



## Celebrating snacks and words



PHOTO BY CATHY PALMER

Fellow All Saints' Academy students Daniel Orcutt, 17 and Tyler Kendrick, also 17, both of Winter Haven, tasted the healthy snacks provided at Thursday's benefit to support the Healthy Eating Program at the Winter Haven PEP Community Center.

### Fundraiser celebrates, raises money for program that helps students

By CATHY PALMER  
CORRESPONDENT

WINTER HAVEN – Some of Winter Haven's finest ponied up last Thursday to help an enterprising All Saints' Academy senior pay for a nutritional program she started at the Community Center in Florence Villa a year ago.

Guests gathered at the Outback Oasis, a posh Winter Haven event venue, for an evening of socializing, listening to chamber music and sampling healthy snacks that are the basis of the program started by 18-year-old Phoebe O'Neill of Winter Haven.

O'Neill, along with mentor Audrey Nettlow, a member of PEP (Public Education Partnership), last year launched a program at the community center to provide low income children who attend the after-school program at the center with healthy snacks to replace the packaged eats they were receiving.

O'Neill, who has been volunteering at the center for two years, said she saw "the

"They are increasing their vocabularies and learning why they need to eat healthy food."

— Community Center Director  
Audrey Nettlow

snacks weren't healthy or balanced and the kids weren't getting the nutrients they needed to succeed or flourish," so she set out to change that.

The center serves about 50 children who are bused from nearby Title I schools serving primarily low-income students. The pretty brunette senior worried that these children may not have access to healthy foods at home as well. "They weren't starved," she said. "They just weren't getting healthy food."

She's not a health-food nut, she said, "But I thought it was a problem that needed to be fixed."

She joined forces with Audrey Nettlow, the community center director. They managed to raise \$10,000 last year

to pay for the program, and this year's effort was aimed at making sure the program survives after O'Neill heads off to New York University in the fall.

On top of giving the kids a handful of healthy stuff to eat, the program, said Nettlow, is a "sneaky learning tool."

She said the children are learning the names of the nuts or other foods, trying them out and learning why they are healthy. She also said they have established a garden and take ownership and grown some of the food they are eating in place of sugar-laden goodies.

"They are increasing their vocabularies and learning why they need to eat healthy food."

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## Mini horse delights the crowd

### Winston spent afternoon outside brewery

By JEFF ROSLOW

JROSLOW@SCMGINC.COM

WINTER HAVEN – A horse walks into a bar ...

Well Winston never went inside, but on Saturday afternoon, while people enjoyed the mid-70s temperatures in the outdoor area at Grove Roots Brewing Co., Miniature Horse Winston from Hope Equine Rescue delighted the crowd.

A few curious looks by a bulldog puppy and a terrier passed his way. A handful of youngsters

gave up on their cornhole games to pet him and Winston spent his time munching on the grass while his owner, Dani Horton, promoted Help A Horse Day which is on April 22.

"He was found wandering the streets by the Polk County Sheriff's Office," Horton said. The agriculture unit at the sheriff's office tried to find the owner but was unsuccessful and, after 21 days, Hope Equine Rescue

**A horse goes into a bar ... That's what happened Saturday at Grove Roots Brewing Co. in Winter Haven. As part of the promotion for Help A Horse Month Dani Horton, the president of Hope Equine Rescue is holding weekend events all month. Saturday she took part outside (the horse never went indoors) the brewery. Here Jackson Carlino pets Winston as Horton holds him on the leash.**

WINSTON | 25

PHOTO BY JEFF ROSLOW





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**WELCOME TO YOUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR**  
 Want to see your event on this page? Call us at 863-533-4183 or email [news@scmginc.com](mailto:news@scmginc.com).

**Wednesday, April 12**  
 Main Street Farmer's Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fort Blount Park in Bartow.

Lake Wales Food Truck Invasion, 5-9 p.m. Shores of Lake Wales in Lake Wales.

Story Time, 10-10:45 a.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

Seedling Carton Craft, noon. Grove House Visitor Center, 20160 U.S. Highway 27, Lake Wales. 863-679-4110

Florida Southern College Relay For Life, 6-11 p.m. George Jenkins Field House, 111 Lake Hollingsworth Drive. 863-688-2326 or [www.relayforlife.org/fl](http://www.relayforlife.org/fl).

**Thursday, April 13**  
 Public Hearing 5 p.m. open house, 6 p.m. formal presentation and Q&A. For the U.S. 92 Project Development and Environment study from County Line Road to Wabash Avenue in Polk County. Lakeland Center, Lake Hollingsworth Ballroom, 701 W Lime St., Lakeland

Farmer's Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Central Florida's Visitor Information Center, 101 Adventure Court, Davenport.

Engage Winter Haven, Eagle Lake, noon, free. Conversation focused on city, community, and county by Polk Vision. Greater Winter Haven Chamber, 401 Avenue B NW, Winter Haven. [winterhaven-chamber.com](http://winterhaven-chamber.com) under events.

Storytime Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 a.m., 3-5 p.m. Annual Easter Egg Hunt & storytime Dani Horton with Hope Equine Rescue tells Winston's rescue story. Auburndale Public Library, 100 W. Bridgers Ave., Auburndale. 863-965-5548

Lunch n Learn, New Approach to Joint Replacement, noon, free. Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center Education Boardroom, 40100 U.S. 27, Davenport.

Book Babies, 10-10:30 a.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

Master Gardener, 6:30 p.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

**Saturday, April 15**  
 Easter Egg Hunts for kids 2-9, 9 a.m., free. Fort Meade Recreation Area, U.S. 98 E. on Peace River; Mary Norma Campbell Resource Center, 2226 Karen St., Lake Wales 9 a.m.; Medulla Resource Center, 1049 Parker Road, Lakeland; Polk City Park, 5130 Duey Road, Polk City; Snively, Brooks Park, 191 9th St., Eloise

Easter Egg Eggstravaganza, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 4,000 eggs, prizes, games, crafts, Easter

brunch, pics with Easter Bunny & complimentary drinks. \$75/adult & \$38/children 5-10. One child under 5 free with paid adult, additional children under 5 are \$20 each. Outback Oasis in Winter Haven. [outbackoasis.com/events](http://outbackoasis.com/events) Bring your own basket.

Architectural Tour, 11 a.m., free. Polk County History Center, 100 E. Main St., Bartow. 863-534-4186

Make a magnet, noon, free. Florida's Natural Grove House, 20160 U.S. 27, Lake Wales..

Free Cypress Gardens Water Ski Show, 5 p.m. for preshow, free. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 199 Lake Silver Drive, Winter Haven. Bring a chair or blanket, concessions available.

Uptown Yard Sale & Flea Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., along the 300 block of East Main Street in downtown Bartow. 863-646-0644

Eagle Ridge Car Show, all day. Eagle Ridge Mall, Lake Wales.

Praise in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m., free. Live music in Downtown Winter Haven's Central Park.

Third Annual Local FiArt

Fest, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Arts, food trucks, music, kids area. Central Park, Winter Haven.

Judd Jog, 7 a.m.-11 a.m. \$25 for 18 and older, \$20 for 17 and younger. After April 1 \$30 all ages. 5K run organized by members of the Polk County Sheriff's Office with proceeds benefiting the United Way of Central Florida. Polk County Sheriff's Office, 1891 Jim Keene Blvd, Winter Haven. 863-298-6319

Sporting Clays Fun Shoot, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. \$125/person includes breakfast, a cart, turkey shoot, shotgun shells and barbecue lunch. Sponsored by Polk County Police Chiefs' Charitable Foundation. Catfish Creek Sporting Clays, 5000 Firetower Road, Haines City. 863-678-4271.

Fitness in the Park, 9 a.m., free. Spence Field, 1100 NE 1st St., Mulberry

**Sunday, April 16**  
 Easter Egg Sunrise Service, 6 a.m. complimentary admission to the Bok Tower Gardens' sunrise service with a full choir performed by the Lake Wales Choral along with a carillon performance by Geert D'hollander. Easter message by Pastor Jeffrey Kantz of First United Methodist Church. Buffet breakfast in the Blue Palmetto Café following the service, for an additional fee. Bok Tower Gardens, 1151 Tower Blvd., Lake Wales.

Easter Sunrise Service, 6 a.m. Mosaic Park, Bartow.

Easter Services, 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Heartland Church, 225 Avenue B NW, Winter Haven,

**Monday, April 17**  
 Quilting, 10 a.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

**Tuesday, April 18-Wednesday, April 19**  
 Johnny Dee and Starlights, 7:30 p.m. Featuring Andy Matchett. Theatre Winter Haven, 210 Cypress Gardens Blvd, Winter Haven. 863-294-7469. [theatrewinterhaven.com](http://theatrewinterhaven.com)

**Tuesday, April 18**  
 Lunch and Learn: African-American Education in the Jim Crow South, 12:15-1 p.m. Local historian Dean McCracken to share his research on Polk's Rosenwald Schools. Polk County History Center, 100 E. Main St., Bartow. 863-534-4186

Community Assessment Team for Auburndale Central Elementary, Crystal Lake Elementary, Inwood Elementary, John Snively Elementary, Laurel Elementary, McLaughlin Middle, Socrum Elementary, and Walter Caldwell Elementary, 6 p.m. Tenoroc High, 4905 Saddle Creek Road, Lakeland.

Sales Tax Oversight Committee, 5:30 p.m. To discuss Sunshine Law requirements. School Board Administration, 1915 South Floral Ave., Bartow. Agendas are available online

Ribbon Cutting: Ridge

Security Title, 4:30 p.m. New office. Ridge Security Title, 1150 First St. S., Winter Haven. 863-419-8485

Golden Age Club, Tom McGannon, Musician/Singer, noon. Group of those 55 and older. Programs and covered dish luncheons. Dues 50 cents per month, which pays for coffee and tea, that goes with our covered dish luncheon (members may pay \$4.50 per person toward the meat in lieu of a covered dish). Also take collection at each meeting for entertainment. Bartow Civic Center, 2201 S. Floral Ave., Bartow. 863-533-1091, 863-412-1006, 863-646-2812

Chair Yoga, 9:30 a.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

Career Bus, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

Adult Coloring, 11 a.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

Intro to Internet, 3 p.m. Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

**Wednesday, April 19**  
 Tiger Bay Club, 11:30 a.m. Dr. Joy Jackson from the Polk County Department of Health talks about health care, Zika and local service. Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave., Bartow.

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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):

- Code Enforcement Board
- Historic Architectural Review Board
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

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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**Publisher**  
 Chris Sexson  
 Csexson@scmginc.com

**Winter Haven Sun Managing Editor**  
 Jeff Roslow  
 jroslow@scmginc.com

**Circulation, Classified, Legal**  
 Anita Swain

**Office Administration**  
 Lora Belue



# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Looking to help them do it better

### Event draws hundreds to hear success stories

By **JEFF ROSLOW**

JROSLOW@SCMGINC.COM

WINTER HAVEN – In a couple of days, dozens of area leaders heard stories and ways other elected officials and business leaders had success in revitalizing their communities.

Ranging from a successful mayor in Rick Baker who revitalized much in St. Petersburg, to students at All Saints Academy who improved their education through a partnership with NuVu, where they designed applications in inventing new products, hundreds attended the second CityWorks (X)po at Grove Roots Brewery Co. in Winter Haven. The (X)po is sponsored by Winter Haven Main Street.

“I found the city manager from Gainesville,” Bruce Lyons from the Polk County Economic Development Council, said about Anthony Lyons. “I was interested to learn what they’ve been doing with the Department of Doing.”

He thought of how Gainesville is making its government more

functionally by using online resources, not replacing other ways but adding to what it already does.

“City halls can’t operate 24 hours a day,” Lyons, the city manager, said when he spoke. “People work 9 to 5. We decided to experiment and see if we can do it and that’s where we came up with the Department of Doing.”

This led to the building department being reworked to help people come to town to start a business, not just get a permit.

“We will help them help us get the services they need,” he said. “You can do yourself and we can help them through the process.”

“Rick Baker I thought was interesting ... he has a vision, sets goals, looks at the resources,” Tom Woodrich, an employee for Polk County said. “He gets people to think about asking the question.”

By using a lot of grant money, imagination and a drive to make St. Petersburg “the best city in America,” Baker said he learned quickly that

in government there are three priorities. Run the business of the city, deal with crisis and advance the vision for the city. Credited with revitalizing downtown St. Petersburg with art galleries – the Warehouse Art District – a vital night life and fair area, he recalled one crisis that could have gotten away worse than it did but how urgent it is to deal with immediately.

“You’re going to get them (crisis),” he said. “But you don’t have any idea what they will be or when.”

He told of a time a water main break which was one of the two main lines to St. Petersburg, a city of more 500,000 people.

“(The water supervisor) said we had about five days of reserve and it would take about five days to fix it,” he said. “But there was another problem. There is always another problem.”

He was told Pinellas



PHOTO BY JEFF ROSLOW

CityWorks (X)po was held for the second time in Winter Haven last week.

County is also using the main line and it doesn’t have any water reserves.

“So then we’d be without water by tomorrow,” he said.

By a show of hands he asked the audience what it would do. A handful said share the water, a larger number said don’t share the water.

“I remember I told my son when he was in college that the difference between college and real life is in college there is always an answer. I felt I had to think about this and I was told I had five minutes to think.”

He wondered if there is any answer of no one running out of water. He was

told by his staff there may be water under the plant that could be cleaned and used.

“I was on the phone with the DEP and said he wanted to look for water under the plant. I said I’d like to ask for permission first. Of course, I told them I’d clean it.”

Baker had a press conference asking people to conserve water and telling them of the situation.

“The day after I found out we used just as much water that day as we did the day before,” he recalled. The solution worked. Neither St. Petersburg nor Pinellas County run out of water.

Baker said the need to improve living in St. Petersburg one must make a plan that includes a mission statement, carrying it out and examining whether or not it works.

In her vision of helping education, Saba Ghole, the co-founder of NuVu, said the concept was taken from something that was started in Germany where computer scientists

“would gather in basements and share and make code.”

Started seven years and now with a partnership with All Saints, Ghole said it “is important to bring real life world problems into the school.”

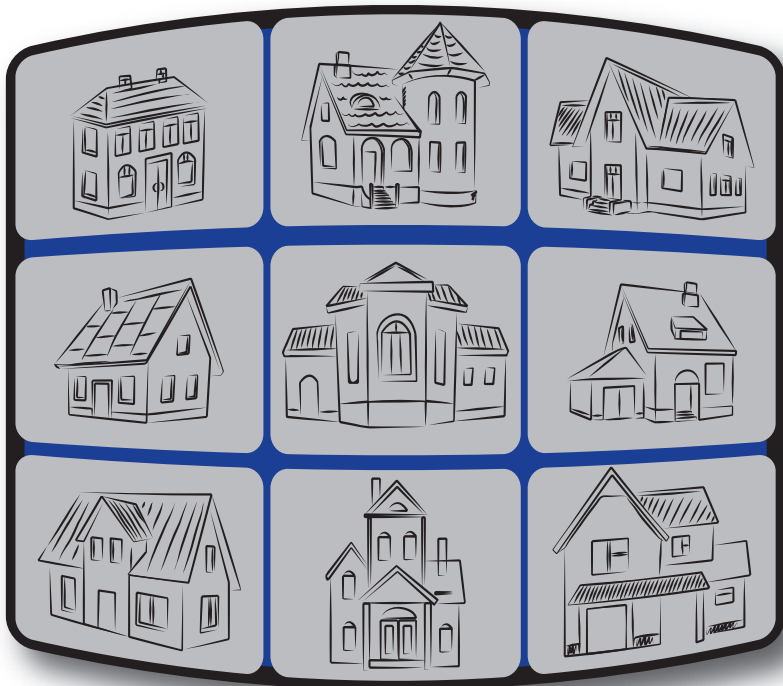
“Students must work with experts to come up with solutions they will face,” she said. “They imagine from how to make a city an Olympic city to how to make bus stops work better.”

The partnership with All Saints has taken off in the last four years, Ghole said, and on hand for the (X)po was three groups from the school showing such inventions as a website that help a person apply for a college or university all in one place, a musical device that helps blind people and an ability to more easily buy shoes at online sites where it is easier to get the size that fits a person.

“AppCap can help a person apply and get through the process of applying to colleges in one place,” said Evelyn Dunbar.

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# VIEWPOINT

## A relic preserved, a skeleton completed

The Bartow Public Library marked its 120th anniversary last month, a remarkable milestone for a community that in 1897, when the library was opened, had a population of fewer than 2,000 residents.

On the other hand, Bartow also boasted the first brick schoolhouse south of Jacksonville — Summerlin Institute — built 10 years earlier.

Bartow's first library was on the second floor of the Polk County Bank building, on the southeast corner of what is now Fort Blount Park. (Establishment of that first library came after a suggestion published by the Courier-Informant, one of Bartow's early newspapers.)

Bartow's next public library was at Broadway and Summerlin Street, and its third — well remembered by Bartowans in the 30 to 70-year age bracket — was where the "new building" of First Presbyterian Church is located today.

Built in large part with a Carnegie grant of \$8,000, the building initially faced south, toward Bartow Elementary School, but later was enlarged and remodeled with the front facing north.

The library's present location overlooking Mobil Lake northeast of the Bartow Civic Center was the result of what would be called a "busted play" in football.

For years, the Polk County Historical and Genealogical Library was housed in cramped quarters, moved from place to place, which included space on the third floor of the old courthouse and a two-story former residence once used by the juvenile court system.

In 1984, plans were announced for construction of

### Our Viewpoint

a combined museum of county history and historical and genealogical library. A site was acquired from the city, and with only enough money on hand to build the foundation and the concrete framework for the building, construction was begun.

Supporters of the project believed that once the building started taking shape, contributions would flow in.

They didn't.

The old courthouse was replaced by the new courthouse in 1987, and the old courthouse got little attention, while the skeleton of the new museum and historical library got none.

The new courthouse was dubbed the "Courthouse from Hell" after it developed "sick building syndrome" and had to be vacated. Remediation of the building cost more than the original construction.

There was discussion of demolishing the old courthouse to make way for a parking lot. Fortunately for Polk County, that idea never got traction.

As the years passed, title to the land on which the abandoned museum and library framework was built returned to the city under a reverter clause that required the county to deed the land back to the city if the museum and library were not built.

