremely misleading. The intent of the bill was clearly to pave the way for fracking and to remove local control.

Fortunately, the bill was defeated in a Senate committee on a slim 9-10 vote. Candidates who stopped fracking are Anitere Flores (R-Miami), Bill Montford (D-Tallahassee) and Joe Negron (R-Palm City), who are running for re-election, and Darren Soto (D-Kissimmee), who's running for Congress.

## Issue — Campus Carry

HB4001 and SB68 would allow individuals with concealed-carry permits to

take firearms onto all 40 of Florida's public university and college campuses — against the wishes of university presidents and faculty, campus police chiefs and student government leaders.

While a strong proponent of the Second Amendment, I oppose guns on campus because the combination of drugs, alcohol, raging hormones, immaturity and guns is a recipe for potential disaster. Polls at the time showed 73 percent of Florida voters agreed.

The Florida House didn't. The bill sponsored by state Rep. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) passed on an 80-37 vote, mainly along party lines. Steube is running for the state Senate.

The Florida Senate stopped the bill. State Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla (R-Miami), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, prevented it from getting to the Senate floor. Diaz de la Portilla is running for re-election and will probably be on the receiving end of negative ads for standing up to the special interests.

## Issue — Education

In any given session there are numerous education bills — some with broad support and others that are controversial. When bills are in danger of failing, they are often added to other bills. HB 7029 became the education train and ended up as one of the most controversial and one of the least transparent mega bills of the session.

The Senate version, SB1166, started as a three-page bill but grew to 132 pages during the final days of session. How could legislators possibly know what they were voting for?

The final bill is a conglomeration of unrelated and contentious education policies. It allows students to transfer to any public school — a nightmare for school district planning and budgeting. It also financially punishes school districts for construction spending while making it easier for charter school operators to get access to public funding, even if it inures to

their private gain.

It passed without the public having a meaningful opportunity for comment. It shouldn't have. This is the kind of rigged process that voters are angry about.

The bill passed the House on an 82-33 vote and the Senate on a 29-10 vote.

Candidates running for re-election to the House who voted "no" were Amanda Murphy (D-New Port Richey), Tom Goodson (R-Titusville), Richard Stark (D-Weston) and David Richardson (D-Miami Beach).

State Sen. Dwight Bullard (D-Miami), running for re-election, voted "no" — a clear contrast to his opponent, state Rep. Frank Artiles (R-Miami), who co-sponsored the bill in the House.

## Issue — Medicaid Expansion

It was estimated that 848,000 working Floridians are without health insurance because they earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but don't qualify for subsidies for private insurance. They would be covered if the state agreed to expand Medicaid. Florida refused to do so. Well, the House and governor refused.

In 2015 during Special Session A, the Senate passed SB2-A on a nearly unanimous bipartisan vote of 33-3. State Sen. Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast), who is running for re-election, was one of those votes against Medicaid expansion.

The bill failed in the House on a 41-72 vote, mainly along party lines. Two Republicans voted to help cover Florida's working poor — Shawn Harrison (Tampa), running for re-election, was one of them.

Reward incumbents who do what they say or who vote with your best interests in mind, but replace them when they don't. The power is in your hands.

*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).*

# State of the Schools coming

There are seven State of the Schools presentations coming in the next couple of weeks from school principals to address the turnaround plans Polk County has been instructed to carry out by the state Department of Education.

Principals are holding the meetings to inform parents, students and community members about what efforts are being taken and how the turnaround process will unfold.

The first one was held Monday at Denison Middle School. The other ones are scheduled at:

Thursday, Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m. Crystal Lake Middle, 2410 Crystal Lake Drive, Lakeland, in cafeteria

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m. Eagle Lake



**Christine Roslow**

## Our Schools

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

Elementary, 400 Crystal Beach Road, Eagle Lake, in cafeteria

Thursday, Oct. 27, 5 p.m. Palmetto Elementary, 315 Palmetto Street Poinciana, in cafeteria

Friday, Oct. 28, 8:30 a.m. Combee Elementary, 2805 Morgan Combee

Road, Lakeland in cafeteria

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 4:30 p.m. Lake Marion Creek Middle, 3055 Lake Marion Creek Drive, Poinciana in cafeteria.

The meetings are open.

## Kathleen Elementary begins 'College Lunch Club'

Earlier this month, Kathleen Elementary students in fourth and fifth grade began a "College Lunch Club," a program designed to help students achieve their goals and dreams for a college career path. Parents signed their children up for this program, which is full at 20 students in each grade, and a waiting list has started for the program.

## Social Studies teacher named Exceptional and Innovative Educator

Lindsey Smoot of Kathleen Middle School has been named among this year's recipients of the Dr. Theron Trimble Florida Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award.

The award, given by the Florida Council for the Social Studies, recognizes exceptional and innovative teachers. Those considered for the honor are "highly skilled and adept at creating meaningful lessons for their students, and advocating for social studies education."

Smoot is one of just three winners for 2016 — the award is given to educators at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

# Come see the art in the community at Cornucopia

Hello again. We hope you and your families got out of the hurricane scare in one piece.

Our library art gallery is hosting its annual Cornucopia display of local artists, promoted by the Bartow Art Guild and lasting until Dec. 1. Please take the time to swing by the library and view the variety of art our community can create.

We're going to have our furry friends return for Paws to Read this Saturday, Oct. 22 from 10-11 a.m. Just remember any child can sit and read a book to our friendly therapy dogs, and then they can choose a gift from Miss Melissa's treasure chest.

Our Family Book discussion will at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, and we're going to continue our discussion on the second half of Wendy Mass' *The Candymakers*.

Some children's only exposure to the library is through school/civic group



**Paul Wartenberg**

## Bartow Public Library

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

visits. We encourage you to bring your class or group to the library, but please call us ahead of time to schedule for the tour. You can pick up a copy of our Group Visits Policy at the library or view it at [www.cityofbartow.net/library](http://www.cityofbartow.net/library).

We still have ongoing Chair Yoga exercise classes every Tuesday and Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. We also have the ongoing Adult Coloring program at 11 a.m. Tuesday, and you can bring your own

lunch as you relax while coloring sheets.

Our Computer Basics class is at 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24 and will be the third of our four key classes. "Introduction to Word" will explore how to type a document, how to save your work to file, and how to edit and highlight select sections of your work. Seating is limited so please call or ask at the Information desk about this. We will have sign-up sheets available for all our computer classes.

A reminder to Bartow residents that the city's annual Halloween parade will be Thursday evening, Oct. 27. As such, Bartow Library will close early that Thursday at 3 p.m. We will reopen normal hours on Friday, Oct. 28, which is 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Our address is 2150 S. Broadway Ave. in 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*

# ULLOM

## FROM PAGE 4

requires and attack on God, the Bible, religious freedom, First Amendment, science, and history. To violate God's good purposes is evil.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer declared that, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

Mr. Trump is committed to appointing conservative justices like the late Antonin Scalia. Mrs. Clinton would appoint liberal justices like the ones appointed by Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

Many are convinced that America will never recover if additional radical justices are appointed.

Please pray and encourage others to vote with a focus on the Supreme Court.

**VIRIGIL ULLOM, DDS  
Lake Wales**

# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## City rethinking financing for big projects

By **MARY HURST**  
CORRESPONDENT

City Commissioners learned Oct. 10 they may have to rethink previous plans to finance the multi-million dollar list of five capital projects to which they have committed over the next five years. Cal Bowen, the city's finance director, said the wisest way to save nearly \$750,000 long-term may be to roll the \$7.4 million required to finance five capital improvement

projects into another 2007 bond issue which they would refinance. During budget hearings for the 2016-17 fiscal year, staff's initial thoughts were to recommend the city borrow the \$7.4 million from a local bank as a line of credit, issuing the \$7.4 million in next October as a separate bond issue. The city has already set aside \$6.1 million toward those projects. But after consulting the city's bond counsel

and separate financial advisor, Bowen, Interim City Manager T. Michael Stavres and City Attorney John Murphy learned that it might be better to combine the two bond issues into one, then issuing a separate bond issue to finance redevelopment of the Chain of Lake Complex. Consultants also pointed out the risk of the federal interest rate hike expected in December, which would raise interest rates on a line

of credit or bridge loan taken out by the city. They are playing a guessing game with how much the city will have to finance for the Chain of Lakes complex. Bowen said after the meeting that the \$15 million costs of improvements to the Chain of Lakes complex are only estimates. The city is partnering with Polk County to finance those improvements including a field house. The

county, through the Tourist Development Council and the Tourist Development Council, will contribute \$10 million toward the cost of the complexes redevelopment, including \$1 million in planning dollars. Bowen said the master planning process is beginning this month. After that is completed, the city will have a better idea of true costs. "Our \$15 million in costs is total speculation

at this point," Bowen said. "It may be more, it may be less." He did tell commissioners when all was said and done, the city would be facing a \$911,000 debt service annually, which was "more than a half a mil" which would require a raise in the property tax rate next year. City Commissioners' consensus was for city staff to proceed with their inquiries and bring recommendations to them soon.

## New recycling package OK'd

By **MARY HURST**  
CORRESPONDENT

The City Commission has approved a \$374,500 contract with TrashTaxi to handle curbside recycling. The contract will save the city money. Trash Taxi's bid to provide services will cost the city \$2.19 per pickup. Winter Haven's current carrier, Republic Services, give a cost of \$2.53 per pickup. Items recycled will continue to be the same with one exception — glass. "There is no market for glass," Mayor Brad Dantzer said. "We had Republic continue to take it."

Interim City Manager T. Michael Stavres told commissioners that there will be slight increase in the city's tipping fees, which are based on weight, at the county's landfill because glass will no longer be recycled. The city has also purchased the recycling containers from Republic Services for \$280,000, a one-time cost. Trash Taxi is scheduled to begin curbside recycling services Jan. 2 or before. The city will be notifying city residents that glass will no longer be accepted through public information efforts.

The contract is for three years, with two renewals possible after the initial contract expires. In other action, commissioners heard from a representative of the state's Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater, who is appearing before local governmental units to remind people they may have unclaimed property they can claim through the state. The state generally received \$1 billion in unclaimed property per year, which includes funds from forgotten bank accounts, life insurance policies and other assets. Residents can go to

myfloridatreasurehunt.org and fill in the

required information to see if there is any

unclaimed property in their name.

## Auburndale hires Panama City Assistant City Manager

City Manager Bobby Green hired Panama City Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman as the new city manager in Auburndale. The position became vacant after Shawn Sherrouse became the assistant city manager in Lakeland.

While attending Auburndale High School, Tillman was employed by the city working summers and after school. During this time Tillman began showing an interest in municipal management. His interest in local government earned him the Ridge League of Cities Scholarship in 2003.



**JEFF TILLMAN**

"After receiving over 30 applications and inquiries for the position, and interviewing five very qualified candidates, Jeff Tillman's dedication to the public sector and strong career development makes him most qualified to serve as the next Auburndale Assistant City Manager," said Green. Tillman said he appreciates the opportunity to return home. "I look forward to serving the community where I grew up," he said. "I really wanted to move back because of the team that Auburndale has and the residents who make it a special place."

Following his graduation from Florida State University in December 2007, Tillman worked an eight-month post graduate internship with the Auburndale City Manager's Office. In October 2009, Tillman was hired by the City of Lake Alfred as their Parks and Recreation Superintendent. Tillman supervised Lake Alfred's Parks and Recreation staff,

with responsibilities including overseeing the city's parks, youth recreation programs and community events. He also planned several successful community-wide festivals and parades. During his employment with Lake Alfred, Tillman obtained his Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of South Florida in 2013. In 2014 Tillman served as a Management Analyst with the City of Kissimmee. Since April 2015 Tillman has served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Panama City, Florida, working with City Manager Jeff Brown, also a former Auburndale Assistant City Manager. Tillman is married. They own a German short-haired pointer. He enjoys fishing and hiking. Tillman will be paid \$80,664 annually.

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# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Oktoberfest



PHOTOS BY CHARLES BAKER III

Ethan Pepin, 9, of Auburndale, second from right, hangs out with others at the 10th Annual Winter Haven Oktoberfest in Central Park Friday night. The fountain was dyed pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Winter Haven resident Adelberto Diaz is all smiles after tasting some local brew made by Brewpop, a brewery in Auburndale near the Walmart. Brewpop co-owner Carmen Saunders poured him the sample Friday night.



Winter Haven residents Jimmy Messer, left, and Fred and Katie Ducham get ready to grab some brats at the 10th Annual Winter Haven Oktoberfest Friday night. Fred, 83, said he and his wife have been "snowbirds" here for a long time but the couple is now one of Winter Haven's newest permanent residents.



Main Street Winter Haven sponsored Oktoberfest. Board member and incoming president Alex Santiago, third from left, and his wife and fellow board member Martha had to wait in a pretty healthy line to order up a brat. For the price of a tasting ticket, those attending got a chance to try and enjoy 22 different craft beers, Bratwurst and BBQ by Rick's BBQ and pretzels and other food by Tanners Lakeside. The Next Level Band played music.

# Florida International Air Show

## October 21-23, 2016 at the Punta Gorda Airport



[www.FloridaAirShow.com](http://www.FloridaAirShow.com)

[www.facebook.com/FloridaAirShow](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaAirShow)

# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Grace Kids Care provides community outreach

### School's fall fundraiser gives back through partnership

By **LISA FELLOWS-COFFEY**  
SPECIAL TO THE SUN COAST  
MEDIA GROUP INC.

A book and a meal can be life-changing for both the giver and the receiver.

It's a lesson teachers and staff at Grace Lutheran School and Church hope students will learn in hands-on fashion Tuesday as the school kicks off its fourth annual Grace Kids Care campaign.

The Grace Kids Care Kickoff, sponsored by Platinum Bank, begins at 6 p.m.

Having raised more than \$250,000 over the past three years and touching hundreds of lives, Grace students continue their outreach by selecting Snively Elementary and The Mission of Winter Haven as Grace Kids Care beneficiaries for the 2016-17 school year.

"We are blessed to have Platinum Bank back as our Grace Kids Care Kickoff sponsor again this year," said Grace's P.A.C.E. (Parents Active in Christian Education) President, Donna Fellows-Coffey. "They have supported us every year in our Grace Kids Care efforts, and we can't thank them enough for their continued support. We're also blessed to have Turner & Straughn, P.A. on board again this year as the effort's presenting sponsor. It's amazing to see these Winter Haven businesses backing our efforts and helping us to pay it forward in our community."

In an effort to promote literacy and decrease hunger, students and their families are asked to bring kid-friendly food to the school throughout the month to support children who visit The Mission.

Grace students are also encouraged to raise money by reaching out to friends and family for the purchase of much-needed books to be donated to Snively Elementary, a Title 1 school also located in Winter Haven.

"This says to our children, 'I am part of a community and I'm important in it,'" said Snively Elementary media specialist Veita Stephens.

"God is at work in a lot of ways," said former Grace Lutheran School principal and current pastoral assistant Jeff Wittcop. "It's exciting and it's kind of fun."

Teaching the value of outreach to the students of Grace is at the heart

of all Grace Kids Care fundraisers.

"This is our kids helping other kids," said former Grace student and teacher Tammi Straughn, who continues to volunteer at the school as the Grace Kids Care chair and is affectionately known as the "Book Fairy."

"It's a servant event. Part of our Christian walk is being a servant of others. It's an opportunity for our kids to see how they can see a need and help it. We're trying to teach compassion and Christian love," she said.

Love is the operative word here.

Snively's Stephens loves her students and loves what Grace Lutheran is doing for them.

"This is creating that life-long learner who appreciates books and what they can do for them," she said.

All students at Snively are Title 1 students who receive free or reduced lunch due to their financial standing. Books and what they translate to is crucial to their development.

"Kids in poverty usually stay in the same neck of the woods," said Stephens. "You want to feel like the community has reached out to them at a young age in a positive way."

"As a parent, it makes me proud that my son goes to a school with such thoughtful fundraisers," Fellows-Coffey said. "All schools need fundraisers, and all parents expect them — that's a given. But with Grace Kids Care, it's not your typical chocolates and wrapping paper kind of fundraiser. We get to enable our children to help other students in our community, and that obligation gets met first. What an amazing message for our kids to see in action. We give to others, we give our tithe to God, before we fundraise the first dollar to go to the needs of the school. It's phenomenal to watch come together."

According to a survey Stephens conducted, 97 percent of Snively students have fewer than five books at home.

"Our kids are truly in poverty," she said.

The Grace Kids Care program will provide each student with 12 books to keep and take home during the school year.

A big part of that donation was made possible by a very generous donation from the Orlando branch of

Boston-based Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing, which sent 1,166 books, ranging across several age spans, for the effort.

"It's a great program," said Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Senior Tax Analyst Angela Hottal. "We love it. We all love it. It's a great idea and definitely something that we're happy to help out with."

Hottal serves on the company's Community Investment Council, which gets its employees invested in local communities with literacy and other needs.

"That's one thing that's easy for us to do," said Hottal of the donation, valued between \$12,000-\$14,000. "We have a surplus of inventory that goes to organizations that are doing great things with it."

Books and what they are about is a new concept for many of the Snively children.

Many of them are unaware that library books are to be checked out. For some, even handling a book is a foreign idea. That motivated Stephens to create the No, No, Never Never program, where she demonstrates the frailty of a book by dumping water on one in front of the students.

"They don't know how to care for a book," she said.

As a book lover, she is overjoyed at the thought of getting age appropriate books from Grace. When she began working at Snively some eight years ago, data showed that the Snively students, in grades kindergarten through fifth grade, had a reading average of grade 1.9.

Under Stephens' enthusiastic and thrifty efforts, the Snively library and its students have come a long way with books and electronic readers. But more books and the higher scores that come with reading and its comprehension are needed.

"They are working hard," she said.

On top of donating books, Grace eighth-graders will visit Snively once a month to assist its students with reading and reading-related activities.

If books are food for the mind, then food for The Mission equals good learning health.

Grace's second outreach partner, The Mission, is a few blocks from the school. The two have partnered in the past.



PHOTO BY LISA COFFEY

Grace Lutheran School first graders Jaxon Gerken (left), 6, and Bella Wallace, 6, show some of the books donated to Grace Kids Care and Snively Elementary from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing.

# The Super Bowl of Country Music!

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# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Fun-tastic school

### Legoland Florida adds new school programs for kids

By **CASSIE JACOBY**  
CORRESPONDENT

You won't have to worry about your kids playing hooky now that school's in session at Legoland Florida in Winter Haven. Two new programs, "Milo's Journey" and "Made to Recycle," have been added to a mix of in-park educational opportunities.

