Around 50 Winter Haven-area children helped Jacksonville artist Nicole “Nico” Holderbaum paint three murals around the city last week.

**Local kids help artist paint WH murals**

WRITTEN BY
CHARLES A BAKER III
cbaker@scmginc.com

WINTER HAVEN – When City of Winter Haven Recreation Supervisor Cameron Stevens met artist Nicole “Nico” Holderbaum at City Works Expo 2018, the two came up with a plan to make the city a bit more colorful.

Nico founded Kids Mural Project. Since 2015, the artist has visited more than 50 Title I schools in the Jacksonville area, empowering students through art. Generally speaking she meets with the kids, helps them come up with a theme and then together they paint original murals.

Stevens thought that was a great idea and decided to help her return to Winter Haven to work with summer camp kids. Since this was his idea and there was no money in the city budget to pay Nico to return, Stevens got to work organizing sponsorships.

Jillian Spangler with the Winter Haven Rotary Club and resident Finn Bowen helped pay to bring the artist back to Polk County. Carlos Sanchez with PPG Paints of Winter Haven agreed to donate the paint and sundries for summer campers to help beautify the city.
Saturday Mornings at Hammock Hollow
When: Jun. 16, 2018 | 8 a.m.
Where: Bok Tower Gardens, 1151 Tower Blvd., Lake Wales.
http://boktowergardens.org

Spent the morning learning about native Florida plants, wildlife and more surrounded by the beauty of Florida's best garden for children. Each week, kids can learn more about the world around them at the Discovery Cart and express their creativity with a special art project at Doodle Bug Art Place. Activities are included in general admission, free for members.

Book Store 1/2 Price Sale
When: Jun. 16, 2018 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oil Painting Workshop
When: Jun. 16, 2018 | 1 p.m.
Where: Lake Wales Public Library, 290 Cypress Garden Lane, Lake Wales. Oil Painting Workshop at the Lake Wales Public Library The Lake Wales Public Library’s Lifelong Learning series will introduce adults to the art of oil painting. A $10 materials fee is due at the time of registration. The materials fee is non-refundable as of June 11 due to the preparation of supplies and the canvas. Beginners and experienced painters are welcome. Ms. Adams requires no prior experience to attend her workshop. The Lake Wales Public Library’s Lifelong Learning classes are made possible by the generous support of Florida’s Natural Growers Foundation and the Jahna Foundation. For details call 678-4005, or email library@cityoflakewales.com.

Cypress Gardens Free Ski Show
When: Jun. 16, 2018 | 5-7 p.m.
Where: MLK Jr. Park, 199 E Lake Silver Dr. NE, Winter Haven. FREE WATER SKI SHOW 199 Lake Silver Dr NE WH, FL 33881 Concession available Bring blanket or chair for seating.

Slow Roll & Ski Show
When: Jun. 16, 2018 | 5:30 p.m.
Where: The Bike Shop, 249 3rd Street SW, Winter Haven.
http://www.facebook.com/slowrollskishow/ What is a Slow roll? Slow Roll will meet at the Bike Shop in Downtown Winter Haven the 3rd Saturday of every month at 5 pm. We will “Slow Roll” through the city of Winter Haven taking a path highlighting cities murals, parks, and new developments. We will then stop mid-roll at Lake Silver to take in the ski show. After the show we will Slow Roll back through town and end at Grove Roots Brewery (located across the street from the Bike Shop). Find more info on Facebook at www.facebook.com/slowrollskishow/

Daddy Daughter Dance
When: Jun. 16, 2018 | 5-7 p.m.
Where: Nora Mayo Hall, 500 3rd St. NW, Winter Haven.
Make your Fairy tails come true with Princess Tiana & her bayou friends at the 2018 Daddy Daughter Dance. This semi formal dinner & dancing affair is a perfect Daddy/Daughter date. Tickets will go on sale May 14th. You can purchase them from the Winter Haven Recreational & Cultural Center (863) 291-5675 or from the Chain O’ Lakes Complex (863) 291-5656. They are $15 for Kings & $10 for princesses. The tickets will not be available for purchase before May 14th.

NAACP Lake Wales Branch 5109 Presents the 45th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet
When: Jun. 16, 2018 | 5:30 p.m.
Where: Lake Ashton Clubhouse, 4140 Ashton Club Dr., Lake Wales. Keynote speaker is Adora Obi Nweze, President, Florida State Conference. For more info or to purchase tickets: Wanda Howard (863) 604-9303 or William Moure (863) 398-9660 or Sandy Odom (863) 651-6022.

Ramblin’ Rose Trio: Music Bouquet
When: Jun. 16, 2018 | 8 p.m.

Dr. J. Owens Academy Benefit Gala
Where: Polk State College Fine Arts Theater - Winter Haven Campus
When: Saturday June 16, 2018 Social Hour 6pm - 7pm, Concert 7pm
The gala attire will be dressy cocktail. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. Purchase tickets at the Polk State College Box Office and from Sankofa members. This affair is a benefit gala to offer more students the opportunity to take music lessons at the Owens Academy. Funds raised will allow 1 student from each of the following churches to obtain a full 1 year music scholarship: Hurst Chapel AME, First Missionary Baptist Church, Zion Hill, St. Freewill Baptist and New Bethel Baptist. These churches were selected based on full membership from the Sankofa Chorale.

Father’s Day
When: Jun. 17, 2018 | 12 a.m.

Vacation Bible School
When: Jun. 18 through Jun. 22, 2018 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Where: First Baptist Church of Winter Haven, 198 W Central Ave, Winter Haven.
http://www.firstwinterhaven.org Vacation Bible School (VBS) at First Baptist Church of Winter Haven June 18th - 22nd (9 AM to 12:30 PM) Children who have completed grades Kindergarten through 6th grade 198 W. Central Ave. 863-294-4133 www.firstwinterhaven.org

Chow Down in Lake Wales
When: Jun. 18, 2018 | 5-9 p.m.
Where: Lake Wailes Park/Gazebo, 499 E Park Avenue, Lake Wales.
Every 3rd Monday of the month. Bring your appetite - lawn chair - sit back and relax - enjoy gourmet food!! AT Lake Wailes Park......Windows open from 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

June Social Ride
When: Jun. 18, 2018 | 6:30 p.m.
Where: Bent’s Schwinn Cycling, 1058 Florida Ave S, Lakeland.

http://www.bicyclinginlakeland.org

Southern Regional Show Ski Tournament
When: Jun. 23, 2018 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: MLK Jr. Park, 199 E Lake Silver Dr. NE, Winter Haven. Southern Regional Show Ski Tournament on Saturday 6/23 and Sunday 6/24. Five teams will compete against each other as well as individual competitions. Saturday from 8-5pm and Sunday 9-2pm on Lake Silver. Fun filled weekend of water skiing. Concessions available. Bring blanket or chair for seating.
Letter To The Editor

Needs to start giving back

I see that LW Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson is taking quite a beating as the “bad guy” for the City shutting down the renovation project on the Walesbilt. Seems that hotel owner assumes that Gibson is behind those efforts because of a letter Gibson wrote before his involvement on the City Commission. Others try to throw some 98-octane fuel onto the fire by making mention of a completely unrelated matter in which Gibson inquired about the ethics of voting on a City matter involving the Charter school system, with which he is of course also very involved. That was the right thing for him to do – not some shady deal, as suggested.