The Polk County Democrat started a campaign to get public ideas on what do with what had become

the Skeleton Building or the Skeleton Hotel, the latter name taken from a boom-time hotel in Fort Meade that rose several stories into the air until the Florida Boom ended and construction was abandoned.

One of the more popular ideas proposed for Bartow's Skeleton Building was to complete it as a new municipal library.

It was from that idea that the Skeleton Building was completed for that purpose, overlooking one of the most scenic vistas in Bartow. The new library was dedicated on April 21, 1998.

Today it serves not only as a repository for books for all ages, but as a venue for meetings, art shows, luncheons, yoga classes, and a host of other activities.

In the meantime, the Polk County Historical Commission (a county government advisory board) and the Polk County Historical Association (a private organization that raises funds for historical preservation purposes) began campaigning to have the old courthouse restored to its 1908 grandeur and converted into a first class museum and historical/genealogical library.

With commitment from the county commission and help from several state historical preservation grants, that dream also became a reality.

The old courthouse (the name it will continue to be referred to by many old-timers) today is the Polk County History Center.

Both the old courthouse and the Skeleton Building were saved from the wrecking ball, a testament to what can be done when community pride takes hold.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Who deserves Easter?

Easter is the most amazing, true-love story. It involves everyone, including you and me. Because of the culture that now surrounds us, we need to understand that love is doing what is best for another

person even when they don't deserve it. God loves those who don't deserve it, and that's what makes Easter so amazing!

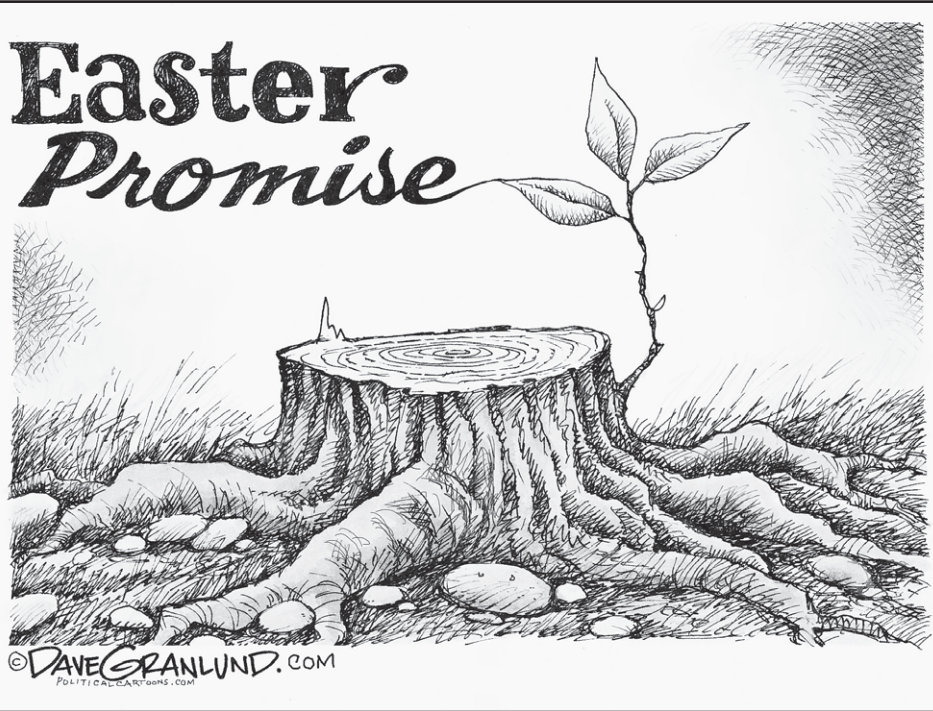
We can best understand Easter by starting in Genesis. God created Adam and Eve and placed them in paradise. Everything there was ideal! All their needs were met, but they were deceived that they could have more, even when they knew that God said it was wrong,

they sinned. They did what they knew God didn't want them to do.

This is where you and I come into the picture. The Bible makes it very clear that we have all done what we knew was wrong. Everyone, including myself, thought our sin was going to be better for us. It wasn't! Sin always has destructive consequences. Sin is the reason we have heartache, death, and violence on earth.

There was only one human who did everything right. He was perfect man and perfect God. We measure time by this person: BC means "before Christ," and AD is Latin for "year of our Lord."

## Easter Promise



LETTERS | 5

## They did it differently in 1901

As an Anglican (as we Episcopalians are known on celebratory occasions), I am guided by two Anglican traditions.

Rule 1, delivered with an approving smile: "We've always done it that way." By inference, we have no interest in changing. (How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb? Four: one to screw in the new bulb and three to reminisce on how much nicer the old light bulb was.)

Rule 2, delivered with a withering frown: "We've never done it that way." Want to make a change? Refer back to Rule 1.

When the decision was made last year to close the Bartow office of The Polk County Democrat, it fell my job to



S.L. Frisbie

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

ensure that the most important documents and artifacts of the previous 85 years were preserved.

Actually, I'm not sure who gave me that job. I think I volunteered for it, and I don't recall that there was much competition.

Among the items saved from the shredder, the recycling bin, and the landfill was a copy of "The Charter and Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Bartow, Florida," a codification compiled by Commissioner T.L. Wilson and adopted by the City Council on the "1st day of October, A.D. 1901," as certified by Warren Tyler, president of the City Council, and W.H. Johnson, mayor, and attested to by D.W. Stanley, city clerk.

The code book reprinted the 1897 act of the Florida Legislature creating the municipal corporation of the Town of Bartow.

City officials, all of whom were elected, were "a Mayor, a City Tax Collector, a City Tax Assessor, a City Clerk and

Treasurer, and a Council, which shall consist of seven members." Salaries were to be set by ordinance, and could not be increased during the term of office for which the officers were elected.

The salary for the mayor initially was set at \$100 a year, paid quarterly. The city marshal was paid \$40 per month plus \$1 for each offender convicted and 35 cents per day "for each prisoner boarded by him."

The tax assessor got a salary of \$100 a year, and the tax collector was paid a commission of 4 percent on taxes collected.

The city clerk was paid \$2 for each

FRISBIE | 5

### We welcome your letters

Letters are welcome on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. Please keep them to less than 250 words. Letters will be edited to length as well as grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name — not initials. An address and telephone number must be included. The phone number and address are not for publication, but must be provided. The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. Readers can send letters and column submissions to [news@scmginc.com](mailto:news@scmginc.com) or mail them to 99 3rd St. NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881.



# John F. May: Leadership for 1920s Winter Haven



JOHN F. MAY

John F. May, his wife Georgia (Sistrunk) and son, Clyde came to Winter Haven from Jacksonville about 1915. A Florida native he grew up near Gainesville. He was an agent for the Missouri Life Insurance Company. Florida was his territory.

Upon arriving he learned of two groves on Lake Elbert (owned by families Alvey and Stone) which he purchased. He then moved his family into the Stone home until he could construct a larger residence.

Son Clyde graduated high school and then attended the Student's Art School in New York City. He would eventually design the May home on Lake Elbert (now the Baker residence) and also the building known at various times as The Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce, Orange Festival Offices, The Hob Nob Bar and Bill Bell Carpets. It is now a beauty salon. (It was originally designed for J. Walker Pope's real estate office.

J. Walker was the father of Cypress Garden's founder, Richard "Dick" Pope.) Clyde was an accomplished artist and many of his watercolor works were used for early Chamber of Commerce promotional brochures and Orange Festival programs. Clyde May and wife Alice (Haag) had three children: Jane (Dorman); John H. and Clyde, Jr.

John May immersed himself in the business and civic affairs of Winter Haven. Among his many pursuits he served as the final Chairman of the Board of Trade as it transitioned to the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce in 1923. He then served as the first



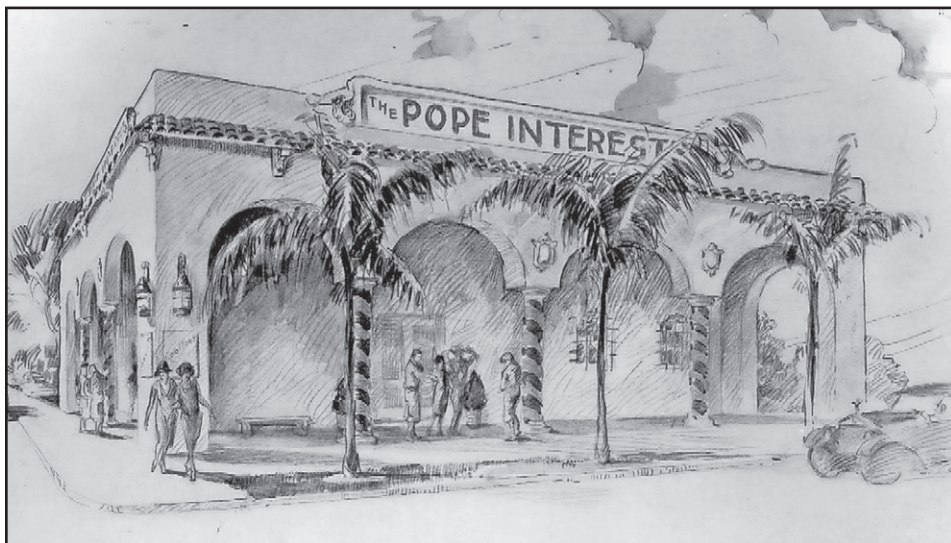
Bob Gernert

## Beneath the Chinaberry Tree

Bob Gernert is a student of Winter Haven history and founded the Museum of Winter Haven History.

chamber president. That same year, Dr. R. A. Nichols, a respected former Chautauqua lecturer and pastor of the First Christian Church came forward to May and other civic leaders with the idea for celebrating the citrus industry. In January of 1924 the first "Polk County Orange Festival" was staged and considered very successful. It was repeated in 1925 – again with success – but the 1926 bust of the Florida Land Boom meant no celebration that year. By 1927 the economy had stabilized to the point that civic leaders again wanted to celebrate citrus. In 1928 the decision was made to make the festival a permanent fixture with a paid manager. John May was elected President of the Board and the name changed to the Florida Orange Festival. He served until 1936.

May had made an important childhood friend in Nathan Mayo who served as Florida Commissioner of Agriculture for more than 36 years. Josephine Burr writing in The History of Winter Haven noted, "We must never fail to pay tribute to Nathan Mayo, Commissioner of Agriculture ... who was always a friend to the citrus industry and especially the Citrus Festival ..." Mayo was commissioner when the Florida Citrus Building opened in 1949.



This sketch by Clyde May depicts the real estate office he designed for J. Walker Pope.

The large internal auditorium is named for his wife, Nora.

Among John F. May's pursuits he was a founding member Winter Haven Growers Inc. in 1925. He also ran for Polk County Commission in 1926 but was defeated by James Foley. He was awarded the very first Banker's Cup Award in 1923. He would be honored again in 1924 and 1926. At that time the Banker's Cup had to be won three times to retain permanent possession. May's great grandchildren John May (Winter Haven) and Linda May (California) donated that original award to the Museum of Winter Haven History.

In 1936, May was forced to retire as President of the Citrus Festival due to poor health. He and his wife died in 1938. Son Clyde died in September of 1940.

This column was based on

information from the May family as well as The History of Winter Haven by Josephine Burr.

### About the series

Early in Winter Haven's history, a large Chinaberry tree grew near the middle of Central Avenue at the corner of the Snell Bank (now the Times Square building). It was beneath this tree that early residents shared the news and solved the challenges of the day.

Now through May, the Museum of Winter Haven History is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon in the Woman's Club/Museum building on Pope Avenue at Lake Howard Drive. It is free and open to the public. Group visits are available by appointment. Contact Bob Gernert at 863-206-6855 or bobgernert@gmail.com.

# Sheriff's Office sees crime decrease from 2015 to 2016

I have some great news to share with you – once again – crime is down in unincorporated Polk County.

According to Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics, as reported semi-annually and annually to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement there were 161 fewer crimes in 2016 than in 2015 in the Polk County Sheriff's Office primary jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction includes all of unincorporated Polk County; cities contracted with the PCSO including Polk City, Frostproof, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Dundee, and Mulberry; and the town of Hillcrest Heights and the village of Highland Park.

There were 8,041 crimes in 2015 as compared to 7,880 crimes in 2016, a total reduction in reported crimes of 2.0 percent.

This decline continues a trend of eight consecutive years of lower crime and crime rates in the PCSO's jurisdiction.



Grady Judd

## Polk County Sheriff

Solving homicides, preventing crime, and keeping Polk County's citizens safe, are our top three priorities. We are committed, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, to being proactive and keeping Polk County a great place to live, work, play, and visit.

There were decreases in the following crime categories: homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts.

Overall crime was down 2.0 percent and the crime rate (crimes per 100 persons) is down 4.1 percent.

Polk crime rate is at historic low.

Polk County's crime rate in the unincorporated areas and contract cities (for which the Polk County Sheriff's Office is responsible) also dropped from 2015 to 2016, according to the Uniform Crime Report statistics.

The crime rate, which is the number of crimes per 100 residents, is down 4.1 percent from 2015 (1.95) to 2016 (1.87). This is the lowest crime rate ever measured in the Polk County Sheriff's Office jurisdiction, breaking the previous record low of 1.95 crimes per 100 from last year. Reliable crime statistics in Polk County started in 1971, when the crime rate was recorded at 4.16 crimes per 100.

Since 1997, the crime rate in Polk County has fallen by 72 percent. In 2016, the Polk/PCSO crime rate was 44 percent less than the Florida state crime rate (1.87 compared to 3.34).

Our proactive policing strategies cannot be successful without the

### CRIME IN THE POLK COUNTY UNINCORPORATED AREA AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONTRACT CITIES:

Category	2015	2016
Homicides	16	14
Forced Sex Offenses	85	139
Robberies	136	135
Agg Assault	1,103	1,086
Burglaries	1,962	1,748
Larcenies	4,251	4,124
Motor Veh Theft	578	634
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,041</b>	<b>7,880</b>

valuable partnerships and relationships we have with our citizens and local businesses. Thank you for your support and commitment to helping us make Polk County such a safe place to work, live, and play.

• Most recent number published by the FBI's Uniform Crime Report.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

Christ was God's loving solution to our destructive choices. We were separated from God and had no way to undo the

wrong we had done. On Good Friday, because of love, God did what we could never understand. He paid the price for our

wrongdoing.

Easter makes it possible for everyone to know God and to be with Him in heaven. But wait a

minute. Not everybody is going to heaven. Because of God's amazing love, He gives us a choice to accept or to reject what

He has done for us. The choice is ours.

**VIRGIL ULLOM, DDS  
Lake Wales**

## FRISBIE

FROM PAGE 4

council meeting attended, 25 cents for each license issued, and 2 percent of the money collected for water service.

The city treasurer got \$200 a year, payable quarterly.

Councilmen were paid \$2 for each meeting

attended.

Any vacancies were to be filled by appointment by the mayor until the next election, subject to approval by the council at its next meeting.

Among the powers of the council were "To Purchase or Erect a City Market Building, To Purchase or Erect City School Buildings, (and) To Establish a Street Railway System."

The council's School

Committee was empowered "to exercise general supervision over all schools under the jurisdiction of the City, and recommend to the Council such measures as, in their judgment, will promote the best interest of said schools."

A scant seven sentences was devoted to operation of public schools by the city, to be managed by a board of trustees.

Duties of the mayor included "Judge of the Police Court" which "shall always be open for the transaction of business." He had the authority to impose fines of up to \$100 or imprisonment for up to 60 days.

A city marshal was to be appointed by the mayor, and had to post a bond of \$1,000 to ensure that he would "faithfully discharge the duties of

his office and properly account for, and pay over, all money collected by him."

Sections 119 to 163 enumerated criminal offenses, which included littering, vagrancy, fastening livestock to a lamp post or tree, cussing, keeping "a house of ill fame," gambling, intoxication, adultery, damaging a shade tree, graffiti, and burying "any dead body" at a depth of

less than three feet.

(S. L. Frisbie is retired. A self-confessed government junkie, he majored in government at Florida State University, and covered the Bartow City Commission for 46 years. Upon his retirement in 2010, he intended to continue attending an occasional city commission meeting. Thus far, he has attended three.)



# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Local history celebrated

### The walls and long-time residents remember Winter Haven

By JEFF ROSLOW

JROSLOW@SCMGINC.COM

WINTER HAVEN – If the walls could talk at the Woman’s Club of Winter Haven they would tell a of great part of the 20th century in Winter Haven. That almost came to be last week when eight people who have lived in Winter Haven their lifetimes or decades were at the hall telling tales of the city.

“If the Walls Could Speak Again,” was April 6 at the Woman’s Club at 660 Pope Ave., and one attendee, Mary Ann Snively, recalls fondly the hall which has been around since the 1920s. “I’ve been here longer than anybody,” Snively said referring to the fact that she is 87 years old. “I had my wedding reception in this building.”

To the man known as Winter Haven’s first black mayor, Lemuel Geathers, at 93 years old, expressed his love for his hometown and the people he’s known living in it all his life. In a wheelchair he was accompanied by one of his sons, Dean.

“I love Winter Haven,” he said. “It has some many wonderful people ... black, white and in between. I was raised in a community where you never had to lock your doors. You get angry sometimes when you think Winter Haven doesn’t get with it, but it is deserving.”

He recalls the unequal treatment to black people with vivid memory, but he doesn’t let it haunt him.

“I came home (from World War II) in 1944 and

I saw a German prison by the Garden Club. They had more privacy than I had.”

That’s when he said he made up his mind that he was going to volunteer and change those ways.

Later in the meeting when host Bob Gernert Jr. asked questions to the attendees, Geathers said when the group was asked what their proudest memory is, “The time I won the city commission seat.”

He said he ran against some good opponents, but he said he had the advantage over them because he’d served on so many city volunteer boards.

“I knew so much when I was speaking. At the Chamber (forum) I showed how very consistent I am and that I’m for all the people. And, I proved it,” he said.

And, it wasn’t always easy, he remembered.

“The guy next to me on the city commission, and I won’t say who it was, hit me on my knee and said I shouldn’t be here. I ignored him. I knew if I made a motion it wouldn’t pass.”

