

WINTER HAVEN SUN



Wednesday, February 27, 2019

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An Edition Of The Sun

'This was a day of miracles'



PHOTO BY CHARLES A BAKER III

A Winter Haven firefighter checks to see where fuel from the seaplane is leaking into a home at 2735 Idylridge Dr. in Winter Haven. Foam was used to decrease the volatility.

One person is dead as a result of a plane crash in Winter Haven Feb. 23. Officials say it is remarkable that more were not killed.

By CHARLES A BAKER III
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WINTER HAVEN - A single-engine seaplane crashed into a home at 2735 Idylridge Drive in Winter Haven early Saturday afternoon, killing 64-year-old flight instructor James Wagner of Lakeland.

Wagner was training Timothy Sheehy, 33, of Bozeman, Montana. The training session was supposed to have simulated engine failure, but Polk Sheriff Grady Judd said it is unknown if the instructor and trainee were simulating immediately after takeoff, which is when the crash happened.

The seaplane crashed into a bedroom occupied by a 17-year-old, who survived.

"She was basically folded up into a wall," Winter Haven Public Safety Director Charlie Bird said of the teenager who was trapped in the room.

Her 20-year-old brother, Joel Ngalamulume, was unable to rescue his sister. Their mother, Emerance Ngalamulume, was taking a shower at the time of the crash and three children were playing in the driveway. No one inside the house was seriously injured. The **young woman**

CRASH | 4

RussMatt event preserves spring baseball tradition

By STEVEN RYZEWSKI
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WINTER HAVEN — It's a Thursday in February and cars are parked at Chain of Lakes Stadium. The scoreboard is on and the crack of a bat breaks up the afternoon monotony.

It has been more than a decade since the Cleveland Indians left Winter Haven in 2008 to make a new Spring Training home in Arizona, but spring baseball in Winter Haven persists. The players are a little younger and the crowds are a little smaller, but thanks to the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational, it persists.

The annual event, in its 15th year overall and its 10th spring in Polk, will run through the end of March.

For college baseball teams in northern states, the ability to head south

SPRING BALL | 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRYAN KLABIK
Bates College (Maine) and Augustana College (Illinois) face off Feb. 21 at Chain of Lakes Stadium.



Filling the gap

The Haley Center, a free clinic in downtown Winter Haven, helps link the uninsured and underinsured with healthcare. **PG 6**



Awesome alumna

Winter Haven High alumna Delia Dykes Owen has had quite the success as a writer. **PG 9**



Symetra Tour stops in Winter Haven

The Florida's Natural Charity Classic will tee off in Winter Haven next month. **PG 19**

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

Moonlight Market

When: February 27, 2019 | 7 - 9 p.m.

Where: Grove Roots Brewing

302 3rd St. SW, Winter Haven

Join us for the monthly Moonlight Market at Grove Roots Brewing in Downtown Winter Haven. Coming in from all over Central Florida, vendors set up shop with items including handmade soy candles, unique stained glass, honey, avocados and freshly baked bread. Check the Grove Roots website to see which food truck will be on site. Swing on by, shop, sip & eat local!

Celtic Roots band RUNA in concert

When: February 28, 2019 | 7:30 p.m.

Where: 604 30th St. SW, Winter Haven

The Celtic Roots band RUNA will be appearing for the first time in Florida at the Lakeside Music Room for a concert on Thursday, Feb. 28. The group performs authentic step dance, song and reels and jigs on guitar, percussion drums, fiddle, mandolin and bodhran. Enjoy lush harmonies and intoxicating rhythms of jazz, bluegrass, flamenco and blues, as well as their traditional Celtic Roots music. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (863) 293-1510.

Oakwood Bazaar

When: March 1-2, 2019 | 7 a.m.-2

p.m., 8 a.m.-noon

Where: Oakwood Estates Clubhouse

4028 Rolling Oaks Dr., Winter Haven

Attic treasures, baked goods, tools, electronics, furniture, jewelry, clothing, linens. Food and raffles available.

Natural basket making

When: March 2, 2019 | 9 a.m.

**Where: Bok Tower Gardens
1151 Tower Blvd., Lake Wales**

A hands-on workshop to create useful, durable baskets from local natural materials. \$40 members/\$47 non-member. More information at boktowergardens.org.

Brass Heart Band

When: March 5, 2019 | 8 p.m.

**Where: Theatre Winter Haven
210 Cypress Garden Blvd., Winter Haven**

Part of Theatre Winter Haven's Tribute Tuesday Series. Join us as The Brass Heart Band take to the stage for a musical tribute to Rock 'N Roll Horn Bands! Tickets for this event are \$30 in advance and \$32 the day of the show.

Garden Jeopardy: The Weird World of Plants

When: March 7, 2019 | 10 a.m.

Where: Mackay Gardens and Lake-side Preserve

945 Mackay Blvd., Lake Alfred
Bring a team, or forge a new one, to play an enjoyable game of Garden Jeopardy with the Master Gardeners!

This session's topic: Weird Things Plants Do! Teams will sound their

buzzers to score as many points as they can to win the game. Come to laugh and learn with your friends! Event is free.

Taste of Winter Haven

When: March 7, 2019 | 6 - 9 p.m.

Where: Venue 650

650 Sixth St. SW, Winter Haven

Join the Winter Haven Chamber for one of its biggest community events of the year: Taste of Winter Haven! Taste of Winter Haven is a tasting event that provides the community with an opportunity to support local businesses in a delicious way. Local restaurants, caterers and food artisans will gather to share their cuisine with you. Purchase your "taste ticket," meet us at Venue 650 and indulge in delicious food, beer and wine while enjoying live music by Hunter Smith. Who knew supporting local businesses could be this fun? You must be 21 or older to attend.

Lake Region Annual Art Show

When: March 9, 2019 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: Lake Region Village

31850 U.S. 27 South, Haines City

Featuring oils, acrylics, and watercolor works, the 37th annual show will also feature wood carvers. Admission is free, and refreshments and door prizes will be available. Contact Pat White for more information at (863) 438-9506.

CommunityFest

When: March 9, 2019 | 11 a.m. - 4

p.m.

Where: Downtown Winter Haven

Mark your calendar for the 5th Annu-

al CommunityFest FREE Family Fun Festival! CommunityFest is a family-friendly event that encourages the community to come together and enjoy games, entertainment, food and more. This free festival allows businesses to give back to the community while families enjoy fun-filled activities and entertainment in the park.

Florida Dance Theatre at Polk State

When: March 15, 2019 | 7:30 p.m.

Where: Polk State College - Winter Haven campus

999 Avenue H NE, Winter Haven

The professional dance company based out of Lakeland is celebrating its 25th anniversary this season and will perform at Polk State College in Winter Haven. The group will be showcasing an eclectic evening of contemporary ballet and modern dance.

History of Polk County Roads

When: March 19, 2019 | 12:15 - 1 p.m.

**Where: Polk County History Center
100 E. Main St., Bartow**

Ryan Kordek, transportation planning administrator for the Polk Transportation Planning Organization, will focus on where, when and why the first trails, rails and roads were constructed in Polk County. His presentation includes a variety of photos and maps beginning in the 1820s through 1955. Many of his maps are on display as part of the local component, titled "Polk County Crossroads," of the new Smithsonian Institution exhibit "Crossroads: Change in Rural America," and will remain on permanent display.

WINTER HAVEN SUN

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**Email Calendar Events to
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Freelancers wanted

The Winter Haven Sun and the Polk News-Sun are looking to add a handful of freelancers to help enhance our coverage. Those interested with prior experience are encouraged to submit a resume and links to prior writing samples to

**Steven Ryzewski, Managing Editor, at
sryzewski@scmginc.com. No calls, please.**

COUNTY NEWS

Local fire departments navigate raise negotiations, more

By CHARLES A. BAKER III
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WINTER HAVEN – Winter Haven, Haines City and Polk County firefighters have been in the news recently.