Several friends have asked me to “try to talk some sense into Gibson” about the Walesbilt issue – b/c they know we are former law partners and good friends, and b/c they see the hotel owner as a savior trying to do great things others have been unable/unwilling to do.

My response is that I have no personal knowledge of the current situation (except as an interested citizen/observer), nor have I discussed it with Gibson. However, I do know this – there is not a single person on this planet who has the best interests of Lake Wales at heart more than does Robin Gibson. I was born and raised here, and know many others who were – but none of us have come close (even collectively) to doing more for his adopted hometown. From the time he came here with his young family to practice law (in rented Walesbilt space BTW), he has devoted his blood, sweat and tears to making this a better place to live, especially in the downtown area. He was in charge of a massive downtown renovation project about 50 years ago and has spearheaded any number of successful initiatives since then - all to our benefit and not to his. Let me emphasize that last point b/c some seem to think that his motives are based on self-interest or for the benefit of his legal clients. Nothing could be further from the truth. In addition to literally thousands of hours of his personal time/effort, he has invested significant personal funds into various downtown projects (primarily aimed at bringing good businesses and good people to town) which were guaranteed to lose money for him personally – he did/does it anyway.

Mutual friends tell me that the hotel owner is a nice guy – I don’t doubt that. I also hear that he’s single-handedly done some good renovation work at the Walesbilt – don’t doubt that either. However, it’s equally obvious that his renovation project is taking forever … It’s probably safe/reasonable to assume that the City gave him the hotel years ago with the understanding/expectation that the project would be completed forthwith, added to the tax base and soon making a positive contribution to the appearance and viability of our community. Well, that was a very long time ago and the fact is that it still hasn’t happened.

Reminds me of a single person trying to mow 100 acres of grass with a push mower – you can work hard every day and even spend money on gas and parts for your mower, but by the time you finish, it’s time to start over again at the beginning. Lots of real work, but no real forward progress. Looks to me like we need multiple people with multiple mowers – or a large tractor.

So, yeah – sounds like me like the City is right to be concerned – even aside from the issue of multiple code violations. And I’m sure about this – if Robin Gibson is involved, it’s for all the right reasons.

Kent Lilly
Lake Wales, FL

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POLK COUNTY – Thomas McMicken, a long time Bartow family doctor who passed to a better life earlier this year, was a long-time advocate for a program that helped incarcerated residents with mental health problems to transition back to life on the outside.

Dr. McMicken’s dream is becoming a reality in the form of a new pilot program that links residents released from jail to needed mental health and substance abuse services.

Polk Indigent Health Care staff introduced Helping HANDS, HealthCare: Access, Navigation, Delivery and Support, on June 5. The $1.2M program will focus on inmates who have had two or more arrests over the past year and are receiving psychotropic medications while in jail. Participation is wholly voluntary.

For six weeks, residents in the program will have access to providers on call 24-hours-a-day who will help make sure medications are available upon release.

“By providing access to community paramedics, medication and resources we believe participants’ chances of being productive members of the community will increase,” said Citizens Health Care Oversight Committee Chair, Lance Anastasio.

County commissioners created the oversight committee to ensure the integrity of the expenditure of the Indigent Health Care Sales Tax funds.

Other project partners include Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Corizon Health, Winter Haven Hospital Center for Behavioral Health and Polk County Fire Rescue.

Dr. McMicken served as Citizens Health Care Oversight Committee chair until his death.

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Each participant will be assigned a peer specialist to serve as mentor and advocate. These advocates would also be available to help with housing needs through a DCF grant.

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Dr. McMicken served as Citizens Health Care Oversight Committee chair until his death.
POLK COUNTY – Detectives with Polk County Sheriff’s Office, Lake Wales Police Department and Lakeland Police Department were recognized for excellent work in 2018 by state attorney Brian Haas last week.

“We are blessed in the tenth circuit to have many wonderful officers and deputies,” Haas said. “Each day and night they put on their uniforms to protect us, not knowing if they’ll ever return home. They investigate cases and do not give up until every lead is pursued and every angle is worked.”

PCSO detective Tonya Wright was honored for her work on the Lenard Masten case. In 2015, Masten, a convicted felon on probation for aggravated assault with a firearm, stalked a Lakeland gas station owner. One night he waited in the bushes for the man to come home, put a gun to the back of his head and demanded $100. Once inside, Masten robbed the store owner and his elderly parents at gunpoint. The victims could not identify Masten. A witness described the getaway car which was later found. According to SAO spokesperson Kaitlyn Pearson, the primary reason why the state attorney was able to get Masten a conviction was because detective Wright was able to get a confession.

LWPD detective David Hernandez was honored for helping to convict a man who held a Lakeland family at gunpoint for less than $1,000 in cash. LWPD detective David Hernandez was honored for help convicting a Lake Wales man of walking into the McDonald’s near Eagle Ridge Mall in January 2017, firing a round into the ceiling, demanding money and then walking out of the restaurant without stealing anything.

Detective Hernandez reviewed tape of the incident and later found the suspect’s getaway van. After interviewing the restaurant manager, Hernandez revealed that the suspect Willie Watson was living in the now shut down Seminole Motel with a woman who had worked at the restaurant. The convicted felon got another 20 years in prison.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

PCSO detective Tonya Wright was honored by state attorney Brian Haas for her work in 2018 helping to convict a man who held a Lakeland family at gunpoint for less than $1,000 in cash.

PHOTO PROVIDED

LWPD detective David Hernandez was recently honored by state attorney Brian Haas for his work helping to convict a man who tried to rob the McDonald’s near Eagle Ridge Mall at gunpoint.
ON THE COVER

MURALS
FROM PAGE 1

PHOTO PROVIDED
Nicole “Nico” Holderbaum is the founder of Kids Mural Project.

Once the plan was in place, Nico and Stevens decided to help local summer campers paint three murals over the course of three days.

The first mural was painted inside the Winter Haven Recreation and Cultural Center where around 50 campers spent a half hour coming up with the slogan, “Dare 2 Be A Fearless Champion.” Once Nico finished the outline of the mural, campers went to work bringing it to life.

“They spent roughly half the afternoon adding their special touches to finish the mural,” Stevens said.

The second and third murals were painted on the restroom building at the Splash Pad downtown at Trailhead Park. One mural had a theme of “Never Quit Chasing Your Dreams” and the second mural depicted orange blossoms and a train to honor the history of the city and location of the park, which once had a train station and was the site of the former Orange Blossom Festival.

“By asking the kids what they think we should paint on walls, and what’s important to them, shows them that we care about them and that their thoughts and feelings are valued,” Nico Holderbaum said. “Validation and support like this is what kids want and need more than anything at a time in their life when everything is new. It is what they need to develop confidence in themselves. And by painting a huge mural on the wall, something they might not have ever thought possible, they can see that they are capable of doing and contributing to big and important things, and their mind is opened to the possibilities for their future.”

Nico said she hopes to return to Winter Haven.

“There are plenty of walls around the city!” she said. “I hope to paint many more murals with kids and also paint some murals myself!”