He said he’d talk others into making the motion for him. “I know things could get done but don’t make it important to you. It doesn’t matter who takes credit ... it got done.”

One thing Geathers was in the center of was deciding the location of Polk State College in 1964 (then Polk Junior College). Winter Haven and Lakeland were fighting over it and in the end Winter Haven secured it

in place of where a golf course was. However, under the agreement with the golf course, the city had to replace that golf course if the school got the land.

“As a kid I never had the chance to go to the public library,” Geathers said. And the opportunity of an educational institute in town excited him both educationally and economically.

“Dick Dantzer and I worked many months to get Polk State. Without him it would have been in Lakeland.”

To raise money to build a golf course, Geathers hometown of Pughsville was to be rezoned from residential to commercial.

“We went to every house when we wanted to change from residential to get (money for) that golf course,” Geathers recalled. “We made it happen.”

One attendee, Gene Owens, held up a copy of this month’s Haven magazine showing Snively citrus sign from years ago teasing a story inside the magazine. He got Mary Ann Snively to autograph it.

Owen knows a lot about the Snively family and how they lived on what is now Legoland but once was Cypress Gardens, which the Snivelys owned. He recalled how Gram Parsons, who was the grandson of John Snively Sr., was first doing a musical act when he was about 5 years old.

“He would do his Elvis on the porch of the castle,” Owen said.

Owen said in 1964

Parsons parents bought what is Derry Down. It was a place where Parsons first played publicly.

“It was an auxiliary teen club,” Owens recalled.

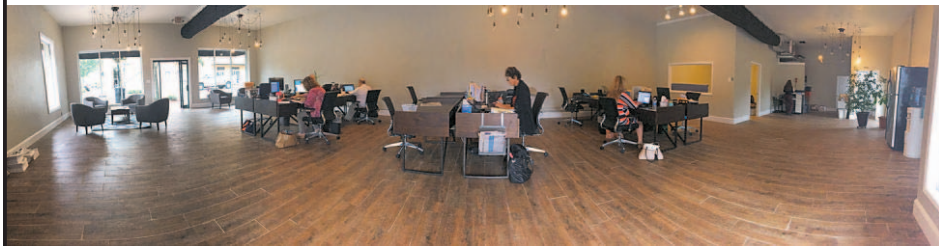
Other long time residents who were on hand and told of their memories included Miles Plowden, Patricia Smith-Fields and Shirley Dixon Williams.

**Lemuel Geathers, the first black mayor in Winter Haven, said that his life in Winter Haven has been great.**

PHOTOS BY JEFF ROSLOW



## We are Hiring and Expanding!



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Mary Ann Snively most remembers the Woman’s Club building on Pope Street as the place she got married.



# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Area musician's band getting attention

### *Eli Mosley's first country album released*

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**  
CORRESPONDENT

WINTER HAVEN – A rising local country music star and a Grammy award nominee rapper entertained area residents Thursday night.

Lakeland artist Eli Mosley gave Auburndale residents a preview of his new album "Come Along With Me" at Jessie's on Fire and Afroman, most known for his 2001 song "Because I Got High," performed at Jessie's Lounge in downtown Winter Haven.

Mosley released his self titled first album as a senior at Southeastern University. In the two years since, he and his band have been traveling to Nashville monthly to put together the second album. "Come Along With Me" was released at a party in Plant City Saturday night and those at Jessie's of Fire restaurant Thursday

night got to preview of few of the songs.

Mosley and his band have been doing some serious traveling to promote the new album. The band got back from another monthly trip to Nashville two weeks ago. Since then the band has played in Sebring two nights; played for veterans taking the Flight of Honor to Washington, D.C., just before Sun 'n Fun opened in Lakeland; they played at the Strawberry Festival in Titusville, at Jesse's On Fire in Auburndale, a VFW Hall in Lakeland and the Grant Barbecue Festival on the east coast.

"This has been an absolutely crazy few weeks," Mosley said. "We play 12 more shows between and when we go on tour in Texas two weeks from now."

The Lakeland resident was born in Bartow, went to Lakeland Christian for high school

and graduated from Southeastern University with a degree in music business that same year as a U.S. Marine Reserve.

"The business degree has really helped with my career," Mosley said.

Mosley put his band together that year and they have played more than 100 shows since. They play family friendly country music and use the same studio as Keith Urban and George Strait. Last year they played at the Fourth of July festival in Bartow.

There are four original songs on his first album, self titled "Eli" in 2015 and seven new tunes on the second album. Band bassist Josh McGaffin was also born and raised in Polk County. Other members of the band include Zack Branham on drums and Kheagun Fleckenstein on lead guitar. Learn more about the band at [elimosley.com](http://elimosley.com).

Afroman hit the stage



PHOTO BY CHARLES A. BAKER III

Polk County residents Eli Mosley and Josh McGaffin gave customers at Jessie's on Fire restaurant in Auburndale a preview of their second album "Come Along With Me" Thursday night.

around 10 p.m. Thursday night after a number of opening acts at Jessie's Lounge. The California rapper became popular when he was featured on the Howard Stern Show around 2001 and the song "Because I Got

High" has since been featured in three movies. The song was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Rap Solo Performance in 2002.

The Original Wailers play April 13 at Jessie's Lounge. The reggae

group was formed by Al Anderson, a guitarist who played with Bob Marley during Marley's solo career.

Party photos from Thursday night are published at [afroman.charliethird.com](http://afroman.charliethird.com).

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# Sidestreet wants you to Be One

## 'Be One with One Hundred' fundraiser planned on April 20

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**  
CORRESPONDENT

WINTER HAVEN – Rockin on the River '17 featured Polk County headline acts the Josh Blevins Band Friday and the Nathan Baldwin Band at Camp Mack in Lake Wales Saturday.

The annual fundraiser benefited Our Children's Academy in Lake Wales and SideStreet Art Beat, a non-profit studio in downtown Winter Haven.

SideStreet artist Tinia Clark is a retired postal worker and Winter Haven resident who is making a difference as executive director of the 501c3.

With private donations and a partnership with the Florida Gulf Coast Alzheimer's Association, Clark created a studio that provides opportunities for individuals with life challenges such as Alzheimer's disease and Dementia and other special needs.

Winter Haven residents Velma Young and her mother, Geraldine, are especially thankful for what Clark has made.

Geraldine has Alzheimer's, a disease with an early symptom of short term memory loss. Velma quit her job in assistant living up north to move in and care for her mother full time. Velma said each week her mother regularly remembers two activities: going to church and going to see Tinia.

"She remembers church and "that girl," Velma said. "I'm thankful we have this place here, the small group attention really helps keep her mind sharper, she concentrates on what she is doing here."

Multiple times per week, Geraldine comes to SideStreet studio to paint and sometimes play harmonica. And for the couple of hours she is there, her daughter

Velma gets a few hours of respite. Velma said being around like-minded people and experiencing a creative environment where her mother is comfortable focusing on the present is healthy.

The comfortable lobby up front provides safe space for caregivers to share best practices and get to know each other.

The Young family is one of many who benefit from SideStreet studio.

Funds raised through Rockin' on the River will not sustain the non profit. Their primary fundraiser, Be One with One Hundred, is coming up Thursday April 20. It is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. downtown Winter Haven at Jenson's Corner Bar.

"It should be a memorable evening with food, a cash bar and live musicians," Tinia Clark said.

Chelle Doyel, Catherine Price and Kerri Ann Griffin will be performing at the



PHOTO BY CHARLES A. BAKER III

Geraldine Young paints with Tinia Clark April 5 in downtown Winter Haven at SideStreet studio.

fundraiser and student Frankie Skubna will be showing his film called Embedded Memories. Polk State College Intern Maria Freyenbacher will host tours of the studio next door during the event.

Coastal Barefoot

Acoustic, Renea Roberts and her Nashville Band, Black Water and Foley & Poindexter with special guest Jeni Taylor also performed at Rockin on the River '17 at Camp Mack in Lake Wales over the weekend.

Food vendors included

Rick's Bar-B-Q, Tanners Lakeside, Idle Zone, Kick Yo' Butt BBQ, Tallulah's Table by the Sea and Old Man Franks Oyster Bar.

For information about the Be One with One Hundred event, contact Tinia Clark at 863-224-8557.

# Rep. Rooney named to Intelligence Committee

U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Okeechobee, will be among Republicans taking the lead in the House Intelligence Committee's Russia investigation.

House Speaker Paul Ryan announced that Chairman Devin Nunes would be temporarily stepping down.

Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas, and Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-South Carolina, were appointed along with Rooney.

"I am confident that our Committee will continue to conduct an thorough, bipartisan investigation into this matter," said Rooney, an attorney who represents Florida's 17th District, which includes part of Polk County.

"I look forward to working with Congressman Mike Conaway and Congressman Trey Gowdy to follow the facts where they lead us and report our findings to the American people as soon as possible," Rooney said.

## Concert planned to help The Orpheum Theatre

A concert event to support The Orpheum Theatre is being held at 6 p.m. April 22 at the Allen Cattle Ranch Barn, 6410 Garfield Road, Fort Meade.

The event is being sponsored by Core Wealth Advisors Inc and

features country, bluegrass and gospel music. Acts include Red Hot Rooster, Back Porch Band and the Sentimental Journeymen.

Tickets are \$25 and include a dinner voucher from the Rolling Gourmet Food Truck.

## Bok Easter sunrise service set

Bok Tower Gardens plans its 91st annual Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. Sunday, April 16 and free admission from 6-8 a.m.

An annual tradition since 1926, worshipers are invited to experience the majesty of the sun rising over the horizon atop Iron Mountain. Accessible parking, shuttle service, and seating for guests will be available. The Entrance Gate, Visitor Center and Gift Shop will open at 6 a.m. Donations are suggested.

Gardens' carillonist Geert D'hollander will begin the celebration at 6:30 a.m. with a selection of seasonal music performed on the 60-bell Singing Tower carillon. The service will feature the Lake Wales Choral under the director of Vince Treadway and an inspirational Easter message delivered by Pastor Jeffrey Kantz of First United Methodist Church. The service will conclude with a half-hour carillon

concert.

Following the service, the Blue Palmetto Café will offer a special buffet for \$12.95 per adult; \$8.95 per child younger than 12. Scrambled eggs, Spanish eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, home style potatoes, assorted pastries, fresh fruit, and beverages including regular and decaf coffee and Florida's Natural orange juice will be served.

At 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., D'hollander will perform hymns and other seasonal carillon music for the occasion. Visitors can watch the 30-minute concerts on a video monitor in a special seating area located behind the Peace Lantern near the Tower and meet D'hollander by the Information Booth after the concerts.

After 8 a.m. general admission to the Gardens is \$14 for adults and \$5 for children 5-12. Members and children younger than 5 are free.

## Two cities to have runoffs

The cities of Mulberry and Haines City will have runoff elections as there are seats in those cities where no candidate got more than 50 percent of the vote.

In Mulberry on Tuesday, April 11 the Mulberry Civic Center will be the place where registered voters can vote in the race where Terry

Evers will run against Maria McClintock. In Haines City the runoff is scheduled May 2 for a race between Grace Huffman and Kenneth Kipp for Seat 5. Voting location for that race will be the same as it was in the April 4 election. The polls will be open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

For information call the Elections Office at 863-534-5888.

## Dr. Jackson talks about health care programs

Dr. Joy Jackson, the director of the Polk County Department of Health, is the speaker at the next Tiger Bay Club meeting.

The meeting is at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 19 at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave., Bartow.

Jackson will speak on the differences between health care programs in Obamacare compared to what Trump plans, a Zika virus update and a service report about the local health department.

In addition to serving as medical director for Polk County, Jackson was medical director for Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine since 2012. She is board certified in internal medicine and has worked as Chief Medical Officer and Interim Vice President of Medical Affairs for Lakeland Regional Medical Center, where she provided

leadership and oversight for the active medical staff.

Jackson currently serves as chair of the statewide Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and she also works with several community organizations including Polk Vision and the Diabetes Advisory Committee at Lakeland Regional Health.

## Bartow plans communitywide cleanup

The City of Bartow Solid Waste in partnership with Keep Polk County Beautiful Inc. has planned a Event on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, from 8 a.m.-noon at Mary Holland Park in Bartow.

The Great American Cleanup is a nationwide cleanup initiative led by Keep America Beautiful.

This cleanup is a communitywide effort. Residents who have personal garbage and large items that need to be disposed of should contact their local waste hauler to schedule arrangements for pick up. Volunteers are provided with garbage bags, gloves and safety vests. Those who pre-register may also qualify to receive a free T-Shirt and ticket to Bok Tower Gardens.

For information on the event or to pre-register to volunteer, contact the City of Bartow Solid

Waste Department, 863-534-0181 or email: [solidwaste@cityofbartow.net](mailto:solidwaste@cityofbartow.net)

## Winter Haven Chamber taking nominations

Nominations for the Citizens of the Year Banker's Cup award is now being taken by the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce. The deadline to submit is May 1.

The 92nd annual presentation of Winter Haven's highest civic honor is scheduled Monday, Sept. 28 at Lake Eva Banquet Hall.

The Banker's Cup is an evening of fine dining and fellowship to celebrate the people, businesses and events that have made the past year such a success.

There will be the Large and Small Business of the Year and the Chamber will recognize the work of our volunteers including the Presidential Chamber Ambassadors.

Past Presidents will pass the gavel from Board Chairman Hap Hazelwood, CFO of Six/Ten LLC to Chair-Elect Adrian Jones, General Manager of Legoland Florida Resort.

Entry of nominees can be done at the chamber's web site, <http://www.winterhavenchamber.com/>

Nominations must be received by May 1, 2017.



# HAINES CITY NEWS

## Ironman 70.3



PHOTOS BY JAMES COULTER

Cyclists spanned three laps through East Polk County in Haines City, Dundee, and Lake Hamilton during this weekend's Ironman 70.3 Florida.



Friends and fans held up heads of their favorite racers, from left, Darbi Bolton, Lindsay Jackson, and Mari Muller, to show their support and appreciation for them.



With fans like this, athletes were more than motivated to complete their race around Lake Eva.



Ironman 70.3 Florida athletes ran 13.1 miles three times around scenic Lake Eva after swimming in it and cycling through Haines City earlier that morning.



**Thelma Juetta (Judy) Thompson turns 100 years old; April 14th**

Judy came to Bartow from Ft. Meyers in 1953 and moved to Winter Haven in 2000. She now resides in Columbia, SC with her daughter and grandson.

Judy was married to Everett A. Thompson for 50 years, before his death. She has a 91 yr old sister, Donna June Wilson, as well as a son Maxwell Thompson and a daughter Faye Pressnell. Judy has 8 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren (and one due in July).

Judy loves to sit outside and watch the birds, and talk about her loving family and friends. She has countless number of stories to tell.

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# HAINES CITY NEWS

## Iron Kids



PHOTOS BY JAMES COULTER

More than 100 children and their guardians ran, jogged, and even walked along Lake Eva in Haines City during the annual Iron Kids race on Saturday.



After a long and breath-taking run, some of the participants within the Iron Kids race cooled off on the playground.



Young Alessia and Carlota and their parents, Luis and Veronica, were one of the more than 100 participants within the Iron Kids race in Haines City.



This young may see someone he knows while he is competing in the Iron Kids race on Saturday in Lake Eva Park in Haines City.

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2017



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**2017**

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**Ages  
5 - 14**

**Session 1:  
June 19 - 29, 2017**

**Session 2:  
July 10 - 20, 2017**

(Monday - Thursday classes)

**Lakeland  
8:15 am - 12:30 pm**

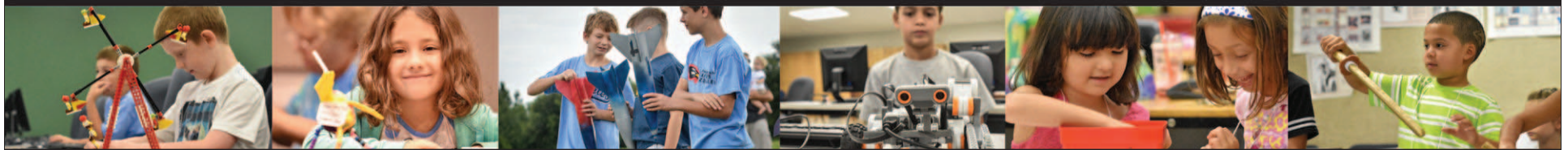
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1:15 pm - 5:30 pm**



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# WINTER HAVEN NEWS

## Energy program in jeopardy in budget proposal

*Up to 30,000 area people could be affected by cuts to LIHEAP*

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**  
CORRESPONDENT

WINTER HAVEN – On Thursday March 16 the Trump administration released a preliminary 2018 budget proposal that would eliminate, in part, LIHEAP.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program has been around since the 1980s to provide federal funding for heating and cooling costs for low-income households. LIHEAP is funded by annual appropriations to the Department of Health & Human Services. Federal funding for fiscal year 2017 is \$3.09 billion. Funding from the 1980s through 2000 averaged out to around \$2 billion per year according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

In Polk County, LIHEAP is administered by the Agricultural

and Labor Program Inc. headquartered in Winter Haven.

According to Erin Gillespie, director of Communications and External Affairs for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, staff with ALPI received around \$4.5 million in LIHEAP funds to provide \$3.5 million in direct services in 2015, the latest records available.

ALPI staff did not respond with reaction to the president's preliminary budget proposal.