On Jan. 14, after four months of negotiation, Winter Haven firefighters — with help from International Association of Firefighters Local 4967 — reached an agreement with the city for a two percent annual raise. The raise matches that which other city employees received this year. A representation of city firefighters voted to approve the agreement Feb. 15.

Winter Haven City Manager Mike Herr said that in the coming days Winter Haven firefighters will be receiving a lump sum check covering back pay, dating from Oct. 1, 2018.

On Feb. 20, Winter Haven resident Dustin Donahoe crashed his Ford Focus into a home at 1024 Lake Ave. in Haines City, entrapping him. Haines City firefighters extracted Donahoe and transported him to the hospital. As of press time, it is unknown if Donahoe was driving impaired.

Also on Feb. 20, Polk County Fire Rescue firefighters, with help from IAFF Local 3531, were unable to reach

a deal in salary negotiations with the county. According to WFLA, the county offered a 3.5 percent raise, but took away contractual rights for firefighters to file grievances against the county.

The firefighters did not accept the offer.

WFLA also recently quoted IAFF Local 3531 President Derek Walsh as saying that many PCFR firefighters start working in Polk, but leave after realizing many other counties have better benefits and guaranteed paid raises over time. Walsh said PCFR has lost 437 personnel over the past five years and that a mediator is being hired to try to lock down a better deal with the county.

Polk officials acknowledge that the department needs to fill several openings.

“I think there is a combined staffing of firefighters and paramedics of around 500 (or so),” said Polk County Commission Chair George Lindsey. “Yes, we are about 80-100 positions short.”

Asked why some of the \$100 million tax raise to benefit PCFR last September could not be used to increase pay or shore up the recruiting problem, Lindsey said the \$100 million is for capital expenses such as new stations and equipment — primarily to benefit

PCFR emergency medical services — and that only a fraction of the tax increase is currently budgeted for salary.

“At this year’s retreat, the board agreed to raising the fire fee next year to fund (salary increases) on the fire-fighting side of the equation,” Lindsey said.

Finally, PCFR Capt. James Williams was placed on administrative leave re-

cently in reference to allegations that he took a “Snapchat” video while responding to a fire that killed 76-year-old Loretta Pickard Nov. 23 in Lakeland.

The county has signed a contract with Emergency Services Consulting International to investigate the matter. An internal investigation is also underway.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HAINES CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Winter Haven resident Dustin Donahoe crashed his Ford Focus into a home at 1024 Lake Ave. in Haines City Feb. 20. Haines City firefighters extracted Donahoe and transported him to the hospital.

Gyp stack concerns in Louisiana reminiscent of Polk sinkholes

By CHARLES A. BAKER III
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POLK COUNTY – Those who have lived in Polk County for awhile may remember the sinkholes that, in 1994 and 2016, opened up under a phosphogypsum stack — or gyp stack — in Mulberry, twice dumping hundreds of millions of acidic wastewater in the Floridan Aquifer.

Gyp stacks are 300-foot piles of slightly radioactive phosphate mining waste topped with acidic wastewater from mining. The sinkholes occurred under gyp stacks owned by The Mosaic Company, a Fortune 500 company based in Minnesota, which is the largest domestic producer of potash and phosphate fertilizer.

Now, media reports in the New Orleans area have raised concerns at another

situation in New Orleans is unique to that locale. According to NOLA.com, in late December a farmer whose sugarcane field was adjacent to the “Uncle Sam” gyp stack near New Orleans noticed a bulge on his land and notified Mosaic staff. Mosaic investigators found that a sloping wall of the “Uncle Sam” gyp stack “was moving outward at what could be a dangerous rate.”

On Jan. 10, Mosaic staff notified the Environmental Protection Agency of the lateral movement in the gyp stack — a notification required as part of a settlement agreement from 2015 with the states of Florida and Louisiana, in reference to longstanding allegations that Mosaic staff were illegally using hazardous waste at facilities in Bartow, Mulberry and multiple other Mosaic mine sites.

Asked for a response to this latest situation, a spokesperson for Mosaic sought to assure Polk residents that the

situation in New Orleans is unique to that locale.

“You’re good to be asking those questions in Florida,” Callie Neslund said in an email statement. “A notable difference between Florida and Louisiana is the geology. The Louisiana (site) was built upon compacted clay. That is not the case in Florida. Our focus now is stabilizing the slope (in Louisiana). Once the slope is stabilized, we will shift our focus to determining a root cause. It is important for your readers to know that the gyp stacks in Florida are inspected daily for stability and water levels are consistently monitored and adjusted as required.”

According to government documents, Mosaic engineers noticed the pond of acidic wastewater on top of a gyp stack in 2016 lowering over the course of several days. It was not until after the pond drained that they could see a waterfall

of wastewater flowing into a deep sinkhole. Inspection and monitoring is unlikely to prevent another sinkhole from opening up under one of the several gyp stacks surrounding Bartow and Mulberry, as sinkholes are most common in certain areas of Central Florida.

Neslund said that, so far, none of the wastewater at the “Uncle Sam” gyp stack has leaked into the surrounding swamps or farmland. Engineers there are emptying the pond on top of that gyp stack as a means to relieve pressure.

In other news related to Mosaic, just about all of the phosphate in Polk County is believed to have been mined. Mosaic staff are currently in a legal battle with the DeSoto County Commission over its recent decision not to zone land to be available for mining there. Mosaic staff are seeking to mine phosphate there and then process it at their Bartow and Mulberry facilities.

ON THE COVER

CRASH

FROM PAGE 1

an in the bedroom was eventually rescued from the house by officials pulling her out of a bedroom window, Bird said.

“This was a day of miracles, because Timothy Sheehy — a trainee pilot — actually walked out of the crash, if you can believe that,” Judd said. “He walked out of the crash and was wandering around when Winter Haven firefighters arrived.”

Both the young woman and Sheehy were transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

Evans Leblanc lives across the street and said he was in his room eating lunch when he heard the plane crash.

“At first, my daughter said ‘Daddy, it’s Saturday, it can’t be garbage cans,’” Leblanc said.

SPRING BALL

FROM PAGE 1

and play out the early weeks of their schedules keeps the sport viable until warmer temperatures arrive. So, an event like RussMatt provides an opportunity for teams, ranging from Division I programs you may have heard of to Division III and NAIA programs you likely have not, to get valuable games in — hundreds of them, in fact.

“I think (RussMatt is) a very well-kept secret — but it’s not a secret to these 270 teams that come down here,” said Rob Sitz, the event’s president.

The lion’s share of games for RussMatt will take place in Polk at Chain of Lakes Complex and Lake Myrtle Sports Complex. Others will take place in Lakeland, Lake County, Osceola County and as far away as Sanford in Seminole County.

Nearly 270 teams will be hitting the diamond for RussMatt, and the event is as much a boon for the local economy as it is for local baseball fans. Event officials estimate this year’s invitationals will result in more than 35,000 hotel room nights, not to mention restaurant meals for players, coaches and fans who traveled to see their team.

“We’re not your traditional spring break market, but RussMatt is definitely bringing college-age students here — and their families are coming out as well, turning it into a vacation and watching their sons play baseball,” said Marc Zimmerman, the senior sales and events manager for

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration will be investigating the crash in more detail. It may be more than a week before the plane is removed from the house, Judd said.

Bird said the plane is still leaking fuel. Foam is being used to make it less volatile and firefighters and police officers are tasked with remaining on scene until the plane is removed.

Afterward, Judd remarked that, while any loss of life is tragic, the situation could have been much worse.

“As tragic as this was to Mr. Wagner it’s a blessing today that we did not have an entire family wiped out,” Judd said.

Central Florida’s Polk County Sports Marketing. “Its tremendous for us to be able to have that.”

Crowds at the games draw more than family members, too. RussMatt sells single game, weeklong and full tournament passes and, according to Sitz, the walk-up traffic is especially strong in Winter Haven.