PHOTO BY AMY SEXSON
Nicole “Nico” Holderbaum painted this Orange Blossom Festival-inspired mural at Trailhead Park last week.

Commissioners voting for $150M in new taxes over 10 years

WRITTEN BY
CHARLES A BAKER III
cbaker@scmginc.com

POLK COUNTY – For three consecutive budget work session meetings, county commissioners have proposed raising property taxes.

In late May, Commissioner George Lindsey proposed to raise the property tax millage rate by a full point with a provision that the tax would sunset in three years. On June 1, Commissioner Lindsey changed his proposal to raising taxes by a quarter of a millage point over 10 years. Both of these plans would generate around $100M for Polk Fire Rescue.

According to a recent report, in order to maintain existing response times, this amount of money is needed to keep pace with economic growth.

During a budget work session June 5, county commissioners also said the county tax collector has asked for more space to better serve the community. With the combination of the tax collector requesting more space and the lease on the Northeast Government Center running out in 2020, the commission discussed building a new facility, which would cost more money.

The commissioners instructed County Manager Jim Freeman to write up plans for a quarter point millage rate increase for Polk Fire Rescue over 10 years and a quarter point millage rate increase over five years to build a new government center.

The Northeast Government Center is currently located in between Winter Haven and Lake Alfred on SR17.

According to Polk County Property Appraiser Marsha Faux, county residents generated an additional $18.2M in property taxes last year.

The Winter Haven Sun asked the county manager and commissioners why $18.2M was not enough to fund the proposed increased spending.

According to Polk County Board of County Commissioners Communications Director Mianne Nelson, $14.2M of that amount will go into the general fund with the rest being dedicated to mandatory roads, parks, libraries and stormwater projects.

Nelson further said there is approximately $13M in cost increases between this year and last with around half going toward a PCSO budget increase of around $7M. That leaves around $1.2M of the property tax income increase to address growth.

“Recurring year to year expenses are consuming all of the increased revenue from property value increases,” Nelson said. “In the past five years around 90 percent of revenue increases in the general fund have gone to public safety.”

The $100M for Polk Fire Rescue over 10 years would enable the county to expand or build 10 to 15 fire stations and purchase equipment, including 39 new ambulances, to match response times with new population growth.

Around half of that amount would be necessary to purchase land and build a new Northeast Government Center.

“Residents of Polk County expect that when they dial 911, that an ambulance or a fire engine will be there within minutes to save the life of a loved one, their home or their business,” Commissioner Lindsey said. “This board has kept property tax millage the same for more than 10 years, throughout the great recession and recovery. We must now look at a slight increase dedicated to Fire Rescue to ensure that the county has the resources to respond when residents need us.”

Commissioners Lindsey, Todd Dantzler and Bill Braswell have expressed support in raising taxes. Commissioner John Hall has expressed dissent in meetings but did not want to go on the record until after the vote sometime in July. Commissioner Melony Bell’s position is unknown.

The public has opportunities to speak about the tax hikes June 19 and July 10. Freeman said a special session meeting to set the millage rate may be July 17.
LARGEST FIREWORKS DISPLAY IN POLK COUNTY
CITY OF DAVENPORT
4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Josh Blevins Band

3:00 P.M. – 9:45 P.M.
FIREWORKS DISPLAY
STARTS AT 9:15 P.M.
Lewis Mathews Sports Complex
400 Palm Street
NO PERSONAL FIREWORKS
Bring your own lawn chair

FOR MORE INFO CALL:
863-419-3300
Ext: 137
or visit our website:
www.mydavenport.org

Entertainment Schedule
Josh Blevins Band ................... 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Reading of the Declaration
of Independence .................... 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Josh Blevins Band ................. 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Studio C ............................. 8:45 pm to 9:00 pm
Fireworks ......................... 9:15 pm

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Cody’s Auto Parts
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Real Solutions Realty
Bargain Carts
Central Water and Electric Utility Services
Imagine for a moment you are a young girl of 15 never having been farther than a dozen miles away from home for summer Girl Scout or church camp. Now find yourself boarding a train for Amherst, Massachusetts where you’ll spend the summer in the Victory Farm Volunteer program — a part of the World War II effort.

This is exactly what Shirley (Dixon) Williams experienced, joined by Drew Schulz, Zathia Owens, Betty Jean Lisle and Jean Simmons-Thompson. The girls boarded the train in Lake Alfred and ultimately arrived by bus to, in Shirley’s words, “the beautiful small college town of Amherst, Massachusetts.” Their luggage was transferred to the Kappa Sigma fraternity house and that was their home for the summer.

As Shirley settled in and prepared to shower she was overcome with the realization that she was far from home and unsure why. A good five-minute cry and it all went away. She was ready for adventure and never homesick again that summer.

Actually there was little time to be homesick as she and her friends were too busy! Up early and dressed in jeans and flannel shirts they boarded the bus to work in a tobacco barn. They found tobacco leaves stacked head-high — wooden lath and string lay alongside. Each tobacco leaf was sewn on to a lath with a huge needle pushed with a leather protector. Fifty leaves to a lath, lay it aside and start another. Teenage boys from Cottondale in north Florida would then take the tobacco-laden laths high into the rafters of the tobacco barn where, over time, it would dry. When the barn was full, it was sealed and a fire was set and the tobacco cured. The young workers moved on to the next barn. (In case you’re wondering … no, they didn’t smoke!)

Lunches were baloney or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. At day’s end they scrambled onto the bus hoping to be the first back for showers. Dinner was a hilarious time trying to win bragging rights for who stitched the most laths full or who filled a barn in record time. Bedtime was early and welcome — then up to start again.

Weekends were free time for chores like laundry (Shirley recalls never having to do that before). Parties and street dances were given by the university and the town. She learned to polka.

It was a summer for coming of age. Shirley would turn 16, World War II would end with the Japanese surrender. Returning home included a three-day visit to New York City where they were treated to “Oklahoma” on Broadway, an ice show featuring Sonya He nie, a side trip to see Duke Ellington and at least one subway ride for 30 minutes — in the wrong direction.

Shirley Williams returned home a much more worldly young woman of 16. She fondly remembers friendships made and a life long hunger to travel which resulted in she, her husband and family traveling throughout the U.S.

And finally she recalls that returning home following a summer of hard work and fantastic adventure her mother would declare, “If I’d known you were going to spend three days in New York City, I would have NEVER sent you!”

Mothers are like that … yes they are.

The Victory Farm Volunteers of 1945 Winter Haven’s Tobacco Girls

The Museum of Winter Haven History is now closed for the summer. New displays are underway. Group visits are available by appointment. Contact Bob Gernert at 863-206-6855 or bobgernert@gmail.com.

PHOTO PROVIDED
Shirley proudly displays her souvenir program from Broadway’s “Oklahoma” she saw during a three-day visit to New York City in 1945.

PHOTO PROVIDED
Winter Haven’s tobacco girls in the summer of 1945: (left to right) Shirley (Dixon) Williams, Jean (Simmons) Thompson, Debbie Wilkerson and Betty Jean (Lisle) Cle venger. Not pictured: Drew Schulz and Zathia Owens.