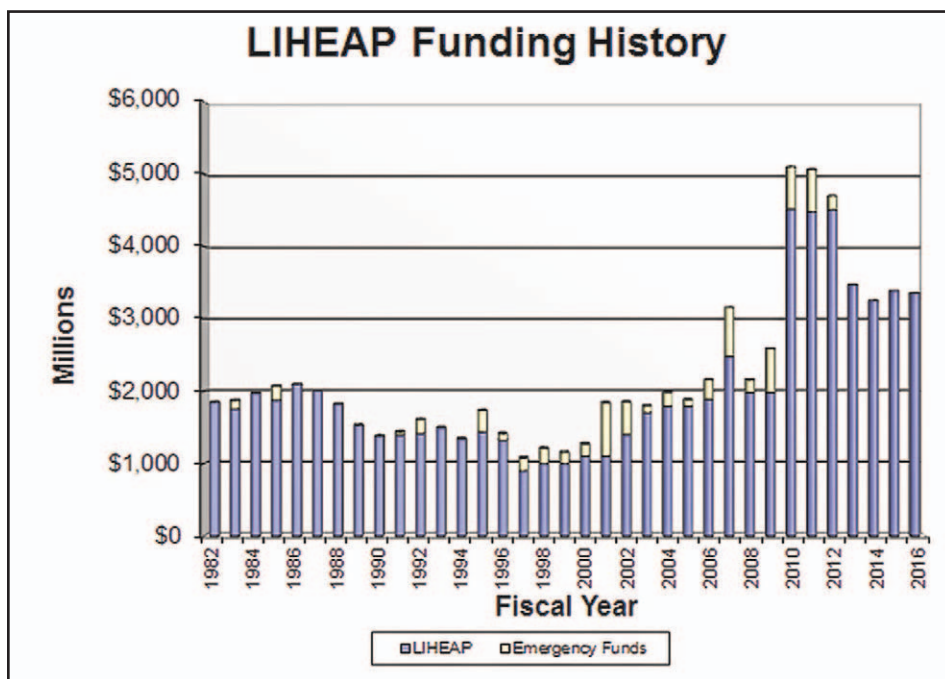
If federal support for LIHEAP and the Community Services Block Grant dissolves, it could dramatically effect the non-profit. ALPI provides services to 10,000 Central Florida residents annually through LIHEAP, Gillespie said. According to the most recent IRS Form 990 the agency served a

total of 30,000 clients through LIHEAP, subsidized child care and/or Community Service Block Grant benefits in 2014.

Each year Florida gets around \$65 million from the federal government in LIHEAP dollars. There was no response from Florida Gov. Rick Scott in reference to how this federal budget proposal could affect Floridians.

According to United Way of Central Florida Director of Community Resources Director Jessica Vechio, the number one request for help to their 411 help line is requesting utility bill assistance.

The non-profit agency received around \$15 million in various grant monies in 2014 to provide around \$5.5 million in direct services and subsidized child care for 6,000 kids according to their



COURTESY OF LIHEAP CLEARINGHOUSE

2014 IRS Form 990 and agency website.

Of the grant monies received for child care, utility assistance and job training programs at ALPI, around \$7 million comes from state of Florida sources and the other \$7 million

comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

On March 13 President Trump signed an executive order directing the head of each federal agency to submit a plan to eliminate unnecessary

agencies, components of agencies and agency programs like LIHEAP.

In its current state the President's proposal is a recommendation. Congress will similarly draft budget proposals before a final version is voted on.

## Winter Haven native selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter

Winter Haven's Steve Anderson was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2017, serving with Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) Unit in Dahlgren, Virginia.

The 2004 Lake Region High School graduate, is responsible for reaching out and grasping Sailors' attention and motivating them to embrace essential tools that will serve as building blocks to succeed in the Fleet. He is a certified Master Training Specialist, demonstrating excellence in leadership, technical competence, application of instructional methodology and a desire to improve fleet readiness through quality instruction.

CSCS' mission is to develop and deliver surface ship combat systems training to achieve surface warfare superiority. CSCS headquarters' staff oversees 14 learning sites, including CSCS Unit Dam Neck, Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center, CSCS Unit Great Lakes and CSCS Detachment West. provides nearly 70,000

hours of curriculum for 700 annual courses to more than 40,000 Sailors. CSCS delivers specialized training for officer and enlisted Sailors required to tactically operate, maintain, and employ shipboard and shore-based weapons, sensors, and command and control systems utilized in today's Navy.

Anderson's parents, Bobbie and Steven Anderson, both live in Winter Haven.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Steven Anderson

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# FROSTPROOF NEWS

## Fire spending charge unfounded

By CHARLES A. BAKER III  
CORRESPONDENT

On March 30 Frostproof City Council met in a public workshop to discuss the recent allegations of unethical accounting by the city's hired auditing firm.

"At the workshop, the Council looked back at our audits dating back to 1985," said Mayor Rodney Cannon. All five council members agreed with the findings that March 6 allegations of possible unethical fire spending by Frostproof

Finance Manager Melody Sauerhafer were unfounded. Sauerhafer raised questions about financial discrepancies authored by City Auditor Turner Wiggins involving the city's fire budget over the past decade.

At the March 6 city council meeting, Mayor Cannon was tasked with gathering options for an independent review. "I spoke with the city's finance manager who made the original accusation and she is satisfied with the council's decision," Cannon

said. "The council voted (April 3) unanimously to accept this report as the final word on the fire department accounting. Additionally a vote of confidence was held on our auditor and city manager." In unrelated Frostproof news, 2009

FHS graduate Nickell Robey-Coleman, who played with the Buffalo Bills for four seasons, signed with the Los Angeles Rams Friday. Last season while playing with the Bills, Robey-Coleman intercepted two passes against the Rams.

## Gravley tops Chatlos in city election

By CHARLES A. BAKER III  
CORRESPONDENT

FROSTPROOF – Newly elected Frostproof City Council member Austin Gravley won almost 62 percent of the vote against Raymond Chatlos when the two newcomers faced off in the municipal election April 4.

Gravley won seat two 206-127 and celebrated at P and J Recreation in Frostproof with the Cory Greenway Band Friday night. In a social media posted invitation to the party, Chatlos acknowledged his health. "If I could walk I would be there," Chatlos said. Jon Albert won seat three by default after

challenger Gerald Rhodes dropped out of the race March 10. Gravley and Albert will be sworn into office April 17 when both start their first full terms on the council. Albert was appointed to Frostproof City Council Sept. 12 to complete the remaining term of former councilwoman Anne Dickinson,

who stepped down at age 85 after nearly a decade on the council. Asked what was first on the agenda now that he has won the election, Gravley said the agenda for the April 17 meeting is not out yet. Gravley has previously stated that he is trying to keep an open mind and has no agenda.

"I was humbled and honored to be elected and I look forward to working with the council to make Frostproof and even better place to live," Gravley said. Within a few years, the Frostproof City Council has transformed from five seasoned citizens to four of the five from a younger generation.

Albert recently finished his last presentation for a MBA started while he was stationed in Hawaii as a U.S. Marine. He graduates May 15 (Chaminade University, Honolulu) and said refinancing the debt of the sewage plant is one way he may be able to use his education to effect change.

## High school student making name for himself

By CHARLES A. BAKER III  
CORRESPONDENT

FROSTPROOF – A few adults in Frostproof are starting to notice a teenager named Cory Andrew Charles Baker. At a city council meeting April 3, Frostproof Mayor Rodney Cannon congratulated Cory for recently being named Sunshine State Scholar, an award only two Polk County students receive annually. Cory is the first student from Frostproof Middle Senior High School who has ever won the award. As a member of Frostproof Youth Council, Baker and other members of Frostproof school council prepare for and attend Frostproof City Council meetings to learn about ways students can volunteer in town. On the agenda for the meeting

April 3, town council members were scheduled to discuss a soil stabilization project for a local bridge in need of repairs from erosion. During the public comments period of the city council meeting, Cory got up and asked what type of chemicals would be used in a soil stabilization project recently approved by the council. "The chemicals used in soil stabilization can runoff and lead to algae growth and make it harder for fish to survive," Baker said. "Even green chemicals can affect the environment and I'm worried that the environmental cost will outweigh the benefits." His comments led Frostproof Public Works Director James Keene to invite Cory to the next meeting on the soil project to provide further

input. Last week Cory also seems to have impressed staff at the Ramon Theater in downtown Frostproof. The junior class president at Frostproof is a lead in the school play Alice's Adventures in Wonderland May 4. He also writes original plays and music composition of his own. Cory said he is in the process of finishing up the script he's submitting - The Runaway - and will be turning in a business profile in to Ramon Theater staff within a couple of weeks. "I'm not sure it's quite a done deal yet but I know they think it's a great idea and are hoping to hear from him further," said his drama coach and Frostproof teacher Julie Spires. Baker said he is seeking donations from

Frostproof Care Center to furnish the set and provide outfits for the actors to wear.

Cory Andrew Charles Baker is the son of Charles A Baker III. Cory and his father will be

attending the Sunshine State Scholar awards presentation in Orlando May 19-20.

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# LAKE WALES NEWS

## Lake Wales City Clerk faces termination

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

LAKE WALES – The Lake Wales city clerk may be receiving a pink slip in her future now that the city manager has recommended that she be terminated from her position.

At the end of last week's city commission meeting, City Manager Kenneth Fields mentioned that he would be adding an item in the next meeting's agenda to terminate City Clerk Clara VanBlargan.

Fields recommended VanBlargan be fired over

allegations she had allegedly made to Ed Bowlin, a local political activist who recently ran and lost against Mayor Gene Fultz during the city election.

According to Bowlin's campaign literature, VanBlargan had informed him that she was forced by Fields, along with Fultz and City Attorney Chuck Galloway, to alter a city ordinance concerning



**VANBLARGAN**

the city's fire assessment under threat of termination.

These allegations were also presented by Bowlin in an official complaint to the State Attorney's Office recommending an investigation into these allegations.

The SAO has since released a letter stating that it had investigated the matter and found no evidence of wrongdoing on the behalf of the city's mayor, manager, or attorney, and that it would not investigate these allegations any further.

Had these allegations proven true, then the accused city officials would have been guilty of violating Florida Sunshine Law, which prohibits elected officials from privately meeting and discussing government matters.

However, as Fields explained through a response to the SAO, neither he nor Galloway are elected officials, and thus are not subject to the Florida Sunshine Law.

Furthermore, as he further explained, neither he nor the other two city officials had the authority to terminate

the city clerk, the authority and responsibility of which was of the city commission.

Fultz, aside from being cleared of any alleged wrongdoings by Bowlin, also managed to defeat him during the city election by obtaining 63 percent of the overall vote on April 4.

As for VanBlargan, Fields plans to put an item in the agenda for the next city commission meeting recommending her termination.

Whether or not VanBlargan will be terminated will be

determined by city commissioners during their meeting on April 18.

While Fields considers it possible that Bowlin may have been lying about the accusations made by VanBlargan, he places some credence into Bowlin's testimony, as he had presented the allegations to the SAO, which, if false, would have made him guilty of a very serious offense.

"I think the allegations speak for themselves," Fields said. "I think the accusations and statements that were made were not tolerable."

## Fultz wins mayor's seat, Stewart tops Van Sickle

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

LAKE WALES – Mayor Eugene Fultz will go on to serve a third two-year term now that he has won re-election in Lake Wales last Tuesday during its city election.

With 951 votes, Fultz won 63 percent of the vote against his opponent, Ed Bowlin, who only won 37 percent of the vote with 559 votes.

Bowlin had especially run a contentious campaign against Fultz, having accused him, the city attorney, and city manager of violating Florida Sunshine Law by forcing the city clerk to secretly revise city documents under threat of termination.

These accusations were proven to be unfounded by the State Attorney's Office, which claimed through an official letter that it found no evidence of wrongdoing on behalf of the mayor and his colleagues.

Fultz had run the city



**Gene Fultz**



**Flora 'Tonya' Stewart**



**Curtis Gibson**

on a platform of economic development through private and public partnerships and focus on the city's infrastructure.

Earlier this year, during his state of the city address, he boasted of the economic progress Lake Wales has achieved during his time as mayor, having transformed from a stagnant economy to one that has obtained many new businesses and experienced development with its municipal airport and business park.

"The east side of Polk County is 'moving on up', and Lake Wales finally got a piece of the pie," he said.

Also winning city commission seats that evening were Curtis Gibson and Tonya "Flora" Stewart, who won both Seat 2 (District 19) and Seat 4 (District 27) respectively.

Gibson had defeated his opponent, Jacob Clifton, with 855 votes, and Stewart defeated her opponent, Jack Van Sickle, with 889 votes.

Both were able to run for their respective seats as the city commissioners currently holding them, Jonathan Thornhill and Pete Perez, will be stepping down this year and had decided not to run for re-election.

Gibson previously ran for mayor several years

ago. Now that he finally has a seat on the city commission, he hopes to help continue the progress it has been making in recent years, and expects to address issues such as debt, infrastructure, and recreation.

"I feel honored and happy, (and) now that it is over, we have to get to work," he said. "My new position, my whole

process, will be what we can do to make Lake Wales move forward in the right direction, and make sure we stay on track."

Stewart, having run on her experience as a public defender and attorney, hopes to use that experience to serve as the voice of her community.

Especially important

to her are providing recreation to both children and senior citizens within the community through after-school programs and other activities.

"I think the city is heading in the right direction, and I am hoping that we can get there a little faster and bring in some businesses and residents."



**Gene Fultz**



**Flora 'Tonya' Stewart**



**Curtis Gibson**

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# POLK COUNTY PEOPLE

## Haines City Theatre 'Scotland Road' cast revealed

Haines City Community Theatre shares the cast for its upcoming performance of "Scotland Road" by Jeffrey Hatcher, directed by Renee Palmer. Cast members include Maggie Harris as the Woman, Ian Elliot as Halbrech, and David Smith as John.

The psychological thriller begins when a young woman (Winifred) dressed in 19th century clothing is rescued from an iceberg, but will only utter the word "Titanic." The last survivor of the Titanic disaster is brought in to debunk her claims, but the tables are turned when Winifred recalls an earlier confrontation that took place on the Titanic the night it sank.

The production will run for six performances from April 15-30. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. for Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$15 with a discount for groups of 25 or more. For information or to make reservations, call 863-421-1893 or visit [www.hainescitytheatre.com](http://www.hainescitytheatre.com).

### Mills, artist, photographer, to address 'Florida Wild'

Photographer and artist Gregory Mills will give the noon April 14 Point of Gallery talk addressing the upcoming exhibition, "Florida Wild," a collection of landscape and wildlife photos by conservation photographer Carlton Ward to be held at the Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland.

Mills teaches photography at the Polk Museum of Art and will discuss both the aesthetic and technical merits of Ward's photos. He also will use Ward's photos as examples of how to improve your own photos, even if you only use your phone as your camera.

Mills is the Polk Museum of Art's director of operations, security, technology and media services and has been with the museum for more than 20 years. In addition to teaching photography, he is also a sculptor and has been commissioned to create sculptures for several people and organizations around Florida. Mills has created crosses and altars for several churches in Florida and North Carolina including First United Methodist Church in Lakeland.

Space is limited. RSVP at [Reservations@PolkMuseumofArt.org](mailto:Reservations@PolkMuseumofArt.org).

### Columbiettes Auxiliary raises funds for local charities

The Columbiettes Auxiliary of Knights of Columbus Council 7091 of Cypress Gardens staged its annual card party for the benefit of local charities on Feb. 25 in the clubhouse at the Vienna Square retirement community in Winter Haven.

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

The fundraiser proved "highly successful," with more than 80 people turning out to play cards and share a lunch prepared by members of the sponsoring organization said Maria Harris, president of the K of C auxiliary unit. All proceeds are earmarked for Winter Haven area charities.

Shirley Gayford and Vicki Sandin co-chaired the event and received help with set up, food preparation and running the games from Harris, Barbara Nelson, Dottie Habina, Ann Zettinger, Virginia LeVance, Karen Brownell, Betty May, Dorothy Gramling, Doris Sharak, Judy McCoombs, Yadira Shoffner, Sue Ondrovic, Judy McPartlan, Darlene Porta, Wanda Gill and Ellen Mullins. Centerpieces for tables with a card game theme were prepared by Pat Mailloux.

Members of the K of C who set up tables the night before the event were Tom Habina, Robert Nelson and Sal Porta. This trio, plus fellow knights Fredy Flores, Donnie McCoombs and John Ondrovic also cleaned up the hall after the games were over.

For information on the Columbiettes and the charitable causes it supports, call Maria Harris at 863-289-4395.

### Joyner shares roundtable discussion along with president

Deanna Joyner, third grade teacher at Candlelight Christian Academy in Lake Wales, attended a roundtable meeting with President Trump in Orlando, on behalf of the Step Up Scholarship.

The scholarship makes it possible for children to receive a private school education by paying for their tuition and supplies. The Step Up Scholarship has personally changed Joyner's life as her son Deondre Pride, not doing well in public school. Through the scholarship he was placed in a private school and his GPA improved.

Joyner says she hopes the president will continue the scholarships.

### Submit any news from anywhere

The Polk County News and 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 folks in the news, work honors and



PHOTO BY JEFF ROSLOW

The Bartow Rotary Club donated \$500 to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Villa Golf Tournament which coming in May. Karen Guffey with the Youth Villa Classic Committee accepts the donation from Rotary President J.C. Martin, left, and Rotary member Tommy Griffin.

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

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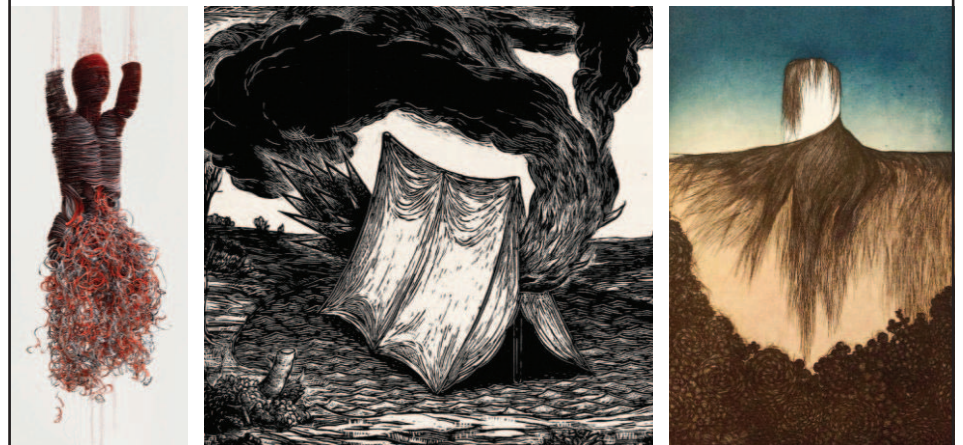


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# Change in liquor law fails again

## Motion to change hours dies for lack of seconds

By CATHY PALMER  
CORRESPONDENT

BARTOW – Polk County's newest county commissioner tried last week to change the alcohol sales regulations that some county liquor sales operations say is robbing them of income and giving their nearby competitors an advantage, but his attempt failed.