"Milo's Journey" takes kids in grades K-4 on an adventure through creating and programming their own rover vehicle. The hands-on activity uses kids' imaginations and

combines it with basic force and change in motion using the all-new Lego WeDo 2.0 robotics set.

More intermediate programming is available with "Made to Recycle," geared towards grades 2-5, that spotlights the importance of recycling. The Lego WeDo 2.0 set is used to educate kids on everything from recycling to renewable energy. Plus, they can build a dump truck and make it move.

Other classes offered include: "Funtastic Gears," grades K-2; "Tall Towers," grades K-3; "Robotics for Young

Beginners," grades 1-2; "Book and Brick: Once Upon a Time at Legoland Florida," grades 2-5; "Get Moving!," grades 2-5; "Amazing Machines," grades 3-6; "Astro Bot," grades 4-6; and "Rover Rescue," grades 4-6.

Well-trained educational leaders direct each class is that focuses on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Teachers also can opt for a self-guided experience of Legoland Florida Resort. Call 877-350-5346 to book a class or field trip and visit <https://www.legoland.com/florida/> for information.

# Working to solve the hunger puzzle

## Heart for Winter Haven summit on hunger Oct. 28

By **CASSIE JACOBY**  
CORRESPONDENT

Imagine a world where there is no hunger. Turning that dream into a reality is the goal of Heart For Winter Haven's "Hunger Summit: Solving the Hunger Puzzle" from 10:45 a.m.-1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28 at the Chain O' Lakes Complex in Winter Haven. Lunch is sponsored by Restaurants Against Hunger and Catering Oasis.

"We need to start a new open conversation about food insecurity and how we can solve the problem," said Brad Beatty, Heart for Winter Haven managing director, who describes the Winter Haven and Lakeland area as the second most food insecure metropolitan area in the nation.

"It's not just a food problem. We found a fragmented network of care when we tried to

assist people struggling under the weight of generational poverty. There are more than 400 registered non-profit organizations within the city, but fewer than 50 are focused on human services and many are overwhelmed in the amount of work and care they try to provide."

Heart for Winter Haven is a faith-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation at 228 Ave. C SW. "Our solution is to create a unifying network of churches, businesses and non-profit organizations that can lean on each other and work together for the betterment of the community," said Beatty.

"We're committed to building a connected community of churches, non-profits and businesses that can take better care of vulnerable people in our community. We can end the poverty of isolation and disconnection, and see

people experience the goodness of work," said Beatty, about the weekly "Jobs for Life" workshops he hosts.

"We continue to expand our network of churches, non-profits, and businesses to further extend our resources and cause a transformation of poverty and our city as a whole. Make it your business. Give one to three hours to volunteer for local non-profits. Empowering people is how we can move toward hunger alleviation. Taking people from relief, through rehabilitation to development ensures that those that help do not enable those in need to be passive in solving their problems."

Visit <http://www.heart4wh.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/Heart4WH>, call 863-291-6270 and email: [brad@heart4wh.org](mailto:brad@heart4wh.org) to RSVP, donate and for more information.

LORIN BICE  
branch manager,  
financial advisor



My self-imposed job this month is to cheer you up, so I'll start with this question: Have you noticed there is a presidential campaign going on around us?

So how am I doing so far with my self-imposed job? Feel better yet? Nah, me neither.

How about jumping to hurricane Matthew for a change in subjects? The state was declared a disaster area two days before the storm reached our shores, and what we found in Polk County was what Winnie the Pooh termed, "A Blustery Day".

So what does this have to do with investing? Not much perhaps, except from a perspective perspective.

I read one of Peggy Noonan's recent columns in the *Wall Street Journal* wherein she lamented that many of us (particularly those in the news media) are living on "the Edge of Stupid". (September 29th, if you want to search it out.) She described the malady caused by the hurried pace of our modern news cycle. We also, it seems to me, have a need in our current culture to find both a victim and a guilty party for each current event that makes the news.

This tendency has made our political races more polarizing, and more distressing to follow. It has made us prepare for natural disasters (which is a good thing to do), as if proper governmental policy and action can prevent nature from disrupting our lives (which is a stupid thing to believe).

I see this same thinking in investing. On a day the Dow Jones Industrial Average has a loss of over 100 points, the pundits arrive that night to explain the market's 'disruption' was due to Reason X. Or Y. Or maybe even X, Y and Z.

It drives me out of my mind. The need to create a seemingly plausible explanation for a (usually) inexplicable short term market fluctuation makes me pull my hair out (this, coupled with three, it's-time-to-be-adults-already children have me nearly bald now. The attached picture is thankfully about three years out of date.)

Do you really want to know why the market goes up or down? Here are the basics: in times of economic growth, stock markets tend to rise. In times of economic slowing, stock markets tend to fall. Greed and exuberance sometimes drives the markets too high. Fear sometimes drives it too low. During all these times and tendencies, the market will fluctuate from day to day, hour to hour.

So what's the point? The point is to reject the demand from our oppressive media and social outlets to respond to foolishness. If it's presidential politics, listen to the news, and turn off the noise. If it's hurricane season, you know to prepare and give thanks if the storm passes you by (a little donation to our friends on the east coast or in the Caribbean who suffered loss is a good choice too). And in investing, prepare for the storms, listen to the news, stay on the course you've charted and turn off the noise.

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# OBITUARIES

## Beatrice Edwards

Beatrice Edwards, 86, died Saturday, Oct. 15, 2016.

She was born Dec. 1, 1929, in Deer Lodge, Tenn., and moved to Bartow, Fla., in 1948.

She was preceded in death by her husband, R.N. "Buck" Edwards and two great grandchildren.

She is survived by two brothers, John

Henry and David Henry; sister, Ruth Ann Henry; children, Ronnie Edwards, Lonnie Edwards, Shirley Walker, Elaine Thompson and John Edwards; and 26 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

There will be no service.

Sigler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Roy Franklin Winkelman

Roy Franklin Winkelman, 66, of Lake Wales, Fla., passed away Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, at the Lake Wales

Medical Center.

Marion Nelson Funeral Home is handling local arrangements.

## Terance Lee Scrape

Terance Lee Scrape, 46, passed away Oct. 8, 2016, in Bartow, Fla.

Jacksonville Memory Gardens, Orange Park, Fla., is handling arrangements.

# Get ready for Friday Fest ... boo, it's this week

Bartow's next monthly Friday Fest starts at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21 and this one's the Halloween version.

Not only will it feature live music by "The Ladyz and the Boyz," but there will be a Halloween Fun Run sponsored by the Junior Service League. And Union Academy PTA plans to debut a corn hole tournament.

That will take place in the grassy lot on the corner of Main Street and Wilson Avenue. Registration is 5-5:45 p.m. and bags will be tossed throughout Friday Fest. Cost to participate is \$40 per two-person team. Call 863-512-2026 for further information on the tournament.

And, of course, getting set for next week's Crickette Club Parade and Carnival, the civic club is hosting a calk walk.

### Look up in the air, replica war planes

On Oct. 20-22 at Paradise Field in Lakeland, the sky will buzz with replica war-planes, biplanes and planes of yesteryear embracing more than six decades of aviation history. And with some wingspans exceeding six feet, these aren't department store models.

"These aren't your kids RC models," said event organizer and promoter Frank Tiano. "These are serious hobbyists."

And Tiano should know - he has been interested in the hobby since 1951.

"Until I was 15," he said. "That's when girls and work got in the way."

He found his way back to the hobby in 1972, even joining with two other enthusiasts to form an adhesive company in 1979, a company that today continues to make various types of model glues. Ten years later, in 1989, Tiano felt his hobby should be brought to the attention of the world.

"And that was Top Gun," he said. "Today it is an international event with industry support. It remains the only scale

aero modeling event in the world with cash prizes."

Tiano said 12 O'Clock High draws about 100 pilots with 220 airplanes and as many as 4,000 spectators.

Paradise Field is on a portion of Lakeland Airport property at 3875 W. Pipkin Road. The event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Thursday through Saturday. Besides the airplanes, there will be a food court as well as numerous hobby vendors. Admission is \$10 at the gate, which includes parking and a pit pass. Children under 12 enter for free.

### Residential wells testing OK, Mosaic reports

As of Oct. 17, complete results for 763 residential wells are available, Mosaic reported. Water from 753 wells meet primary and secondary drinking water standards. There are 10 wells for which that was not the case; each had one parameter that did not meet either a primary or secondary standard, it reported.

That water is similar in quality to samples analyzed by the U.S. Geological Survey and Southwest Florida Water Management District in eastern Hillsborough and western Polk counties that had not been impacted in any way by industry.

"The results continue to indicate that they are in no way associated with the New Wales sinkhole incident," the company reported.

"We continue to work with closely with FDEP and continue to keep Polk County and Hillsborough County apprised of our efforts to remediate the sinkhole."

### Sage-ing classes begin this week

Sage-ing classes begin from 10 a.m.-noon on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at The Self Center in Winter Haven. "The program is all about finding joy and purpose as we grow older," said Andrea "Andy" Belkin, a facilitator

with the Polk County's Sage-ing Program and a life coach who leads the weekly sessions and is accepting new students through the Oct. 26. The suggested donation is \$5 per class.

"Sage-ing provides a journey into wisdom that's all about learning, laughing, loving and living strong," said Belkin, who has a master's degree in clinical social work. Nearly 10 years ago, Belkin retired as coordinator of the Women's Resource Center at Lansing Community College in Michigan where she taught personal development courses. Surprised to find out that retirement wasn't all it was cracked up to be, Belkin felt lost and depressed until she started a new chapter in life at The Self Center.

Classes are at 2750 U.S. 17 N. in Winter Haven. Visit <http://www.thefself-centerhealing.com/> and <http://sage-ing.blogspot.com/> or call 863 293-9414 or The Self Center at 863 875-5635 for more information.

### Splash Pad opens Thursday

Splish, splash, kids are having a blast in the new splash pad in Winter Haven. Open from 10 a.m. 7 p.m. daily, it's a great place to cool off after walking the newly completed Lake Howard Trail where a grand opening celebration will be at 3 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 20 at Heritage Park on Ave. D NW and Lake Howard Drive. The grand opening of the new splash pad will be at 4 p.m. at Trailhead Park directly diagonal from City Hall and across from the Tennis Complex.

### Learn to dance

The City of Winter Haven has a ballroom dance social at the Senior Adult Center, 250 S. Lake Silver Dr. N.W.

A live DJ plays a variety of music, perfect for ballroom dances, including the Fox Trot, Waltz, Swing/Jive, Rumba, Polka and many others.

This ongoing event is

scheduled at 7:30 p.m., each Tuesday, and is open to all seniors. It is \$3 for residents and \$4 for non-residents. Couples and singles are welcome to attend. Call 863-291-5870 for information.

### Clean it up coming to Bradley, Pierce, Homeland

Keep Polk County Beautiful, Inc. in partnership with Polk County Board of County Commissioners is happy to bring their "Clean It Up to Green It Up" Program to the Bradley, Pierce and Homeland Communities on Saturday, Oct. 22.

This is a large scale trash pickup throughout these communities and will provide disposal of items that are not generally collected with their residential garbage such as household construction debris on this day only. No hazardous waste will be collected. All households are asked to participate by placing these items by the curb no later than 8 a.m. for this one day event.

Keep Polk County Beautiful Inc. also has planned a free Tire Recycling event from 8 a.m. to noon. This event will take place at Bartow High School, (enter from E. Georgia St. and exit onto S. Broadway Ave.). Abide by the Waste Hauler Permit Laws, and do not haul more than 24 tires at any time.

Agricultural and Grove owners will be allowed to dispose of tires that have been illegally dumped on their property. Please contact KPCB for limitations.

Call 863-875-8911 for information.

### Learn to boast safely

Don't miss the boat for the next U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 77 Polk County "About Boating Safely Class" from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Polk County Sheriff Eastern Regional Command Building, 3635 Avenue G NW in Winter Haven.



PHOTO BY CASSIE JACOBY

### Ruth Gourvellec, with her Dachshunds Max and Patches, promote pet life vests.

In addition to offering the class required for Florida state boater's card, Flotilla 77 promotes pet safety vests, a cause near and dear to Winter Haven's "Rescue Mom."

"After our dog drowned in our pool we made sure that both our Dachshunds, Max and Patches, can swim perfectly," said Ruth Gourvellec, who turned the tragic accident into a mission to save pet lives. "They always wear safety vests and have a floating boat that they can climb into when they're in the water. We're big into safety."

"We appreciate Ruth's efforts to spread the word about pet safety and hope no one ever has to have such a sad experience," said David Williams, Flotilla 77 public affairs officer, who is recruiting new members in addition to providing free boat checkups the second Saturday of every month.

Flotilla 77 also provides free boat safety checks at a key boat launch site for boating and fishing supply companies during their special events and Chain Life Magazine during their music events.

Visit [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com)

or email [gthomas901@msn.com](mailto:gthomas901@msn.com) to register for \$35. Call 800-687-9639 for information. Contact Flotilla 77 for an appointment for a boat safety check during other times. Visit <http://www.chainlifewinterhaven.com/boating-safety/> for more information.

### Who you gonna see? Ghostbusters ... II, that is

"Ghostbusters II" will be featured at Main Street Bartow's Movies on the Lawn on Friday, Oct. 28. The movie will be shown at dark on the northwest corner of Wilson Avenue and Main Street. People can come and celebrate Halloween by watching this movie.

In the sequel Ghostbusters discover New York is once again headed for supernatural doom, with a river of ectoplasmic slime bubbling beneath the city. Can the Ghostbusters quell the negative emotions feeding the otherworldly threat and stop the world from being slimed?

The movie is free and concessions will be available. Those attending are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets and insect repellent.

# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Nifty '50s

### Bouquet Garden Club Fall Fashion Show Oct. 26

By **CASSIE JACOBY**  
CORRESPONDENT

A limited number of tickets are still available for the Bouquet Garden Club's 60th annual fall "taste and tell" fashion show at noon and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26. This year's theme, "The Nifty '50s," features fashions for the whole family provided by Macy's of Winter Haven.

"We're celebrating our club's 70th anniversary," said Elaine Butterfield, president. "This is our major fundraiser of the year that supports our charitable out-reach programs: Keep Polk County Clean, SEEK Scholarship, Project Love, Habitat for Humanity, Florida Coral Garden Restoration, Angel Care, Penny Pines, Adopt-A-Median, Avon Park and Florida Federation of Garden Club Scholarship."

A silent auction with donations from local businesses and individuals includes gift certificates, gift baskets and fine jewelry will open



**Martha Tucker will emcee "The Nifty '50s" Bouquet Garden Club fashion show in Winter Haven.**

at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. In addition to valuable door prizes, Glenn Gross, owner of Gross Orchids LLC, will sell orchids.

The menu for lunch and dinner includes delicacies provided by Harborside Restaurant; Hurricane Grill and Wings; Lavender N' Lace Tearoom; Sonny's BBQ Winter Haven; Richard's Fine Coffees; Slyce Pizza Kitchen; Sweet Magnolias Tea Bistro; and The Back Porch Restaurant.

Child models are



**Tammy Egbert will model for the Bouquet Garden Club's 60th annual Fall Fashion Show Oct. 26.**

Emily Deuerlein, Kate Futch, Kira Hunt, Molly Hutchinson, Christopher Hutchinson and Emily Sansone. Male models are Erick Greenbow, Drake Hurt, Jim Joiner, Craig Spanjers and Frank Weller. Female models are: Joanne Catledge, Tammy Egbert, Leaine Farris, Heather Forbes, Arryn Crawford, Carolyn Lloyd, Patty Wiley and new member, Tracy Mercer.

Founded in 1946, the club meets on the second Wednesday of the month



PHOTO BY CASSIE JACOBY

**Glenn Gross, owner of Gross Orchids LLC, will sell orchids Bouquet Garden Club fashion show in Winter Haven.**

beginning with fellowship at 9:30 a.m., program/guest speakers at 10 a.m. and the business meeting at 11 a.m.

Reserved seats are \$25. Tickets may be purchased at the Winter

Haven Garden Center, 715 Third Street N.W., Winter Haven. Office hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday-Saturday (closed Tuesday and Sunday). Call 863-293-7638 for tickets and information.

## My Gallery to close after 30 years

PROVIDED BY MY GALLERY

The little yellow house framed by the white picket fence exhibiting an English garden with folks bustling in and out continually, has closed permanently.

Velma Daniels, who family home it was since 1940, is tearfully sad. The family of artists and craftsmen are noticeably sad and the dozens of neighbors and friends shed tears as goodbyes are noted by the closed sign.

Health, lack of the stamina it takes, Velma admits.

"At 85 I can't run as fast and keep up with the busy schedule and nearly everyday we are shipping artwork and stained glass around the country. What

an exciting and fulfilling business this has been," she said.

This all began on an August afternoon when five artists — Dexter Daniels (owner of the storage building), Tom Freeman, Grace Lamb, Marilyn Myrsten, Robert Butler — decided they needed a place to paint. The studio grew like tippy. Along came Bill Reynolds, general manager and genius-visionary. He gave the opportunity to be the official Art Gallery of Cypress Gardens.

During this time the cottage won three Disney World community awards. The artists stepped in and worked hard to save Horseshoe Creek Wildlife Park, decorated a Ronald McDonald

House and decorated cancer centers in three counties.

It has always been much more than just an art group. It never applied for any grant money and it worked and earned through clients, friends, family who have been loyal and beyond supportive.

Freeman, the Lake Wales and charter member, said, "Being a part of the Art Cottage and Gallery has been a rare and rich experience for there is a great cooperation among all these professionals and a real feeling of family. They have been so fortunate to include nearly every venue of art from paintings to porcelains. Always there is a strong sense of fun and joy. I shall miss it terribly."



PHOTO PROVIDED

After being in business for 30 years, My Gallery is closing.

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# LAKE WALES NEWS

## Get set, get ready ... dig

### Rootstock celebrates the opening of gardening season in Florida

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

When most people imagine autumn colors, they usually think of orange, red, and yellow. Rarely do they consider green or any other bright color.

While this may be true up North, down south here in Florida, the entire color spectrum, especially the color green, is present all year round, including the fall.

Last weekend, native flowers and plants from across this colorful spectrum were celebrated amidst good food and music at Bok Tower Gardens during its inaugural Rootstock.

"What we really wanted to do was to highlight the Florida gardening season," said Erica Smith, Director of Public Relations at Bok Tower. "A lot of people think of October being harvest time, but in Florida, it is the beginning of the garden season."

For two days, guests could receive free admission to the gardens and peruse more than 40 vendors selling a variety of foliage including orchids, palms, citrus fruit trees, bamboo, and other native Florida-friendly plants.

Aside from flowers and plants, other merchandise such as pottery, mosaic art, glass art, and water sprinklers were available to help accentuate any garden.