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WINTER HAVEN – For years, members of Winter Haven Moose Lodge 1023 on Havendale Boulevard have had club members from out of the area use their property as a temporary campground.

“They’d stay two or three nights and then move on to the next Moose Lodge,” said Lodge 1023 administrator, Olan Gilmore.

Their lakefront property has electrical hookups and the view is great, but Winter Haven City Manager said this “campground” is not legally code compliant. So when members recently asked city staff to expand the campground, a trail of paperwork was required.

According to the first round of paperwork, the property needs to be rezoned. In order to rezone the property, studies need to be done on utility capacity, among other things. There is plenty of water available but according to a document released to the city commission last week, “the wastewater lift station serving this property and surrounding properties is operating beyond its capacity and will require replacement.”

Herr told the commissioners June 6 that the applicant would have to pay for that upgraded lift station. The Winter Haven Sun later contacted Mr. Herr to clarify what he meant and ask how much it would cost the Moose Lodge.

“I don’t know the answer to this question modeling would have to be done etc… developer will pay for this and we will review specifications to ensure that adequate capacity will be provided,” Herr wrote.

When notified, Gilmore said he is not sure why the Moose Lodge would be responsible for purchasing city infrastructure when the people who use the property are not hooking up to sewage, just power.
South Central Park on schedule
WRITTEN BY
CHARLES A BAKER III
cbaker@scmginc.com

WINTER HAVEN – Renovations to South Central Park are coming right along and the $4.4M project is expected to be completed by September, just one month behind schedule.

Construction began Aug. 28, 2017 and now the project is in phase three of four.

Ever since the library was rebuilt downtown in 2003, Winter Haven city planners have been busy making improvements downtown. In addition to building a trail all the way to Lake Alfred, the Splash Pad, and the tennis courts, last year Winter Haven Assistant City Manager T. Michael Stavres said eventually there will be trails connecting South Central Park with Bartow.

The four lane Magnolia Avenue near Andy Thornal Company and the Firestone store have been permanently closed and in the coming months a trail will connect Central Park to the Grove Roots area so downtown customers can walk across town instead of having to drive.

With the expansion of Dundee Road in the works, there will also be a trail connecting the downtown area to the Lake Elbert area in years to come.

City planners and developers with Six/Ten have also been installing rain gardens downtown to recharge the aquifer and make the downtown area greener.

The Winter Haven 2.0 painted stencils around town are starting to make sense.

Dundee Road expansion details
WRITTEN BY
CHARLES A BAKER III
cbaker@scmginc.com

WINTER HAVEN – City staff released more information about the expansion of Dundee Road at an agenda review meeting June 6.

Construction on the $6.1M project expanding Dundee Road from First Street to Buckeye Loop Road is scheduled to begin in October. Dundee Road is tentatively scheduled to be expanded out to U.S. 27 starting in late 2020.

Commuters who use Dundee Road to get to the downtown Winter Haven area will have to prepare to use Lucerne Park Road or an already crowded Cypress Gardens Boulevard. The busy corner of Cypress Gardens Boulevard and SR17 is already a priority of city, county and FDOT staff but no details have been released as to when this will be improved.

Phase I of the Dundee Road expansion project will add a 10-foot center lane to ease traffic around Lake Elbert as well as five foot bike lanes on both sides of the road.

A 90-year-old water main from First Street to Sixth Street will also be replaced.
SPORTS

Ridge Rewind
WRITTEN BY
BRIAN ACKLEY
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

OPEN, THEN SHUT – If there’s a more frustrating game than golf, we haven’t found it. It looks so easy when it all goes right, but it also seemingly fall apart in a great big hurry, as Ridge Community’s Sam Horsfield found out once again last week. Horsfield was well on his way to qualify for this week’s U.S. Open, cruising along during his event which actually was being held overseas, at the Walton Heath Golf Club in England. The former Bolt was on his way to an invite to Shinnecock, before carding three bogeys and a double bogey coming down the home stretch (holes 32-35 in the two-round qualifier). He parred his 36th hole, but ended up missing the invite by a mere one stroke. He did qualify for the 2015 and 2016 U.S. Opens, and is currently a rookie this year on the European Tour. His best finish was a tie for 15th so far at the BMW PGA Championship in Surrey, England. He also tied for second back in April in the Tshwane Open in South Africa. Both paydays were around 115,000 Euros.

STAYING HOME – The Polk State College softball team, which will start its second season under coach Donna Byars, the longtime Bartow standout, got a double dose of Blue Devil goodness with two Winter Haven stars deciding to continue their college careers very close to home. Anizya Vargas posted impressive offensive numbers this past spring, hitting .468 with six homers and 34 runs batted in. Tori Gonzalez drove in 19 in her senior year. On the baseball side, Winter Haven’s Kobie Leonard will attend the College of Central Florida in Ocala. The speedster hit .345 this year, and swiped 21 bags.

GOING PRO – Well, it’s still along way to the pros, but has off, baseball hats that is, to five Polk State Eagles who were picked during last week’s Major League Baseball draft. Alec Barge got the call from the Milwaukee Brewers in the 16th round, while Chavez Fernandez was selected by the Detroit Tigers in the 35th round. Barger, a right-handed sophomore pitcher from Savoy, Ill., had a 7-3 record this season with a 3.56 ERA. In 83 innings he allowed 16 walks while striking out 86 batters. Fernandez, also a right-handed pitcher, went 8-4 with a 3.09 ERA. The sophomore from Grand Bahama issued 18 walks and recorded 63 strikeouts in 58 innings. Three former Polk State pitchers were also drafted. Jonathan Bermudez went to the Houston Astros (23rd round), Johnny Schneider was selected by the Cincinnati Reds (29th round), and Joe Strzelecki was picked by the Miami Marlins (34th round). All three pitched for the Polk State team that captured the 2016 Suncoast Conference championship.

Scouting Report
WRITTEN BY
BRIAN ACKLEY
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO-BALL, BIG PURSE – The Country Club of Winter Haven will be hosting a unique, and lucrative, two-man even June 23-24. Entry fee is $400, with an expected purse of $8,500 (based on 50 team field). Deadline to get your entry in is June 20. Call 863-325-6666 to get more details. Flights will be based on certified handicaps. One nine each day will be a scramble format, and the second nine a best-ball. 

COACHING CAROUSEL – Some East Polk schools will be looking for new head coaches in a few of their sports programs for the upcoming 2018-19 season. Phil Chewning is stepping down as the skipper for the Winter Haven softball program. He also was a past head coach for the Lake Region softball program. The Blue Devils were 20-9 this year, and advanced to the regional semi-finals before bowing out. Anthony Jones is stepping aside at Ridge Community from the boy’s hoop program, while in Frostproof, boy’s basketball coach Herb Johnson is leaving the sidelines. Josh Wood is also going to give up the head coaching duties for the boy’s soccer program.