Commissioner Bill Braswell crafted a lengthy motion to change the liquor sales hours to jibe with Lakeland's but his try couldn't get even one vote from his fellow county board members.

Braswell suggested that alcohol sales be allowed from 7 a.m. until 2 a.m. on Sunday like they are in nearby Lakeland, but his motion died on the floor without a second.

Bar owners had

earlier tried to get the board to make the change and failed. Some were banking on Braswell's election to spur the change, but that didn't make any difference. The ruling that no sales be allowed on Sunday mornings stays in place.

Even though Braswell's motion failed, it appears to have some support from Board Chairman Melony Bell and limited support from Commissioner Todd Dantzler. Dantzler said he wasn't happy with Braswell's wording of the motion, and Bell said she didn't think she could support the motion because she chairs the county board.

County Attorney Michael Craig told commissioners he would have to study

Braswell's motion before he could offer any suggestions about changing the ordinances that cover alcohol sales.

Since last year, Isle of Capri tavern owner businessman Tim Lauzon has been asking the county board to make the change claiming,

"I'm losing business. Once customers go somewhere else they don't come back to me." Lauzon said. He owns the Isle of Capri Restaurant and Pub on Combee Road.

Lauzon's establishment is across the street from properties located within the Lakeland city limits which changed its liquor sales laws last year. He said after his initial turn-down back then, he would wait until new board members were elected,



Bill Braswell

then try for the change again.

Tuesday was his first shot at it with Braswell's motion. This time he had two other tavern operators speak up with him, but they still walked away empty-handed.

Bell maintained after Tuesday's meeting that she supports the changes, but didn't know how to go about seconding Braswell's motion as long as

she held the gavel, and because she had drafted the first motion for changing the rules before Braswell was seated on the board. She did say she does support the changes.

Dantzler said he didn't like the motion, but would probably support some change with sales to start at 9 a.m. or 10 a.m., not the 7 a.m. Braswell suggested.

"There should still be some sanctity for Sunday mornings," he reportedly said.

Presently, alcohol is only allowed for sale in the county's unincorporated areas between noon and midnight on Sunday unless New Year's Eve falls on on Sunday. Beer and wine can be sold on Sundays, but not hard liquor.

Braswell said he suggested the change

to accommodate shift workers who may want to buy liquor during the off hours. "It's a fairness thing," he said. "I don't think we should wind up penalizing people who do shift work."

Braswell's proposal also insisted bars keep breathalyzers on hand and signs that say they are available for anyone to use before they leave a bar. The devices would allow bar patrons to check their alcohol levels before leaving to see if they fall under the illegal limit.

"This was just a missed opportunity," he said.

It is not known when or if the county board will take up the issue again, but bar and liquor sales proponents have earlier said they will persist until the changes are made.

## County taking BS to court

By CATHY PALMER  
CORRESPONDENT

BARTOW – The nasty stench that has pervaded parts of east Lakeland from the work going on at a soil making plant is leading the Polk County Commission into court to get a restraining order to stop its makers from continuing production.

The county is heading for court this week to get an injunction against BS Ranch to force the company to quit processing human sewer waste, rotted foods and outdated materials into nutrient-enriched soil they sell to gardeners and growers.

The county approved County Attorney Michael Craig's request on April 4 to seek a court hearing to stop the production that has caused an intolerable stench for nearby businesses and homes. Craig said the move was necessary because BS Ranch hadn't obeyed cease orders filed by both the county's code enforcement department and the state Department of Environmental Protection.

According to reports, BS Ranch continued to accept tons of human sewage waste from nearby counties long after the operation was told by code enforcement to either stop production or come up with ways to

stop the noxious fumes that were spreading across neighborhoods and businesses.

Neighbors complained to county commissioners weeks ago about the stink and asked the county to take action. Several weeks ago, the code enforcement staff issued orders to BS Ranch, but those orders were ignored, according to Craig.

Meanwhile, Commission Board Chairman Melony Bell asked Gov. Rick Scott to also step in and force the state environmental department to join the county in asking for the court order to halt the ranch's production.

As of late last week, BS Ranch reportedly maintained it was taking steps to curtail the odors, which included installing a lime suppression cover system; installation of an air monitoring system to track odors; accepting and handling materials that could create odors only after 10 a.m. when it says odor-producing is lowered because of changes in the atmosphere and created a new staff position to concentrate on monitoring the odor.

"We regret having to ask for relief from the court system," says Land Development director John Bohde. "We would much rather have



Polk County Land Development Director John Bohde

had the owners of BS Ranch take corrective measures."

The hearing requested by the county had not been scheduled late Friday, however, a code enforcement hearing is slated for April 20 at 8:30 a.m. in the county administration center.

### FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Notice of disposition of public self-storage units in default to satisfy Landlord's Lien at Ridge Rentals, 714 N Scenic Hwy, Lake Wales, FL. Disposition Action will take place on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 9:00 AM. Landlord reserves the right to remove any of the listed tenants or units upon receipt of payment in full by cash, cashier's check or money order. All units contain household items unless otherwise indicated.

Name of Tenant	Unit
House, Bernita	L-19
Milligan, Shakeria	L-10
Sconyers, Tammy	F-06
Tucker, William	G-28

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# Community school concept catching on

## Many organizations push to move forward in study

By **JEFF ROSLOW**

JROSLOW@SCMGINC.COM

**BARTOW** – The march toward creating a community school in Polk County is growing as representatives from at least seven organizations raised their hands when asked if they wanted to continue their pursuit in a meeting last week.

That matches what the Polk County School District is interested in doing, as Assistant Superintendent and co-chairman of the Community School Initiative John Small said, “For the school district this is a go.”

With that show of support, Small said the procedure calls for him and co-chairman Ed Shoemaker to do a presentation in July. Before then, there are two more Community School Initiative meetings scheduled in May and June.

A community school is a partnership between the school district, local businesses, local health care providers to help provide a center to better education and health in specific communities by those communities.

Backing up the push to see if a community school could benefit Polk County, Penny Borgia, representing the United Way of Central Florida, said the board has already allocated money in next year’s budget to help get a health coordinator and will “continue its support to move forward.”

Since their last meeting, people who have joined this group, visited Mort Elementary School in Tampa. Many had already visited Evans High School in Orlando.

Many at the meeting said they were impressed with what they saw at

Mort. Agencies that attended last Thursday’s meeting at the Jim Miles Professional Center were the Department of Health, the Polk Education Association, the Learning Resource Center, the United Way, Health and Human Services, Polk State College, Heartland for Children, the school’s Homeless Coalition and Polk Vision.

They were reminded of the heavy work ahead of them both in seeing whether it is something to do and in doing it.

“We’ve got one shot to do this well and then we’ve got a lot of work to do,” Small said. He said in his 32 years in public education this can be a chance to do something great.

He added: “When I look at the need in Polk County I see 18 schools and I also could name 28 after that,” Small said. Small wouldn’t name the schools. He was encouraged at Mort that when deciding where to create a model school it doesn’t necessarily have to be the worst school and it

doesn’t have to be a particular level. Garnering success is more important, he was told.

“Maybe not look at what needs it the most but where there is a high level of need and make it work,” Small said. Part of what is being investigated is whether the model can be used elsewhere in Polk County in the future.

Seeing how a community school operates both at the elementary level in Tampa and the high school level in Orlando, Borgia, said she was impressed with the results. Evans has been a community school for seven years and Mort is in its first year. In either case, she said, there are pros and cons to both.

And one person, Naomi Boyer from Polk State College, liked how the help is there for the community.

“There are full services not just for the school but for the community,” she said.

Borgia said looking at schools at the elementary and high school level she noticed pros



PHOTOS BY JEFF ROSLOW

**John Small, standing, the co-chairman of the Community School Initiative, talks with Penny Borgia (gray outfit), from the United Way of Central Florida, during Thursday’s meeting.**

and cons about that, but was firmly on the side of heading forward because it will improve the quality of life if done successfully.

The level is still to be determined, Small said. First the idea of whether or not this is worth happening is paramount.

“When I look at the elementary and high

schools I don’t see any that may be in the range of a top school. That doesn’t mean there doesn’t need to be improvement, but we’ve got five middle schools that need these services and eight more (middle schools) on the cusp. We also have elementary schools.”

In the case of Evans, it

had consistently scored Ds and Fs on its report card. With the formation of a new school that essentially helps serves the community in more ways, the school’s grades have improved to the A level. It’s graduation rate increased by more than 20 points in seven years and discipline problems have dropped.



**Ed Shoemaker talks Thursday at the Community School Initiative at the Jim Miles Professional Center.**

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# BARTOW NEWS

## Youth, parents learn self worth *Hundreds attend annual summit in Bartow*

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**  
CORRESPONDENT

BARTOW – Organizers with the Eastside Positive Action Committee hosted the Seventh Annual Youth / Parent Summit at Carver Recreation Center Saturday.  
“The citizens of east

Bartow have, for a number of years, been concerned about the direction of our youth within the community,” said EPAC president Ken Riley. “  
The annual youth summit has evolved over the years to address this concern.

After opening ceremonies, students and parents were given access to a display tour of area services, there were breakout sessions, sports activities and a music studio.  
Riley, fellow NFL veteran Vince Anderson and mentor Seth Brunson

hosted sports activities. Jane Waters-Thomas of Arts Ensemble gave kids a chance to record their own music. For parents there was financial information from area bankers, medical screenings, life skill classes and information about employment

opportunities.  
After a cookout lunch, attendees gathered in the gymnasium for a few demonstrations, speeches and special recognition of area leaders. Bok Academy principal Damien Moses spoke about the challenges facing education

today. Riley recognized 103-year-old Moses Wearing, a entrepreneur of Bartow since 1939. Mark Thomas of Polk State College spoke about Tech Hire. Keynote speakers were “Big” James Henderson and professional boxer and educator Lisa Ramsey.



Samantha Crawford traveled all the way from Tallahassee to perform at the summit, and she got big cheers from her performance.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. BAKER III

EPAC Chairperson Ken Riley recognized 103-year-old Moses Wearing for being an entrepreneur in Bartow since 1939 during the 7th Annual Youth / Parent Summit Saturday.



Ken Riley said he is trying to help make Bartow a better place to live.



Jayvon Osborne learns archery from retired 4H officer Bill Hill during the lunch break.



Sebastian Molina, 6, of Bartow volunteered to help during a school board skit but ended up putting on a dance show of his own.



Attendees packed the air conditioned gym Saturday afternoon.



# BARTOW NEWS

## Frost Van den Boom, Sutton Law Firm, merge

By STEVE STEINER

SSTEINER@SCMGINC.COM

BARTOW — After nearly two years of careful planning and negotiations, two of Polk County's oldest law firms, Frost Van den Boom, and The Sutton Law Firm, merged, effective April 3.

Two of Polk County's long-standing firms join forces to form "Frost Van den Boom & Sutton, P.A." Collectively the attorneys of the new firm will offer more than 150 years of legal experience. The Frost Van den Boom firm, formed in 1981, is a statewide firm concentrating in personal injury, medical malpractice, wrongful death and civil/business litigation. The Sutton Law Firm, formed in 1990 is a boutique firm focused in family, appellate and business law.

Still, this merger was not an overnight decision. Through the years there have been several partners at Frost Van den Boom, so Frost had to make sure this would be a move in the right direction for the firm he started approximately four decades ago.

"I'm very selective," said Frost. However, once the decision was made it was time to move forward. An attorney who is well-acquainted with Frost noted that when he makes up his mind that people need to "stand back. So, too, is Sutton, the same attorney noted.

"Basically, we were looking to step up our game," said Sutton. "It's why there's a sign in my office. It reads 'Don't make me care,'" she said. Meaning, if it is difficult, you just work harder to find the solution. Yet, Sutton was not going to merge with just any other firm. It had to be one of high caliber and of a mutual culture. It had to share the same values she embodied and set throughout the years. Sutton also hoped for a firm committed to civically engaged, providing support of community programs. Frost, she said, embodied the same level of commitment, individually and through

the firm of Frost Van den Boom.

She gave an example, using Frost's campaign for and his win of the presidency of the Florida Bar. He overcame serious odds as most times the lawyer elected comes from south Florida.

"John brought a lot of attention to Polk County when he ran for and won the position of president of the Florida Bar," she said. He challenged the Bar to recognize the various size firms and specializations in law across the state. Frost quickly initiated the formation of a professionalism commission of the Florida Bar, resulting in a special order by then state Supreme Court Justice Gerald Kogan on the topic.

Sutton then asked and answered her own rhetorical question. "Do you know what his theme was for his year as president? 'I Hope You Dance.'" (The song was popularized by Lee Ann Womack, a crossover country pop song written by Mark Sanders and Tia Sillers that Womack recorded with Sons of the Desert.) It is a song of encouragement to others, holding one's self to a high standard all the while remaining humble.

One of those standards each firm individually embraced was (and is) that Frost Van den Boom does not advertise, instead allowing its work to speak for itself. Sutton shares this philosophy and has not joined the ranks of legal professionals advertising.

All three attorneys — Frost, Peter Van den Boom, and Sutton — say they are excited.

"This merger will significantly expand the depth, quality and breadth of services we will offer clients, particularly in Polk and Alachua counties," Frost said. He added the merger is a continuation of the Frost Van den Boom's strategic growth plan that includes "high quality expansion in both of our office locations."

"We're very excited because it will expand the type of services offered to our clients," said Van



PHOTO BY STEVE STEINER

Dillon Haakensen, with Lakeland-based Digitech Graphics Group, applies some finishing touches to the plate glass of what was the Frost Van den Boom law firm and now is Frost Van den Boom & Sutton, P.A.

den Boom.

"Mr. Frost's recognized expertise in areas of practice such as medical malpractice, wrongful death and personal injury law, and Mr. Van den Boom's expertise in business law litigation will significantly complement Sutton Law Firm's existing capacity in business and family law," said Sutton. "With an increase in staff and expertise, the expanded Frost Van den Boom & Sutton, P.A. will be better able to service existing and new clients in a comprehensive and truly expert way."

### About Frost, Van den Boom & Sutton, P.A.

The new firm — which now brings together eight lawyers, along with legal support staff — will be headed by its founder, John W. Frost, II, who is Board Certified in the area of Civil Trial and in Business Litigation. He is one of the top trial attorneys in Florida, consistently recognized as one of the state's Super Lawyers; is a former president of the Florida Bar; and has represented individual and business clients throughout the state.

Peter W. Van den Boom is Board Certified in Civil Trial Litigation and much of his expertise is in Product Liability, Medical Malpractice and

Wrongful Death. Debra J. Sutton is Board Certified in Marital and Family Law, as well as Appellate practice. She is one

of the founders of the Willson American Inn of Court and has served on many Florida Bar committees, including those for her areas of certification.

Available to clients are four areas of Board Certification: Appellate, Business Litigation, Civil Trial Law, Marital and Family Law, plus a lawyer with an LL.M. (Master of Laws) in Taxation. Board Certification is The Florida Bar's highest level of evaluation of the competency and experience of attorneys in the 26 areas of law approved for Certification by the Supreme Court of Florida. A Master of Laws in Taxation is an internationally recognized postgraduate law degree.

Frost Van den Boom & Sutton is located at the Mary Stewart McLeod House, 395 S. Central Ave, Bartow. Phone: 863-533-0314. Online: www.fvslaw.com.

(Some of this provided by Frost Van Den Boom & Sutton, P.A.)

**Sandy Ridge Farm** – 4 Temporary workers needed in Senatobia, MS from approximately May 13, 2017 – December 20, 2017. 3 months experience needed for hand cutting slips and use of mechanical transplanter and mechanical diggers- must be 18 years or older. Workers will perform assigned duties as instructed by their supervisor. Duties may vary from time to time. Clearing ground of rocks, sticks & roots by hand, clear brush and trees with chain saw. General field & fence maintenance. Use wood to build and repair boxes for digger. Manually weeding fields by hand or using hand tools. Work in packing house. Weigh and stack filled boxes to prepare for shipment. Wrap and move pallets using electric pallet jacks. Participate in irrigation activities. Drain water from fields with hand tools and shovel when needed. Haul hay and feed cattle. Set up, operate and repair irrigation systems. Load & unload boxes on trucks trailers or sweet potato harvesters. (All tools and supplies will be provided at no cost to workers) Must be able to work with minimum supervision. Workers may be asked to operate farm equipment, drive skid-steers or forklifts, tractors (in the field) using implements including a: hipper, disk, du-all, chisel plow, transplanter, bushhog, gravity-flow buggy, potato digger, water trailer for plant irrigation), and any other equipment related to the planting, cultivation and harvesting of crops.\*\* Sweet Potatoes - Covering potatoes with use of bedding machine & covering with plastic. Cut slips by hand with knife, place in boxes to load & unload onto trucks also plant cutting machine. Walk behind potato transplanter and fill in slips by hand. Riding mechanical transplanter and loading slips in planting cups Divining plants by hand. Use of mechanical digging equipment to dig potatoes. May also harvest potatoes by hand with use of buckets. Must be able to sort, grade & pack potatoes by size quality or type. Three months of verifiable experience needed for hand cutting slips and use of mechanical transplanter & mechanical diggers. General Specifications and Physical Requirements of the Job: The majority of the workday is spent on one's feet and outdoors. Workers must be able to climb, stand, sit, stoop, squat, kneel, crouch, bend (from the waist), push, pull, reach and lift. Work is performed in outdoor agricultural fields. Worker must be able to withstand working in the direct sunlight and weather conditions ranging from hot and humid weather, moderate rain and cold while performing their required job duties. Workers should expect periods of little/no work. Hours and days of work may vary due to weather conditions. Proper work attire is required. Due to possible Date of Need changes, worker is required to purchase travel insurance if available. We will reimburse the worker for transportation cost (including travel insurance) and subsistence to the employers' work site from the place of recruitment upon completion of 50 percent of the contract period. Transportation payment will be no less (and is not required to be more) than the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges for the distances involved. A copy of the work contract or a copy of the ETA 790 in lieu of a work contract, and any modifications, will be provided to the worker on the day the work commences. If the employee is unable or unfit to perform the duties listed after the 14 day pretrial, the employee will receive warnings, hours may be reduced to the minimum allowed in the certified petition or terminated. Workers will be paid \$10.38 per hr, three fourths guarantee, 35 hrs per week, housing, equipment and transportation provided at no cost to workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of each work day. We participate in the E-Verify program and workers must have valid identification for I-9 preparation when they report to begin work. Complete job description can be found at your local SWA/Job Center. **Apply for this job at the State Workforce/Job Center office in your area, please call for the nearest office in your area MS 662-842-2175, AL 256-259-1835, LA 318-676-7705, FL 863-385-3672, using job order MS206900.**

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# BARTOW NEWS

## The doctor is coming to the annual lunch



**Paul Wartenberg**  
Bartow Public Library

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

Hello again. Last month we celebrated our 120th birthday, much in thanks to our Friends of the Library group that has supported us all those years. Our Friends will host their Annual Luncheon this month, on Saturday April 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with our guest speaker, author/professor Dr. Canter Brown. Seats are limited, and tickets are \$5 per person that you need to purchase in advance at our Information desk.