While perusing such diverse merchandise, guests could also eat tasty food ranging from southern barbecue and hot dogs to gyros and chicken rice while listening to local bands and musicians play county, bluegrass, and other music.

Guests seeking gardening tips to help make their landscape look better and greener could have their questions answered by Florida Master Gardeners from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Service.

IFAS has been affiliated and heavily involved with Bok Tower Gardens, especially with providing services for its Center for Education and Conservation, with the program providing educational services concerning Florida agriculture.

Such experts appear

during various events at Bok Tower as well as other events within Polk County to help provide gardening advice to residents.

Most common questions involve citrus plants, especially with concerns about greening, and how to protect their plants from the bugs and heat, said IFAS volunteer Richard Hoar.

"It has been a wonderful event with a lot of friendly people with questions," Hoar said.

Aside from a light drizzle on Saturday, the weekend enjoyed beautiful clear blue skies that, along with the plants, music, and food, drew in crowds by the thousands, more so than the previous festival, Boktoberfest, earlier this month.

When not buying potted plants, nibbling on barbecue, or listening to bluegrass, guests could enjoy the landscape of Bok Tower Gardens for free, whether visiting classic landmarks such as the Singing Tower or Pinewood Estates, or the new additions of the edible gardens, outdoor kitchen, or children's gardens.

Children young and old could scamper about the 2.7-acre children's garden while the adults could sample food prepared at the outdoor kitchen during a cooking demonstration by Chef James Lazaros from La Flor De Espana in Winter Haven.

Of the delicacies Lazaros prepared that weekend included roasted chicken with mustard marinade. Anyone who missed out on his cooking could visit Bok Tower



Suppose he's spotted a few crows coming at him. Scarecrows, like this one, were created for the festival by students from Lake Wales High School.

later this year when he hosts cooking classes and demonstrations.

As this was his first time hosting a demonstration at the gardens, he enjoyed being able to show off his cooking skills in such a serene outdoor setting surrounded by a garden of herbs and other edible plants.

"I love this outdoor kitchen," he said. "I like trying to assist people in their culinary journey. I like being one on one with people and giving them advice."

#### Changed celebration

Both this new festival and the \$12 million expansion have helped to draw in new and curious visitors this year to both Bok Tower Gardens as well as Polk County. Both Bok Tower and Legoland Florida have proven to be popular attractions that encourage tourists to enjoy more of Central Florida than simply the three main theme parks.

"This year, we have noticed that sales to Bok Tower have gone up,"



PHOTOS BY JAMES COULTER

Such foliage available at the festival included orchids, palms, citrus fruit trees, bamboo, and other native Florida-friendly plants.


within and without the county, the festival served as a good starting point to introduce tourists to other attractions within the Central Florida area.

"I think it has done a wonderful job," Modrall said. "This event has more vendors, more stuff for a more broad audience, and I think that

does a very good job."

With attendance more than exceeding expectations, Rootstock sets even higher expectations for future events to grow and expand, with plans on adding more music, more food, and more vendors.



"We are hoping to grow the festival," said Smith. "There is always room for more plant vendors."



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| <p><b>Ft. Myers</b> - WBBH (NBC)<br/> <b>Gainesville</b> - WCJB (ABC)<br/> <b>Jacksonville</b> - WJXX (ABC)<br/> <b>Miami/Ft. Lauderdale</b> - WTVJ (NBC)<br/> <b>Orlando</b> - WFTV (ABC)<br/> <b>Panama City</b> - WMBB (ABC)*<br/> <b>Pensacola</b> - WEAR (ABC)*</p> | <p><b>Sarasota</b> - SunCoast News Network<br/> <b>Tallahassee</b> - WCTV (CBS)<br/> <b>Tampa/St. Pete</b> - WFTS (ABC)<br/> <b>West Palm Beach</b> - WPBF 25 (ABC)</p> |
|--|---|
- \*These stations will air the debate with a one hour delay at 7:00 pm Central Time

★ ★ ★ MODERATOR & PANELISTS ★ ★ ★

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>MODERATOR</b></p> <p>Todd McDermott<br/>Anchor<br/>WPBF</p> | <p><b>PANELISTS</b></p> <p>Neil Brown<br/>Executive Editor<br/>Tampa Bay Times</p> | <p>Patricia Mazzei<br/>Political Writer<br/>The Miami Herald</p> |
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# Where do the Torah and Talmud weigh in on immigration?

By **STEVE STEINER**

SSTEINER@SCMGINC.COM

*Editor's note: This is the second of two articles on a seminar conducted by the Chabad Jewish Center this past Sept. 18. According to Jewish tradition, God handed down the Torah directly to Moses, who dutifully recorded it word for word. It is the Written Word. On the other hand, the Talmud is the Oral Word of God — handed down at the same time and repeated by generations.)*

Where it concerns Nazism and anti-Semitism in the U.S., as well as bigotry, perhaps one of the most shameful incidents in U.S. history occurred in June 1939, three months before Nazi Germany invaded Poland, which started World War II.

According to a November 2015 article by Daniel Gross on [www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com), "World War II prompted the largest displacement of human beings the world has ever seen — although today's refugee crisis is starting to approach its unprecedented

scale. But even with millions of European Jews displaced from their homes, the United States had a poor track record offering asylum. Most notoriously, in June 1939, the German ocean liner MS St. Louis and its 937 passengers, almost all Jewish, were turned away from the port of Miami, forcing the ship to return to Europe; while some found refuge in England and The Netherlands and several other nations, more than a quarter died in the Holocaust.

"Government officials from the State Department to the FBI to President Franklin Roosevelt himself argued that refugees posed a serious threat to national security ... primarily that a number of those seeking asylum were actually not refugees but spies. "Yet today, historians believe ... the concern about refugee spies was blown far out of proportion."

With that, Rabbi Mendel Friedman opened the session on immigration and cited four factors need consideration regarding the issue of immigration:

security, jobs, welfare and culture; the brunt of the seminar centered around security. He launched into the story of the Tower of Babel and why there is support in the Torah and Talmud for borders.

Friedman said the story of the Tower of Babel is that those who constructed it went against God's plan as stated in Genesis 1:28: "And God blessed them; and God said unto them: 'Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that creepeth upon the earth.'" (1917 *JPS Tanakh, which is the Hebrew Bible; JPS is the Jewish Publication Society*)

"God wanted individual lands and cultures," said Friedman. He wanted the people to diversify. "God is telling them there has to be borders and each nation develop its own cultures. For each has something to offer. It's the differences that make us special."

Still referring to the Tanakh, Gen. 11:1-4, the people had one

language. Coming upon a plain (Shinar) they decided to permanently stay and build a tower with its top in the heaven as they did not want to be dispersed.

According to Deuteronomy 32:8, God ... "gave nations their lands when He divided humankind. He set up the borders of these nations to parallel the number of Israel's descendants." (Israel being the name Jacob was given after spending a night wrestling with an angel sent by God; some theologians believe it actually was God, disguised as an angel, who wrestled with Jacob.)

Citing further, Friedman spoke of the Israelites on the pilgrimage to Canaan, when they came to the land of Edom. Its king denied Moses entry, who asked only permission to pass through. Fearing that the Israelites actually intended to take over the kingdom after having learned how Egypt and Pharaoh had been defeated — and because the Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother, who was tricked out of his birthright, thus

animosity existed — permission was denied. Eventually, the Israelites had to travel around the land of Edom.

"You have to ask permission and a nation has the right to refuse," Friedman said. Thus it was the U.S. Had the right to refuse entry to the 937 Jews on the MS St. Louis. However, he added that there are known instances in which Jewish communities in one country denied entry to Jewish refugees from other nations, such as those who fled Spain during the Inquisition, seeking a new home in Italy.

"In the Talmud, you have to take care of your own first," said Friedman.

Friedman brought all of this to the forefront referencing the situation the world is facing today, particularly the mass exodus of Syrians fleeing their war-torn nation, seeking refuge, which led one participant to rhetorically ask why does our nation not demand to know why wealthy Arab nations why they don't open their doors. He answered his own question by stating that

is because those Arab nations know themselves the problems the refugees will cause.

Participants commented upon the shibboleths of immigrants, particularly those termed "illegals" who are "taking away jobs; the perception that many refugees are getting government assistance while U.S. Citizens who are military veterans and/or senior citizens are not; and resistance — actually, demands — that Christian-Judaic society should yield to Sharia. They pondered where lay the truth. But as a whole, the participants at the seminar appeared united on one issue: safety.

"You have to look inward first," said Friedman. "We should open our arms but only after first making sure of our own security."

To those present, the knowledge, the memory, of the MS St. Louis and how those refugees were turned away and returned to Europe, with an estimated quarter of them perishing in The Holocaust, reverberated in the room where the seminar had taken place.

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# LAKE WALES NEWS

## Frostproof Art League and Gallery

Fall is here and we are back for the season. Martha Neher will be at the Gallery Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. To 2 p.m. The gallery may have to be closed for personal medical issues as they occur. It needs volunteers to help with keeping the Gallery open, new members, teachers and students.

Patricia Bowen has retired from teaching after many years of helping all of us be better artists. Those interested in teaching a class or taking a particular class contact the Gallery at 863-635-7271. The

snowbird season will be starting soon and we hope to have classes available for them. I am looking for instructors for evening classes as well as day classes. The Art Gallery has been in existence for more than 15 years, a lot of artists have passed through our doors in that time. Art is the ultimate relaxation therapy. You are able to express yourself and your emotions in a way that is creative and fulfilling.

Membership in the Art League is \$35 a year for a single membership and \$50 a year for a family membership. The

membership gives you a reduced price for classes as well as the privilege of hanging your artwork in the Gallery.

We also carry some art supplies for sale; we have a nice assortment of oil and acrylic paints as well as some canvases

and watercolor paper. If you are a resident of the Frostproof area and have school age children, we also offer free art classes for them on Thursday afternoons. Children ages 6 through 10 attend class from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., ages 11

through 14 attend from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is also a free class for intellectually and physically challenged adults from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Please come check us out and think about joining us. The Art League operates through

the generosity of Patricia Wilson and donations and memberships. We have a summer Art Camp for children that has generously been funded by grants from Florida's Naturals Inc.

*Courtesy of the Frostproof Art League.*



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# ELECTION 2016

## Hall: Stuff still to do but getting back where it should be

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Continuing what he started four years ago, Board of County Commissioners District 5 incumbent candidate John Hall hopes to continue helping steer the county's rebound from the recession that hit the county hard eight years ago.

Hall, a Republican and the current chairman of the Polk County Commission, is running for re-election against Democrat Carol Castagnero. The election is Tuesday, Nov. 2. Early voting in Polk County begins Oct. 25.

"We've come a long way," he said, "but we aren't out of the recovery mode yet."

Hall explains the county has managed to maintain county operations

and services levels at the same level since the downfall recession of 2008 that decimated the county's employee rolls and cut property tax income dramatically.

"That cost us about 300 jobs, but we've managed to work hard



**JOHN HALL**

to keep up the level of service we provide to our residents," he explained, adding there are no plans to raise the county's staff levels back to the 2008 high, but with a "concentration on public safety" the county hiring will include more than a dozen firefighters and paramedics.

Hall said the county is buying four new ambulances, building new fire

stations and manning those which is in keeping with promises made by the board earlier this year when it set priorities for funding.

Hall said the climate created by the re-surging economy is contributing to keeping the unemployment rate below 5 percent and is creating a stable atmosphere for continued business growth.

Using the county's authority, the board can exempt new or growing businesses from property taxes, Hall said. He cited new plants for FedEx, Walmart, Saddle Creek and the CSX Multi-Modal Transfer Center as examples of how those incentives are boosting the county's economy.

"We've helped create 4,200 jobs in the county which is good for everyone," he added.

The county also has

held impact fees at about 25 percent of what the board could impose, the former County Facilities Management Director said. Hall retired from county service to make his successful bid for a commission seat four years ago.

Hall said he retired from his county job to run for the commission because, "I wanted to be part of making policy instead of just implementing it."

When asked about what's his proudest achievement since being elected, Hall readily replied that it was the approval of the county's water cooperative. He and his fellow board members spearheaded a drive to unite the county's municipalities with the water management district to get an inter-local agreement to

form the cooperative.

"That is a historic thing," he said. "We look at growth projections and in the future, our biggest need is going to be water. Through the co-op, we can all work together to see that we have enough water in the future."

He also said he's committed to working to improve the county's transportation network.

"I'm committed to working with the state to see that we provide the necessary roads to serve business growth, but still maintain the quality of life we want," he said.

"We believe we can work out ways to ease the congestion in the northeast part of the county with the Expressway Authority and the state DOT, but we aren't going to buy in with too many strings attached."

Hall, 62, is a self-employed project management consultant and part-time cattle rancher.

"The ranching makes me want to save that kind of life and atmosphere for my grandchildren," he said.

He also touts the county's environmental lands program that buys land to preserve for future generations.

"Not only are those lands natural Florida, they may also help us face our water needs in the future. By maintaining green spaces, we can restore some of the wetlands we will need to recharge the aquifers in the future."

Hall is a native Floridian and makes his home in Lakeland with his wife Gwen. The Halls have two sons and a daughter along with two grandchildren.

## Castagnero wants to be public's servant

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Politics are not a new game for Lakeland resident Carol Castagnero. Oh, no.

She's run for office before, for everything from Congress, the governor's office to state representative. But that's changed. She's after another office now, this one closer to home. She's after a county commission seat this time.

The 78-year-old Democrat is after the District 5 seat presently held by incumbent Republican John Hall.

Castagnero's platform, she says, has been developed using surveys which she conducts herself.

"I let the people tell me what to do," she explained. "I want to work for the people, not special interest groups."

The Pennsylvania native adds that she's "not a politician. I'm a

servant," and that she doesn't accept campaign contributions "so I won't be indebted to anyone."

Castagnero maintains she runs a "clean campaign" and "won't bash my opponent" yet insists Hall has a "conflict of interest" because he has "ties to the county." Hall retired from his county job when he ran for the county commission four years ago after working for the county for 30 years.

She cites lower taxes,

health care, helping the homeless, and education as her top priorities. But she tosses in her opposition to paying fees to park in the county's newly completed parking garage as an added issue.



**CAROL CASTAGNERO**

"That thing has a big sign that says public parking," she says, "If it says public, that should mean it's free."

She also has long advocated the county provide jitneys to ferry customers to and from the county administration building and courthouse from parking lots.

The candidate also supports the re-passage of the half-cent indigent

health care tax but objects to how the county charter was addressed by the present board.

"The people weren't represented on the charter review committee," she said. "It was just wrong."

Castagnero also said she hasn't been endorsed by any major group and "I don't take endorsements. I don't want to be indebted to anyone. No money and no endorsements. I want the people to vote for me, and I want to serve them. That's all."

She claims: "I know I'm different. But that's OK. It's time for somebody that's different."

Castagnero says if she's elected, she'll always be available.

"If somebody can't meet me in Bartow, I'll go to them. They can call

me day or night. I plan to have an open door policy. I'll always be for my constituents. We've lost a lot of that today. And we need to get it back."

She also says she "wants to bring back the trust. People don't trust government but they can trust me."

Castagnero moved to Polk County in 1989 and has taught school in the local school system.

"That's why I support education," she said. After leaving the classroom, she says she became a businesswoman and owns rental properties which she manages.

She is a widow and has one daughter and makes her home in north Lakeland.

District 5 encompasses northwest Polk County.



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# ELECTION 2016

## Dimmig says court needs to address core issues of crimes

By STEVE STEINER

STEINER@SCMGINC.COM

For Rex Dimmig, being the Public Defender is more than just representing indigent clients standing before a judge and prosecutor. It is showing that the legal system cares and that means going beyond the legal charges that has brought a person into the courtroom, rather than the emphasis being focused on the offense.

"We need to address those core issues that contributed to those crimes," he said. It is a matter to which he said he has a wealth of knowledge and experience, beginning 1978-1980, when he joined the office the first time. After leaving and going into private practice, he returned in 1988, went on

to serve as the assistant public defender and was the office administrator for 10 years before being elected in 2012 (he took office in 2013).

Dimmig said that when he first began as an attorney that his goal, like those of many, was to eventually ascend to a judgeship. But he quickly learned that was not where his



REX DIMMIG

heart truly lay. Nor was it being in private practice, although it allowed him to provide for his family. Hence his return to the Public Defender's office.

Dimmig said under his leadership, morale is very high among the staff, which totals 150 people, 60 of whom are

attorneys. He said one of the ways to keep attorneys from "burnout" is simple.

"We are a completely horizontal organization," Dimmig said. "Lawyers will be rotated." He added that he also encourages informality. He wants staff to be relaxed and to enjoy their work. It is not necessary while at the office to be formally dressed. Of course, when any of his staff is to appear in court, it is required they are professionally dressed.

He repeated that morale is high for the most part. Of course, there always will be some individuals who won't and don't feel likewise, but that is found in every walk of life, he said.

As for his management style, Dimmig said what matters most

is the integrity of the profession.

I have two ironclad rules," he said. "Do not knowingly or through gross negligence harm a client. The second is do not lie about material issues."

Dimmig said the Public Defender's office has a role and that is getting people to have confidence in the court system.

"I actually encourage people to go to trial, to go before their peers," he said. He estimated approximately 4 percent actually go to trial. That is because the system now is designed to extract a plea, to get those accused to take a plea agreement, which may not always be in the person's best interest.

That is why there is more to the Public

Defender's office than simply representing someone who can't afford an attorney. As earlier stated, Dimmig believes the emphasis is placed on gaining convictions rather than searching and seeking solutions. There is, he believes, too much focus on punishment, especially regarding youthful offenders. Matters that might have gotten a "chewing out" when Dimmig and peers where teens now end up in court for youthful indiscretions.

That is one area he is working on, he said. However, he said there is a greater issue at stake.

"A number of people have mental issues and with facilities closed, jails are now the largest repository of those with mental and emotional

issue," he said. One of the programs he is proud that has come out of the Public Defender's office is its WeCare Project. Dimmig said WeCare fills in the gaps and has been successful in alternative remedies. As a result, there has been a drop in repeat offenders. Recidivism is reduced through addressing special needs of each individual.

Dimmig also wants to get away from what he termed "computerized sentences, and called for the need to develop individual sentences.

"If we can find ways so they don't re-offend, and put me out of business, I would be very glad," he said. He added that there is broad support among lawyers in the 10th Judicial District Court.

## Stewart says choice, change needed for Public Defenders office

By STEVE STEINER

STEINER@SCMGINC.COM

Tonya Stewart believes it is time for change, which prompted her decision to run for the Public Defender's office.