HAINES CITY HAPPENINGS – Hey, all the fun in Haines City isn’t always just contained to Lake Eva Park. The good folks at the city’s rec department are taking their show on the road this summer, with four special events planned at various spots around the city. Look for the free festivities on June 29 at 8 Acre park on North 10th St., July 13 at Randa Ridge on Randa Ave., July 27 at Eastwood Apartments and finally August 10 at the Larry Parrish Baseball Fields on East Johnson Ave. Each event will run from 9 a.m. to noon and feature free food, games, crafts and more.
LUKE WALES NEWS
LW hopes settlement leads to growth in industrial park

WRITTEN BY
BRIAN ACKLEY
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

City leaders have struck a deal with a long-time local developer that they hope will lead to a quicker build out of the Lake Wales Commerce and Technology park, which has been largely empty since its beginnings as Longleaf Business Park 17 years ago.

The city’s Community Redevelopment Agency – which is made up of the five sitting Lake Wales commissioners – agreed last week to accept a one-time $75,000 payment from Joseph Miranda which will lead to the sale of a partially finished building in the 164-acre park to Robert Richard, who already owns most of the park’s land and will be moving an existing warehouse operation here in about six months.

Several weeks prior, the agency board had voted 3-2 to accept $117,000 over 10 years time, with interest and collateral, a plan that was not acceptable to Miranda.

City Manager Ken Fields then suggested a one-time payment option of either $67,000 or $84,000, based on the fact that Miranda has invested about $2.4 million in the structure, and will be selling it for $1.4 million.

The land and structure has actually been owned all this time by the city’s CRA. Miranda built the “spec” building more than a decade ago, with the heavy encouragement of local leaders, in the hopes of attracting a tenant, but that never happened. He then put down a $100,000 purchase deposit which was paid to the city, which kept the money for 11 years, finally returning it to Miranda last year.

Part of the original deal was that $117,000 would be owed the city upon the sale of the building, money that was held back as an incentive to fully develop it. The $84,000 figure represented the same percentage of loss that Miranda has had over that time, according to Fields. The $67,000 figure was the loss with so-called “soft” costs taken out like insurance and maintenance.

Miranda himself said he would be willing to split the difference, thus the $75,000 offer.

“I feel that’s a good number that I would be good with. I’d feel like we’re partners then on this thing. I’m ready to sell this thing and I’m ready to write the check tonight,” Miranda said. “I’ve got a check in my pocket, and let’s move on. Let’s get his operation here and move forward.”

CRA chairman Robin Gibson the time was right to bring the convoluted matter to a close.

“In my view, one of the things we want to do is get out of this thing, get out of it rationally, Were not giving anything away. Lord knows we have plenty of money in it. And we’re not getting all our money back, that’s for sure,” said CRA chairman Robin Gibson. “I understand we’re partners, even though we shouldn’t have been. As a matter of fact, I proposed the idea we should share in the loss.”

Commissioner Tonya Stewart agreed, as board voted 5-0 to accept the one-time payment.

“A big concern I had is to be back in this position years down the line with that property still sitting there,” she said.

Richard, a resident of Naples, said he will move a current 25,000 square foot warehouse operation north of Yeehaw Junction to the building in about six months, once the structure is fully finished. He estimated he would spend about $1 million to do that.

“We’re about two months behind. We are out of space. The company is growing 20 percent a year,” Richard said. “We’re ready to go.”

He also said that moving into the finished building would facilitate build out of the park. About two years ago, he purchased all but four parcels there, and is considering buying those as well.

“If I am here and working in the park I will get the rest of that park built out. If I’m somewhere else, it’s hard to split my attention,’ he said. “But I believe in the park. I really like Lake Wales. Working with everybody has been very pleasurable.”

Fields indicated that the parcel currently generates about $500 a year in property taxes for the city, a figure that would climb to about $7,000 annually once the building is finished.

“When your partners in something, you share in the wealth, or you share in the loss,” said Mayor Eugene Ful tz. “The same percentage of loss he’s had is the same percentage of loss we take. This solution is probably the best one we can get and it would allow that building to be sold and actually developed, so we can get more jobs, more income.”

Richard said about six full-time jobs would be created once the warehouse was up and running, with a few more positions likely added in a year or two.
Frustrations over changed intersection won’t change for a bit

WRITTEN BY
BRIAN ACKLEY
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Hopes for any quick answers to changes made at a busy intersection near Eagle Ridge Mall have faded, city officials said, indicating that any possible solutions to resident’s complaints are months and months from potentially coming to fruition.

A cement median that went up on Thompson Nursery road near U.S. 27 has left residents in the area feeling cut off from the Walgreens Drug Store on the northwest corner of those two roads. Previously, vehicles traveling east on Thompson Nursery could make a direct left turn into the Walgreens parking area.

Now, with the median in place because of the impending construction of an Aldi Supermarket on the southwest corner, motorists wishing to go to Walgreens or other businesses in a small strip plaza there must make a left on U.S. 27, travel several hundred yards and make a U-turn, then cross three lanes of traffic in a few hundred yards to access the popular drug store.

“The county is moving forward at looking at possible redesigns with FDOT,” City Manager Ken Fields said. “(But) The current plan is not to do anything until construction of the Aldi’s is completed and open so they can get a little better feel for how traffic will flow. But they are looking at alternative designs to solve the problem of making a turn into Walgreens. It’s not going to happen before then.”

City officials said they were unaware of plans for the median before it appeared, but have fielded many of the complaint calls once it was installed. It is not a city road, officials indicated, but city leaders say they have been in close contact with county and state transportation personnel to try and address the issue.

The supermarket chain recently just broke ground on a store that is planned to cover just over 19,000 square feet.

City officials said they are also looking more closely at the intersection as a whole, including the portion on Chalet Suzanne Road, since ground has also already been broken on a new Wawa gas station and convenience store on the southeast corner of the same busy intersection.

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Happy 70th Mr and Mrs Moberly!

PHOTO PROVIDED
Mr. and Mrs. Luke Moberly of Lake Wales were married June 5, 1948 in Kentucky.

LAKE WALES – Happy 70th Anniversary Mr. and Mrs. Luke Moberly of Lake Wales.

Mondalee and Luke Moberly have six children, 13 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. They were married June 5, 1948 in Kentucky.

Luke served his county in World War II as a U.S. Marine and they married soon after he came home from war. Luke went on to a career as a builder, writer and movie producer. Mondalee is a home maker and entrepreneur.

Readers are welcome to share family news for publication. Submissions can be emailed to Tara Crutchfield at tcrutchfield@scmginc.com.

Walesbilt developer, city to resolve differences in court

WRITTEN BY
CHARLES A BAKER III
cbaker@scmginc.com

LAKE WALES – It appears the dispute between Walesbilt Hotel developer Ray Brown and staff with the City of Lake Wales will need to be resolved in court.

On May 31, city officials shut down all restoration work on the iconic hotel that dominates the city skyline, citing code violations.

On June 5 during a city commission meeting, Brown and three others who supported him, asked to work out differences outside of court.

Lake Wales City Attorney Chuck Galloway advised the commission that since Brown’s lawyer is involved, that the commissioners should refrain from comment.

The Winter Haven Sun will follow any legal developments in the case.

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It has long struck me as a little curious that beauty contests that often call themselves "scholarship pageants" evaluate contestants on any number of criteria, but never on their grade point averages.

On the other hand, I took great delight in Bartow's short-lived "Rose of Tralee Scholarship Pageant" that selected the beauty queen for the community's earliest St. Patrick's Day parades. The Rose was selected each year at a contest of indeterminate credentials conducted the night before the parade at Davis Brothers Lounge.