We need to let the community know that the Bartow Library will close for the holidays on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15. We hope everyone enjoys a safe and pleasant weekend.

Our Story Time and Book Babies reading programs continue this week and run for eight weeks through May 12.

Story Time for 3-5 year olds takes place from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, April 12 and Book Babies for children 18 months-2 years takes place from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday April 13.

Our Computer Basics class on Week Three goes into "Introduction to the Internet" focusing on how it works, the difference between a Browser and a Search Engine, and the key areas that most people use when they surf the web. The class will be from

3-5 p.m. Tuesday April 18. Seating is limited so please call our library about the class.

The Quilting For a Cause program continues, working to create quilts to donate to those in need. You can visit here every Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and spend time working on a quilt. Any donations of supplies – sewing needles, pins, scissors, seam rippers – are welcomed.

We still have our Chair Yoga classes at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, and we will continue our Adult Coloring Sheet program every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for your lunch break enjoyment. Please ask us about these programs at our service desk.

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

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

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<p><b>Independent Baptist</b></p> <p><b>New Life BAPTIST CHURCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday School 10 am</li> <li>• Morning Worship 11 am</li> <li>• Sunday Evening 6 pm</li> <li>• Wed Evening 7 pm</li> </ul> <p><b>Pastor Maurice Thompson</b> 807 West Memorial Blvd. Lakeland 863.229.6337 "ALL WELCOME"</p>	<p><b>Christian Home Freewill Baptist Church</b></p> <p><b>CHRISTIAN HOME</b></p> <p>1125 US HWY 17 South Bartow, FL 33830</p> <p>KJV Fundamental Premillennial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Gospel Music Only</li> <li>• Sunday School 10:00 am</li> <li>• Sunday Morning 11:00 am</li> <li>• Sunday Night 6:00 pm</li> <li>• Wednesday Night 7:00 pm</li> </ul> <p>863-533-4734</p>	<p><b>BAPTIST</b></p> <p><b>LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH</b></p> <p>Independent Baptist 307 ABC Rd, Lake Wales (3 miles S of SR 60 on US 27)</p> <p><b>David Williams, Pastor</b> <i>Old-Fashioned Preaching &amp; Hymns-KJV Bible</i></p> <p>Sunday School, 9:30am Sunday Morning, 10:30am Sunday Night, 6:00pm Wednesday Night, 7:00pm</p> <p>638-2040</p>
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# CHURCH EVENTS

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# School district honors those who will make it

## About Face awards salutes students who turned it around

By **JAMES COULTER**  
CORRESPONDENT

**BARTOW** – When Deric Feacher was a young man, he was told by his teachers that he wouldn't make it through school.

Not only has he since graduated high school, but also graduated college, and served several prominent positions within the county, including his current position as the assistant city manager of Haines City.

He also tours the country and even the world as a motivational speaker, sharing his experiences with students in more than 30 states and seven countries.

During his speaking tours, he tells students that many famous people such as Thomas Edison, Oprah Winfrey, Walt Disney, and Steven Spielberg were once told that they would not succeed, only to prove their detractors wrong by making history.

The secret to his own success has been to stop making excuses for himself. For him, success only comes to those who strive for it daily.

“When someone tells you (that you) cannot make it, you look them in the face and say there are no excuses, (because) you do not have time for excuses,” Feacher said.

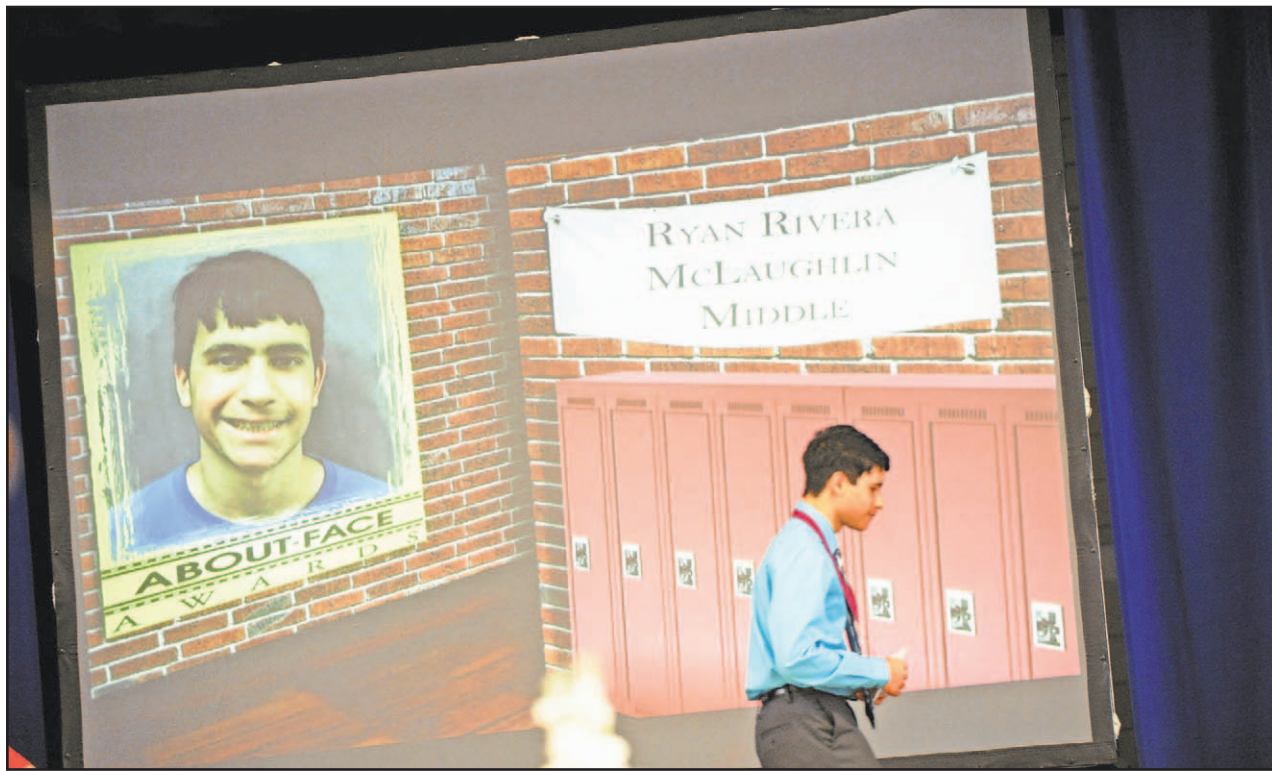
Feacher spoke to nearly 50 middle and high school students last week, who, like him, were also told they would not succeed, but were now being honored for making an “about face” in their education during an awards ceremony last Tuesday morning.

The 23rd Annual About-Face Awards conferred medals to 48 students from local middle and high schools during its ceremony at the Bartow Civic Center last Tuesday.

The annual event honors students who had previously been struggling in their academic careers and personal lives, but had since made more than exceptional improvements.

Such students include Danielys Garcia Santiago from Bartow Senior High, who had passed all her testing requirements, and currently works two jobs and attends dual enrollment, all despite her home life previously affecting her ability to stay focused in school.

Other students improved through their improved attitudes, such as with Nicole Rivera from Blake Academy, who had now become a role model student for other students, despite her previous poor attendance and attitude almost forcing her to fail



PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. BAKER III

**Ryan Rivera of McLaughlin Middle and Fine Arts Academy in Lake Wales struts off stage April 4 at the 2017 Polk County Schools About Face Awards in Bartow.**

both sixth and seventh grade.

Aside from receiving their medals, attendees were also served breakfast, entertained with brief performances by the Rochelle School of the Arts, and motivated further with guest speakers at the Bartow Civic Center.

Aside from Feacher also speaking that morning was Doug Driggers, Tampa Electric Company's Regional Manager;



**Winter Haven High School senior Breairra Foster is determined to go to college over the summer at Florida A&M. Foster has been making straight A's of late.**

Susan Copeland, Polk Education Foundation Executive Director; and Dr. Martha Santiago, Polk State College Winter Haven Campus Provost.

As a former public school teacher and principal, Santiago understands the need for educational success on all levels of schooling,

and thus appreciates what the students that morning had accomplished.

“In spite of many challenges, you have redefined the course of your life, and you made the choice to change,” she said.

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent for Polk

County Public Schools, closed the ceremony encouraging students to continue down their paths of success.

“There will be roadblocks along the way, but I know that each of you have the ability to overcome them and to accomplish all of your goals,” she said.

### 2017 ABOUT FACE HONOREES

- Gustavo Santana, Auburndale High
- Danielys Garcia Santiago, Bartow High
- Josias Ramirez, Bartow Middle
- Theodore Rogers, Compass Middle Charter
- Abigail Scott, Crystal Lake Middle
- Karla Garduno Arroyo, Daniel Jenkins Academy
- Jelani Johnson, Denison Middle
- Sadie Moore, Donald E. Woods Opportunity Center
- Colby Dixon, Dundee Ridge Middle Academy
- Fort Meade Middle/Senior, Adam Mincey (middle school division), Amando Venegas (high school division)
- Frostproof Middle/Senior, Layla Travis (middle school division), Eli Balleza (high school division)
- Gause Academy, Christopher Anderson (middle school division), Jarvis Williams (high school division)
- Jayden Santiago, George Jenkins High
- Carmeisha Worth, Haines City High
- Huy Pham, Jewett Middle Academy
- Emmanuel Tolentino, Karen M. Siegel Academy
- Robert Lewis Jr., Kathleen High
- Carlisle A. Johnson, Kathleen Middle
- Gerardo Nunez, Lake Alfred-Addair Middle
- Megan Howard, Lake Gibson High
- Tyrese Smith, Lake Gibson Middle
- Sarai Delgado, Lake Marion Creek Middle
- Marquise Dorcent, Lake Region High
- Te'Keisha Light, Lakeland High
- Bianca Johnson, Lakeland Highlands Middle
- Joshua Jeremy Veloso, Lawton Chiles Middle Academy
- Ryan Rivera, McLaughlin Middle
- Da'Von Lamar Barr, Mulberry High
- Jaheim Ward, Mulberry Middle
- Quashebris Washington, Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College High
- D'Eonta Bugg, Ridge Community High
- Charles Johnson, Ridge Technical College
- Jairus Tamar Randall, Rochelle School of the Arts
- Tiara Hempstead, Roosevelt Academy
- Kaleb Einzig, Sleepy Hill Middle
- Tye Harriell, Southwest Middle
- Lyn Castillo, Summerlin Academy
- Sauvelson Clercius, Tenoroc High
- Cherri Scott, Triviss Technical College
- Robert Maxwell, Union Academy
- Robin Rent, West Area Adult
- Janaria Johnson, Westwood Middle
- Breairra Foster, Winter Haven High



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# BARTOW NEWS

## Taste of Bartow draws respectable turnout

By STEVE STEINER

SSTEINER@SCMGINC.COM

BARTOW — Turnout was good for the annual Taste of Bartow, held this year on March 30 at the Allen Cattle Ranch in Fort Meade. Those who came enjoyed a fun-filled night of music, door prizes and, of course, delicious local food and drink.

For \$25, it included unlimited samples of food prepared by local chefs and restaurants in and around downtown Bartow, plus beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages. Musical



This year's Taste of Bartow was well attended and at one point practically every table was occupied.

entertainment was provided by local musician Justin Grimes.

All of the proceeds

went directly to the George W. Harris, Jr. Runaway and Youth Crisis Shelter in Bartow.



Musical entertainment at the Taste of Bartow fundraiser was furnished by Justin Grimes.



PHOTOS BY STEVE STEINER

There's plenty o' food to be had at this year's Taste of Bartow fundraiser. Several restaurants in and around downtown Bartow catered the event.



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# POLK COUNTY SPORTS

## Giles, McGrady make Halls of Fame

By CHARLES A. BAKER III  
CORRESPONDENT

AUBURNDALE – Two athletic stars raised in Polk County were recently honored in Hall of Fame ceremonies.

Former Lady Blue Devils basketball star Joslyn Giles was inducted into the Rollins College Athletic Department Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2017 March 30 in Winter Park.

Giles, the daughter of former Polk State College basketball coach Josh Giles, played basketball at Rollins College for three years. In 2006 she was named Sunshine State Conference Player of the Year, First Team All-South Region and Honorable Mention Kodak All-America. Giles led Rollins to what is still the only undefeated regular season in SSC men's and women's basketball history. Giles ranks 19th in all time scoring at Rollins College with 1,084 points, 14th in rebounds, seventh in

blocks and seventh in average minutes per game.

Giles is currently working as a guidance counselor at Auburndale High School and was formerly a basketball coach at All Saints Academy.

Bartow born, three-year student at Auburndale High School, and two-time NBA scoring champion Tracy McGrady learned he was among those elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame April 1.

T-Mac went straight to the NBA from high school and initially played with his third cousin Vince Carter on the Toronto Raptors. McGrady went on to play for the Orlando Magic and Houston Rockets before he retired in 2013. McGrady was a seven-time NBA All Star and won the scoring championship in 2003 and 2004. T-Mac is now an analyst on ESPN.



AP PHOTO

Former Orlando Magic player Tracy McGrady waves to fans after he was acknowledged during a timeout in the first half of an NBA basketball game between the Orlando Magic last year.

## Derby day coming to Lakeland

WINTER HAVEN – Why travel all the way to Churchill Downs, Kentucky or stay at home to watch the Kentucky Derby on TV on Saturday, May 6 when the famous horse race and many of the popular traditions and pageantry associated with it can be enjoyed in Lakeland.

Thanks to a Kentucky Derby Day fundraiser sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central Florida, everyone can watch and get involved in the 2017 running of the Kentucky Derby in real time on a giant screen at the Rocking H. Ranch at 2200 Ewell Road in Lakeland.

The festivities begin at 4 p.m. with hat contests for ladies and gentlemen, silent and live auctions and preliminary horse races leading up to the Kentucky Derby at 6 p.m. Mint juleps will be served throughout the event and a lavish sit down dinner funded in part by generous corporate sponsors will follow the big race.

Kentucky Derby Day will be moderated by popular TV personality Ken Suarez of Channel 13 FOX News in Tampa and well known Lakeland auctioneer Marty Higginbotham will handle the live auctions. Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd

and Orlando Channel 13 TV news anchor Ybeth Bruzual will be among the hat contest judges.

Individuals can partake in all the activities for a donation of \$75, while corporate sponsors can become involved on many levels of giving. All proceeds are earmarked for Catholic Charities initiatives directly benefiting underprivileged people and seniors in Polk County, including the Agape Food Bank, the Lakeland Activities Center for Seniors, SmilePak for underprivileged school children and the Family Stability program.

"The funds raised by Kentucky Derby Day are vital to sustain our programs and meet the growing needs in the Polk County community," said Renee Baker, special events coordinator of Catholic Charities of Central Florida, in inviting individuals and business entities to support this program.

"We guarantee that all funds raised through this event will remain in Polk County," she stressed.

In addition to attending the event or signing up as an official sponsor, Baker said people also can get involved by donating auction items, making a cash donation or serving

as a volunteer.

"There are many ways to help this worthy cause," she said.

Levels of corporate sponsorship are \$15,000 Winner's Circle, includes a table for 10 guests, recognition on the Kentucky Derby Day Website, a full page ad in the program and other perks; \$10,000 Triple Crown, includes priority seating for eight guests, a half page ad in the program and other recognition; \$5,000 Best in Show, includes preferred seating for eight and special recognition; \$1,000 Thoroughbreds, includes guaranteed seating for eight and special recognition, and \$500 Patron, includes two tickets and mention in the program.

For information on Kentucky Derby Day, including details on benefits offered to corporate sponsors and profiles on the Catholic Charities programs offered in Polk County that will directly benefit from this fundraiser, call Renee Baker at 407-451-5315 or send her an e-mail at rbaker@cflcc.org. Information on tickets, volunteer opportunities and corporate sponsorships is available on the Catholic Charities web site at www.cflcc.org/derby.

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Phoebe O'Neill thanks Lynn Oakley, of Winter Haven for her generosity in sponsoring the Outback Oasis venue for the benefit to raise funds to continue the after-school healthy eating program at the PEP Community Center in Winter Haven that O'Neill started last year.

## STUDENTS

FROM PAGE 1

On Thursday, more than 100 donors who shelled out \$25 a piece, had their chance to taste exactly what the children were receiving for their snacks. But they got to wash theirs down with beer or wine.

They also had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items, all donated by members of the community.

The exact amount

raised was not available, but O'Neill confirmed it was enough to continue the program for another year.

As if that wasn't enough for a high school student to achieve, O'Neill also has taken on working with Polk State College to set up a scholarship fund for students who work as coordinator for the program. She also wants to see the program expanded to include other low-income area schools like Inwood Elementary School and Wahneta Elementary School.

O'Neill graciously

thanked those who attended the soiree Thursday, with special emphasis on some who sponsored the fund-raising event. Among those were the Oakley family, Polk State College, the Blauvelt family, Straughn & Turner, and Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

Anyone interested in making a donation to the Healthy Eating Program or volunteering are asked to contact O'Neill at phoebe.o'neill@allsaintsacademy.com or Audrey Nettlow at audrey@whpep.com.