"The position has been unopposed 30 years and I felt the public needed a choice," said Stewart, who was with the department from 2006 to 2014, before going into private practice. "Also, the public defender's office has a bad reputation."

Part of that poor reputation, she said, is because people don't know about the department and the people who make up the Public Defender's office. Those who toil away in the department are very smart and dedicated, and if she is elected she said

she will "shed a light."

"I want to make sure (people know) what it is the Public Defender's Office does," she said. To do that, she will do more community outreach, such as sponsoring programs such as divergence programs, and have the office be more involved with the schools.

Stewart pointed out that there currently are an estimated 60 people in the department who cover the needs of those from Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties needing legal representation. She acknowledged she has heard the myriad



FLORA "TANYA" STEWART

of claims from people who felt they were short-changed by the office when they needed representation — such as never meeting with an attorney until appearing in court, not understanding the charges against them, and often urged to take a plea deal that ultimately proved not to be in their best interest.

While there might be some merit, overall, Stewart said that those attorneys with the Public Defender's office have huge caseloads, yet they are qualified and they are making a difference. When she was with the department, she said she prided herself on meeting clients face to face.

Stewart said another change would be to improve the morale of those with the Public

Defender's office. She said turnover is high and not like it was when she first was a member. She said that under the previous management that people stayed for years and that she imagined herself someday retiring from the practice of law all the while making a lifetime career with the office.

That, she said, has changed over the recent past and part of the reason she left and went into private practice was because she didn't feel if anyone would be there for her. She said she and others long felt management wasn't giving everyone a "fair shake."

If elected, she said, it will not be a situation of "new broom sweeps clean."

"I'm laid back, but I want the job done. I am

not into micromanaging," she said. She also wants those with the office that they can make a career of it, as she and others once envisioned.

"I want people to know, to see, they can go through the ranks."

When she was with the Public Defender's office she handled a vast array of cases. She began with misdemeanors and later took on felony and juvenile cases in Highlands County. For Polk County, she also handled misdemeanors, probation violations, even those Baker Acted, among her caseload.

While making the Public Defender's office better known to the public is one of her goals, hers has been a very quiet campaign in comparison to her opponent. It is

on a shoestring budget, she said. But she believes it has prompted her opponent to not take the election for granted. She said she believed that because of her running for the position that her opponent has gotten out before the public and has put a lot of money into his candidacy as there are signs around the county promoting his candidacy. It is in sharp contrast to her campaign, in which there is little, if any, campaign signs or other literature.

Born and raised in Lake Wales, Stewart earned her law degree from FAMU. Her practice is in Lakeland, where she specializes in Criminal Law and Negligence, and she is certified to practice in Florida and Georgia.

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### EARLY VOTING STARTS MONDAY

Early voting in Polk County starts Monday, Oct. 24 and runs until Sunday, Nov. 6. People can vote from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the following places.

- Bartow, Polk Street Community Center, 1255 Polk St.
- Davenport, Elections Branch Office at Deer Creek Crossings, 42653 U.S. 27
- Haines City, Haines City Library, 111 N 6th St.
- Lakeland, Polk County Government Center, 930 E. Parker St.
- Lakeland, Simpson Park Community Center, 1725 Martin L. King Jr Ave.
- Lake Wales, Elections Branch Office at Orange Grove Shopping Center, 1376 State Road 60 E.
- Mulberry, Mulberry Civic Center, 901 NE 5th St.
- Poinciana, Poinciana Community Center, 395 Marigold Ave.
- Winter Haven, Gill Jones Northeast Polk County Government Center, 3425 Lake Alfred Road

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# POLK COUNTY PEOPLE

## Local talent selected for 'Suite Surrender'

Wow... rehearsals have begun for the first adult theater production of the season at the Lake Wales Little Theatre with "Suite Surrender" with performance dates Nov. 4-20.

It's 1942, and two of Hollywood's biggest divas have descended upon the luxurious Palm Beach Royale Hotel — assistants, luggage, and legendary feud with one another in tow. Everything seems to be in order for their wartime performance ... that is, until they are somehow assigned to the same suite.

The cast includes Bernard S. Dunlap played by Tom McCance; Claudia McFadden by Denise Higginbotham; Athena Sinclair by Cameron Pankey;

Murphy Stevens played by Abby Kalen Balenger; Mr. Pippet by Robby Hartley;

Dora Del Rio played by Bryah Hagen; Mrs. Everett Osgood by Linda Durkin;

Francis by Dashiel Blum and Otis played by Cameron Kirkner.

Tickets are available online now at [www.lwlt.org](http://www.lwlt.org) with adult tickets \$18 and ages 18 and younger, \$12. The theater is at 411 N 3rd St., Lake Wales.

**Lake Wales Woman's Club plays host to Chamber After Hours**

The Lake Wales Woman's Club played host to the entire Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours on Sept. 27. Refreshments were provided by the Woman's Club members in the clubhouse at 275 E. Park Ave.

Some of the club members participating included Shirley Shultz, Dottie Wolf, Fran Hanrahan, Jesse Dent, Joan Bullwinke, Beulah Mace, Betty Kirk, Florence Rankin, Jeane Uy and Edwina Vanderee.

Members showcased local businesses which is an annual chamber event.

David Fisher, chairman of the Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce, addressed those attending the affair.

**Polk State art students showcase works**

The Polk State College Student Art Exhibit is now being held at the Polk State College Lake Wales Art Center, 1099 E. State Road 60, in Lake Wales through Oct. 27. The reception will be held 5-7 p.m. on Oct. 27. The exhibit can be viewed 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The "Silk Arts of Japan," rescheduled from the spring to the fall will be viewed through Nov. 18. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Lake

**Brenda Eggert Brader**  
[bbrader@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bbrader@tampabay.rr.com)

Wales Arts Center.

**Computer classes begin again at the Lake Wales Library**

The Lake Wales Public Library will begin a variety of computer classes in October, and continue through the fall.

Len Angel, the library's computer instructor, will present the two-hour Windows 10 Class at 2 p.m. Oct. 20, the library's Computer Instructor, Len Angel, will teach a two-hour Windows 10 Class. The instruction will include how to use Windows 10 many features including Microsoft Edge, Cortana and the great built-in apps like maps, photographs, mail and calendar, music and video.

Participants must bring their own devices with Windows 10 already installed.

The class fee is \$25 and prepayment before the Oct. 20 class is required. The class size is limited. Payment in cash or check is accepted at the Lake Wales Public Library. For

information on paying with debit or credit call 863-678-4004.

For information on upcoming computer classes in November call 863-678-4004, or visit, [www.cityoflakewales.com](http://www.cityoflakewales.com) or Facebook Lake Wales Public Library.

**Submit any news from anywhere**

The Polk County News & Democrat and the Winter Haven 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 news and work honors, retirements including briefs on club-related or area events and announcements of fundraisers, classes and programs with and for people.

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](mailto:bbrader@tampabay.rr.com).

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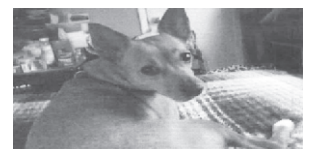


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PHOTO PROVIDED

**Chamber members listening to David Fisher at the event at the Lake Wales Woman's Club on Sept. 27.**

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# DEBATE

**OCTOBER 26, 2016**  
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# Home & Garden

## Homes on parade *Annual event next two weekends*

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Located within beautiful Imperial Lakes in Mulberry is a gorgeous new home that looks good on the eyes as it does for the environment.

Designed by Steve Mitchell, president and owner of 123 Homes, this one-story custom-built house with four bedrooms and two bathrooms has a grand view of the spacious green golf course behind it and one of the many blue lakes in front of it.

Located in such a low traffic area, the location is most ideal for a homeowner who wants to relax after a busy day at work, being a ball's toss away from a hole-in-one, and a hook's cast away from a quiet afternoon fishing.

Other amenities include a three-car garage and work space area for folks who want to tinker away at their own special project, and a spacious outdoor area where people can enjoy barbecues and outdoor dinners.

Perhaps more impressive than its modern design, ideal locale, and comfortable amenities is its overall energy efficiency, ensuring a comfortable home that is great for both the homeowner and the environment.

Having been built from the ground up and certified through Energy Star, this custom-built

### IF YOU GO

The Parade of Homes is a free event on Oct. 22-23, and Oct. 29-30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will feature a mobile device app that will provide information on the different homes, including GPS directions. For more information visit their website at [pcba.com](http://pcba.com)

home was designed to be as environmentally-friendly as possible, with energy-efficient lighting and electricity that ensure an electric bill that is light on the wallet as it is on the environment.

Currently listed at \$259,900, with similar models available to be built at \$230,000, this house proves that you don't have to sacrifice affordability for energy efficiency.

This house is the only Energy Star certified homes that will be featured in this year's Parade of Homes.

The Parade of Homes is an annual showcase hosted by the Polk County Builder's Association that allows potential homeowners to tour and view new constructions on the market.

This year's showcase features 14 new houses, two new communities, and one new remodeler. Home prices range from as cheap as \$180,000 to as expensive as \$1.5 million, ensuring there's a home that anyone can afford.

"So it doesn't matter if you are a first buyer



PHOTO BY JAMES COULTER

**The four-bedroom, two-bathroom house built by 123 Homes that will be on display at the Parade of Homes which is the next two weekends throughout Polk County.**

looking for a first house, or if you are a step-up buyer or an executive homebuyer, (because) there is something there for everybody," said Pat Edleman, PCHBA executive officer.

Not only does the showcase provide a convenient venue through which potential homebuyers can peruse new houses on the market, but it also showcases new building and home decorating techniques.

"It's like one stop shopping," Edleman said. "They don't have to visit a carpet store. They don't have to go visit a furniture store or appliance store. They can see it all in the house and how it works."

Because of its presentation of new houses and building techniques of



**The dining room built on the model house by 123 Homes and will be on display at the Parade of Homes.**

PARADE | 20

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# Home & Garden



PHOTOS BY JAMES COULTER

The living room.

## PARADE

FROM PAGE 19

varying styles and prices, the Parade of Homes has proven quite popular during its 30-year run, attracting as many as four to 5,000 attendees on a single weekend, Edleman said.

### About Steve Mitchell

This year's showcase will feature Mitchell's energy-efficient home as part of his company, 123Homes, which specializes in custom-built energy efficient houses.

A Florida native, Mitchell started his current career in home construction and real estate following his

previous service within the U.S. Army.

During that time, he had sold more than 500 homes in the Polk County area, having overseen their remodeling.

Three years earlier, upon receiving his general residential contractor's license, he began initiating new construction on



The master bedroom.

new houses.

With each new home built, he has pushed himself to step up the quality of each one, ensuring that they are of the highest quality, especially now that he has become a new builder for the PCHBA.

"I have aspired to step up the quality to where I will fill that homes it is

comparable and competitive to home of the year," he said.

As a builder, he aspires to create homes that he would feel comfortable living in himself.

In fact, he previously lived in one of those homes in North Lakeland, which has a similar design to his current design and

which later remodeled to allow his mother, Lynn Browning, to live within.

As a new PCHBA member, his goal within the Parade of Dreams is to showcase homes that are both modern and stylish while energy-efficient, ensuring that customers don't have to sacrifice design over environmental impact.



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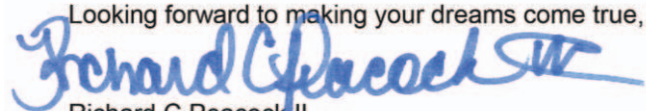
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# Home & Garden



## Bartow Beautification Award

PHOTO PROVIDED

Floral Lakes earned this month's Bartow Beautification Award. From left is John Spigner, Landscape Maintenance Director, Trish Pfeiffer, Mayor, City of Bartow, Gene Moffitt, President Floral Lakes Association



## Fort Meade Yard of Month

PHOTO PROVIDED

Congratulations Maureen Hancock! Fort Meade Garden Club Yard of the Month for October 2016. Her home is located at 813 NE 7th Street

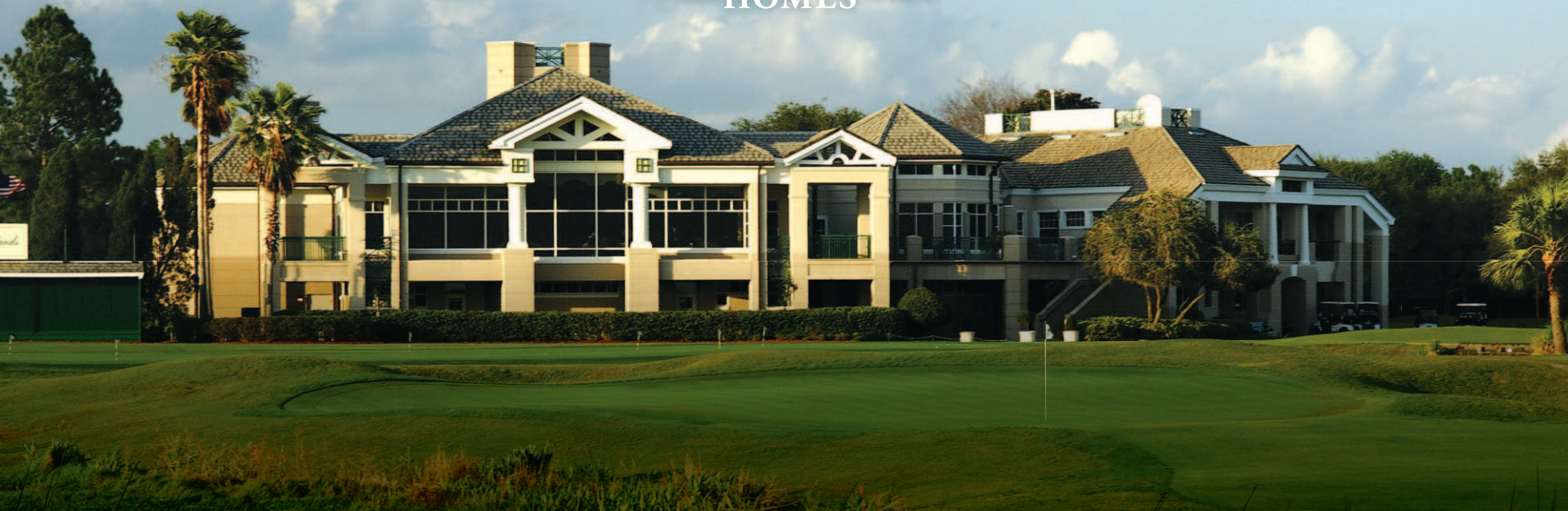
## Lake Wales Yard of the Month

PHOTO PROVIDED

The Whitaker Family for their beautiful newly built home at 1810 Capps Rd in Country Oaks and winning the Yard of the Month in Lake Wales. While the family was already local to the area, they are very much enjoying their new home. The young landscaping consists of several varieties including; Caladiums, Holly berry, Magnolia and Oak trees, Miniature Azalea, Croton, Ligustrum, Viburnum and Annuals. Pictured from left, is Drew Farrar, LWAR 1 Year Director; Megan Whitaker, owner; Steven Whitaker, owner; Sydnie Whitaker, owner; Sophie Whitaker, owner; Jimmy Kahler, LWAR Treasurer; John Gravel LWAR 2 Year Director. Laying down is Bear, Chocolate Lab and Family Fur Baby.



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# BARTOW NEWS

## Ever heard this one?

By STEVE STEINER

STEINER@SCMGINC.COM

There may be truth to what Frank Johnson said at the start of the roast honoring S.L. Frisbie this past Oct. 11, as he cited the late actress Elizabeth Taylor.

"I'm going to try to make this as exciting as possible, but it ain't going to last long," he said. The truth was, the roast was exciting, and yes, it didn't last too long, although the feeling was how wonderful it would have been had it gone on longer than it did.

Although the roast, an event of Main Street Bartow, began on a serious note, with Brian Hinton going over how 2016 has been a wonderful year, and paying tribute also to Sharon Casey, the roast quickly began in earnest, with Johnson explaining how, when Frisbie was a much younger man, had to be "tempered down" by his father, who was then the owner and publisher of The Polk County Democrat.

According to Johnson, Frisbie had a penchant for headlines that put peoples' teeth on edge, he said, and then provided examples before one of the last ones: "Miners refuse to work after death," said Johnson, who then turned to Frisbie, who was still sitting in the audience. "That wasn't one of your winners."

Also taking a potshot at Frisbie was Clint Edwards, who served as DJ. He cited a number of famous people from history as well as events that made them famous, including Moses parting the Red Sea.

"What I'm trying to say is, you're old," said Edwards.

As Don Wilson was taking to the stage, Frisbie



PHOTO BY PEGGY KEHOE

**Leave it to attorney Don Wilson to have uncovered the long rumored "infamous leaked 'hot mic' tape" of S.L. Frisbie. Showing how he long ago earned a reputation as a "take no prisoners" lawyer, Wilson played the tape at the celebrity roast of Frisbie.**

was coaxed out of his seat at the table and to a chair set up for him on stage. As he sat down, Frisbie gave a hint what his responses would be when it finally would be his turn to speak: soft, gentle humor.

"OK, kids, climb on up here and tell Santa Claus what you want," Frisbie said.

Wilson jested over the number of times Frisbie would write about being in the National Guard and reporting for duty.

"It was always reassuring to know and read that S.L. arrived safely at National Guard summer camp," said Wilson. He then pointed out how devoted Frisbie was to the community and gave an example of what a headline would read if it were known the world was going to end: "Rotary Club cancels Wednesday meeting."

Although Wilson turned serious, calling Frisbie the voice and soul of the community, and in doing so confirming Bartow is a

wonderful place, he also had a recording of a hot night sex tape made of Frisbie many years ago. It was the sound of someone snoring.

Tom Thornburg followed Wilson and revealed further embarrassing traits of Frisbie, such as his way with a dollar.

"Some say he's conservative, frugal," said Thornburg. "I say cheap."

Thornburg didn't let an opportunity to jibe Frisbie on the latter's age pass.

"One time he told me, if it wasn't for electricity we'd have to watch TV by candlelight," Thornburg said. However he did pay a compliment for Frisbie's financial acumen. "He started out with little. Still has plenty of it left."

For a nominal fee, anyone from the audience could make a presentation, and among those to take advantage of the opportunity were Maria Trippe and Myrtice Young, with the Polk County History Center. In doing research about Bartow, they

discovered the information they had was sometimes incomplete. It was around the time frame of Feb. 2, 1861, when Polk County was formed. They knew to turn to Frisbie, and with confidence.

"Don't worry," said Young to Trippe about Frisbie. "He's been here since then."