The Miss America Pageant has selected America's prettiest young woman each year for nearly a century. The event originated in 1921 in Atlantic City "to extend the summer season" and to increase newspaper circulation, according to my online research. The first winner was declared to be "The Most Beautiful Bathing Girl in America," a title that the following year was changed to "Miss America."

My research did not disclose the reason for the change, but I have to wonder if the father of the 16-year-old girl who won that first contest wanted a more dignified title for his daughter. Fathers can be touchy about such things.

A tradition that began in 1921 ended last week when Gretchen Carlson, a former Miss America who is chairwoman of the Miss America Organization, announced on Good Morning America that the bikini portion of the competition is being scrapped.

"We will no longer judge our candidates on their outward physical appearance," she harrumphed, adding, "That's huge, and that means we will no longer have a swimsuit competition."

She also said that the event that has been dubbed Miss America 2.0 is "no longer a pageant; we are a competition."

Uh, okay.

The evening gown competition will be retained to "give participants the freedom to outwardly express their self-confidence in evening attire of their choosing while discussing how they will advance their social initiatives."

Requiring contestants to memorize and then explain that statement might be a good way to introduce an element of scholarship into the non-pageant.

In my hour or so of internet research on this development, I noted that every single article was illustrated by photos or videos showing the bikini competition in previous pageants.

Since the event was established in 1921 in part to increase newspaper sales, it is an appropriate salute to history that in announcing the passage of a tradition, the online press seized on one last opportunity to capitalize on its "Bathing Girl" genesis.

(S. L. Frisbie is retired. He recalls reading his Great-Granddad's observation, in one of his columns, that a man is old when he can admire a pretty girl and a handsome horse with equal appreciation. He died at the age of 90.)

Bartow Ford to host local law enforcement

Bartow Ford Company is hosting a luncheon to honor the heroes of Polk County – local law enforcement. Local law enforcement agents from around the county will be the guests of honor, and they will be served a barbecue lunch from 11 AM to 3 PM on June 28, 2018 at the dealership. While the lunch is for law enforcement personnel only, the public is invited to show their support for the heroes who protect us daily.

Bartow Ford is a consistent supporter of Law Enforcement and its owners, Benjamin Robles Jr. and Benjamin Robles Sr., hope that this luncheon demonstrates their appreciation for them in these often turbulent times.


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ACROSS
1 Oversee 55 Salary negotiator
4 Things falling out of Vogue? 56 Alternated
8 Mover but not a shaker (con’t. on next page) 58 Dress down
11 Words to a Spanish 60 Winner of 11 Grand
sweetheart Slam tennis titles 61 Common seasoning
for Italian sausage 62 Elected
63 Sports axiom refuted by this puzzle 63 Sports axiom refuted by this puzzle 69 “The Handmaid’s Tale” author
72 Not with it 73 Place in a 1969
western
77 Serious devotee 78 Papal-conclave
members
82 Ghostly 83 He said, “It’s not
bragging if you can back it up”
84 Group with five members in this puzzle, with “the”
85 Court plea 87 Sleep stage
88 Relief 90 Play the part of
90 Father of Ptolemy, the
god of fear
92 Sound of the South 97 Liability of note?
100 Swagger 102 Minnella
(Muppet monkey)
105 City ENE of Cleveland, O.
107 Lady’s title 108 Anticipate
109 Ball bearer 110 Fruit-soda brand
111 Temple of Isis site 112 Where General Mills
is headquartered
114 Bank trouble? 116 Dated
117 “Be there in a jiffy”!
118 Encountered 119 Not be straight
120 Cold War-era ints. 121 Egg’s adoptive
father, in a George
Eliot novel
122 Suffragist Elizabeth
Cady 123 Not opposin’

DOWN
1 In to the task
2 Winston Churchill, notably
3 One concerned with
aging?
4 Wedding pair
5 State since 1864: Abbr.
6 McQueen or King
7 Things that
corrections correct
8 Tour hire
9 Aggressive types
10 Typical Intro?
11 Heavy weights
12 Maternally related
13 Colleague of Freud
14 Encountered
15 Relatives of beoboblins
16 Only African-
American to win an
Oscar, Tony, and Emmy
for acting
17 Relevant, Legally
18 With 47-Down, driver’s question
22 “Say cheese!”
27 County name in 30
states
32 House speaker after
Boeheer
34 Sidesplitter
38 ___ platter
39 “Runaway” singer
Shannon, 1961
41 “I’m off”
43 “My dear man”
44 Novelist Patchett
45 Fastball, in baseball
slang
47 See 18-Down
48 Sharp
49 Pick up
50 Back
51 Unaccompanied
52 Company name under after &
53 First U.S. city to host
the Olympics
57 “Baseball”
documentarian
BURNS
58 Half a step?
59 What ballplayers
look forward to after playing on the road
61 Sustained
62 Cartoon collectible
63 Mortar carrier
65 Hampton
66 Worship confidence
67 Court plea, briefly
68 Opera set in 1800
Rome
69 Not even close?
70 Floor piece
71 German hunting dog
74 1804 Jack London
novel
75 Your, to Yes
76 Caste member
78 State with five teams in the 84-Across:
Abbr.
79 Double-platinum album for Steely
Dan
80 Mythological bird
81 Harriet Beecher
Stowe novel
submitted “A Tale of the
Great Dismal Swamp”?
82 Lining up against
84 Ways of doing things, for short
86 Numerical prefix
88 Parlor pieces
91 Bankrupts
93 Points (to)
94 See 46-Across
95 Actress Ryder
96 Admits
99 Charlotte
(Caribbean capital)
100 Greek island
where Pythagoras and
Epicurus were born
101 Delivery that’s
usually expected
102 Prop for a lon tamer
103 Insurance giant
104 Some calls on a
debate hotline
106 Kind of chips you
shouldn’t eat
111 Before being iced, for short
113 H.S. study
115 Native Oklahoman

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Coldwell Banker Home Protection Plan

Wednesday, June 13, 2018
Page 15
**Restoration underway at History Center**

**WRITTEN BY**

JEFF ROSLOW

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

BARTOW – The state and county are each chipping in money to repair and replace deteriorating walls in the Polk County History Center.

The $150,000 project includes a $100,000 grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources and $50,000 from Polk County. It is being overseen by the county’s Facilities Management department.

The project is underway and should be done by September said Maria Trippe, the curator of collections at the History Center. While it is going on there will be plastic closing off some areas, but none of the exhibits will be closed, she said.

The work is being done mostly on walls that face the outside of the 108-year-old building which is starting to bubble from the heat of outdoors and water intrusion that was previously fixed.

“We don’t have to close down any of the exhibits,” she said. “This is so state of the art you don’t even notice they are there.”

The History Center is the former Polk County Courthouse, and now operates as a museum and historical and genealogical library for the preservation and promotion of Polk’s history. “When we dedicate funding and resources to repair our historic buildings, we are making a statement that this building played an important role in defining who we are as a society,” Polk Facilities Director Keith Tate said.