PHOTO BY CATHY PALMER

These joey were kissing it up for Outback Oasis guests at last week's benefit held to raise funds to continue the Winter Haven PEP Community Center health eating program. But these guys didn't really care as they were busy cuddling ... besides, who knew Winter Haven had permanent residents from down under?

## WINSTON

FROM PAGE 1

was asked if it could take the horse. It did and now Winston is a mascot for the horse rehabilitation center.

All month Hope Equine Rescue is having a project marking Help a Horse Day. On April 2 there was a rock painting event at the Auburndale headquarters.

At 10:30 a.m. and at 3 p.m. Thursday there will be storytime/Easter egg hunt at Auburndale Public Library. Horton, some volunteers, will tell Winston's rescue story, as well as talk about horse care.

On Help a Horse Day, a big celebration is planned at 1200 Dixie Drive.

At 2 p.m. the Polk County Sheriff's Office K-9 demonstration will put on a show. At 3 p.m. Auburndale Mayor Tim Poshpichal will appear. At

3:30 p.m. Berkley Charter Elementary Chorus will perform. At 4 p.m. Teacher of the Year Jessica Solano will host a storytime with Winston and his Herd of Heroes. At 5 p.m. there will be a T-shirt contestant recognition. All day long there will be face painting, a tack sale, bounce houses and there will be raffles. The event will feature barn tours for attendees to learn the stories of the rescued horses, as well as raffles, door prizes and

the Hoggy Style barbecue food truck.

Help a Horse Day, sponsored by the ASPCA, is a national celebration and contest to raise awareness of the plight of horses. Equine rescues and sanctuaries host events to show the work they do and show community members how they can help.

With the help to her business — as there is grant money she can apply to through this for

Hope Equine — the goal is to raise awareness in helping maintain what is needed for a horse. Jokingly, she said Winston eats 22 hours a day and sleeps about 15 minutes a day, but she wants people to know taking care of a horse can be what throws people. She added there are more neglected horses than people realize.

"Upkeep is the hardest cost," Horton said. "It can cost up to \$2,500 a year to maintain a

horse and that's with no emergencies."

So one thing remained by mid-afternoon and that was what was a horse doing at a bar. It could have been there to get Seven Saddles, one of Grove Roots brewed beers, but it probably wasn't that.

"I have a friend who likes this place and they were sitting at the bar talking about horses and they asked if they could do something with us and we said sure," Horton said.



PHOTO BY JEFF ROSLOW

Winston was a hungry Miniature Horse Saturday at Grove Roots Brewery as all he would do is eat grass while others tended to petting him like Rebecca Lytle does as she talks to Sophia Carlino, 3.



## CONSTRUCTION THIS WEEK

U.S. 92 from Walker Road – east of Recker Highway – to Jersey Road drivers should expect nighttime/overnight lane closures, through Friday, April 14. Expect daytime and nighttime/overnight lane closures for signal work and paving. Use caution and be prepared to merge.

... On U.S. 17/92 at County Road 54 South and North of Ronald Reagan Parkway/Kinny Harmon Road in Davenport watch for periodic lane closures and daytime lane shifts,

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for directional drilling and trucks entering and leaving the roadway. Crews are installing a new gas line for Florida Southeast Connection.

... On U.S. 17/92 from Lake Alfred Road to Davis Avenue watch for lane closures in either direction as crews install handrail and fencing, and the City of Lake Alfred plants trees. Improvements under this contract include construction of the Lake Alfred Trail pedestrian bridge connecting the

Chain of Lakes Trail with the Lake Alfred-Polk City Connector Trail, lighting, drainage improvements and signing and pavement markings.

... On U.S. 17/92 at Ernie Caldwell Boulevard in Davenport use caution and watch for workers and equipment close to the road. This project includes adding turn lanes and shoulders on US 17/92 at the extension of Ernie Caldwell Boulevard, approximately two miles south of C.R. 54.

... On U.S. 17 from

Osceola County line to Lake Alfred watch for slow-moving vehicles and intermittent lane closures as crews replace reflective pavement markings. Use caution and be prepared to merge.

... On U.S. 17 from Cypress Gardens Boulevard to East Laurel Drive in Eagle Lake watch for intermittent southbound lane closures as crews repair sidewalks, ADA mats, curb and gutter. Use caution and be prepared to merge.

... On U.S. 17 (6th Street NW) at Avenue D NW in Winter Haven watch for nighttime/overnight lane closures from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. as crews install pedestrian signals and crossing ramps. Use caution and be prepared to merge. Expect periodic sidewalk closures at the intersection and follow posted detours. Work on this project includes upgrading pedestrian signals and constructing crossing ramps and crosswalks at the intersection.

... On U.S. 17 from Van

Fleet Drive to County Road 640 crews are trimming trees over the roads and sidewalks along the rights-of-way. Watch for intermittent lane closures, equipment entering and leaving the highway and be prepared to merge.

... On U.S. 17 from Oak Hammock Park to Polk/Hardee County line watch for slow moving vehicles from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., this week, as crews replace striping and reflective pavement markings on the roadway.



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Side 2 **SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE POWER RANGERS** [PG]

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# HEALTH and WELLNESS



## Rooney: Health care situation a 'debacle' Next move on GOP's health bill up in air

By JONATHAN SCHOLLES

J.SCHOLLES@SUN-HERALD.COM

U.S. Rep. Thomas Rooney, R-Okeechobee, called the failed health care bill, which he supported, a "debacle" and said the GOP party is in a tough spot.

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, pulled the American Health Care Act minutes before the floor vote to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, fearing it didn't have the party support to pass despite ardent support, including personal calls, meetings and tweets, from President Donald Trump.

"This is a debacle," Rooney said. "We've been talking about it for seven years and we finally have the majority, the president was working on the bill and several times we had to change it to please different factions. Then, through those amendments, we lost certain people."

"We're not in a good place as a party ... I don't even know if you can call it a party. A party has discipline."

Before the vote, 150 of the 237 House Republicans indicated they would vote for the proposal, while 45 were still uncertain, according to the New York Times. Another 33 were expected to vote against the measure with nine leaning toward voting against it as well.

With all 193 Democrats expected to vote against the AHCA, the GOP could only lose 23 votes before the bill failed.

A growing divide within the party signaled that may happen.

The right-leaning Freedom Caucus urged Trump to remove from the AHCA the 10 essential health benefits, including hospitalization, emergency room services, prescription drugs and maternity care, as well as ax mandates requiring insurers to cover those with preexisting conditions and allowing young adults to stay on their parents' plan until they are 26 years old.

Other concerns that scuttled the bill was a report by the Congressional Budget Office estimating that, by 2026, 24 million Americans



SUN PHOTO BY MICHELE HASKELL

**U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Okeechobee, fields questions from an emotional crowd in Englewood recently.**

would lose health care coverage under this plan.

Neither Rooney nor Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, have voiced their opinion on social media after the failed repeal.

Sen. Bill Nelson, a Democrat, tweeted his support for the ACA on March 13, indicating if the new health care bill made it to the Senate he would not approve it.

"It is wrong to take away health insurance for 24 million people, as well as increase the cost to seniors," Nelson said.

The AHCA, as proposed, would have increased health care costs for those in their 50s and early 60s, increasing what insurers are allowed to charge older Americans by five times but only doubling subsidies. Medicare was expected to be rolled back in 2020, if not earlier.

In the days leading to the vote, Rooney said he started getting "nervous." During a town hall meeting in March, Rooney told about 700 constituents he would fight for popular Obamacare features, including requiring insurance for covering people with pre-existing conditions and allowing those 26 and under to stay on their parents' plan.

The Freedom Caucus, on the other hand, wanted all of that and more stripped from the bill.

"That was scaring me, but there is no way that would have passed the Senate," Rooney said.

Trump was criticized for his failure to convince

House Republicans to vote for the proposed health care bill and repeal Obamacare, one of his signature campaign promises.

Rooney said the bill's failure was not Trump's fault.

"He did everything he possibly could do to get the job done," said Rooney, who represents nine southwest Florida counties including part of Polk, adding he supports Trump's tweets calling out the caucus.

Trump on Saturday tweeted, "Democrats are smiling in D.C. that the Freedom Caucus, with the help of Club For Growth and Heritage, have saved Planned Parenthood & Ocare!"

"I'm glad someone is calling them out by name," Rooney said of Freedom Caucus.

After the vote was aborted, Ryan said, "Obamacare is the law of the land" for the foreseeable future. Rooney said that timetable is at least five years.

Rooney, echoing Trump's sentiments, said the Democrats' "name is on the bill (ACA) and in the foreseeable future it will collapse."

Asked if Ryan approached senior House Democrats, seeking their vision for the AHCA, Rooney said he's "not sure how much Ryan tried to include the Democrats." Although, he added, the GOP received "no indication they wanted to change



AP PHOTO/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

**House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., announces on March 24 he is pulling the Republican health care overhaul bill off the House floor.**

### Poll: Trump hurt by health vote

Most Americans disapprove of President Donald Trump's handling of health care in the wake of the failed Republican bill to replace the health overhaul known as the Affordable Care Act, according to an AP-NORC Center poll.

Q: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling health care?

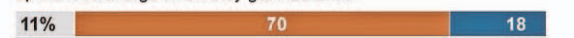


Percentage who favor or oppose each of the following elements of the replacement health care laws:

Allowing insurers to charge older customers higher premiums based on age than what is currently permitted



Requiring people who did not previously have coverage to pay an up-front surcharge when they get insurance



Replacing income-based subsidies with age-based subsidies for people buying insurance



Reducing federal funding for the Medicaid program that covers health care for lower income people



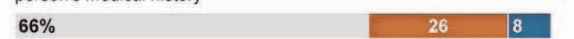
Denying federal funds to Planned Parenthood



Removing the requirement that nearly all Americans have health insurance or pay a fine



Prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history



Allowing young adults to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26



NOTE: Results based on interviews with 1,110 U.S. adults conducted March 23-27. Margin of error is ±4.0 percentage points.

SOURCE: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

AP

Obamacare."

Six of Rooney's nine counties — Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades and Lee — have just one health care provider to choose from with the ACA. Charlotte and Sarasota counties have two providers and Polk three. And, Florida's Obamacare premiums are expected to rise an average of 19 percent this year, according to an analysis released by the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation. Rooney voted to repeal Obamacare more than 60 times over the last seven years.

"It has major flaws that we'll address in emergency situations. And that's no way to govern people. The government is not working for people," said Rooney, adding the health care bill will likely undergo "little" fixes along the way, but not a full-scale repeal and replace.

Cutting through the thick layer of partisanship, Rooney said Republicans and Democrats will have to work together to concoct a health care bill that works for all.

"Even Obama said he wished he had some GOP buy-in," said Rooney, pointing to the roll-out of the ACA in 2010. "To have a better chance at becoming the law of the land, you have to have buy-in from both parties."

After blaming both conservatives and liberals for its failure, Trump reached out to key Democrats to discuss health care.

He then tweeted, "ObamaCare will explode and we will all get together and piece together a great healthcare plan for THE PEOPLE. Do not worry!"

Jonathoan Scholles is a staff writer for the Charlotte Sun-Herald.



HEALTH and WELLNESS

# Heart of Florida opens surgery center

By STEVE STEINER

SSTEINER@SCMGINC.COM

DAVENPORT — Without question, the mood at the ribbon cutting of April 4 at the Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center Surgery Center in Davenport was one of jubilation. In less than one year, from the groundbreaking in August 2016, work has been completed, a point the CEO of HOF, Ann Barnhart commented upon.

"As I've said in the past and I say again, 'Here we grow again,'" Barnhart, Heart of Florida's CEO, said in her opening remarks. She then emphasized what is the medical center's standard

operating procedures as it concerns construction. "We do everything on time, sometimes sooner, and under budget."

Moments earlier she had reminisced about the groundbreaking. At the time the walls of the surgery center were up, but little else. What made the groundbreaking prominent she told those present, was it came at a time when a hurricane threatened.

The decision, she continued, was made in part because of changes in surgery practices and that the surgery center fills a niche.

"Things are being moved to outpatient," she said. "We needed this in the Haines City area.

It's a safe place to have surgery. We have great, great surgeons."

Unstinting praise flowed from Terry Bohlke, vice president of Ambulatory Surgery Center for Community Health Systems, the parent corporation of Heart of Florida.

"This is one of the most beautiful surgery centers I've seen," Bohlke said, adding in his capacity he visits and tours surgery centers throughout the U.S. "This is a center of high quality and cost effectiveness for this county." Bohlke extended praise to Barnhart. He complimented her on her vision as well as her ability to get things accomplished.

"She made it happen."

## About the surgery center

The Heart of Florida Surgery Center, 410 Lionel Way, Davenport (off U.S. 27), is a multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center. It offers nine areas of surgical specialties:

- Breast surgery
- Ear, nose and throat
- Gastroenterology
- General surgery
- Orthopedics
- Interventional Spine and Pain
- Podiatry
- Spine
- Urology

The 13,000 square foot facility includes three operating rooms; two



PHOTO BY STEVE STEINER

Smiles and laughs are enjoyed just before Dr. Seth Kaufman prepares to cut the ribbon at the Heart of Florida Surgery Center. Could those pictured been laughing over whether the scissors were sterilized prior to "surgery?" At far right is Ann Barnhart, the CEO of Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center, a partner in the surgery center.

procedural rooms; 19 pre-op/PACU bays; and one private/pediatric room. In the near future it will include a pediatrics waiting area.

# Nothing tastes as good as slim feels



Steve Steiner

First Person

Steven Steiner can be contacted at ssteiner@scmginc.com.

That's one of many inspirational quotes on the walls at Ultimate Fitness. Believe me, that quote (and one other: "If it's important to you, you will find a way. If not, you will find an excuse.") motivates me more than the others.

Well, one week to go and what can I say? As of this past Saturday I am two pounds away from my goal as the Ultimate Fitness Weight Loss Challenge draws to a close. I clocked in at 167 pounds. My stated goal at the start was to reduce my weight from 188.5 pounds to 165 pounds. No pun intended, but I can just about taste it.

So, what am I doing in order to succeed? Well, I have taped sheets of paper with the number "165" written and have posted them around the house. There is one on my bathroom mirror. One on the dresser mirror (in both bedrooms). One on the door to the kitchen. One on the refrigerator. Several on the mirrors in the room in which I practice ballroom. I probably will post one on the steering wheel of my car, as well as somewhere on my desk at work where I can constantly see it.

So now where to from here? My attitude is that life is a journey and may

my destination never be reached. To me that means setting new goals and these past several weeks Greg Buck, my trainer at Ultimate Fitness, have briefly discussed what those goals shall be.

I know what I want and that is to have a sculpted build. I want that "chiseled" look so that by this time next year, when I will be several months away from my 67th birthday, I will be one "hot bod" grandpa! Hmm.

I also want to give up a bit more weight and reach 145-150 pounds; according to several charts I have found on the Internet, the range for my age and gender is between 118-154 pounds, so I don't believe I'm being extreme or impractical aiming for the higher end of the scale; shoot, I was only 120 pounds when I graduated high school in 1969 and I "ain't no teenager no more!" Also, according to the charts,

I have gone from obese to overweight, so that next goal is to reach that proper weight.

OK, so while visually in the eyes of many I may not appear to be fat — and maybe I'm actually

not fat — again, the truth is, and I cannot state it enough, I am overweight.

So Greg and I have briefly discussed the next stage and that will include adding additional exercises to the routine

already in place, such as adding free weights to the resistance machines. From there, if I correctly understand, I will be making a migration to exercising different groups on different days.

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**HEALTH and WELLNESS**

# Community Champion awards to 5 Polk communities

The Florida Department of Health in Polk County invites the public in recognizing the cities of Bartow, Lakeland, Mulberry, Winter Haven and Polk County as Healthy Weight Community Champions.

On Tuesday, April 4, Dr. Joy Jackson, director of the Florida Department of Health in Polk County, presented those communities with the Healthy Weight Community Champion Recognition at a Board of County Commission meeting.

“These communities are being recognized for submitting best practices that have increased physical activity or improved nutrition in their communities, said Jackson. “Florida’s county and municipal governments play an important role in decreasing the prevalence of unhealthy weight in our communities.”

Some of the best practices that have been put in place include organization of community physical activities such as Zumba, Yoga, and other group fitness classes, creation of bike trails and sidewalk networks to encourage easier transportation throughout cities,

promotion of local farmers markets, instillation of community co-op gardens to provide healthy foods for residents

Obesity rates in the United States have dramatically increased over the last 30 years, and obesity is now an epidemic in the United States. In the state of Florida, only 36 percent of adults are at a healthy weight; however, in Polk County approximately 28 percent of adults are at a healthy weight.

This means that about 72 percent of Polk’s population is at an unhealthy weight.

### Free skin cancer screenings offered

In observance of Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month, the Watson Clinic Foundation has planned free skin evaluations with a team of experienced dermatology providers.

“Thorough skin screenings are essential in detecting possible cancers at their earliest stages when they are most curable,” said Watson Clinic Foundation

Program Coordinator Peggy Garrett. “That’s why we’re committed to raising awareness on the importance of routine skin examinations, and to offering this series of free exams to community members who have not yet established their own dermatologist.”

Dermatology specialists Dr. Linwood D. Bond Jr., Dr. Luke M. Miller and Jason Kumlien, PA-C will provide free skin screenings from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 13 at the Watson Clinic South location at 1033 N Parkway Frontage Drive in Lakeland.

The Watson Clinic Dermatology at Sun City Center facility, which is at 924A Cypress Village Blvd. in Ruskin, will offer free exams from 8 a.m. - noon Friday, May 5 and Friday, May 12 by Michelle Gordon, ARNP-C, an expert skin care specialist who wfforks alongside board-certified dermatologist Dr. Ronald J. Patrick.

Appointments are required to take part in the screenings hosted at the Watson Clinic South location, but the Sun City Center event is being offered on a first-come,

first-served basis. Call 863-802-6220.

### Cornerstone class trains ministers

Faith can play a critical role when a person is facing a crisis. Having someone to minister spiritual guidance can provide tremendous comfort.

Cornerstone Hospice and Palliative Care is offering ministers of all faiths – pastors, priests, rabbis, imams and others – a Clinical Pastoral Education course that trains participants to lead supervised encounters with people in crisis.