As each guest speaker took to the podium to roast the guest of honor, Edwards would play an appropriate musical entrance. The one for Loyal Frisbie, S.L.'s son, was noteworthy and somewhat ominous. It was the theme from "Jaws."

Loyal said there was plenty he could say but wouldn't. There were two reasons for that. One, he has to ride home with his father afterward, and two, didn't want to jeopardize this year's Christmas presents. What he did talk about were such things as his father's propensity for tardiness.

"I've heard people say, S.L.'s here. We can start now," said Loyal. On those rare occasions when his father was on time, even early, it would prompt others wondering whether it was they who were late.

One of his favorite recollections of his dad, said Loyal, was that S.L.'s proclivity for repeating anecdotes.

"He'll tell you the same thing over and over again," he said. To prove his point, Loyal would repeat that mantra several further times, about his father telling the same thing over and over again.

As with the others who spoke, Loyal also had some serious things to say about his father, and he grew emotional at times recounting.

In one instance, when

his parents were out of town, he took the family car and because of an incident that happened, a friend of his put a sizable dent in the car. The evening his parents returned, Loyal managed to disguise the damage by placing himself between the car and his parents as he greeted them.

However, the guilt was such that Loyal drove the car the next day to the newspaper. His dad always made time for him and this time was no exception. With his heart in his throat, Loyal brought his father out to the car and showed him the damage. He expected the worst.

"Instead, he put his arm around my shoulder and told me, bad news doesn't get better with age," said Loyal. "That was it. By the way, did I tell you he'll tell you the same thing over and over again?"

Finally it was S.L.'s turn and true to his style, was gentle and deprecatory. He began by telling how he fared the first year of the Mr. Bartow contest.

"Out of all the contestants, I came in eighth," he said. "My daughter congratulated me on finishing in the top 10."

However, none of the scheduled presenters were spared, starting with Johnson.

"Frank tells jokes, just like me. The only difference is, I get paid," said Frisbie.

Since Wilson had a "hot sex" tape of Frisbie, he had a story about Wilson and a time Wilson was approached by a woman. It appeared that Wilson had gone to a city to meet a client and couldn't find a hotel room because there were several conferences taking place. However, he



PHOTO BY PEGGY KEHOE

**You can almost actually hear S.L. Frisbie laugh as one of the people "roasting" him tells a tale --- a tall one --- about him.**

finally did manage to find a room at a hotel, a suite.

He was then approached by an attractive woman, who asked to share the room with him. She would sleep on the couch. Wilson agreed after telling the lady something.

"You don't know me. I don't know you. I don't know anyone in this city. No one knows me. No one knows you. However, you will sleep on the couch and that's it," Frisbie said. Wilson told the woman. Several hours later the lady woke up Wilson and said the couch was not comfortable and could she please sleep in the bed. Wilson then repeated what he told the lady earlier, then agreed.

Several hours after that, at around 4 a.m., she again awoke him and suggested they have a party. "You don't know me. I don't know you. I don't know anyone in this city. No one knows me. No one knows you. Who would we invite to our party?"

As for his comment to Loyal, Frisbie said one of his best recollections was the day he took his son to college for the first time. He told his son everything he should know about being on his own.

"It was the best 15 minutes of my life," said Frisbie.



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# BARTOW NEWS

## One small step for East End ... ... One giant leap for Bartow?

By **STEVE STEINER**

STEINER@SCMGINC.COM

More than two years after the City of Bartow, the Community Redevelopment Agency and the Neighborhood Improvement Corp. Commissioned the University of South Florida to conduct and develop the East End Community Vision Plan, which was completed, presented and adopted February 2014, action to implement aspects of the plan finally are about to move forward. It will be a small step, to be sure, but an important one nevertheless.

"We need to come away with something tangible," Commissioner Leo Longworth said and made it known that before the work session concluded, some sort of action would be agreed upon. "This is what's going to be done, something we can say we can do."

For way too long, the east end, as well as a section of it, the east side, has been an area termed "blighted." The East End community is located just east of downtown and south of State Road 60. The majority of it is on the southside of East

Main Street, starting at First Avenue/L.B. Brown Avenue. The northern border is the CSX railroad, the eastern boundary the municipal golf course, the southern boundary East Bay Street and the western boundary First Avenue. It also includes a one mile north/south segment of U.S. 17.

The majority of the session was helmed by Assistant City Attorney Drew Crawford, who advises the CRA on legal matters. In his deliverance, Crawford pointed out troubling statistics. In the east end (and particularly the east side) there are 131 residential lots that are vacant. Approximately 34 percent of these vacant lots have been owned for 20 years or more; 22 percent have been owned fewer than five years. Of those 131 properties, 101 have been assessed at being worth no more than \$5,000. All together, 96 percent of those properties are assessed at less than \$9,000.

These single family residences, he said, are the best opportunity to fight blight and strategies include churning stagnant ownership, improve public infrastructures (streets, curbs, sidewalks, lighting,

etc.) and providing financial incentives.

"It's really important to go forward," said Cliff Lewis. He added that it was of equal importance that Bartow know this is a "bottoms up" action, coming from the community to the decision makers.

A good portion of the discussion covered appearance, which earlier in his presentation defining what constitutes blight, Crawford said it is the impression people determine based upon what they personally see. During that aspect, discussion on strategies included the option of enhanced enforcement by the city code enforcement department. It prompted a comment from Brian Hinton, who questioned the rationale of making beautification an ordinance and opined it was not a wise direction upon which to embark.

Citing what Tampa did with the Ybor City neighborhood, Crawford provided an example of what Bartow could do with new home structures, which he termed American Vernacular homes, and he used the L.B. Brown house as an example, pointing out features that could be

incorporated in new home construction.

It was Jeff Bagwell, the president and executive director of the Keystone Challenge Fund based in Lakeland, that has partnered with the CRA in building two houses in the east end. He highlighted the challenges Keystone faced simply acquiring the two parcels that will eventually have new homes constructed. However, the brunt of his presentation was that the neighborhood needs to have a clean-up effort. He said the neighborhood needs to be made aware of this, and in advance. He did raise a caveat, which was that while a number of people who reside there want to have decent housing, many are senior citizens and simply cannot afford to do so. He also mentioned another factor to be considered.

"The way to revitalize a community is to have mixed income housing," Bagwell said. He added he and CRA director Stephen Cox talk practically every day on a number of issues, as well as what was being said at the joint workshop.

"I'm really excited what I've heard so far," he said. It all sounded good,

according to Mayor Trish Pfeiffer, but what had yet to be mentioned was a major issue.

"What are we going to do about the drub problem," she asked. She added further observations, such as a fairly new home that already was showing indication of blight, as it had broken windows. The house had been lived in for only a short while before becoming vacant, which it has remained since. Pfeiffer also pointed out that a particular business located on U.S. 17 was not maintaining its property. She then asked Ken Riley, the chairman and president of EPAC, to weigh in.

"One of the biggest problems was trash," said Riley. Another is street flooding. However, a third is the amount of noise generated by youth, noise that can last as late as 3-4 a.m., in an area on MLK Boulevard. More policing is needed, but that then leads to another situation which is, where do youth go?

Lewis called it a chicken-and-egg situation. There are a number of senior citizens who live in that area, which has a number of vacant lots and they

are afraid, thus they don't do any neighborhood policing. He also said the overwhelming majority of the youth who live in the area are not the ones causing trouble, which comes from those who come as far away as Tampa and Orlando. A short while later, Longworth would reiterate that.

Longworth said he liked starting by with a clean-up, and that the best way to get the word out to the black community is through the churches. That garnered support from Pfeiffer, who proposed that be the first action taken. She added she would be glad to accompany Lewis and Riley and anyone else and go to residents and businesses on MLK Boulevard and surrounding neighborhoods.

Among the last to speak was CRA member Karen Guffey. People throughout Bartow, not just the east end, need to start taking pride in their neighborhoods and in Bartow. If they see something that appears out of place they should talk to their neighbors and find out, as well as ask, if necessary, if there is something they can do to help.

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# BARTOW NEWS

## 75 years of service celebrated by Crickettes

By SHARON CASEY

SPECIAL TO THE SUN COAST MEDIA GROUP

When you hear the word "cricket," most folks think of a noisy little insect that chirps just as you close your eyes to sleep; or a game played with a ball.

If you are from Bartow, you think of the parade and carnival held near Halloween.

More than 75 years ago, a group of Bartow women shared the same vision — to bring together a service club for the betterment of the growing Bartow community, where they lived, worked and were raising their families. They wanted their own club — one where they could make their own rules and bylaws.

These ladies recruited 25 charter members and adopted a slate of service projects to give their club meaning and purpose.

The Crickette Club Carnival, held annually since 1942, is the group's primary fundraiser. The carnival began as a way to avoid the usual mischief and pranks

that can take place at Halloween. It was such a success that then Bartow City Manager, C.R. Odom, asked the club to continue it each year.

The club added the parade in 1950, which quickly became another Bartow tradition. The parade and carnival evolved over the years to become a top-notch event. It takes all of the Crickette Club members to put the Parade and Carnival together. They work hard all year to be sure that the event is fun for children and children of all ages. It's a great time for everyone in the family.

The club learned that Bartow's lone Girl Scout Troop didn't have a place to meet. So, in 1944, the members initiated a four-year project to raise \$8,000 for the construction of a Girl Scout house. The cornerstone was laid on Sept. 4, 1948, on the 3,500 square foot building on North Wilson Avenue, which would become the home for local Girl Scouts. The building was funded through contributions from Bartow citizens, the

Girl Scout Council and the Crickette Club. The land was donated by the E.C. Stuart family. The building was dedicated on May 8, 1949.

The Club next built Camp Crickette (for the Scouts) at Bartow's Mary Holland Park; and club members continue to support Girl Scout programs through proceeds from the parade and carnival; and through an annual yard sale held at the Girl Scout House in early August.

In honor of the Crickette Club's 75th anniversary, it has embarked on a year-long celebration that has included a reception at the Polk County History Center for members and special guests, as well as hosting the Bartow Chamber Fun Thursday at the Girl Scout House.

The Club will showcase the Crickette Carnival at Main Street's Friday Fest in September and October by providing fun cake walks at the events. The Cake Walk at the Carnival is a Bartow tradition that has become one of the community's

favorites. When you win a Crickette Club cake, it's not just an ordinary cake.

The Crickette Club celebration continues on with a Sponsorship Program in which the community can help the Crickette Club celebrate 75 years of service and supporting local Girl Scouts by helping leave a legacy through an endowed scholarship with the Polk Education Foundation. Sponsors will be acknowledged at various events, including the Crickette Club Carnival being held on Oct. 27.

For information about the Sponsorship Program, and how you may help; or just for information about the Crickette Club itself, visit the website at [www.crickettes.org](http://www.crickettes.org).

The Crickette Club meets every Monday at noon, where they learn more about the community through presentations from guest speakers on various topics. The group also holds social events throughout the year, when they celebrate birthdays and holidays, or just meet to have



PHOTO PROVIDED

The following Girl Scouts have been selected to represent their troops and will ride the Crickette Club's Royalty Float in their 74th Annual Parade on Thursday, Oct. 27. Back row, from left, Queen Isabelle Luke, daughter of Charles and Melinda Luke; Princess Isabel Perez, daughter of Joseluis and Emelia Perez. Front row, from left, Abigale Karshner and Addison Karshner, daughter of Sean and Stephanie Karshner; Kallie Mullineaux, daughter of Jimmy Jones and Stephanie Gillum; Lily Ratterree, daughter of Don and Kristy Ratterree.

fun. Several of them have been in the club for more than 40 years. As women retire out of the workforce, they

continue to keep their memberships in the Club, because of all the many friendship they have made.

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# BARTOW NEWS

# Teaching English to Germans

## Exchange program ends at Bartow High School

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

In the fall every other year, Bartow is invaded by the Germans. And, almost as payback, the following summer, Germany is hit by a horde of Americans.

It's not warfare, oh no. It's all educational. And fun. It's GAPP. Not the store, but the German American Partnership Program, an exchange student program where kids from two countries go to each others school. The German students come to Bartow in the fall, and the BHS students head for Germany right after school lets out next summer.

Friday was the German students' last day at BHS, and they met with the press to share their insights about the school and living with an American family for three weeks.

Saninra Hubanic, a 17-year-old from Bochum, an industrial city in the Ruhr Valley, and Stella Goerz, also 17, were more than willing to talk about how they found BHS and their visit in general. And, in perfect English.

The two girls said that was part of the plan: "To practice our English."

"It's one thing to write it and read it," said Hubanic. "But its very different to talk it. And it's very different when you hear accents and not the formal English we learn."

None of the BHS students immediately fessed up to whether they perfected their German or even picked up any from their house guests.

"It's been really interesting," said Goerz. "To see what life is like here and see how the schools are so different."

She also said the German students all attended the German equivalent of the BHS IB school, so some of the classes she attended here

were "not so hard."

Hubanic also said at her home school, students "have to pay close attention in each class, because we are graded each day on each lesson. Not like here where you can be louder in class and not pay such close attention."

These students are taking home a wealth of memories, everything from a barbecue with Bartow native son Adam Putnam, the Commissioner of Agriculture, a trip to Universal Studios Halloween Horror Nights, and a trip to the Orlando Outlet Mall, but the one they won't readily forget was the preparations for Hurricane Mathew.

"Nobody else from our school has ever gone through that," said Goerz. "That was very exciting. To see everyone getting ready for the storm and how the preparations were made. And the waiting."

Both girls were a little disappointed that they weren't able to do two things they had planned.

"We didn't get to the beach and Disney World," they said. "We didn't know there would be a red tide and the weather would keep us tied up."

Football was also a new experience. Not just the sport, but the whole "Friday Night Lights" experience.

"We didn't expect the performance in the middle. That was very surprising and exciting," said Hubanic.

The foreign students seemed quite at home with their American counterparts. And that isn't by chance, says program coordinator and BHS teacher Jimmy Giles.

"We spend a lot of time matching kids up," he said. "We try to match them culturally, by religion, by family size and by their studies too," he explained. "It's a very lengthy process and the kids get to know each

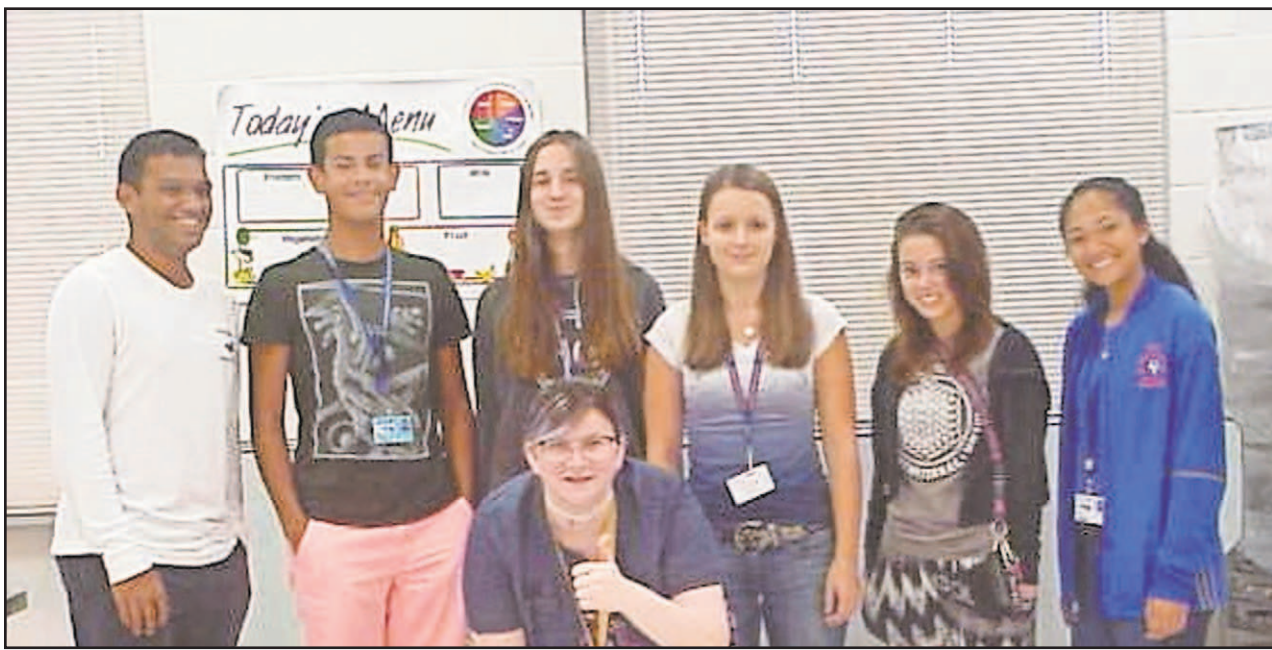
other for months before they actually get to meet. They Skype and email all the time for weeks and months before they actually get to meet face to face, so it's like they already know each other. They do know each other."

"This is a fabulous experience for these kids," said fellow BHS teacher and program facilitator Jen Scully. "They learn first-hand a new culture, but find out that they really aren't that different. They basically have the same values and experiences, just minor differences."

"This experience changes how they look at the world. They start to see the common things and not the differences. It also helps them appreciate what we have here that may not be available somewhere else."

Scully has partnered in the program six years and she and Giles accompany the Bartow students when they travel to visit the Markische Schule near Cologne next summer.

Accompanying the German students was Martin Hassbruggen, an English and religion instructor from the Markische Schule. "This is such a



PHOTOS BY AL PALMER

Taking one last group photo Friday were BHS and German students, from left, Shulagra Shah, Justin Tavares, Saninra Hubanic, Lizzy Murphy (in front), Stella Goerz, T.J. McLendon and Victoria Vailoces.

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Accompanying the German students was Martin Hassbruggen, an English and religion instructor from the Markische Schule. "This is such a

wonderful program," he said. "We all look forward to it from one visit to the next."

Anyone interested in applying for the program can find the information on the Bartow High web site or go to [www.bartowgapp.weebly.com](http://www.bartowgapp.weebly.com).



Jennifer Scully, an American history teacher at Bartow High School, talks about the German American Partnership Program just before 20 German exchange students completed their three-week visit to Central Florida on Friday.



Foreign exchange student Saninra Hubanic, 17, of Bochum, Germany, shares a moment with BHS junior Justin Tavares, who will be visiting Saninra's school in Germany next summer.

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# BARTOW NEWS

## Mayor reveals ideas to help city

By STEVE STEINER  
SSTEINER@SCMGINC.COM

For only the third time has a Bartow mayor been the guest speaker at a DAR function, said Gay Harlowe in her introduction of Mayor Trish Pfeiffer, and Harlowe made no doubt it was a special honor and privilege for the DAR to have Pfeiffer as its guest presenter.