“I think in Winter Haven we get more (walk-up traffic) than we get anywhere else,” Sitz said. “I get calls and emails from locals asking for the schedule at Chain of Lakes. ... I think this stadium (Chain of Lakes) is an important aspect of that because it brings back memories. I don’t think a lot of people care if it’s college baseball or pro baseball -- it’s just a great atmosphere here.”

RussMatt started last week, but picks up steam in the coming two weeks, hitting its busiest stretch around the weekend of March 8-10. During that time, Sitz said the event will play host to as many as 80 games per day on as many as 30 fields.

Beyond the facilities that are official tournament sites, games are played at local high schools and colleges around Polk, in addition to municipal facilities. A full schedule for the event can be found at RussMatt.com.

At the end of the day, to pull off an event at this scale, collaboration is more than necessary.

“It really is a big community effort to make this all work,” Sitz said.

Legalized hemp could benefit Polk’s abandoned citrus groves

By CHARLES A. BAKER III
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POLK COUNTY – According to the latest United States Department of Agriculture “Abandoned Citrus” report, there are 8,533 acres of abandoned citrus in Polk County. The citrus greening epidemic has devastated Florida’s citrus industry, reducing crop output by around 60 percent since 2005.

As some scientists look for ways to rescue the citrus industry, other scientists, farmers and even some state legislators in Tallahassee are suggesting that hemp could replace citrus in places where groves have been abandoned due to citrus greening.

Rep. Sam Killebrew (R – Winter Haven) and Senate Agriculture Chairman Ben Albritton (R – Bartow) recently filed companion bills which would create a pilot program to study the possibility of making the cultivation of hemp legal again: HB333 and SB1058.

Sen. Rob Bradley (R – Fleming Island) filed a hemp-related bill — SB1020 — around the same time.

Hemp is derived from cannabis sativa, but has much less tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, than marijuana. President Donald Trump signed the 2018 Farm Bill into law in November, making hemp legal for interstate commerce, but the law is written in such a way that makes it up to individual states to determine whether to make hemp legal.

The Florida legislative session starts March 5 and will determine whether Florida will make hemp legal and, if so, how to go about regulating it.

Longtime hemp advocate, and recent applicant for the first Florida Director of Cannabis, Steve Edmonds said the reasons why cultivating hemp would be good for Florida farmers is that hemp will

grow practically anywhere, requires very little irrigation beyond rain and requires very little fertilization.

All this means cultivating hemp could potentially be much more profitable than owning an unused orange grove.

With Florida growing explosively in population, water availability has also become a problem. Growing hemp instead of a more thirsty crop could help keep the Floridan Aquifer at healthy levels, and keep water clean because less fertilizer is needed. Taxes collected from hemp groves could also help pay for additional water infrastructure projects.

The problem, Edmonds said, is that two of the three bills being considered would take longer to implement and would require more regulatory paperwork than the third bill.

The two bills sponsored by Rep. Killebrew and Sen. Albritton would create a pilot program so that staff and students at the University of Florida and Florida A & M University could study which hemp seed is best for Florida, and additionally study how best to implement a hemp cultivation industry.

The bill sponsored by Sen. Bradley would simply decriminalize hemp, reducing the amount of government regulation, Edmonds said.

“House Bill 333 and Senate Bill 1058 bottleneck everything through the university system,” Edmonds said. “They are treating hemp like nuclear waste when it should be treated like a vegetable.”

Those who have an opinion on the matter should reach out to legislators now, the onset of the 2019 legislative session.

County residents who are interested in learning more are encouraged to attend the Florida Hemp Hootenanny March 16 at the American Legion Post 95 Memorial Auditorium in Frostproof at 111 W. First St.



PHOTO BY CHARLES A. BAKER III

Valencia College adjunct professor and recent Florida Director of Cannabis applicant Steve Edmonds spoke in Winter Haven about hemp in 2017.

Let the Polk Senior Games begin!

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**
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WINTER HAVEN - The opening ceremony of the 27th Annual Polk Senior Games took place Saturday, Feb. 23.

Around 700 volunteers will be organizing 2,450 seniors competing in 100 events spanning 40 sports and games through March 11. Seventy-six athletes competed on the track at All Saints Academy Saturday morning to christen this year's games.

Polk Senior Games President Ron Schultz introduced 2018 Women's Outstanding Athlete Claudette Braswell and Gail Nolen, the widow of 2018 Men's Outstanding Athlete Don Nolen, as the torch bearers.

At age 102, Arlan Meade is the Game's most senior athlete.

Once the competition began, Leslie Bennett, 75, of Fort Lauderdale, broke the Games' 800-meter record, finishing in under three minutes.

"I'm also running the 400 (meters)," Bennett said. "I'm going to break that record, too."

Bennett later did just that.

Others who broke records on Saturday included Jodie Brown (track), Eberle

Funches and Yvette Fox (powerlifting). Overall, 48 records were broken in track and powerlifting Saturday.

The Games are founded by gold sponsor Publix Supermarkets Charities. This year's silver sponsor is Homer and Annette Thompson Legacy; the bronze sponsors are The James W Sikes Family, CPS Investment Advisors, Heart of Florida Hospital, Julie and Chip Watkins and Best Value Healthcare Plus Humana.



Leslie Bennett, 75 of Ft. Lauderdale, broke the Polk Senior Games record in the 800 meter and 400 meter races Saturday at All Saints Academy in Winter Haven.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES A BAKER III

Claudette Braswell, right, helps Gail Nolan carry the torch during the 2019 Polk Senior Games opening ceremony Saturday in Winter Haven. Braswell went on to win the 80-84 age women's bracket races for 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1500 meters.

Polk TPO forum addresses pedestrian safety concerns

By **STEVEN RYZEWSKI**
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that live in that state or metro area and the share of people who walk to work."

According to Deardorff, this favors areas with a higher density with a longer history and infrastructure for commuters who walk or bike to work.

BARTOW — The Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) welcomed the community to the Polk County Administration Building Feb. 14 for a discussion on where transportation in Polk is — and where it is headed.

Among the topics of discussion during the hour long session was safety. Roughly three weeks earlier, a report by Smart Growth America titled "Dangerous by Design" designated a metro area consisting of Lakeland and Winter Haven as the fifth-worst in the nation on its "Pedestrian Danger Index."

"That is definitely something that is not where we want to be," said Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO's executive director. "And, unfortunately, we have a lot of company in Central Florida — most of those places are clustered in Florida."

Indeed, eight of the top-10 metro areas designated in the listing were located in the Sunshine State. And, while Deardorff was clear that he and his staff are working tirelessly to improve upon those conditions, he also made a point of noting that the way Smart Growth scores its index is likely to be unfavorable to places such as Florida.

That is because the index "measures how deadly it is for people to walk based on the number of people struck and killed by drivers while walking, controlling for the number of people

"I'm not suggesting that we don't have real safety issues that we need to address," Deardorff said. "But a lot of the areas that are identified are highly-populated urban areas that don't have the same density as metropolitan areas in the northeast corridor."

Florida is at an inherent disadvantage of sorts to urbanized areas in northern states that were built before the automobile, when walking was a much more common way of travel. Meanwhile, many areas in Florida experienced growth after the automobile and are only now trying to incorporate more sophisticated options for pedestrians.

"I think what we are trying to do here in Polk County is try and play catch-up," Deardorff said.

Solutions for transportation and congestion will continue to be sought-after in Polk in the coming years. Polk is one of 12 counties in the Central Florida "super region" that is expected to add 4.5 million new residents in the next 25 years.

To put that number in perspective, that is akin to plopping the population of Oregon down in Central Florida.

"That's going to continue to present challenges to us as a growth state," Deardorff said. "It's not an option to say 'we will do nothing.'"



Tribute To Frankie Valli

by William Cintron

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WINTER HAVEN NEWS

Free clinic facilitates care for Polk's underinsured and uninsured

By STEVEN RYZEWSKI
sryzewski@scmginc.com

WINTER HAVEN — Donna Armes thinks the Haley Center, a free clinic located on Central Avenue that serves the indigent population, is one of the best kept secrets in town.

She'd really like to change that, too.