Led by Cornerstone Hospice and Palliative Care’s Spiritual Care Program Manager, the 20-week program offers one unit of study which involves 300 clinical hours and 100 hours of group and individual training. Cornerstone Hospice requires three units to be certified to minister to its patients and their families.

“Each unit is comprised of three components taken from The Standards of the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy,” said Rich Behers, DMin,

BCC, CFHPC. “The topics cover Pastoral Formation, Pastoral Competence and Pastoral Reflection.”

The CPE course is scheduled 1-5 p.m. on Mondays, beginning April 24 at Cornerstone Hospice, 2590 Havendale Boulevard NW, in Winter Haven. It costs \$500. For information and to register, email Rbehers@cshospice.org.

### Rickard named employee of the month

Pat Rickard, registered nurse in the Cardiac Cath Lab, was named Employee of the Month for February at Lake Wales Medical Center.



PAT RICKARD

Rickard, who has worked at the hospital since 2012, and was recognized for always going above and beyond to provide great care for patients and to support other hospital staff. One former patient wrote that Rickard went the extra mile to make sure they

felt calm and safe before their procedure, and was very compassionate. Coworkers note that she always puts patients first, and makes them feel like family.

### Watson Clinic recently added three people to its staff

Emily Beriswill, ARNP-C works for Internal Medicine specialist Dr. Guillermo O. Vasquez from the Watson Clinic South location at 1033 N. Parkway Frontage Road in Lakeland. Her areas of expertise include Adult/ Gerontology Primary Care.

William D. Keeler, ARNP-C collaborates with Family Medicine physicians Drs. Rony Alvarado, Jeremy Katzmann and Jason Saylor from the Watson Clinic Highlands location at 2300 E. County Road 540A in south Lakeland.

Helen Schuh, DNP, ARNP-C provides expert care from the Radiology department at Watson Clinic’s Main location at 1600 Lakeland Hills Blvd. in Lakeland.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**Freelancers Haven Magazine and the Winter Haven Sun**  
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**Our Culture & Philosophies**

- Positive energy and attitude is a must
- Goal oriented and focused
- Open-door
- Ambitious
- Creative & innovative
- Supportive
- Obsessed with meeting our customers needs
- Strong track record of promoting from within
- Use your personality and uniqueness
- Work hard but enjoy your work and your success
- It's okay to laugh on the job

These are work from home/freelance positions and prefer candidates based in Polk County. Our offices are located in downtown Winter Haven. If you are inquisitive, have a positive attitude, and have been previously published, we would like to speak with you.

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csexson@scmginc.com and jroslow@scmginc.com

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**EMPLOYMENT**

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In this position you work closely with the publisher and ad director in executing and implementing annual and monthly events for our brands. This involves coordinating event logistics, branding opportunities, and details regarding vendor agreements and partner relationships. You will recruit, manage, and organize a group of marketing interns and establish a street team. This position will also be responsible for managing all media and press release needs surrounding SCMG events. The perfect candidate will have event and marketing experience, have excellent communication skills, be very well-organized, and have a great sense of humor.

Sun Central Media Group is part of the family owned media company Sun Coast Media Group who also owns media brands in Port Charlotte, Venice, Sebring, Englewood, and Charlotte. To apply, please send resume and cover letter to:  
**Chris Sexson**  
csexson@scmginc.com

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- Open-door
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- Strong track record of promoting from within
- Use your personality and uniqueness!
- Work hard but enjoy your work and your success!
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# SCHOOL NEWS

## More school choice options set for next year

Students throughout Florida will have more enrollment options available to them in the 2017-2018 school year when a new state law takes effect.

Last year, the Florida legislature passed a new statute that allows students to request a transfer to another school besides their zoned school, including transfers to public schools in surrounding counties. Parents seeking additional choice options for their students can apply for placement for their children in any school in the state that has not reached capacity and still has seats available.

The goal is to "... promote and encourage parental involvement and ensure students have access to a school that meets their needs," according to the Florida Department of Education web site.

To accomplish this, Florida lawmakers directed each school district to create "controlled open enrollment" plans. For families seeking such transfers to schools within the Polk County School District, an application process has been developed. To view a list of schools with available seating or to learn how to submit an application, please visit <http://www.polk-fl.net/parents/transfer/default.htm> Applications for residents of Polk County will be accepted through Friday, April 28.

Applications for non-residents of Polk County will be accepted beginning Monday, May 1, through Friday, May 26.

Those approved for transfers through the "controlled open enrollment" plan will be notified in writing once the enrollment period ends, according to the school district. Parents are required to take notification letter to the assigned school to obtain a class schedule. For information, contact Polk County Public Schools' Office of Pupil Accounting at 863.519.3925 or visit <http://www.polk-fl.net/parents/transfer/default.htm>

### CAT meetings set April 18

Community Assessment Teams for Auburndale Central Elementary, Crystal Lake Elementary, Inwood Elementary, John Snively Elementary, Laurel Elementary, McLaughlin Middle, Socrum Elementary, and Walter Caldwell Elementary all have meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April



**Christine Roslow**

### Our Schools

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

18 at Tenoroc High, 4905 Saddle Creek Road in Lakeland. After the meeting, principals from those schools will meet with their C.A.T. Members in classrooms.

Community Assessment Teams has parents, educators, local government and business representatives, and community activists to review performance data in schools earning a grade of F or three consecutive grades of D.

### Winter Haven native touring the Midwest

Meredith Locke of Winter Haven, will perform with the Concordia University, Neb., Vocal Jazz Choir on a tour through Missouri, Illinois and Kansas for its performance tour April 6-9, and in two concerts April 9 at Seward Civic Center Auditorium in Nebraska.

Under the direction of Dr. Kurt von Kampen, Concordia University Nebraska's Vocal Jazz Choir, a 13-voice select ensemble which performs standard jazz and pop influenced choral music, will travel to St. Louis, Concordia and Kansas City, Missouri on their April performance tour.

Twice each year, the choir collaborates with Concordia's Jazz Ensemble to perform a winter and spring JazzFest on Concordia's campus. The choir, comprised of mostly music majors, has performed concerts and school assemblies throughout the Midwest including performances at the Nebraska Music Educator's annual conference, the Columbus NCDA Jazz Festival, The Creston, Iowa FoxFest and in the historic Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis, Mo.

Concerts have featured performances of music made famous by the New York Voices, the Real Group, Manhattan Transfer, Take Six and many others.

### Freshman Footsteps

Freshman Footsteps, which is a parent-student orientation for eighth-graders who plan

to go to Bartow High School in the 2017-18 school year, is set at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27 in BHS cafeteria.

Items to be discussed will include review graduation requirements, scheduling for upcoming year, academies, school dress code, discipline and behavior expectations, attendance and important dates

For information call 863-534-7400.

### A way to spend spring break

During their Spring Break, nine Webber students chose to spend some of their vacation time at the Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda Florida State



PHOTO BY TOMMY GRIFFIN

The Bartow Rotary Club was given a \$375 donation from the Mulberry City Commission last week for it donating a few hundred dictionaries to that city's schools. From left is Rotary members Patty Clark and Steve Githens accepting the plaque.

Leadership Conference in Orlando. Esmeralda Fernandez, Logan Stewart, Joyce Caba, Carlos Rocha, Jordan Lively, David Sztokowski, Myusei Hagiwara, Brandon Zayhowski, and Jalen Cayo competed in a variety of topics related to business, from Contemporary Sports Issues to Cyber Security

to Macroeconomics. Webber International University students walked away from the SLC with awards. David Sztokowski, Myusei Hagiwara, and Brandon Zayhowski placed third in Business Decision Making and Jordan Lively placed fourth in Entrepreneurship Concepts.

# Walk-Ins Welcome

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# 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.

## Bartow man arrested attempting sell stolen ATV

On April 6, Polk County Sheriff's deputies arrested 30-year-old William Youngblood of Bartow when he showed up to sell an ATV that was stolen from Alturas, the sheriff's office reported.



YOUNGBLOOD

He was charged with one count grand theft, one count driving with a suspended or revoked license, one count possession of firearm during felony offense, one count use/display of firearm during a felony offense and one count selling stolen property.

Deputies were working a case of a 2004 Camo Yamaha Rhino side by side that was stolen from Clear Springs Mine property on April 2. The owner of the ATV called deputies to let it be known he had been contacted about buying his stolen ATV back. After the deal was set up and Youngblood showed up, deputies made a traffic stop because they knew Youngblood's driver's license was revoked.

Deputies found pictures of the stolen Yamaha on Youngblood's phone and they found a fully loaded 9mm handgun under his truck seat. Youngblood admitted to possession of the handgun and admitted he knew that the ATV was stolen. Then he told deputies where they could find the stolen ATV; deputies recovered

it and returned it to the owner, the sheriff's office reported.

Youngblood told deputies during the interview that he was "screwed" because of the gun he had (being a convicted felon) and that he was setting up the deal because he "was in a bad way and was going to sell the side by side to get money to go to rehab."

Youngblood was booked into the Polk County jail on the aforementioned charges.

Deputies are also looking for William

Kyle Corson, 28, of Bartow who is believed to have been involved in the original theft of the ATV.



CORSON

If anyone knows about his whereabouts should call the sheriff's office at 863-298-6200. Or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward call Heartland Crime Stoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS (8477), or visit [www.heartlandcrimestoppers.com](http://www.heartlandcrimestoppers.com).

### Winter Haven college student arrested for written threats

Polk County Sheriff's Office detectives arrested 19-year-old Polk State



TUCK

probation/community control-adult x2

Summer Ladawn Meeks, 22, 227 D St, Lake Wales, Battery touch or strike

Joshua Smith, 26, 1518 Scenic Hwy N, Lake Wales, Grand theft (\$300<\$5,000), unarmed burglary-unoccupied dwelling x2, contribute to delinquency/dependency of mini, dealing in stolen prop, petit theft 1st degree \$100-\$300, Felony petit theft 3rd/subseq off, false owner info pawned items <\$300

Harvey Mickle Barnes, 50, 840 Center St, Lake Wales, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams, fail to carry motor veh liability ins

Oliva Evangeline Christine Dijamco, 26, 24209 Quail Cir, Lake Wales, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams, poss/use narcotic paraphernalia

Billy Dwayne Ginn, 46,

College student Scarlett R. "Dakota" Tuck of Winter Haven on April 4 for "written threat to kill or injure."

She posted two threatening messages on her "Dakota Tuck" Facebook account. The two threats were: "If I don't pass math I'm gonna shoot the school up" and "I failed my math test so don't come to school tomorrow." She was booked into the Polk County jail and released on a \$5,000 bond.

### DUI manslaughter in death of father

On April 4, Polk County Sheriff's Office deputies additionally charged Polk County



RICE

Jail inmate, Ronald "Ronnie" Rice Jr., 33, of Lakeland, with DUI Manslaughter, in the death of his father, 56-year-old Ronald Rice Sr., after his father recently succumbed to injuries sustained in a crash that occurred on Jan. 21, for which Rice Jr. was already in jail and charged with DUI Leaving Scene Involving Bodily Injury.

On Jan. 21, at approximately 5:17 p.m., Rice Jr. was seen by witnesses to be operating his gray 2000 Ford Mustang recklessly in the yard of his private residence, 4404 Hedge Drive S., exit into the roadway from this yard onto Hedge

Drive South, and continue northbound on Stokes Road in Lakeland.

These observations were made by a witness who is a neighbor of Rice Jr. and Rice Sr. and knows/knew both of them personally.

The witness stated he observed Rice Jr. exit the driver seat of the vehicle and attempt to walk up the front stairs of his home and stumble. The witness stated he heard Rice Jr. state multiple times, "Come on pops, get out of the car."

The witness stated that based on his observations, the speech and dexterity of Rice Jr. and his past knowledge of these traits of Rice Jr., that he believed the younger Rice was impaired by drugs and/or alcohol both when he exited and when he got back into the vehicle.

The witness places Rice Jr. in actual physical control of the Mustang at the time of this incident and then also leaving the scene.

While Rice was operating this vehicle several witnesses stated they observed a dark in color object under his vehicle and which appeared to be pinned between the undercarriage of the vehicle and the roadway. Witnesses then saw this object come out from under the vehicle and tumble to final rest. Witnesses then immediately identified the object as Ronald Rice Sr., and began to render aid.

The suspect vehicle then continued northbound

with no attempt to slow down, stop or turn around. Multiple witnesses indicated they believed the vehicle sped up as it was leaving the scene.

A short while later Rice Jr. arrived at the home of friends. Upon his arrival he rolled his vehicle to a stop coming into contact with a wooden privacy fence and was parked in a highly unusual manner, diagonally across the front easement area of their home. Both friends saw Rice Jr. seated in the driver's seat of his vehicle and for the vehicle to be running and operational. There was a small scratch on the fence from where the vehicle Rice was operating came into contact with it but neither friend was willing to report this damage as attached to a vehicle crash.

Both friends stated they have known Rice Jr. since they were little kids. Both stated when Rice Jr. arrived at their home he was severely impaired, stating it was the most impaired they had ever seen him. They were concerned enough for his safety that they removed the keys from the ignition of the vehicle and put them where Rice Jr. could not get to them.

Both friends stated Rice Jr. nearly fell out of his vehicle when exiting, had poor speech pattern, had trouble walking and standing as well, and was highly emotional. They stated they had no doubts Rice Jr. was impaired and could not operate a vehicle safely. Both also stated that Rice

Jr. repeatedly stated that he was in big trouble because he had "screwed up" and needed to go check on his father.

Rice Jr. was located by deputies as he was walking along Stokes Road and was later transported to the PCSO Southwest District substation for interviewing.

During the first law enforcement interaction with Rice Jr. he was observed to be highly impaired. This conclusion was based on his inability to walk or stand, slurred and mumbled speech, strong odors of alcoholic beverage and a distinct chemical odor coming from his person. This strong odor is recognized as one common with the abusers of methamphetamines, the sheriff's office reported. These observations continued for the next couple of hours of the investigation and subsequent interview.

During this interview Rice stated he was the owner of the vehicle and the only person, besides his father, who was allowed to drive the vehicle. Rice admitted to driving immediately before this incident and then arriving at a friend's house. Rice was unwilling or unable to recall the details of the actual incident.

Ronald Rice Sr. was seriously injured during this crash and received multiple broken bones to include a fractured pelvis. Rice Sr. also went into cardiac arrest as a result of this crash.

## AREA ARRESTS

### March 1

Devon Antoine Deloach, 19, 780 Hooker St W, Bartow, Leave scene of crash involve prop damage

Ray Hillman, 53, 925 Ruby Ave, Bartow, Tampering with physical evidence, poss of Cocaine, poss/use narcotic paraphernalia, resist officer w/o viol.

Paul Westley, 53, 535 Battle Ave N, Bartow, Resist officer w/o viol, Cocaine possess, poss/use narcotic paraphernalia x2, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams

Kwaku Asafo Boakye, 22, 1201 Scenic Hwy N, Lake Wales, Petit theft 1st offence

Nathan Adam Gray Jr, 18, 1022 Tower Ln S, Lake Wales, Poss of drug paraphernalia-container, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams

Tyrone Dwight Lester, 48, 525 Lincoln Ave W, Lake Wales, Viol of

3618 Scenic Hwy N #14, Lake Wales, Unregistered motor vehicle, knowingly drive w susp/revoked lic 2nd off

Daniel Allie Megill Jr, 26, 2938 Walk in Water Rd, Lake Wales, Poss of drug paraphernalia-container, viol of probation/community control-adult, possession of Herion

### March 2

Darryl Ricardo Burt, 53, 623 Drew Ct, Bartow, Drugs Pos controlled substance WO prescription

Curtis Reddick, 28, 980 Tee Cir E, Bartow, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams

Rose Elaine Szmanski, 56, 244 Homeland Ave, Bartow, Battery on law enforcement officer, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams, poss/use narcotic paraphernalia, hold for another agency (detention only)

Steven Lorenzo

Crawford, 48, 340 Seminole Ave E #2, Lake Wales, Dom viol-battery touch or strike

Glainford Gallimore, 67, 816 Hwy 60 E, Lake Wales, Unregistered motor vehicle, attaching unassigned tag, fail to carry motor veh liability ins.

Steven Austin Gregory, 18, 15 Mulberry St Apt 2, Lake Wales, Drive suspended/revoked lic wo knowledge

Stephanie Renee Brown, 24, 5132 Valencia St, Lake Wales, Poss of methamphetamine, poss of drug paraphernalia

Clarence Steven Prescott, 51, 2767 Silver Spur Loop, Lake Wales, Attaching unassigned tag

Heather L Prouty, 34, 3900 Millstone St, Lake Wales, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams, poss/use narcotic paraphernalia

Eduardo Sevilla-Juarez, 24, 2939 Chuck Wagon Way, Lake Wales, Knowing

drive w susp/revoked license, viol of probation/community control-adult x2, hold for another agency (detention only)

Ernest David Starling, 82 156 Piney Ave, Lake Wales, Battery touch or strike

Justin Tucker, 40, 3900 Millstone St, Lake Wales, Poss/use narcotic paraphernalia, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams

### March 3

George Scott Schüler Jr, 27, 120 Northside Dr W, Lake Wales, Fail to carry motor veh liability ins, attaching unassigned tag, knowing drive w susp/revoked license, unregistered motor vehicle, lewd battery

Jasmin Signal, 28, 401 Domaris Ave, Lake Wales, Grand Theft - \$300-<\$5,000

Christopher Steven Varnadoe, 34, 1518 Scenic Hwy N #7, Lake Wales, Poss of drug

paraphernalia-container, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams, viol of probation/community control-adult x2

Stephanie Armstrong, 22, 2401 Chat St, Lake Wales, No valid drivers license, warrant arrest other jurisdiction

Andrew Chetela, 20, 842 Sherwood Dr, Lake Wales, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams, poss of drug paraphernalia

Fred Allen Reeves, 57, 2659 Fast Trot Trl, Lake Wales, Cannabis possess not more than 20 grams, poss of drug paraphernalia-container

### March 4

Troy William Linnabery, 22, 4311 Carolyn Way, Bartow, Poss/use narcotic paraphernalia, petit theft 1st offence

Onterio Damarcus McCleabb, 27, 1050 Golfview Ave #1202, Bartow, Carry concealed weapon/firearm