"She's always thinking fresh ideas to keep Bartow interesting," Harlowe said and then looked at Pfeiffer. "She is so enthusiastic and I heard that before I met you."

Pfeiffer opened by recounting her youth growing up in Bartow, especially at the time her mother Mayme Burdin-Clark was the executive director of The Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce. As a teen and after the school day, Pfeiffer would get on her horse and ride to the chamber which was then located by the post office, and help do tasks.

"I had a great time growing up here," said Pfeiffer. "It was the ideal Norman Rockwell town."

As a young adult, Pfeiffer had an opportunity to pursue a professional career in the performing arts and traveled west. After marriage and children, the family moved back to Bartow in 1988. For a brief while she ran a dance studio. She joked her husband, Bob, a contractor, called the dance studio her hobby.

After explaining how she went from "mom to mayor," when the opportunity arose for her to run for a seat on the city commission. However, the brunt of her presentation was on her devotion to Bartow as both a private citizen, business owner and now public official.

"Ideas come to me often," she said. "I am constantly trying to make things better." With that she provided several examples, beginning with the cigar factory. When she learned of its storied history, she became part of the group that fought to save it from the wrecking ball, which county commissioners wanted to tear down. At the time the county owned the building, but it was ultimately saved



PHOTO BY STEVE STEINER

**Mayor Trish Pfeiffer (second from right) gestures to emphasize over matters she believes are of importance to City of Bartow. She was the guest speaker at the DAR this past week.**

and sold to the city in 2011, which Pfeiffer gave much credit to City Manager George Long. "He saw the merit in it."

When she spoke of extending Fort Fraser Trail and the tie-in with bicycling and how she would like seen built an overpass spanning State Road 60/Van Fleet Drive at the Wilson Avenue intersection, she drew several responses, with one member of the gathering exclaiming, "Oh, wow, that would be something."

She said she is also pushing for a dog park and believes a section of Mary Holland Park near the entrance would be a suitable location. She sees much value in a dog park. "Dog parks bring us together," she said. "It automatically connects us. It really does."

Pfeiffer also wants to make Bartow golf cart friendly.

She also spoke of the city's appearance and how a new project is soon to be underway. There will be 19 ceramic containers that will be filled with plants and there will be an employee whose job it will be to maintain the plants.

The chamber is also

involved and is rebranding the city with the theme, "We Are Bartow." In a brainstorming session, 25 adjectives describing Bartow were developed. New banners that will hang from street lamps will soon be unveiled and each banner will have a different "We Are ..." message.

As she wrapped up her presentation, Pfeiffer spoke on the schools and emphasized that schools are a large part of Bartow. She spoke of the Mayor's Youth Council, which some commissioners wanted to discontinue the program as they felt it was lacking enthusiasm, but Pfeiffer supported, thus kept it going.

Plus she said she will be going to each school in Bartow as part of her "Mayor on the Move" project. Just as she has done by visiting Bartow businesses and posting the videos on her Facebook page, she will do likewise at the schools, speaking and recording the principals of each school and telling what is special about each school.

She closed with how she would like to have the original civic center revived and made into a cultural arts center and meeting place.

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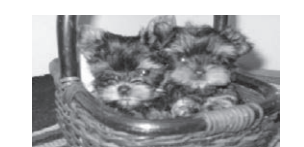
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# BARTOW NEWS

## Alturas Women's Club wants to make a difference *Club continuing its efforts to improve life in their area*

By CATHY PALMER  
CORRESPONDENT

There may be just a few of them now, but the Women's Club of Alturas is still planning to make a difference in the small agricultural community east of Bartow.

Saturday was one of their days. The club's dozen members pulled out all the stops and held its annual yard and craft sale at its longtime headquarters and community center on Oak Street.

Clouds threatened the outside vendors but not the shoppers who eyed bargains galore both indoors and out.

All the proceeds from the sale of donated goods and the receipts for the rental spaces are earmarked to help keep the building ready for weddings, parties, receptions, baby showers or community meetings, said events coordinator Linda Maxwell.

"Sometimes we've had

a hard time paying just to keep the lights on," she said, "but that was back when we only had a few members."

A 1920s building needs constant upkeep, Maxwell adds, and an influx of new members to revitalize both the building and the membership.

"Starting today (at the Saturday yard sale) we will be moving forward to join in the Fall Fest at the Methodist Church by sponsoring the cake walk," she explained.

That will be followed by a "Make 'N' Take" workshop on Nov. 5 where professional artists will teach a one-day workshop for students to make and take home a Christmas gift, Maxwell says, adding that there is a small fee for that workshop.

The club also plans to man a cake sales booth at the Honey Be Craft Fair in Bartow on Nov. 12.

"We'll have to take a break after that since



Fletcher Wine-Story, 6, of Alturas, plays his electronic game while his mom is busy scouting bargains at Saturday's Alturas Women's Club annual yard sale.



PHOTOS BY CATHY PALMER

Shoppers scan the goodies offered at Saturday's Alturas Women's Club annual yard sale. Proceeds are earmarked to support club activities and maintain the 1920s building that also doubles as a community center in the agricultural community east of Bartow.

the building is up for rent for holiday parties, but are already planning activities for the rest of the year.

Maxwell asks anyone who wishes to take part

in any of the activities or join the club, to contact her at 863-537-4850.

She adds that the club's website is also under construction and should be up on the web shortly.

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# BARTOW NEWS

## Cracker Festival reset for December

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

While Hurricane Mathew sidestepped Polk County, it still delayed the annual Cracker Storytelling Festival until Dec. 1-3. It was originally scheduled for earlier this month.

Officials are still expecting the annual event featuring prominent tale-spinners to top previous attendance records and are allowing an extra day to accommodate the expected crowd.

Thursday and Friday, there will be about 1,500 students at the park to hear 10 veteran

tale-tellers open their eyes to another time or take them on an adventure, according to one of the organizers Terrie Sullivan. On Saturday, the general public is invited to join the festivities, she said.

It will cost \$4 for each student and \$6 for those over 18 to get in, and Sullivan says the roster of story tellers is "well worth it."

If one tires of listening to the age-old tales, one can visit the vendors or crafters, Sullivan added.

"There will be home-made leather goods, home-made honey as well as holiday items, just

to name a few," she says.

Story-telling will be curtailed about noontime on Saturday to make way for the ever-popular Whip-Cracking Contest that will entice local lash experts with prizes awarded in various age categories.

Story-telling is part of the schools' language arts curriculum, according to Sullivan and is encouraged as an art form. The students participating in the festival are from third-grade to seniors in high school, Sullivan added.

For additional information, one may contact Sullivan at 863-647-4716.

## New piping project continuing

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Construction is continuing on Wabash Street at U.S. 17 in Bartow as contractor crews lay new sewer pipes as part of the \$3 million sewer system upgrade project.

Work crews were busy on Friday drilling underneath the pavement to install the new lines while heavy equipment blocked the intersection. Barricades kept vehicles off eastbound Wabash with the traffic diverted to other city streets to the north and south.

According to Bartow Public Works spokesman Russ Martin, the work has been underway for several months and will continue for several more. He said after the work is completed on the east side of U.S. 17, the contractor will move across the highway and continue for several more blocks.

Some 2,800 linear feet of new pipes are being installed by contractor Metro Equipment Services of Miami, Martin explained, as well as new manholes and conduit under both U.S. 17 and the CSX Railroad crossing.

Martin said the work was expected to continue until the end of the year. He further anticipated that Wabash west of 17 would be closed in one-block increments while the work is accomplished.



PHOTOS BY CATHY PALMER

**Heavy trenching equipment looms close to road closed signs Friday as work continues on sewer pipe replacement on Wabash Street in Bartow. The work has temporarily closed sections of Wabash as new lines are installed by Metro Equipment Services of Miami.**



**Clouds of dust obscure workers and heavy equipment Friday as new sewer lines are installed on Wabash Street adjacent to U.S. 17 in Bartow. The work is part of a \$3 million project that also includes installation of new manholes and requires pipes to be installed below 17 and the CSX Railroad crossing.**

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Downtown Concert Series  
Nov 2 | 12:30-1:45PM

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152 East Central Avenue, Lake Wales, FL

Campus Concert Series

Nov 3 | 12:30-1:45PM

Polk State Lakeland Student Center  
3425 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland, FL

OCT 20

THU | 5-7PM

### EXHIBIT RECEPTION

"Boy Scouts & Indians" by Rod Fincannon  
Polk State Lakeland Art Gallery

OCT 21

FRI | 5-8PM

### JAZZ JAM SESSION

Featuring Victoria de Lissovoy and Charlie "Topp" Hines  
Free admission | Polk State Lake Wales Arts Center

OCT 22

SAT | 7-8:30PM

### CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

"Pieces en Concert: A Synesthetic Experience"  
Presented by Voices of the People  
Featuring Painter David McGee and Derek Menchan, cello  
\$5 Suggested donation | Polk State Winter Haven Fine Arts Theatre

OCT 23

SUN | 2-4PM

### OVER 55 SHOW BAND SERIES

"Fun Fall Festival"  
\$10 General public  
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OCT 27

THU | 5-6PM

### ARTS DAY AT POLK STATE COLLEGE

POLK STATE MUSIC CONCERT  
Student Music Performance  
Polk State Winter Haven Fine Arts Lobby

OCT 27

THU | 5-7PM

### ARTS DAY AT POLK STATE COLLEGE

EXHIBIT RECEPTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY  
Student Art Exhibition  
Polk State Winter Haven Fine Arts Gallery

OCT 27

THU | 7-8:30PM

### POLK STATE SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT

"Fall Spooktacular"  
\$7 General public | Free for Polk State students & Polk County high school students, Polk State faculty & staff  
Polk State Winter Haven Fine Arts Theatre

NOV 2

WED | 12:30-1:45PM

### DOWNTOWN CONCERT SERIES'

Rob Hazen  
Funk, soul, and indie pop singer/songwriter  
Polk State JD Alexander Center

NOV 3

THU | 12:30-1:45PM

### CAMPUS CONCERT SERIES'

Rob Hazen  
Funk, soul, and indie pop singer/songwriter  
Polk State Lakeland Student Center

NOV 4

FRI | 7-8:30PM

### CONCERT

The L.E.G. Band  
An evening of rhythm and jazz  
\$5 General public  
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# TRUMP

FROM PAGE 1

illegal immigration and left-leaning policies such as providing affordable college and childcare.

"We are going to put America first, and we are going to be reunited with our love for our country," Trump said. "We are a divided country almost like never before. We are going to be a united country again."

Thousands of Trump supporters from within the county and the surrounding area gathered upon the airport tarmac near Sheltair Hangar last week to hear the Republican nominee speak.

All of the airport's 7,000 parking spaces were filled that day, requiring many supporters to either park on the grass or along the road.

With so many parking spaces occupied, the turnout could have been anywhere between an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 attendees.

Despite the overbearing heat that afternoon, which forced more than 25 people to receive medical treatment, according to media reports, Trump supporters remained resilient.

## Support for Trump

Many supporters attending the rally were so eager to see Trump speak in person that many admittedly skipped work and took their children out of school to attend.

For many attendees, such a risk proved more important to them than earning a day's wage, especially in light of the work lost during the recent hurricane.

One attendee, who declined to give his name, had lost two days' worth of work and income, and thus was opting out on much needed income by skipping work.

"It was a tough decision to come down here," he said. "Because of the hurricane, a lot of people sacrificed (to be here)."

The airport parking lot filled up at approximately 2 p.m. With cars bumper to bumper for at least a mile in both directions in front of the airport, drivers had nowhere to go but try to park anywhere he or she could. While the gates at Lakeland Linder Airport opened at noon, Trump didn't take the stage until about 3 p.m.

Ron Renna owns Rent It Enterprising just across the street. At first he had a \$5 sign pointing to a small field that filled up quickly. The dollar amounts went up as space ran out. At around 2:15 Renna was



PHOTOS BY CHARLES BAKER III

**According to Trump, the local fire marshal stopped letting supporters in at one point. At least hundreds of people listened from outside.**

heard asking for \$20 per spot.

"It's crazy, we didn't expect this," Renna said.

Tickets to the event were free.

Mike Simmons said he lives on the other side of the airport, it took him an hour to get there and by the time he did the parking lot was already full. Simmons said he has seen both Bush presidents, Mitt Romney and now Trump at the airport.

"I wanted to thank (Trump) for all the (free) bathrobes and ashtrays from his casinos over the years," Simmons said.

Sacrifices like taking a day from work was one they were willing to make to show their support for a candidate whom they believe will help them through their financial situation unlike any other political candidate.

"People believe in his ideas and his movement," the man who wouldn't give his name, said. "He makes mistakes. He's a flawed man ... But people like him because he sticks up for us. The other politicians are for the Washington bureaucrats. The man is going to help whoever he is going to help, I know that he will."

Despite such adamant support from his followers, Trump has not been faring well with overall public perception following his second debate with Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. He has also been falling behind in Florida, a swing state in this election with 29 electoral votes. Clinton has 49.5-42.9 percent lead in Florida in the popular vote race, according to fivethirtyeight.com.

Trump the day before started drawing public

ire following the leak of video footage from 11 years ago of him describing how he sexually molests women and said he has grabbed them by the p\*\*\*\*. Since his appearance here last week, nine women have come forward and said Trump lied in the debate when he said he did not commit those acts as they say he has with them.

Even worse, more than 35 Republican politicians, including Florida Rep. Tom Rooney, have withdrawn their support of him and have even called for him to step down.

However, to his supporters his apparent treatment of women and possible law-breaking, doesn't matter.

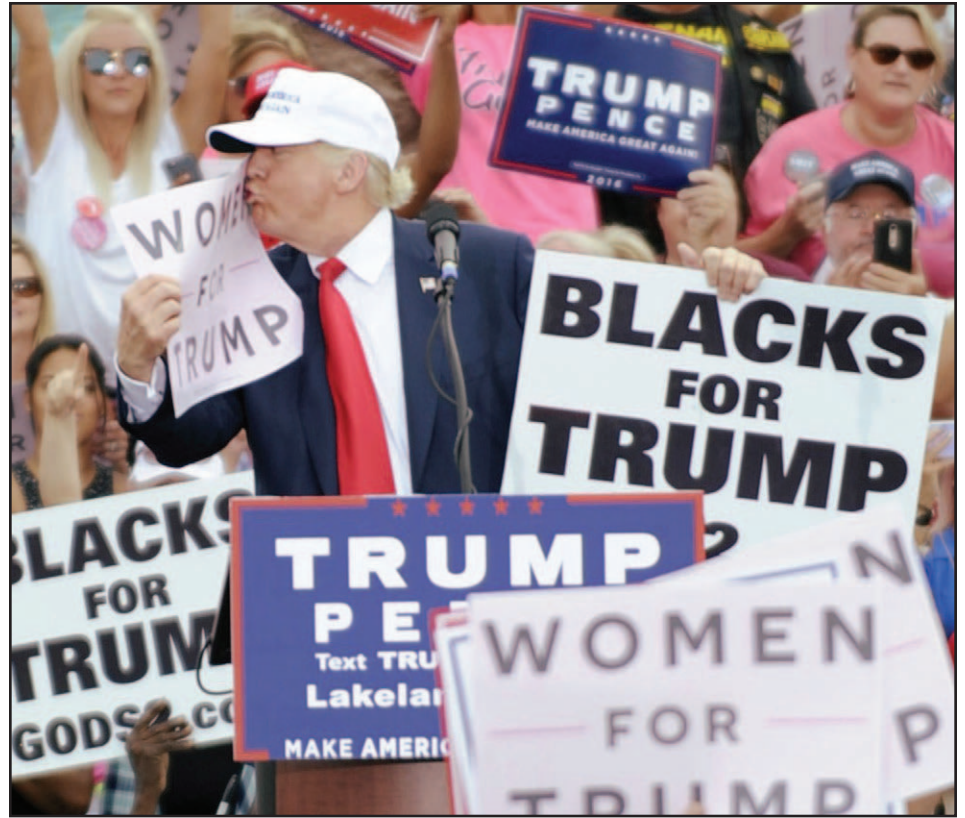
"I would rather vote for somebody who had a potty mouth than a liar," said one such female supporter, Anna Jacobson of Sarasota.

She has been an avid supporter of his ever since she read one of his first books more than 40 years ago, and she remains an unfaltering supporter even in light of his remarks.

For her, most of the negativity surrounding him has been the fault of the mainstream media, whom she claims misrepresents him, as she insists that he is the smartest choice for president.

Another female supporter, Erika Wilcoxson, supports his willingness to speak his mind and say what everyone else thinks, even when it goes against the grain.

"I think that every man has said something or thought something of that nature," she said. "I think he is a good person with women. It doesn't matter if you are



Donald Trump pretends this sign is a woman shortly before walking off stage and flying away.



The airport parking lot filled up around an hour before Trump arrived causing a traffic jam in both directions for miles. The \$5 parking spots soon became \$20 spots.

a man or a woman, he is a good candidate for America."

As for his male supporters, while they do not defend his remarks, they consider his remarks to be the less evil to Hillary Clinton's actions.

One such supporter, Ronald Palmer, remained impressed with how many people managed to show up in support of Trump, and considers the crowd evidence that he will be the best president in history, even in spite of his remarks.

"His wife forgave him," he said. "If she forgave him, than I can do the same."

## Trump protest outside

However, not everyone was happy about Trump's arrival. Outside the hangar, a small group of protesters congregated to show their solidarity against him.

Scott Shepherd from Lakeland was especially troubled at rumors that Trump would pay for his supporters who were accused of assaulting protesters.

During his time at the event, he had been confronted by more than three attendees, but



Donald Trump takes the catwalk back to his jet at the Lakeland Linder Airport on Wednesday.

none have since intimidated him or the other protesters.

As a Bernie Sanders supporter who is now supporting Hillary, Shepherd considers Trump to be the antithesis of Bernie and his progressive values.

"Trump is a crony,"

he said. "I am voting for Clinton because he has been fighting for our rights and fighting for the causes that I have believed in for decades. A vote for Hillary is a vote to stop Trump."

Correspondent Charles Baker III contributed to this article.

# BARTOW NEWS

## Roof work beginning on Orpheum

By STEVE STEINER

SSTEINER@SCMGINC.COM

Phase One of construction on what eventually will be the Orpheum Theatre began several days prior to the anticipated arrival of Hurricane Matthew. The entire roof is being replaced.

"We are so excited to start working on the building and are so grateful for the generous support that has made this progress possible," stated Orpheum Theatre Director Jenny Heidtman on her Facebook page. Thus far that financial support has totaled approximately \$90,000, which has gone toward the demolition of the interior, portions of the exterior, and the development of architectural designs by Terry Hunter.