Armes, the director of the faith-based free clinic, says that the operation has grown incredibly since it was started in 2005, currently boasting volunteer network of more than 40 physicians with a wide range of specialties — but that it's not done growing yet.

"That's our thing, is to get our name out there -- to say 'hey, we're here,'" Armes said. "This clinic can grow."

The Haley Center started nearly 14 years ago, originally as a mission of Winter Haven's First Baptist Church, adjacent to the building on Central Avenue. The church allowed the clinic to become its own entity, though, and as of Oct. 1, 2018, Haley Center has 501(c)3 status.

Within the last year, the Haley Center transitioned from being open three days a week to being open Monday through Friday. It provides free care to Polk County's indigent population, with the ability to service individuals making up to 200 percent of the poverty level.

"We're for the working poor," Armes explains. "We help people who just got downsized and they lost their insurance.

They come in and we help them get on their feet."

Haley Center works with a wide variety of patients, from those with low incomes to Polk County's homeless population. The variety of patients presents a variety of challenges, and Armes and her core staff of five and the Haley Center's board of directors are constantly looking for ways to meet the needs of its patients.

"We ask our patients 'what would it take to make your life better and get you on a wellness pattern?'" Armes said.

That could include things like purchasing bus passes for patients to get to-and-from the clinic. Some goals for 2019 for the Haley Center — converting a room into a gym for clients and becoming a Hepatitis C clinic — are rooted in feedback from clients.

Haley Center has an impressive in-house pharmacy for its patients, as well as a pantry. Recently, it has added volunteer specialists including an endocrinologist.

"Anything that we see that we need, we go out and we try to bring it in-house so we can take care of all their medical needs," Armes said.

The Haley Center gets its funding from a variety of sources, including funds from Polk County's indigent care sales tax, as well as private donations. Recently, it got a big boost in the form of a check for \$10,000 from the Polk County Advanced Practice Nurses Association.

Cindy Brown, a member of the board

for both the PCAPNA and the Haley Center, presented the check to Armes Jan. 31. A volunteer at the Haley Center for more than a decade, Brown said that the association's donation — from monies raised during a raffle at the group's recent conference — is worth every penny.

"Having been here for over 10 years myself, I've seen the growth and commitment — I know it's real," Brown said. "We can see the evidence of where our money is going and see the people we are helping."

Of course, Haley Center isn't just a place where medical professionals work pro-bono, either. Armes partners with higher education institutions of all varieties to provide for opportunities for students — from nursing school students on up through those studying to become doctors — to get real-world experience.

"We're a really student-oriented clinic," she said.

The Haley Center is located at 122 West Central Ave. in downtown Winter Haven. Would-be patients are welcome to make appointments, but walk-ins are welcome as well. Haley Center staff is ready to help and answer questions for those who are unsure about whether they qualify for care.

As one might expect, the Haley Center is always fundraising and will always wel-

come volunteers and donations. More information about such opportunities and ways one can lend a hand can be found by calling 863-299-6562.

Well over a decade into its existence, the Haley Center's physical location is bursting at its seams, with Armes and company always looking for ways to maximize the 4,000 square-feet available to them.

And, most importantly, the clinic and its staff have not forgotten where it started.

"When you look at where we've grown now — it's just amazing," Armes said.



PHOTO BY STEVEN RYZEWSKI
Haley Center director Donna Armes, center, is presented with a check for \$10,000 by Cindy Brown of the Polk County Advanced Practice Nurses Association.

Education Connection Snively Elementary students get joy from giving

The Education Connection is a series sponsored by the Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce and DR Media & Investments, LLC. Schools need help from their communities to succeed, and today's schools build tomorrow's workforce. These articles will outline some of the good things happening and how interested parties can become involved.

Each year, during the months of November and December, Snively Elementary in Winter Haven holds a reading incentive called "Season of Giving."

Donations of small toys, games, packaged food, clothes, shoes, and beauty items are placed in different baskets or containers. Students and staff then title each basket with a fun saying, such as "My Mom is Beautiful." Each time a student reads a book and earns an 80 percent or

higher on an Accelerated Reader test, the student puts his or her name in a jar for a chance to "win" the basket, which is filled with goodies, to give as a present.

Snively Elementary staff was able to create 124 baskets for the students this past year, and this competition is a big hit with the kids.

Snively is a Title I school with, 100 percent of its students eating free breakfast and lunch each day. To earn/win a basket by reading and to be able to give a gift to someone they loved, was a joy for the students.

Snively Elementary is in need of donations for this reading incentive program each year. Donations, including donated baskets, are accepted throughout the year. For more information, call (863) 291-5325.



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

- Citizen's Advisory Committee
- Municipal Police Officers' Retirement Trust Fund Board
- Recreation Advisory 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



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Envisioning an 'Age Friendly Winter Haven'

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**
cbaker@scmginc.com

WINTER HAVEN - City of Winter Haven Recreation Specialist Andy Palmer proposed that the city commission adopt a city action plan titled "Age Friendly Winter Haven" during a city commission meeting Monday, Feb. 25.

The plan was explained as a blueprint on how to make Winter Haven more accommodating to the needs of the elderly.

Around five years ago, a group started meeting at the Winter Haven Senior Center monthly to talk about expanding partnerships between the city and area elderly service providers as a means to make the city more elderly friendly.

The group included All About Aging founder Barbara Herrington, her daughter and business manager Cari Leigh Herrington, elder law attorney Amy Phillips, Brad Beatty of Heart for Winter Haven, Andy Palmer, fellow City of Winter Haven Recreation Specialist Jennifer Burke, members of Better Living for Seniors, Winter Haven Hospital staff, Spring Lake

Rehab staff, Elderpoint Ministries volunteers, Bond Clinic staff, Cornerstone Hospice staff, Citizens Bank staff, Neighborhood Services Center volunteers, Winter Haven Sage-ing members and a few others.

Soon after, these community leaders started looking at the AARP Age Friendly Community Process.

"We really liked that it was more than just a designation," Cari Leigh Herrington said. "It's an active project that you are constantly improving and is never ending."

The program focuses on analyzing the "Eight Domains of Livability" which include outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and community and healthy services.

When the city joined this network in 2015, Winter Haven was the third city in Florida to do so. There are now 16 cities participating in this process. Now these city leaders are seeking to turn their ideas into policy.

Members of the Age Friendly Winter Haven group have already helped

make the city more elderly friendly. On March 6, city leaders will be celebrating the completion of renovations to the Winter Haven Senior Center using federal grant money. Grant money will also be used to start a Walk with Ease program. A grant-based "grab bar" program may start soon.

Between 2017 and 2018, the group teamed up with Polk State College students to survey 355 area residents to compile a report.

According to that data, there are many local seniors who are concerned about the lack of affordable housing and home repair for those who have low income. Many wanted more information about neighborhood watch programs. Having well lit streets and reliable public transportation were other desired concepts.

Many of those surveyed also said there is a need for community information for those who are homebound. Almost everyone who responded to the survey was interested in living independently. Most people who were surveyed also graded Winter Haven as doing well meeting the needs of the elderly.

The Winter Haven Senior Center

is an example of the effort city leaders direct to meet those needs. Daily, there are exercise sessions, painting, quilting and dance classes, get-together events for cards, bingo, chess and fellowship dining.

"Winter Haven has always had a strong senior presence between the snowbirds and popularity of Legoland," Cari Leigh Herrington said. "We wanted to find an avenue to make sure the city was aware of senior issues and to keep them on their radar when they were making policy decisions."

In addition to this work, Herrington was also the founding chair of the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals group a few years back, and Chamber staff are unsurprised by her initiative in this endeavor.

"It's no surprise to me that Cari is leading the way on this initiative," Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce President Katie Worthington said. "It combines two of her passions — the development of the Winter Haven community and the quality of life for our senior population."