In 2015, the exterior was repaired due to deterioration of the brickwork and limestone walls, which created the moisture intrusion damage now being corrected. Together, the two projects ensure the architecture of the building and protect the artifacts and documents in the History Center’s collections, the county has claimed.

The History Center is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 100 E. Main St., Bartow. For information go to www.polkhistorycenter.org or call 863-534-4386. All programs and events are free and open to the public.

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**Jacqueline Byrd to speak at Tiger Bay Club meeting**

**WRITTEN BY**

S.L. FRISBIE

Polk County School Supt. Jacqueline Byrd will speak at the June meeting of the Tiger Bay Club of Polk County.

The primary topic of discussion will be school campus security plans implemented in Polk after a gunman staged a murderous attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland earlier this year.

Mrs. Byrd has a career of more than 25 years in education as a teacher, principal, and district office administrator. She moved to Polk in 2013 to become deputy school superintendent. She was promoted to superintendent in 2016.

She will speak at the Tiger Bay meeting on Wednesday, June 20, at the Bartow Civic Center. The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m.

Tiger Bay is a non-partisan political interest group that meets each month to hear speakers who hold positions of leadership in government, politics, commerce, and related fields.

Visitors are invited. The charge, which includes a buffet luncheon, is $15 for members and $25 for non-members. Reservations may be made by Monday, June 18, by e-mail to reservation@TigerbayPolk.com, or by phone to 863-640-5357.

The club’s format is to hear a 10-minute opening talk by the speaker, followed by 45 minutes of questions submitted in writing by members.
Pilot program is smart metering

WRITTEN BY JEFF ROSLOW
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

BARTOW – The city of Bartow is about to embark on a pilot project that can help its electric customers and possibly increase the speed and capacity for online services.

In workshop on Monday, June 11, commissioners decided to start a project in about 1,224 addresses between Van Fleet Drive and Gay Street and from North Street and Crown Avenue (County Road 555). The city has on hand $2.5 million for the project and it hopes if things go well, discussions will resume on making it larger.

The top priority for the project will be to have what is called smart meters. This can help homeowners and businesses in a number of ways, City Manager George Long told commissioners.

“Support smart metering there are a number of advantages and cost savings,” he said and one of the biggest is the number of hours meter readers is the number of people it takes for metering and the extreme amount of manpower. If someone’s electricity gets turned off, someone has to go there and turn it off. If it gets paid that day, someone has to go out there again and turn it on.”

Commissioner Scott Sjoblom agreed that area is good.

“To have a pilot project it has to have what the whole thing will do,” he said. “We’ve got a mix of (customers), a mix of costs and economic circumstances.”

“There is another advantage to this and that is the Internet service,” Long said if it is feasible to expand the fiber broadband plan.

One, he said, is that when it rains heavily in Bartow there are some areas that are prone to flooding. The city can put sensors and monitor the situation and let people know what the conditions are.

He added with a possibility of better Internet service the city could be helped economically.

“The last couple of years we’ve gotten complaints from businesses that move large files and the need for capacity and speed,” Long said. “One engineering firm has told me the business may have to move (from Bartow).”

Long said commissioners had to make a decision soon because the job has to be bid out. Money and equipment totaling $2.5 million has been set aside and a scope of what has to be done has to be drawn up for an RFP (request for proposal). He also warned commissioners that if the thought is there is expand this citywide, the city will have to look down the road to what they haven’t done already and determine the cost. Many cities and counties have gone belly up in trying to compete with private Internet companies.

“This is a level of service that does not exist now and we can do whatever the community wants to do but they have to be willing to pay for it. The cost could be 10 times … it will be expensive. How will we get the funding? I don’t know, we haven’t reached that point yet,” Long said. “We need expertise from the outside.”

Pfeiffer said the city should have a meeting with the public to see what the community wants. She posed the question on her Internet site after the city set up the workshop at last week’s meeting. It asked “How do you like your Internet provider? How is the speed and their customer service in Bartow?” It got 80 responses and while they ranged, it mostly said it was not good. But, she added, that should not be taken as what the community has to say.

“We can’t even email 10 photos from our phone,” Pfeiffer said, adding people are angry. “People are pulling their hair out and they will pay for this.”

Sjoblom said having a meeting with the public now may be too soon. There are questions about expanding the project the city does not have and it may be likely people will ask about it and won’t get an answer.

“We have $2.5 million now, but let’s put the pilot together and this will come down to how do we pay for it and when (if it can be expanded),” he said.
Vincent W. Gatto, MD, has accepted the position of Chief Medical Officer for Winter Haven Hospital and Winter Haven Women's Hospital. He assumes the role while also winding down his obstetrics and gynecology practice at Bond Clinic through the end of the year.

Dr. Gatto started at Bond Clinic in 1984, the same year that he completed his medical training at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. His entire medical career has been with Bond Clinic in Winter Haven, resulting in thousands of loyal patients and more than 4000 newborn deliveries.

While at Bond Clinic, Dr. Gatto has served on the Bond Clinic Operations Committee, the Quality Assurance Committee, and helped implement the electronic medical records (EMR) system of choice. In addition, as a member of the Winter Haven Hospital medical staff, Dr. Gatto has served as OB/GYN section chair, member of the Credentials Committee, and member of the Quality Improvement Committee. At the Winter Haven Women’s Hospital, he established specialized training for labor nurses, a family-focused system for cesarean births, and pharmaceutical protocols for various procedures.

Dr. Gatto will continue to see established patients at his Bond Clinic practice through the end of the year before retiring from Bond Clinic in December.

Cornerstone Hospice seeks volunteers in Polk County

Lakeland, Fla. – Cornerstone Hospice and Palliative Care seeks compassionate individuals to help support its patients and families in Lakeland as well as other Polk County communities including Winter Haven, Auburndale, Bartow and Lake Wales. Registration is open for a Tuesday, June 19th volunteer training which is free to participants. The training course covers the basic principles of hospice and the various opportunities to help.

Cornerstone Hospice volunteers may keep a patient company while a caregiver takes a break, they may provide pet care or facilitate a ceremony to honor a military veteran; plus, volunteers may choose in which locale they’d like to help. The Cornerstone Hospice volunteer training will be held at 2140 East County Road 540A, in Lakeland, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Cornerstone Hospice volunteers in Polk County

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Watson Clinic offers cochlear implants for patients with severe hearing loss

Lakeland, FL — Jeffrey A. Paffrath, MD, a board-certified Watson Clinic Otolaryngologist (ENT), is pleased to offer cochlear implants, a revolutionary device that restores the perception of sound for patients with severe hearing loss.

Hearing aids work by amplifying sound acoustically, and in some cases are incapable of providing efficient amplification for patients with profound hearing loss. Cochlear implants are designed to provide efficient amplification by electrically transmitting sound directly to the auditory nerve. The cochlear implant system includes both external and internal components. The external components require the patient to wear a speech processor and microphone behind their ear much like they would a hearing aid. This unit is linked to a small processor and microphone behind the ear. The internal component consists of an implant that is inserted by a doctor, just under the skin by the temporal bone. This implant converts the signals collected from the external processor and sends them to electrodes that stimulate the auditory nerve. This allows sound waves to make their way directly to the area of the brain that recognizes and interprets them.