As funding allows during the first phase, along with the roof being replaced, renovations will be done to the facade, first floor and structure of the building, to secure the building and even allow limited public access.

Much of what has

become a reality is thanks in great part to the Bartow Community Healthcare Foundation, Heidtman said. The Foundation has now issued a third challenge grant in the amount of \$25,000; the first challenge was for \$10,000 and the second was for \$25,000.

In addition, the Community Redevelopment Agency contributed funds that covered 50 percent of the cost toward facade renovations. When the third challenge is accomplished, it will more than cover the cost of the facade and remaining funds will go toward Phase One construction plans.

Last week, following a gathering of this year's Bartow Leadership Class 17, a tour of the site occurred. The excitement was palpable, according to Heidtman.

"They could totally 'see' the picture," she said, adding those present also made the connection to the schools and the business community. "It was more than exciting."

What also is exciting is the support local businesses have provided.

"KMR Concrete, Concrete Polishing, Crown Electric, Larens Plumbing and Center State Painting have all stepped forward to donate portions of material and labor costs," she said. "Their donations alone total at least \$50,000."

While hopes are high and anticipation is building, Heidtman said the pace of construction is smooth, although she acknowledged she has heard from some who are "chomping at the bit" for things to be done.

"When you want to do things right, it's going to take time," she said, speaking of any time frame. "We're not going to reach it as much as we want it to be 'tomorrow' (on the topic of completion)."

However, while work on the actual site has progressed, the inaugural year has been a busy one.

"From June 2015-16, we created unique performance experiences,"



PHOTO BY STEVE STEINER

Several days before Hurricane Matthew was predicted to reach Florida, work began on the roof on the building of what will eventually become the Orpheum Theatre and Academy of Performing Arts, 335 E. Main St., Bartow. Once the roof is secured, further construction will take place on the interior.

said Heidtman. These were for audiences of all ages and stages of life. Events have featured musicians from all genres and the Orpheum has worked with more than 30 children, having them sing in the community as well as perform in theatrical productions.

Working together with performing arts

teachers in the schools has been rewarding.

"Performing and education got together. You get inspired. You also build a community," she said. "So when I talk to teachers, we talk about the things we can do to enhance it."

### Challenge grant

If anyone wishes to be

a part of the Orpheum Theatre challenge grant is asked to make a tax-deductible check to: The Bartow Community Healthcare Foundation.

c/o The Orpheum P.O. Box 1462 Bartow, FL 33831 (Again, on the memo line, state the contribution is to be earmarked for The Orpheum.)

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# LIP SYNC

FROM PAGE 1

The tunes performed by Feacher, Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come" and the Bee Gees, "Stayin' Alive" had special meaning for the former city manager who was recently terminated from his position. And he took it to the top.

"I came to win," Feacher told the celebrity judges after getting two 10s and a nine after a Sam Cooke rendition.

Another show stealer, Citizens Bank and Trust's Bonnie Parker, won the judges second choice, audience choice and People's Choice award for raising the most funds. She received a large trophy belt that will be passed on to winners of future events.

Parker shimmied across the stage belting out "Stop in the Name of Love" by Diana Ross and the Supremes, complete with backup singers, T-Fay Dewdney and Merissa Green. Parker's husband, Jim, accompanied her on piano while the audience threw money on stage during her first song, "Money, Money, Money."

Winter Haven Mayor Brad Dantzler was the third place judges choice winner. After playing it cool performing as the Blues Brothers Elwood, Dantzler brought the



Celebrity judges Dr. Vincent Miller, a Dean of Students in Lake Alfred, left, Florida teacher of the year Jessica Solano, center, and former American Idol contestant Danny Pate gave good performances as well.

house down as Elsa in "Frozen," sprinkling snow as he danced across the stage wearing a gown.

The audience roared as each of the six contestants let it rip in their show-stopping performances. Dr. Vincent Miller, a dean of students in Lake Alfred, Florida teacher of the year Jessica Solano and former American Idol contestant Danny Pate as judges gave scores of nine and 10 to most contestants.

Katie Worthington, president and CEO of the Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce, kicked up a storm as Lady Marmalade after bringing Marilyn Monroe back to life in her first performance.

Attorney Doug Lockwood, who performed did Woody Guthrie tunes with his wife, Sharon, while George Tinsley CEO of PenGeo Inc., Tinsley Group

Inc. and Tinsley Family Concessions, also turned his performances into a family affair with his sons backing up their dad.

### Who they help

"Both organizations work to provide quality public education options to all children in Winter Haven," said PEP Director Audrey Nettlow. "We will use the funds for its after-school tutoring programs and to help fund advanced curriculum programs, urgent needs and incentives for teachers and students in schools."

The Winter Haven Public Education Partnership was created in 2011 out of concern for poor grades at Winter Haven area schools. PEP volunteers have been making efforts to try different approaches to local education.

Lockwood said representatives of Denison



PHOTOS BY CHARLES BAKER III

George "Big Tins" Tinsley of PenGeo Inc/KFC Auburndale and Bonnie Parker get the crowd going as all of the contestants hit the stage at the start of the Celebrity Lip Sync Battle.

and Winter Haven High School visited a middle school in another country that had a pre-Cambridge program.

"We have a lot of work to do," Lockwood said. I believe the community, however, is now committed to do whatever it takes to assure that all our students have the opportunity to experience an education that is second to none."

The other beneficiary of the fundraiser, Cypress Junction Montessori, teaches students

three-years-old through the eighth grade. The Montessori school is based on hands on learning and creative choices.

Lockwood said funds PEP receives from the Celebrity Lip Sync Battle could go toward creating a pre-Cambridge Program at Denison Middle School.

"There is much support for this program at Denison and I have no doubt it will become a reality," Lockwood said. The pre-Cambridge

Program is an attempt to change middle schools education from passing the FCAT to trying a different approach.

The evening included wine tastings, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, plus a performance by the cast of TWH's Beauty and the Beast.

The Celebrity Lip Sync Battle was sponsored by Saddle Creek Logistics, Victor Smith Law Firm, Straughn & Turner, CPS Investment Advisors and Polk State College Foundation.



Winter Haven Public Education Partnership board president Doug "The Bullet" Lockwood and his wife Sharon walk on stage to perform a Woody Guthrie song during the Celebrity Lip Sync Battle at Theater Winter Haven Thursday night. Half of the funds raised went to PEP toward bettering education in the area.



Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce president Katie Worthington performed as Marilyn Monroe during the Celebrity Lip Sync Battle with some help.



As Bonnie Parker with Citizens Bank & Trust performed her first act, the house lights suddenly came on and volunteers threw out dollar bills. She got 10s from all of the judges and ended up in second place.

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# Bartow will not pay healthcare for commissioners

By **STEVE STEINER**

SSTEINER@SCMGINC.COM

By the time Mayor Trish Pfeiffer was called upon to cast her vote, which she did reluctantly, the request that the city pick up the cost of healthcare coverage for commissioners was already dead in the water. Because Commissioner Pat Huff was not present, as he was on an excused absence, all it took to defeat the measure would be a tie vote by the four commissioners. It

went down 3-1, with only Commissioner James F. Clements voting in favor.

Clements had pushed for the city to pick up the tab for commissioners, which would come to an estimated \$686 per month. By his reckoning, the number of hours commissioners put in merited having the city pay the cost. In support of his proposal, he would cite the number of hours and involvement in a number of committees and other roles required or requested. He tallied

the hours and what commissioners are paid as salary and said it comes to slightly more than \$14 per hour. He also called for a postponement because the full board was not present. That was rejected.

Prior to the vote, Pfeiffer asked City Manager George Long for a clarification on the status of commissioners. Were they considered full- or part-time employees. His response was commissioners are neither, that they

are elected officials. However, commissioners are entitled to participate at their own expense in the healthcare program the city offers because of a payroll function.

City Attorney Sean Parker confirmed that in a legal sense, commissioners are not employees. He reiterated Long by saying that under the city's insurance plan, they are eligible to partake of that option.

Pfeiffer wanted to delay the vote, not only because of Huff's excused

absence, but because she felt commissioners did not have enough information, such as that which could be provided by the city's human resources department, and/or that of an insurance agent well-versed in healthcare.

However, Commissioner Billy Simpson disagreed.

"We are elected to make a decision and we have enough (present) to take a vote," said Simpson.

Thus it was when the roll call vote occurred,

Commissioners Leo Longworth and Simpson voted no without any hesitation. Pfeiffer paused before joining Longworth and Simpson in voting no.

Because the measure was defeated, it will not be brought back for a second reading, according to Parker. He later added that does not preclude it from being brought back again at a later date, that there is no timeframe limitation for it to be introduced anew.

## SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

the master plan for renovating the rest of the campus. Phase II would be to remove and replace 81 more classrooms which are used by some 880 students today. The second building would also be two stories, Davis said.

"We want any new buildings to blend with the schools' oldest structure," Davis said. The school's oldest building, constructed in 1917, fronts on Tharp Street and houses most of the facility's administration and guidance offices as well as the auditorium.

Davis also said that Phase II would also

include some minor renovations to the oldest building, but did not elaborate on what those would entail.

"It could include relocating the entrance to the Broadway side, but we haven't decided that for sure yet," he said.

"Anything we do at Bartow is going to maintain the integrity of the campus feel and look," he said, "Since it is an historic structure tied to the history of the community. We want to keep the essence of the old Summerlin Institute no matter what we do."

BHS was originally founded in the late 1860s as the Summerlin Institute which gravitated into BHS in subsequent years.

The biggest hurdle to



PHOTO BY CATHY PALMER

**Bartow High School may have recently had a minor face lift, but it's now looking at a major overhaul to the tune of about \$25 million, according to Polk Public Schools officials. BHS's neighbor school, Mulberry High is also tapped for similar improvements with about the same price tag.**

the plans going forward, said Davis, is finding the

funding to pay for it. "It's probably going to hinge on whether the voters approve the renewal of the 1/2-cent tax," Davis said.

The school board levies the tax to pay just for capital improvements and maintenance of its 128 schools.

"Without that tax, I don't know what we'll do," Davis added.

But, Bartow High

isn't the only old school needing an overhaul, according to schools' Operations chief.

"We're looking at doing about the same thing at Mulberry High School," he explained. "It needs about the same number of classrooms replaced and we want to do the same thing there, preserve the school's history and still provide

the modern classrooms it needs."

He added the costs to upgrade and renovate at MHS would be about the same as at Bartow.

"All told," Davis said Monday, "The two schools could take about \$50 million to plan, update and renovate."

He said it could take as much as five years to complete the plans to renovate both schools.

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# HEALTH and WELLNESS



## It was pink all over the airport *Annual 5K for breast cancer draws hundreds*

By **KATHY LEIGH BERKOWITZ**  
CORRESPONDENT

A steady march of pink, some 300 walkers strong, took to the airstrip at Lake Wales Municipal Airport for the 2016 Flight for the Cure 5K Fun Run and Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, Saturday morning.

The event was sponsored by Lake Wales Medical Center, The Healthy Woman initiative, and the Lake Wales Airport, in addition to numerous corporate and community sponsors.

Volunteers worked hard to pull things together. Undeterred by rainy weather, those who turned out were treated to a 7:30 a.m. double rainbow in the sky, a natural phenomenon that occurs when sunshine and rain mix.

Usually the event takes place on the banks of Lake Wales, but this year's venue added a backdrop to things not seen before at the walk: skydivers and parachuters with pink streamers, and fly-bys of paramotorists,

weaving a colorful display overhead.

Beneath their wings, survivors and their family members, friends, and numerous community dignitaries put one foot in front of the other, or else were wheeled in chairs or scooters, for the cause of raising awareness for the disease that will affect one out of eight women in their lifetime.

The day was filled with laughter, lots of pink – pink hair, pink bras, pink T-shirts, pink balloons, and activities for everyone. They played Bra Pong, sported specially decorated bras over T-shirts for a bra decorating contest. There was face painting, demonstrations by the Lake Wales Fire Department and K9 from the Lake Wales Police, chair massages, and more. Several door prizes were awarded, including a free tandem skydiving jump, won by Betty Wagner.

Team Ally-Cat took the grand prize in the bra decorating contest.

And Ally, or Alison Kinloch Martin, that



PHOTO BY KATHY LEIGH BERKOWITZ

**Many who came noted that even though the 5K started a few minutes late because of rain, turnout this year seemed to be better than last year. Those who arrived by 7:30 a.m. were also treated to a beautiful double rainbow in the sky.**

is, was joined by her mother, Katie Kinloch, now retired director of utilities for the City of Lake Wales and the chairman of the Lake Wales Mardi Gras parade board.

Team Ally-Cat purchased special T-shirts in honor of the event to support their friend Alison. "She is stronger than cancer," read the caption on the shirts. Alison and her daughter, Brittany, have been running their home child care giving business the whole time she has

battled stage 4 breast cancer that has now spread to her bones.

"This year I have lost two friends to cancer who are greatly missed," Alison said.

Her own battle with incurable bone cancer began two years ago Oct. 4.

"I pray every day that it doesn't spread again," she said, adding she also presently has a suspicious spot on her breast being watched closely.

"For me, being diagnosed with cancer changed me not just physically but

emotionally. I don't get upset anymore when things don't go just how I think they should. I don't complain any more about the person in front of me walking too slow, or the kids being loud, or the new outfit I want but can't buy. Every day God wakes me up, I am simply thankful to be alive to live another day making memories. All the complaining or being self-centered just doesn't matter."

She said however, that she wishes she could change people's assumptions about someone's outer appearance.

"I wish someone fighting cancer would never again hear these two statements, 'Your surgery and treatments are over, so you're cured. It's all gone now right?' and 'You look great, so no more cancer. You're in remission right?'"

"The best thing I think someone in this journey needs is support from friends and family with no criticism or judgment in how the person with cancer handles it. For me and many others, we

want to feel as normal as we can. We still want to live life and set goals for ourselves."

Alison said this year's walk was "amazing" for her.

"Instead of feeling alone, I had 11 people walking with me who have loved and supported me since my diagnosis in April 2014. For me, it wasn't a party. It was a celebration that I'm still alive and will continue to fight for my life so I can help encourage others."

One of the volunteers, Amy Respress, owner of Entourage Salon in Lake Wales, noted that the event has a special place in her heart.

"It is important to me as it has affected many of my friends and clients," she said.

Changing the venue to the Lake Wales Airport was good, she added. "I thought it was a good place to hold the event, and yes, it did seem to be larger than last year's walk."

Proceeds from the event drawings went to benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

## Medical office is now largest building in Winter Haven *Bond opens medical clinic with help from Six/Ten*

Six/Ten, LLC, a Winter Haven commercial and multifamily developer, has teamed up with Bond Building Partnership, LLP to build a new 36,000 square foot, three-story medical office building for Bond Clinic.

This is downtown Winter Haven's largest new office construction project in more than 40 years and will offer urgent care and primary medical services to the community. A groundbreaking was held Wednesday, Oct. 12 at the clinic at 325 N. First St. N.W.

Bond Clinic has been invested in the health-care of our community for more than 68 years, purposing to meet the

ever growing needs of our thriving community said Panagiotis Iakovidis, MD, Bond Clinic's CEO/President of the Board.

"We are honored to partner with 6/10 corporation to bring to reality another structure that will further enhance our ability to provide the health care of today's world but install the foundations of the future health care requirements," he said.

Once completed, the project is expected to bring more than 70 employees to the downtown area, with about 300 patient visits daily. Founded in 1948 by Dr. Benjamin Bond, the clinic has grown throughout the years from four

doctors to more than 73 providers, encompassing 26 specialties. With a main campus at 500 E. Central Ave., it was one of the first businesses in downtown Winter Haven. This new building will be Bond Clinic's ninth location.

"The added foot traffic generated from this new clinic will further support Winter Haven's vision of becoming a preeminent downtown destination where people can work, live and recreate," said Bud Strang, CEO of Six/Ten.

Six/Ten is serving as the project's developer working with general contractor E. Whitehead & Son. The project architect is WMB Architecture.



PHOTO PROVIDED

**The new building at 325 N. First St. N.W., Winter Haven.**

Envisors will handle the engineering. "The city's planning and Building departments have also

been very helpful in this process, and we want to thank them for their prompt comments

and insight during the permitting process," said Joseph Bogdahn, vice president of Six/Ten.

HEALTH and WELLNESS

# Our Hands campaign aims to save lives

While breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women, the five-year survival rate is 98 percent when it is detected early. In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, BayCare is encouraging women to take an active role in their breast cancer screening by reminding them their health is literally in their hands with the renewal of the In Our Hands campaign.

Launched last year, the grassroots, social media movement features black and white photographs of area breast cancer survivors, caregivers and supporters with pink painted hands. The pink hands empower women to take control of their breast health by becoming familiar with their bodies, actively talking with their doctor and having conversations with the women in their

lives about early detection. The pink hands also represent BayCare's ability to guide breast cancer patients through screenings, treatment and with a compassionate touch.

To join get some pink paint; grab a friend, significant other or family member to take a photo; and strike a pose. Supporters can then change their social media profile picture,

use #InOurHands and invite their friends to do the same. Or, they can just upload an image and apply the #InOurHandsFilter. Then share with friends and loved ones on Facebook and Twitter or download it for Instagram.

"They say that raising children takes a village, but I say cancer makes a village," said Shawn Becklund of Oldsmar, a breast cancer

survivor featured in the In Our Hands campaign. "Everybody comes together and supports each other."

BayCare offers that support throughout a woman's entire journey with breast cancer, from pre-diagnosis to treatment and beyond. Its physicians and surgeons specialize in breast health and offer a variety of treatment options. With more than a

dozen locations, BayCare guides women through the treatment process with diagnosis, 3D mammography, breast and plastic surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, support groups, and more. BayCare team members always put their patients first, making their health care experience as comfortable as possible. Visit [www.ItsInOurHands.org](http://www.ItsInOurHands.org) to learn more.



PHOTO BY SHARON WEATHERHEAD

Veteran Marvin Desselle with his service dog, Petee, during a moment of silence for veterans who took their own lives.

## Changing lives one dog at a time

By **CASSIE JACOBY**  
CORRESPONDENT

Free service dogs and training are available for a limited number of qualifying disabled veterans in Polk County.

"We only have enough money to help about a dozen veterans or their family members so be sure to reserve your slot right away," said Marvin Desselle, who is donating the service dogs and training through his company, PTSD4VETS, and non-profit organization, Heroes and Angels Inc.

The 64-year-old USAF

veteran, who lives with PTSD and traumatic brain injury, trains all kinds of dogs to provide all kinds of life-saving services at the American Legion Posts in Lake Wales, Avon Park and Lake Placid.