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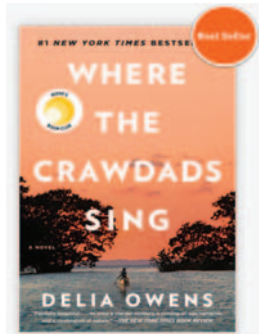
www.lakewalesfl.gov

Beneath the Chinaberry Tree

Carefully, quietly changing the world for the better

By BOB GERNERT

A great many high school graduates have, through the years, embarked with ambitions to make a difference in the world.



Many aspire and few succeed. But, one young woman who graduated Winter Haven High

School in 1967 would go on to international recognition for her work — and more recently for her writing.

Upon graduation the young woman left to attend the University of Georgia, eventually earning her BS and Ph.D. There, in the early 1970s she would meet her future husband, as both were graduate students in biology. They married in December 1972.

Fresh from completing their degrees they made a bold decision to resettle in a remote Africa. To fund their ambitions, they auctioned their possessions. They used those funds to buy camping equipment and two one-way tickets to Johannesburg.

The couple sought a location where the wildlife would have no knowledge or fear of humans, and that brought them to Deception Valley in the Kalahari Desert of Botswana. The environ-

ment proved harsh, but they persisted and a viable research project emerged from their work.

During the course of 23 years in the African savanna they would help small villages improve aspects such as economic opportunity and healthcare, while dedicating their efforts to protect endangered populations of elephants and other animals ravaged by poachers.

Their reputation grew, as did the danger.

The young WHHS grad was Delia Dykes and she had married Mark Owens.

She is the daughter of a Georgia trucking executive and he had grown up on a farm near Toledo, Ohio. Space limitations for this article cannot begin to do justice to their amazing body of work. To truly appreciate their adventures, I suggest the three books they authored about their work: "Cry of the Kalahari" (1984), "The Eye of the Elephant: An Epic Adventure in the African Wilderness" (1992) and "Secrets of the Savanna: Twenty-three Years in the African Wilderness" (2006).

More recently, Delia has found great success in the release of her first novel, "Where the Crawdad Sings."

It has been on the New York Times Best Sellers list for 23 weeks as of this writing, this week at number one. As described by the Times, "In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in

the marsh becomes a murder suspect." Readers and reviews are enthusiastic.

I was fortunate enough to know Delia Dykes Owens in high school. Her life's work and success make me very grateful to have had that opportunity. I share her story for those who knew her then and for those enjoying her book now, not knowing the connection.

Delia Owens has won the John Burroughs Award for Nature Writing and has been published in "Nature," "The African Journal of Ecology," and "International Wildlife," among many others. She currently lives in Idaho, where she continues her support for the people and wildlife of Zambia.

This column is based on personal experience and a variety of media and internet readings.

The Museum of Winter Haven History will be open Saturday March 2 from 9 a.m. to Noon. Group tours are available

for four or more people by appointment. The museum, located at 660 Pope Avenue and Lake Howard Drive, is free and open to the public. Come explore. For further information contact Bob Gernert, 863-206-6855 or bobgernert@gmail.com.



Delia Dykes donned Red Sox togs and struck a pose for the 1967 Winter Haven High calendar.



PHOTOS PROVIDED
Winter Haven High graduate Laura Hughes Smith encountered Delia Owens at a recent book signing event in Savannah.

Taste of Winter Haven on tap next week

The Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce's annual "Taste of Winter Haven" is almost here, with the event scheduled for 6-9 p.m. March 7 at Venue 650 (650 6th St. SW) in Winter Haven.



The event is one of the biggest of the year for the community, providing an opportunity for residents to support local businesses in a way that is fun and delicious. Local restaurants, caterers and food artisans will be on hand with food, wine and beer for attendees, who must be age 21 or older to attend. More than 15 popular local restaurants are already signed up to attend, with more to be announced.

Live music will be performed by Hunter Smith.

Ticket information and more can be found online at winterhavenchamber.com.



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BayCareHeartHealth.org**



Police beat Winter Haven man killed in motorcycle accident

By SUN STAFF

On Thursday, Feb. 21, at 6:15 a.m., deputies for the Polk County Sheriff's Office responded to a crash in the southbound lanes of U.S. 17, near South Clear Springs Road in Bartow, involving a Kawasaki Sport Motorcycle and a Peterbuilt Garbage Truck.

The driver of the motorcycle, 22-year-old Bret Jarvis of Winter Haven, was pronounced deceased at Bartow Regional Medical Center after being transported from the scene.

There was heavy fog present at the time of the crash. Witnesses say Jarvis was heading southbound on U.S. 17 at a high rate of speed. Jarvis was initially in the inside left lane when he approached two vehicles in front of him. Jarvis then proceeded to move to the right lane to pass the vehicles, when he was seen attempting to brake and then running into the back of a garbage truck that was turning into a business at 2203 U.S. 17 South.

The motorcycle caught fire and witnesses pulled Jarvis away from the burning bike. Witnesses also indicated the garbage truck, registered to Advance Disposal Services of Lakeland, had all of its warning lights functioning properly at the time of the crash.

Excessive speed is believed to be a factor. A final determination will be made upon the completion of the investigation.

INMATE CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, PCSO detectives charged South County Jail inmate Shedderick "Savage" Randals with one count of attempted murder, one count introduction of contraband into a detention facility and one count of tampering with evidence after Randals attacked and stabbed another South County Jail inmate — William Lee Campbell III — with a homemade "shank."

According to the affidavit, the suspect and the inmate attacked are housed in the building and dorm where those charged with serious felonies are kept. While detention deputies were making rounds and doing security checks around 3:00 p.m., they encountered Campbell standing in his cell doorway with what appeared to be blood on the back of his uniform shirt. When the deputies asked about it, Campbell replied, "I have a nose bleed."

Deputies saw a wound on Campbell's back where the blood was, and escorted him to the jail infirmary to be examined. Jail medical staff found nine stab wounds at the top and center of Campbell's back and de-

termined he needed to be transported to an area hospital.

Deputies interviewed Campbell, who told them that Randals grabbed him by the arms and pulled him into Randals' cell. The suspect then punched him in his face and ribs until he fell on the ground. Once Campbell fell face down on the ground, Randals stomped on his head and then Campbell felt something enter his back, and he saw blood. The attack ceased when Randals heard deputies approaching.

After the attack, deputies locked down the dorm and observed Randals in his cell wiping up blood with a white towel. He was placed in a holding cell and a thorough search of the dorm was conducted. Deputies located the "shank" - a sharp object wrapped in strips of a torn sheet to form a handle - hidden inside a pair of sneakers in the immediate area where the attack occurred.

Campbell is being treated at a local hospital for his non-life-threatening wounds. He is in stable condition.

LAKELAND MAN ARRESTED FOR STEALING

On Friday, Feb. 15, PCSO arrested 57-year-old James Gardner of Lakeland and charged him with two counts of grand theft.

On Thursday, Febr. 14, Gardner walked into the Wal-Mart located at 6745 North Church Ave. in Mulberry and did some five-finger discount shopping. Surveillance video shows him loading \$535.86 worth of merchandise into a cart and then leaving the store without paying.

A store employee followed him outside and saw him unload the stolen goods into his red Ford truck with a topper on the back and a handicapped license plate. Using the information, deputies were able to identify Gardner as the suspect.

During the investigation, it was revealed Gardner made several fraudulent returns at the Home Depot located at 6335 Florida Ave. South in Lakeland between Feb. 5 and Feb. 13. He entered the store with nothing in his possession, grabbed several items from the shelf and proceeded to the return desk without attempting to pay. He would receive a refund in the form of a store credit, or, when he was denied the refund, he walked out of the store with the stolen merchandise.

Detectives were able to locate Gardner in Southwest Lakeland off of Ewell Road. After searching the house where he was living and his truck, they found a stolen safe, Wal-Mart and Home Depot gift cards, tools and multiple other stolen items.

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LAKE WALES NEWS

Eagle Ridge Mall eviction documents describe conflict

By CHARLES A. BAKER III
cbaker@scmginc.com

LAKE WALES – The respective owners of a bowling alley and a private school that rent space inside Eagle Ridge Mall say the company which owns the mall has filed to wrongfully evict them.