“Cochlear implant technology has advanced significantly in recent years,” says Dr. Paffrath. “The system is now equipped with wireless technology and can be used for a variety of different applications whether you’re listening to the radio, speaking with a loved one in close proximity or talking on the phone.”

The implant has been shown to improve a patient's speech as well, which is often debilitated by hearing loss.

At Watson Clinic, candidacy for the implant is determined upon examination by a licensed audiologist. The surgical procedure is then referred to an ENT surgeon. “The system produces a richness of sound that can transform the way hearing impaired patients experience the world around them,” says Christian H. Stewart, Au.D., CCC-A, a certified audiologist at the Watson Clinic Hearing Center in the Bella Vista Building.

In order to qualify, adult candidates must suffer from severe hearing loss in both ears that cannot be adequately corrected by traditional hearing aids.

Dr. Paffrath treats patients from the Watson Clinic Bella Vista Building at 1755 N. Florida Ave in Lakeland and Watson Clinic Highlands at 2300 E. County Rd. 540A in south Lakeland. In addition, hearing exams are performed from these two locations at the Watson Clinic Hearing Center. To schedule a consultation, please call 863-680-7486.

Call for a subscription: 863.533.4183

E & E Farms, LLC, 2 Temporary workers needed in Bruce, MS. From 7/21/2018 - 11/05/2018. Applicants 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. Drain water from fields with hand tools and shovel when needed. Move hay. Load & unload boxes on truck and trailers. Repair, maintain and clean all hand tools and mechanical equipment prior to and after use. All tools, equipment, and supplies will be provided at no cost to workers. Work in extreme weather conditions. Must be able to work with minimum supervision. Workers may be asked to operate vehicles, Farm equipment, drive all tractors (in the fields), and implements on farm including: disk, dual, chisel plow, bushhawg, forklift, water trailer to water plants, and any other equipment related to the planting of crops. Worker may be asked to do welding and torch work when needed. Safety training for use of farm equipment and tractor will be provided. May transport workers to fields and grocery store. Appropriate driver’s license required. Unique Sweet Potatoes – Use of mechanical digging equipment to dig potatoes. May harvest sweet potatoes by hand with the use of buckets. Workers may be asked to drive skid loader to load and unload potatoes by cranes on trucks. Must be able to sort, grade & pack potatoes by size quality or type. Three (3) months experience on commercial farm needed for mechanical diggers. Verifiable experience references required. General Specifications and Physical Requirements of the Job: The majority of the workday is spent on one’s feet and outdoors. Workers may stand in one place for any period of time. Workers must be able to climb, stand, sit, stoop, squat, kneel, crouch, bend (from the waist), push, pull, reach, lift and extensive walking. Workers will be performing repetitive movements. Work is performed in outdoor agricultural fields and involves exposure to sun, wind, rain, soil, mud, dust, heat, cold and other natural elements. 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. There is a lifting requirement of 5-60 pounds. Workers should expect periods of little/no work during growing time. Hours and days of work may vary due to weather conditions. Employer may conduct criminal background checks on all new applicants for employment. Proper work attire is required. No cell phone usage during working hours. Cell phone can only be used during breaks and emergencies. 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 or before work commences. If the employee is unable or until after the duties listed after the 14 day pretrial, the employee will receive a warning, hours may be reduced to the minimum allowed in the certified petition or terminated. Workers will be paid $ 10.73 per hour, three fourth’s guarantee, 35 hour per week. Housing, equipment, and transportation is provided at no cost to workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of each workday. 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 or call your nearest office. MS (662) 842-2175, AL (256) 259-1835, LA (318) 676-7705, FL (863) 385-3672, Use Job Order: MS 200921.

The Winter Haven Hospital Community Blood Center is observing World Blood Donor Day this month. Donor Appreciation Day this month also falls on World Blood Donor Day, which is June 14. This is a day to thank donors and encourage them to spread the word about donation. Those who give at the Community Blood Center, 460 First St. N. in Winter Haven, will receive a limited-edition tumbler, free catered food, treats from around the world and a free wellness check. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Community Blood Center is the sole provider of blood and blood products to Winter Haven Hospital, Winter Haven Women’s Hospital and Lake Wales Medical Center. All blood types are encouraged, with an emphasis on O-negative and A-negative. O-negative donors are urged to ask about our “Blood for Babies” program. If your blood type is A-positive and you have about two extra hours to spare every 2 to 3 weeks you could be a platelet donor. Please call 863-297-1840 and ask for details.

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BayCare Calendar of Events

Bartow Regional Medical Center, Winter Haven Hospital and Winter Haven Women’s Hospital offer an array of support groups, screenings and healthy living activities in Polk County each month. The following events will be held in June.

Orthopedic Classes
• Total Joint Replacement
  Increase your knowledge of total joint replacement, prepare for surgery and get familiar with the recovery process.
  June 5, 12, 19 and 26, 1-2 p.m.
  Bartow Regional Medical Center, Classroom 1
  Registration is required – Free
  Call (863) 519-1665
  June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 12:30-2 p.m.
  Winter Haven Hospital, Wellness Center Conference Room
  200 Avenue F N.E., Winter Haven
  Registration is required – Free
  Call (863) 297-1808

Support Groups
All support group sessions are free. Unless otherwise noted, registration is not Required.
• Ovarian Cancer Support Group
  A group for individuals with ovarian cancer to share emotions and experiences with other patients.
  June 18, 5:30-7 p.m.
  Winter Haven Hospital, Wellness Center Conference Room
• Man-to-Man Cancer Support Group
  For men who have cancer or who have survived it, this group offers information and provides a safe, welcoming place to give and receive support from others.
  June 19, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
  Winter Haven Hospital, Quality Improvement Conference Room
• Brain Injury Support Group
  Open forum for brain injury survivors.
  June 21, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
  Winter Haven Hospital, Quality Improvement Conference Room

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**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

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BayCare Calendar of Events

• Brain Injury Support Group
  Open forum for brain injury survivors and their caregivers, family and friends on how to live life to the fullest after a traumatic injury.
  June 26, 7-8:30 p.m.
  Winter Haven Hospital, Wellness Center Conference Room

• Diabetes Support Group
  This is an open discussion held by a certified diabetes educator for all diabetes-related topic. Registration is required: 855-314-8352.
  June 28, 9-10 a.m.
  Winter Haven Hospital, Wellness Center Conference Room

• Mental Health Peer Recovery Program
  Provides education, support and socialization for participants diagnosed with mental health issues, moving them toward recovery.
  Mondays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lions Park Clubhouse
820 Ave. L SW, Winter Haven

Wednesdays, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Winter Haven Hospital Center for Behavioral Health
1201 First St. S., Winter Haven

• Birth Center Tour
  Visiting our birth suites, mom-baby unit and other key areas will familiarize you with our facility and help you prepare to give birth.
  June 28, 5:30-7 p.m.
  Cost: Free

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- Be able to manage and maintain day to day operation of kitchen with no supervision.
- Create new and maintain existing menu. Ensure customer satisfaction by being able to explain menus and foods to customers when called upon in both English and Thai.
- Any other duties as assigned by owners.

Please send resume to ThaiHaven@hotmail.com or 309 W Central Ave, Winter Haven, FL 33880

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