"A service dog is great for veterans with PTSD, hearing and mobility problems," said Desselle. "We will help you turn your family pet into a service dog or we will help you acquire a rescue dog from the shelter to train as your service dog."

Veterans must have a verifiable disability, a copy

of their DD Form 214 and have current shot records on their dog to qualify.

"The standard wait time is three to five years for a trained service dog that can cost \$8,000 to \$30,000," said Desselle. "Being able to help veterans live a normal life is the best reward. Having a service dog gives them back some of the freedoms they deserve to have. We're changing lives one dog at a time."

Call 863-214-0601 or email [PTSD4Vets@gmail.com](mailto:PTSD4Vets@gmail.com) or [marv@HeroesAndAngels.com](mailto:marv@HeroesAndAngels.com) for more information.



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Dr. Rajguru has been practicing in Winter Haven since 1999 and is excited to bring his experience to Bond Clinic.

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# Work on demand preference dropped

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Local engineering firms won a small victory last week when the Polk County Commission opted to toss out a staff recommendation to put a dozen companies under contract to do work on demand for the county's roads and drainage and parks and natural resources departments.

At the board's agenda review meeting the board talked about giving as

much as 42 million in work to the short-listed firms, leaving out a number of companies headquartered in the county. That action was opposed by local engineers who said it wasn't right that they had to look for work outside Polk county when work should be available locally.

The work for the two departments was lumped into one group contract, with the top firms to be placed on call to work as needed, said County

Manager Jim Freeman.

At the review meeting Jim Chastain of Chastain Skillman and Jack Breed of Civil Serv, both Lakeland companies, objected to the way the contract was offered and to the selection committee's recommendation. They said the contract, as proposed, was "unintentionally biased" and "the results were skewed."

Tuesday, the county commission rejected the proposals and told Freeman to seek new

proposals, separating the proposals into two, one for Roads and Drainage and one for Parks and Natural Resources.

Neither Chastain nor Breed filed formal protests, but made their feelings known at the earlier meeting.

"This is the law of unintended consequences," said Commissioner George Lindsey. "The results evidently disfavored local firms. He suggested that Freeman have his staff separate the request

for proposals into two, one for each department. His motion to reject Freeman's staff recommendation which drew support from the remainder of the board.

"We need to reject these bids," said Commission Chairman John Hall, "And divide it into the two departments." The motion was seconded by Commissioner Melony Bell. Bell had said at the review meeting that she supported providing work to local companies if they

were qualified. "I would like to see it divided and see local firms on that list. I'm all about local."

The contracts are for smaller projects, usually for under \$2 million, and by having multiple companies under contract, the work can be divided as projects are identified.

Tuesday, it was not determined when the new proposals would be requested or whether re-letting the contracts would delay any needed work in either department.

# Whistleblower lawsuit against county called frivolous

By **CATHY PALMER**  
CORRESPONDENT

Polk County's attorney wouldn't comment last week on a lawsuit now pending in federal court against the Polk Board of County Commissioners even though he had earlier called the lawsuit "frivolous."

County Attorney Michael Craig refused Friday to comment to Sun Newspapers, but was quoted in another publication saying the lawsuit "is frivolous and we believe the evidence will prove that." Sun Newspapers contacted Craig for a copy of the

lawsuit last week, which he provided, and was asked following Friday's county commission agenda review meeting to comment.

"I'm not saying anything," he said.

The lawsuit, filed several weeks ago was instituted by the county's former Medical Director Dr. Nancy King, who claims county officials tried to coerce her into approving an African-American firefighter for duty when she felt he wasn't physically fit to do the job.

In the 20-page lawsuit, King claims status under whistleblower protection provisions, and maintains

that officials including county Human Resources Director Kandis Baker Buford, Assistant County Manager Lea Anne Thomas, County Manager Jim Freeman, as well as the county commission, all had a hand in dumping King from her position because of her actions.

King held the position of Medical Director for more than 15 years with her contract automatically extended repeatedly. After she refused to approve the firefighter for duty, she was told by multiple officials the contract would not be automatically extended and a request for

proposals for the services she and her company, The Occupational Health Center, provided would be issued.

Last winter, King and the University of South Florida submitted proposals, but during interviews for the work, King maintains she was asked if she would handle the firefighter hiring situation differently, to which she replied that, if selected, she would insist on access to a labor attorney.

Early this spring, she was told her proposal to continue as Medical Director was rejected and the contract would go to USF.

King reportedly met with members of the selection committee after her proposal was rejected and was told that she had been the committee's choice, but that decision was overruled.

The suit says the county used the proposal process to fire King "because she had refused to provide medical clearance which would have permitted Baker-Buford to hire and have the county employ an unqualified applicant."

The lawsuit asks for more than \$75,000 in damages and alleges that racial issues were a factor in the county's hiring of

the firefighter. The lawsuit says the incidents that led to King's dismissal were during a time when the county was trying to boost its number of minority employees.

King, as the county's Medical Director, managed physicals, drug testing and workers' compensation claims for the county. She has declined to comment on the litigation and is represented by a Tallahassee law firm that specializes in this kind of lawsuits.

The county has another two weeks in which to file its response to the suit. No dates have been set for further court action.

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**Dr. Kevin Barlow**

# 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.

## Man charged with sex crimes on minor

### Winter Haven Police

A Winter Haven man has been arrested on multiple felony charges for sexting minors and sexual battery on a minor.

Winter Haven Police detectives began investigating Ezekial Ortiz, 62, of Winter Haven after information was received that he was possibly sexting girls ages 16 or younger and having inappropriate contact with them as well. All of the victims are acquainted with Ortiz through other members of his family.

On Sept. 22, detectives were notified that there were concerns of inappropriate activity via cell phone between a 16-year-old female and Ortiz. An initial interview with the victim uncovered that in August 2016, she didn't have a cell phone, so Ortiz provided her with one. The victim considered the phone a nice gesture from Ortiz with no further intentions. Ortiz immediately began sending text messages to the victim. Over time, the messages became more frequent and turned sexual in nature. Eventually Ortiz requested the victim send him nude photos of herself. The victim stated she complied, although she was uncomfortable doing so, because she felt obligated to Ortiz because he gave her the phone. He had also purchased other personal items for her, such as shoes.

After the victim sent

the first photo, Ortiz continued to send text messages to the victim asking for more photos. The victim started ignoring the text messages and ultimately returned the phone in early September 2016.

Based on the information received by the tip and the victim, a search warrant was obtained on Sept. 27 for Ortiz's phone. On Sept. 28, detectives executed the search warrant and collected Ortiz's phone. Detectives were also able to obtain the phone that was provided to the victim.

A KIK account was also utilized to send explicit messages to the victim even after the phone had been returned to Ortiz. The messages continued to get more and more graphic and Ortiz asked for more photos and requested specific nude poses of the victim.

During the initial investigation, a second victim was identified and interviewed. The second victim told detectives that Ortiz began sending her messages of a sexual nature at the age of 16, which ended up with sexual contact on at least five occasions at Ortiz's residence.

Additional investigations have revealed multiple victims who Ortiz contacted through cell phone text messages and his KIK account. These investigations have found that at least seven girls younger

**CHARGED | 39**

### AREA ARRESTS

#### Sept. 4, 2016

Daniel Bruce Hyde, 47, 3196 Walk In Water Rd, Lake Wales, DUI alcohol or drugs, viol inj for protection against domestic v, DUI and damage property

Kimberly Ann York, 36, 3929 Walk In Water Rd, Lake Wales, Viol of probation/community control adult, fail to carry motor veh liability ins, leave scene of crash involve prop damage

#### Sept. 5, 2016

Reginald Bonds, 32, 913 Columbia Ave, Lake wales, Knowingly drive w susp/revoked lic 3+ off

Deliah Bravo, 41, 308 Wetmore St S, Lake Wales, Expired drivers license >6 mos

Nathan Downing, 20, 430 Scenic Hwy N, Lake Wales, Resist officer w/o viol, failure to appear (1st deg misdemeanor), viol of probation/community control adult

Guadalupe Reyes Jr, 30, 227 Osceola Ave E, Lake Wales, Failure to appear

Curtis Anthony Hawthorne, 27, 25 Simonle Ave W, Lake Wales Withhold support f/ child/spouse x2

Ashley Kennimer, 35, 729 Euclid Ave, Lake Wales, Dom viol-battery touch or stike, knowingly drive w lic suspended/revoked

Cameron Douglas Gumble, 19, 107 Orion Ln, Lake Wakes, Knowingly drive w lic. Suspended/revoked, trespass structure/conveyance

#### Sept. 6, 2016

Dorothy Johnson, 57, 735 Polk St W, Bartow, Scheme to defraud financial institute, access computer w/o authorization

Marcus White, 40, 2964 Warfield Dr, Bartow, Felony petit

theft 3rd/subseq off, knowingly give false info to LEO-alleged C

Anthony Dale Haislip, 37, 400 Hillcrest Ave E, Lake Wales, Contempt of court

Loren Farris, 52, 102 Lake Starr Blvd, Lake Wales, Grand theft-\$300-<\$500 x2, trespass prop other than structure/convey x3, burglary-unoccupied structure unarmed x2

Shawn Joseph Fountain, 38, 8913 Sheppard Dr, Lake Wales, Poss of methamphetamine, poss/use narcotic paraphernalia

#### Sept. 7, 2016

Samantha Mariel Angeles-De La Rosa, 25, 4820 Cynthia St, Bartow, No valid drivers lic.

Peter C Dumais, 65, 6815 Hwy 60 E, Bartow, Hold for another agency (detention only), Lewd lascivious conduct by prsn >18 YOA

Jimmy Goodwin, 29, 5539 Wells Rd, Bartow, Knowingly drive w susp/revoked lic 3+ off, knowingly drive w susp/revoked lic 2nd off

Benjamin Franklin Johnson III, 23, 3249

North Ave, Bartow, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams, drugs keep shop/veh etc for drugs 1st viol

Gabriel Torre, 28, 780 Davidson St W #97, Bartow, Knowing drive w susp/revoked license

Jose Guadalupe Murillo, 34, 1290 Fairview Ave S, Bartow, Carry concealed weap-on/firearm, poss of ammunition by convicted felon, tamping with physical evidence, poss of firearm convicted felon, poss of drug paraphernalia smoking device, poss of methamphetamine

Gene Arlen Rankin, 40, 8170 Alturus Babson Park, Bartow, Failure to appear

Stephanie Carolyh Sue Varnes, 24, 1510 Georgia St E #108, Bartow, Dom viol-battery touch or strike

Jason Wheeler, 31, 950 Pinecrest Dr W, Bartow, DUI and damage property

Sean Allen Wright, 35, 1890 Margaret Ave S, Bartow, Knowingly drive w susp/revoked lic 1st off

Christopher L

Mansfield, 25, 615 Alta Vista St, Lake Wales, Warrant arrest other jurisdiction x3

Jonathan U May, 31, 206 Park Ave W, Lake Wales, Criminal mischief >\$200 and <\$1000

Zaimah Amee McGaughy, 19, Williams Hall Warner University, Lake Wales, Warrant arrest other jurisdiction

Wuenseslado Rivera, 57, 343 Weaver Ave, Lakes Wales, Dom viol-agg battery deadly weapon

Candy Rodriguez, 35, 402 Hillcrest Ave E, Lake Wales, Poss of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine

Cynthia Ilyse Cooper, 43, Unknown Lake Wales, viol of probation/community control adult x2

Nicole Ashely Oneal, 20, 4130 Lake Buffum Rd, Lake Wales, No valid drivers lic.

Kevin Cooper, 36, 3448 Black Jack Ct, Lake Wales, Petit theft 1st degree \$100-\$300

#### Sept. 8, 2016

Angel Anibal Castro,

**ARRESTS | 39**

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# CHARGED

FROM PAGE 38

than 17 who have been victimized by Ortiz.

One victim states the contact began three years ago while she was 13 years old. The sexting progressed to physical sexual contact on multiple occasions at his residence.

Ortiz was taken into custody on Oct. 6 and booked into the Polk County Jail on charges of sexual battery of victim under age 18 and over age 12, promoting sexual performance by a child and two counts each of using computer to seduce/solicit lure child and use 2-way communication device to commit felony.

Additional charges are pending as detectives continue to interview other possible victims.

Anyone who is possibly a victim of Ortiz and has not contacted law enforcement is encouraged to call Detective Charles Blanton at 863-401-2256.

### Polk County Sheriff's Office

#### Suspect sought in school bus theft

Sometime between 11:45 pm, and 5:15 am, Oct. 12-13, two white

males and a white female removed a school bus that was parked on a vacant lot behind the Fat Boys BBQ restaurant on County Road 630 in Lake Wales.

The Polk County School Board bus driver discovered the bus missing when she went to the lot to start her pick up route. It was learned the bus had been driven to Avon Park in Highlands County.

Polk County deputies contacted the Highlands County Sheriff's Office for assistance and HCSO located the bus and secured it for return. The bus was later returned to Polk County.

Detectives were able to identify the suspects through an on-board video, police reported.

Working with Highlands County Sheriff's Office, 33-year-old Jayson Kalinowski, Lake June Road, Lake Placid, and 31-year-old David

Keen, Starfish Avenue, Sebring, were arrested and were booked into

the Highland's County Jail. Keen is charged with grand theft motor vehicle, burglary of a conveyance, and petit theft. Kalinowski is charged with grand theft motor vehicle and burglary of a conveyance.

The third suspect, 36-year-old Kim Loeb of Sebring, is wanted in connection to this case and faces charges of grand theft motor vehicle and burglary of a conveyance.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Polk County Sheriff's Office at 863.298.6200.

#### Lewd conduct in park

On Oct. 13, the PCSO Undercover Vice Unit conducted an undercover operation at Saddle Creek Park in unincorporated Polk County, in response to complaints about lewd activity.

Arrested were: Jeffrey Graham, 61, of Lakeland was charged with soliciting another to commit a lewd act, trespass in a public park after warning.

Sean Scarbro, 49, of Lakeland was charged on two counts of soliciting another to commit a lewd act.

Both suspects were booked into the Polk County Jail.

#### Lake Wales Police Oct.13

##### Sky Power Sports; burglary

Lake Wales Police responded to the above address in reference to a burglary. It was discovered the suspect(s) cut the fence and made entry. Nothing has been found to have been stolen at this time. This case has been forwarded to CID for further investigation.

##### Vehicle burglary/theft

Lake Wales Police responded to the Lake Wales Police Department in reference to a vehicle burglary which occurred on Oct. 12 at Kiwanis Park. She met with the victim who stated she and her children went to the park, she parked the car, left her purse in the vehicle, and locked the doors. She was unaware one of the windows was left open when she and the children exited the vehicle and were gone about an hour. When she returned to the vehicle, she saw the open window, and could not find her purse. She contacted her credit card company and had her credit card canceled before they were used. At this time there is no suspect information.

# ARRESTS

FROM PAGE 38

20, 1440 Church St E, Bartow, Viol of probation/community control adult x2

Elizabeth Ann Hensley, 41, 630 Stanford St E, Bartow, Dom viol-battery touch or strike

Angela Renee Watson, 37, Broadway Ave N Old Bartow Eagle Lake Rd, Knowingly drive w susp/revoked lic 1st off, viol of probation/community control adult x2

Sherry Kirby, 45, 18550 County Road 630 East, Lake Wales, Petit theft 1st offense

Ryan Scott Fricks, 42, 1831 Old Bartow Rd, Lake Wales, Dom viol-battery prior conviction, viol of probation/community control adult x4

Shannon Marie Stadler, 39, 4732 Benton St, Lake Wales, Poss of drug paraphernalia, possession of cannabis, poss of methamphetamine

Nolin Kelton, 44, 1570 Sils Rd, Lake Wales, Poll of drug paraphernalia, poss of methamphetamine

#### Sept. 9, 2016

Paul Williams, 23,

5518 Scenic Hwy N #18, Lake Wales, Failure to appear

#### Sept. 10, 2016

Bridgett Dehart, 29, 209 Hankin Rd, Bartow, Poss of methamphetamine, poss of drug paraphernalia

Clarence E Dukes, 39, 200 East St, Lake Wales, Withhold support f/child/spouse x3

Phillip Dean Lamantia, 1235 Bryn Mawr Ave, Lake Wales, Petit theft 1st offense

Jesse Branch, 27, 4352 Dinner Lake Blvd, Lake Wales, Petit theft 1st offense

Javaughn McLean, 25, 211 Waverly Ct, Lake Wales, Battery touch or strike, trespass occupied structure/conveyance

Orlando Soto, 35, 346 Avenue B, Lake Wales, No valid drivers lic

#### Sept. 11, 2016

Felipe Garcia, 22, 18 W Bay Blvd, Lake Wales, Viol of probation/community control adult

Amber Castillo, 27, 7735 Queens Ct, Lake Wales, Viol of probation/community control adult x3

James Vincent Croff, 24, 7735 Queens Ct, Lake Wales, False info to LEO during investigation



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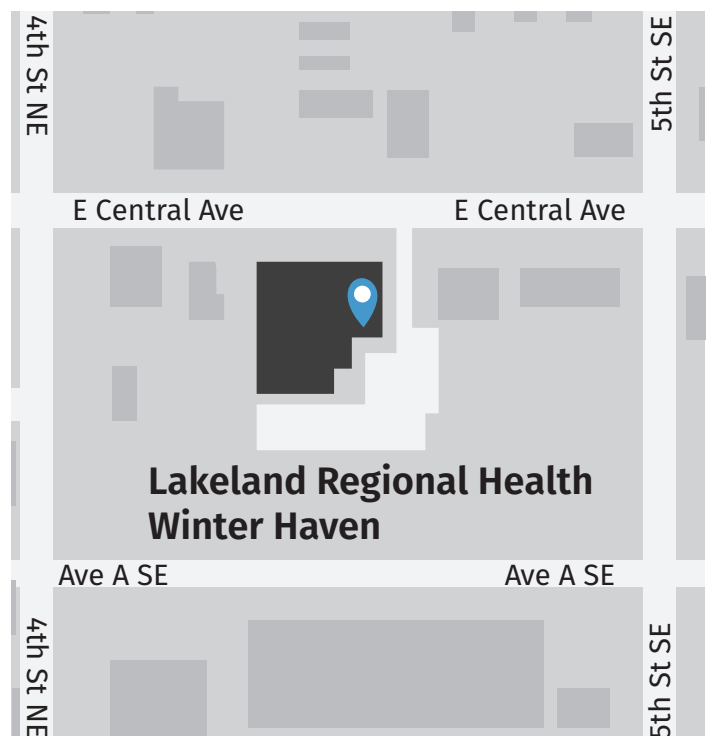


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