Court eviction documents filed by a lawyer representing First Frame Bowl owner Mitch Udowitch state that Udowitch intentionally stopped paying \$12,000 per month for rent at the mall from mid-September through February, holding out his rental payments until a leaky roof was repaired.

Court documents allege the roof over the bowling alley was leaking on pin-changers and video games, as well as in the kitchen and restaurant. The documents state that mall management paid a “handyman” to fix the roof, instead of a roofing contractor, and that the handyman did not solve the problem.

Udowitch deposited \$59,633.67 for back rent in a court account during the eviction process. These documents also stated that late fees appeared to add up to 20 percent of what was allegedly owed, even though the bowling alley lease has a much lower percentage.

The mall was acquired by Stockbridge Madison, LLC., in mid-2018. A statement on behalf of Stockbridge Madison said leaks to the roof were repaired and that the company has instructed its attorney to write a settlement proposal to

Udowitch, saying the bowling alley may stay so long as it pays back rent, plus around \$10,000 in late charges and legal fees.

Such an offer has not formally been received by Udowitch or his legal counsel at the time of press, and the bowling alley owner remains perturbed by the actions of the mall.

“That wanton disregard of the tenant’s rights is indicative of bad faith and exposes the plaintiff to a counterclaim for punitive damages,” stated Udowitch’s lawyer, Neil Polster.

Udowitch said the court recently ruled against him. Asked if he would be moving the bowling alley out of the mall, or whether he would file a counterclaim, Udowitch said time would tell.

“I’m waiting to read the settlement and then we can talk about that,” Udowitch said.

The owners of a private school called Grand Academy originally alleged to the Sun that they were being evicted as punishment for speaking out about leaks in the roof all over the mall. School co-owner Danetta Powell further alleged that the new mall ownership was intentionally sending the school’s mail to sender as a means of disrupting their business.

Mall ownership described those allegation as “lies” and said that Powell originally rented multiple units from the former ownership and that, after getting four months behind on rent, it had to file to evict the school last September to collect \$33,381.72.

That eviction was issued in late December, but because the paperwork did not include all of the units being rented by the school, the mall ownership said that he had to refile in early February, and that Powell was upset over that.

A statement from Stockbridge Madison did not specifically deny returning the school’s mail to sender, but stated that the school was reliant on “government checks” to pay its rent and that the school was not reputable. The statement alleges that when Powell was evicted from two of the units in December, she “squeezed” her K-12 school and a daycare facility into the remaining two units in an attempt to stay in business.

Powell said Grand Academy has more than 50 students. The school website encourages parents to apply for state grant money to pay for tuition. These grants pay up to around \$7,200 per child per year and Powell said that some of that money was used to pay rent.

The statement from Stockbridge Madison dismissed the leaky roof claims and suggested that things at Eagle Ridge are



PHOTO BY CHARLES A. BAKER III
The owner of Eagle Ridge Mall has filed to evict the owner of the bowling alley. The future of the bowling alley may become known as early as this week.

heading in a positive direction.

“We have 11 new businesses in the mall and anybody who comes will see them,” the spokesperson said. “We want the community to know that the mall is here to stay. We spent hundreds of thousands on new landscaping and security cameras but we need businesses to pay their rent.”

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK, FLORIDA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take note that the Village of Highland Park Local Planning Agency will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 12, at 5:45 PM at the Hillcrest Heights Town Hall, 151 N. Scenic Hwy, Babson Park, Florida to hear the following:

ORDINANCE 2019-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE UPDATE OF THE ADOPTED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, SAID AMENDMENT BEING KNOWN AS “AMENDMENT 19-01-CIE”; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMISSION OF THIS ORDINANCE TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR NOTIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The proposed Ordinance and a copy of this notice may be inspected by contacting the Village Clerk at (863) 455-6518 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday. All interested parties may appear at the public hearing and be heard with respect to the proposed Ordinance. Comments may also be submitted in writing, prior to the public hearing, to the Village Clerk at P.O. Box 168, Lake Wales, Florida 33859-0168, or during the public hearing. Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations in order to participate in the public hearing should contact the Village Clerk at (863) 455-6518 at least 48 hours in advance of the public hearing to request such accommodations.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 286.0105, FLORIDA STATUTES, IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS PUBLIC HEARING, SUCH PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, SUCH PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, INCLUDING THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

Lake Wales inches closer to YMCA purchase

By BRIAN ACKLEY
Contributing Writer

LAKE WALES – A proposal for the City of Lake Wales to take over the Burns Avenue YMCA is nearing its final stages, according to city manager Ken Fields.

The city is hoping to buy the facility as part of a renewed interest in recreation options in Lake Wales, and it has money in this year’s budget to complete the deal.

However, the plan hasn’t crossed the finish-line quite yet.

“That contract, they are doing their final legal review of the document and I believe as soon as they sign off on it we’ll bring it back to the commission probably in a workshop and then for approval,” Fields said.

The two sides have already been working cooperatively in some programs, including free use of the pool by city residents.

“It’s gone back and forth, the business terms, the legal stuff,” he added. “My understanding is their attorneys are doing their final review.”

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Lake Wales' 'biggest little farmers market' sees growth

By MARIA IANNUCCI
Contributing Writer



LAKE WALES — When a Lake Wales farmer sows seed and plants crops, it's invaluable to know there is a place to bring his harvest to market.

And market is just a short drive away — that's good news for Polk County, and imperative for him.

That farmer is Lynn Greenfield, market manager of the Downtown Lake Wales Farmers Market. At first a market vendor for years, Greenfield relies heavily on the farmer's market as a means of product delivery.

Greenfield, with his wife, Faye, live on enough property to reap herbs such as parsley, chives, oregano, lemongrass and basil; vegetables grown without the use of pesticides such as broccoli, beans and greens; as well as some of the more unusual flowering plants.

They have been at it since 1975.

When the market was established by Lake Wales Main Street several years ago, it was a favorite and welcome hotspot of activity for Lake Wales residents. Vendors assembled under the clock tower between Stuart and Park Avenues and did brisk business — locals and visitors came and willingly spent a few dollars on products like fresh greens, honey, breads and strawberry jam.

But the market eventually saw a downturn in traffic, and there were plenty of micro-businesses who needed to see an upturn.

"The market was dying," said Greenfield. "We had gone down to about 14 vendors when the block used to be full. I didn't want to see it happen. I was doing alright as a vendor at that time,

while others were leaving in droves because of the lack of customers. I knew if the market failed, we'd lose that outlet as well. ...

"Someone had to do something, so I felt compelled to take over management out of a need for survival for all of us vendors," he said. "The dollars we earn are essential to us to survive; for many of us it offers a supplemental income and is critical to maintaining our way of life. At the same time, we're literally bringing a variety of valuable products to the table."

When Greenfield took over as market manager in January 2017, there were — on a good day — about 14 vendors set up.

With some good ideas, self-starter marketing, and marketing signage from Main Street, the Downtown Lake Wales Farmers Market now maintains a roster of 59 vendors, the majority of which attend regularly.

While the market has not been a big revenue generator for Lake Wales Main Street in recent years, that's changing, too — and doesn't seem to be putting a huge dent in any one person's wallet.

Greenfield's plan was to solidify the vendors before promoting to potential customers. A revised rate structure was key.

"We had to have vendors here," said Greenfield. "If customers don't have the selection or have little to look at, many won't return. I think we've given them a whole lot to look at."

The rate restructure was to keep the rent low and is based on sales. This approach, Greenfield shared, keeps the vendors willing to come as traffic continues to grow. And there's room for growth. Lake Wales Main Street, who parents the market, offers support, and maintains its permit. The entity purchased 27 new signs that are set up on market weeks and helped to facilitate a

rebranding campaign.

Karen Thompson, its executive director, wants to see the market continue to thrive. She emphasizes that community market attendance and support can't be just a one off.

"The Main Street Lake Wales Farmers (Market) has become a signature and consistent event in downtown because of the hard work Lynn has dedicated to it," said Thompson. "Between the rebranding and marketing blitz we launched last year, and the consistency of the vendors who participate in each market, we're gotten into a groove the community can depend on."

The market is held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, rain or shine.

It's located between Stuart, Park and Main in downtown Lake Wales, and begins at the clock tower. Hours are 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. year-round. Those driving may use 20 N. Market St., Lake Wales, as a destination for directions.

Vendors include fresh local and produce, plants, honey, jams and jellies; fresh eggs, goat milk products, soaps and bath products; glass and wood crafts; fabric crafts, gourmet coffee and

food, baked goods and much more.

Those interested in joining the market as a vendor are encouraged to contact Lynn Greenfield directly at 863-676-8782. The market maintains a Facebook page for updates.

"It's the biggest little farmers market in Polk County," said Greenfield.

And he means to grow it further for the sake of the community.



Bok Academy North recognizes first teacher of the year

By BRIAN ACKLEY
Contributing Writer

Bok Academy North teacher Margaret Thomas has a daily tradition with her sixth grade students.

Every day, she likes to greet them with a question, something that simultaneously can entertain and educate her youngsters at the same time. It's part of the reason she has been named as the school's first-ever Teacher of the Year. Bok North opened its doors this past August.

"It is the highlight of my day," Thomas said of the routine, which sets the tone for entering a classroom that is far from traditional.

"We have casual flexible seating throughout the room with yoga balls, disc chairs, cubes, bean bag chairs and rolling office chairs," she explained. "The classroom is active, buzzing with conversation, talking about the latest technology trends and music. Everyday we are creating something using our MacBooks, iPads, and cellphones. A fabulous day in the classroom ends with the statement 'is it time to go already?'"

A native of suburban Cleveland and graduate of Bowling Green University — with a bachelor's degree in Middle Childhood Education and masters in Curriculum and Teaching — Thomas has spent 15 years in the education field, specifically in the areas of social studies, science, reading, gifted and technology.

She credits her aunt, Sylvia Cooper, who served as an elementary school principal in Ohio, as one of her inspirations.

"She always encouraged me and provided me innovative ideas," she said.

Thomas moved to Florida in 2010, going to work for Polk County in schools in Lakeland, Winter Haven and Dundee, an experience which she says has made her a better teacher.

"I have to thank all my previous principals at each of the schools I have taught at," Thomas said. "From encouraging me to coach basketball, to create a robotics team, to travel and attend various conferences, and to create new curriculum — each teaching position at these schools have molded me into the teacher I am today."

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NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD

FOR ANSWERS, TURN TO PAGE 23

TRIVIAL MATTERS

BY DAVID KWONG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

David Kwong is a professional magician and crossword constructor. He was the head magic consultant for the hit 2013 film "Now You See Me" (see the sly nod at 96-Down). He is currently performing in a one-man magic-and-puzzles show, "The Enigmatist," in New York City. Audience members must solve four puzzles in an anteroom to get into the show. (Hints are available, if needed.) This is David's 19th puzzle for The Times. — W.S.

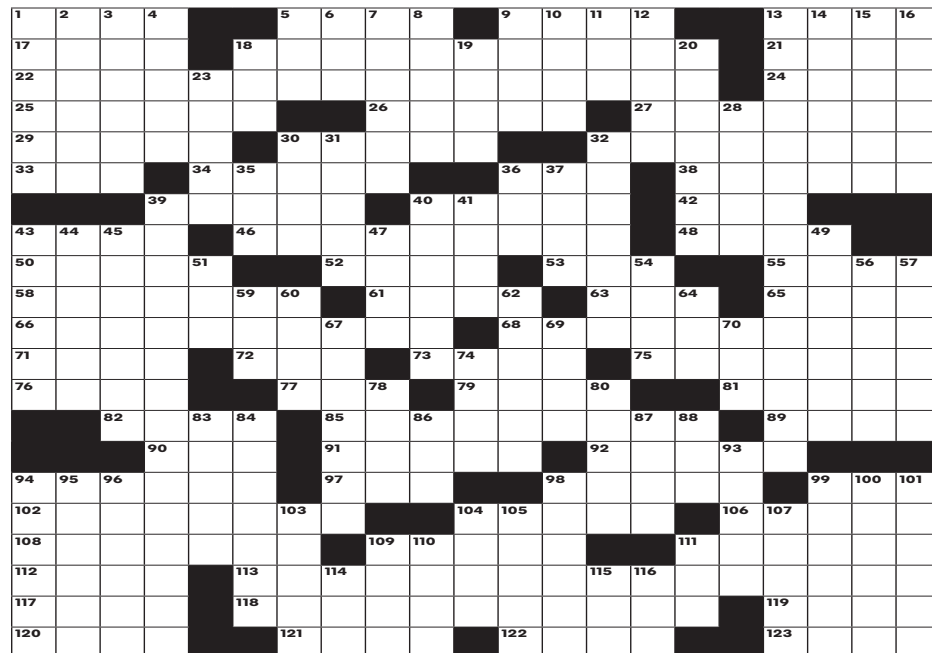
ACROSS

- 1 Not ruffled, as a bed
- 5 Slice, for example
- 9 Veal topper, informally
- 13 Cookie containers
- 17 "Yeah, right!"
- 18 Certain body of believers
- 21 Part of a Latin 101 conjugation
- 22 *What kind of tree _____?*
- 24 High-grade cotton
- 25 Capital that was home to the world's tallest building before the Burj Khalifa
- 26 Pears and apples
- 27 Vladimir Lenin's real last name
- 29 Nahuatl speaker
- 30 Answer to 22-Across [Science & Nature]
- 32 Multipurpose
- 33 Fixed
- 34 Polite
- 36 Moving vehicle
- 38 "Carmen" and "Elektra"
- 39 "Jeez!"
- 40 Mimicking
- 42 Director Anderson
- 43 Simulated
- 46 Answer to 113-Across [Geography]

- 48 Answer to 13-Down [History]
- 50 First name on a famous plane
- 52 Farm females
- 53 Host for a destructive beetle
- 55 Abbr. on a label of brandy
- 58 Class skippers
- 61 Princess seduced by Zeus
- 63 Cartesian conclusion
- 65 Word said before "do"
- 66 *What 1986 _____ romantic comedy got its title from a song by the Psychedelic Furs?*
- 68 *Who wrote a 2003 best seller about a _____?*
- 71 Tres + cinco
- 72 "Little ol' me?"
- 73 Fine fabric
- 75 Asmara is its capital
- 76 Regard
- 77 World Cup cry
- 79 Newspaper units: Abbr.
- 81 Clammy
- 82 Answer to 68-Across [Art & Literature]
- 85 Answer to 66-Across [Entertainment]
- 89 "Phooey!"
- 90 Have a bawl
- 91 Amherst campus, for short
- 92 Cacophonous
- 94 Knight's wear, in England

- 97 Pad
- 98 Find a new tenant for
- 99 Calendar units: Abbr.
- 102 Select, as sides for a game
- 104 Answer to 39-Down [Sports & Leisure]
- 106 "To repeat ..."
- 108 Lens covers
- 109 Meerkat in "The Lion King"
- 111L iving, to Livy
- 112 Nose out
- 113 *What _____ comes from a farm bird?*
- 117 Blacken
- 118 Song heard at the start of "Saturday Night Fever"
- 119 Ride provider
- 120 Some I.R.S. data, for short
- 121 Not hush-hush
- 122 Kind
- 123 What a judge does for much of the day

- 10 Spanish ouzo flavoring
- 11 Nutritional std.
- 12 Bump on a slope
- 13 *Where were battleships sunk in an 1894 _____?*
- 14 Key of Beethoven's "Für Elise"
- 15 Quimby of children's books
- 16 Lines on sheet music
- 18 CBS debut of 2000
- 19 Comic actor known for his shock humor
- 20 1966 Donovan hit with a rhyming title
- 23 "That tastes bleah!"
- 28 "Holy cow!"
- 30 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You _____?"
- 31 Jungle tangle
- 32 Sweet and kind
- 35 1962 hit for the Ikettes
- 36 Part of an itinerary
- 37 Cost to get a hand
- 39 *What annual game have the _____ won more than any other team?*
- 40 Too
- 41 Condition once called "shell shock," for short
- 43 Process
- 44 How chicken teriyaki is usually served
- 45 Gave reluctantly, with "up"
- 47 Court plea, in brief

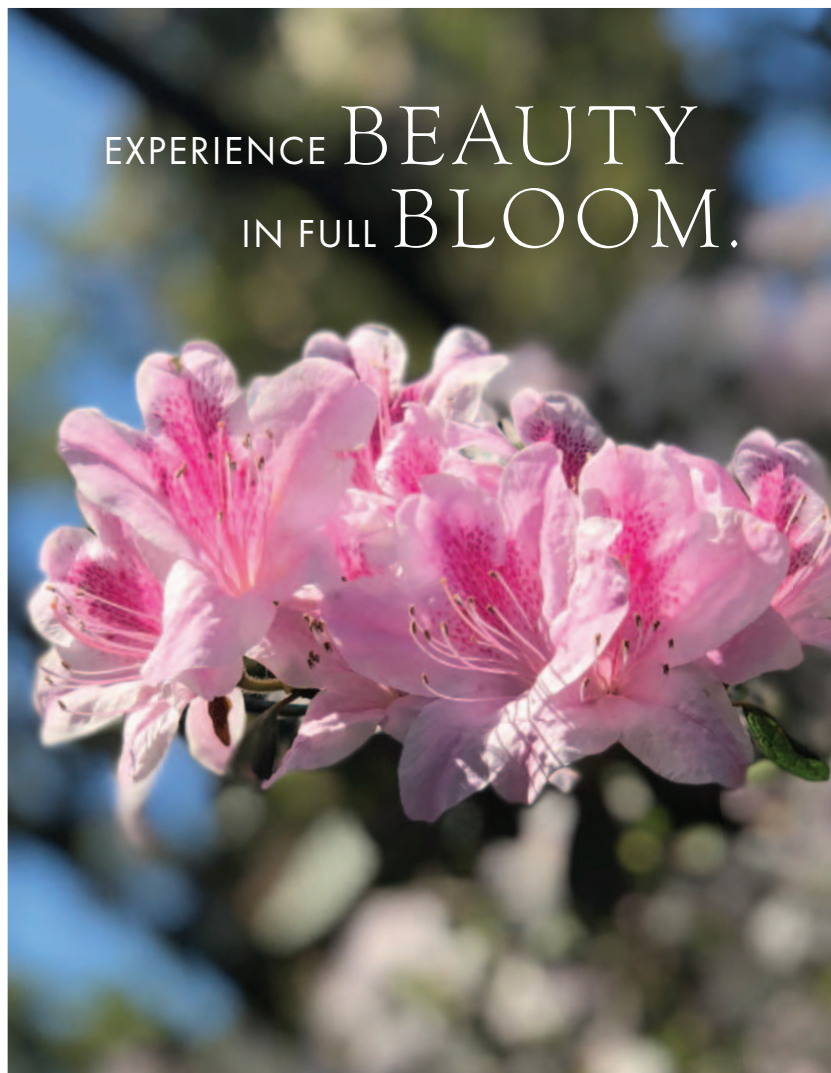


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DOWN

- 1 Some roadsters
- 2 Brightly lit
- 3 Clinton who once ran for president
- 4 Tour de France stage
- 5 "Pipe down!"
- 6 60 minuti
- 7 Get rid of
- 8 "When it comes to ..."
- 9 Scorer of 12 World Cup goals

- 49 Oregon city that was the first permanent U.S. settlement west of the Rockies
- 51 A, B, C or D, in multiple choice: Abbr.
- 54 Foal's mother
- 56 Like Fenway among all major-league ballparks
- 57 Folds
- 59 Cinephile's channel
- 60 "Buzz off!"
- 62 Natty neckwear
- 64 Locale for Jacques Cousteau
- 67 Crankcase device
- 69 Like a moray
- 70 Director Burton
- 74 Follower of the Gospels
- 78 Wry Bombeck
- 80 Resilience
- 83 "It's a waste of time"
- 84 Loaves from whole-grain flour
- 86 Put away, in a way
- 87 Longtime Steelers coach Chuck
- 88 Small digit
- 93 Reeked
- 94 Gain entry to
- 95 Kind of scholar
- 96 Freeman of "Now You See Me"
- 98 TV Tarzan player
- 99 Hot stuff
- 100 Fate
- 101 Unwelcome looks
- 103 Be of _____ (aid)
- 104 Syracuse player, once
- 105 Sacha Baron Cohen character
- 107 Original edition of this puzzle's theme
- 109 Actor Diggs
- 110 Words of triumph
- 111 Whack
- 114 Length of a pool and back
- 115 Partner of tuck
- 116 Suffix with elect



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Old growth on Arbuckle Creek

By PHIL ATTINGER
Highlands News-Sun

AVON PARK — Trolling along Arbuckle Creek in a V-hull fishing boat, dipping his head to avoid hanging vines and low branches, Matthew ‘Twig’ Largess asks the captain to stop.

“Captain Harry” Arnold reverses the battery-operated motor and drifts back with the current so Largess can spy a possible woodpecker’s nest hole a dozen yards up in an old-growth bald cypress, which pokes above the surrounding canopy.

Largess, certified arborist under the International Society of Arboriculture and owner of Largess Forestry in Rhode Island, seeks the ivory-billed woodpecker. For 60 years it was thought extinct until it was rediscovered in a remote part of Arkansas in 2005.

The federal government immediately announced a plan to save the bird, according to news reports at that time. Since it favors old-growth cypress, Largess is looking for it along Arbuckle Creek and Lake Arbuckle, near Frostproof in southeast Polk, where he said the 3,300-3,600 acres of bald cypress bottomland forest might be largest such old-growth cypress forest in the Southeast — perhaps anywhere.

Largess hopes to find the bird there by playing a recording of the bird’s call to attract any birds that may be there.

At least once on a sojourn Thursday down the creek, he spied the nest-sized hole and broadcast the call.

No birds answered, but he hasn’t given up.

Meanwhile, he believes Avon Park Air Force Range may already have a huge ecological treasure straddling its western border in the trees, alone.

Largess flew in to Florida last week for four days to explore the area and catalog as many bald cypress as possible. He said some of the trees measure 26 feet in circumference.

Families that owned the land just inside and outside the base never cut the cypress forest, Largess said, and he suspects the grove, just 90 miles south of Walt Disney World, rates as the largest untouched Old Growth Bald Cypress Tupelo Forest system.

“I think the state of Florida needs to know what it has here,” Largess said.

Largess said he’s studied two old growth bald cypress forest sites — Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Collier County and Francis Beidler Forest in South Carolina. Both forests are pre-

served and world-renowned eco-tourist destinations claiming to be the oldest such forests left in the world with 1,000-year-old trees.

Arbuckle Creek, however, is bigger than both put together, Largess said, “making this discovery even more astounding.”

He would rank it fourth after the North Carolina Black River Preserve, Beidler Forest and Corkscrew Swamp.

Largess suspects some Arbuckle trees have lived for 1,000 years, but won’t know unless he can get permission from the air base to measure trees on their bank, and follow-up with a core sample study of all trees along the creek and lake.

Encyclopedia Britannica states that bald cypress, also called “swamp cypress,” are native to swampy areas of southern North America, and were often harvested for their water-resistant wood.

The trees live long lives and grow slowly, Britannica states. Older trees are usually hollow, making them ideal nesting spots for a variety of animals.

A young bald cypress is symmetrical and pyramidal, but as it matures, it develops a coarse wide-spreading head, Britannica states.

Its tapering trunk is usually 30 meters (about 100 feet) tall and 1 meter (3.3 feet) in diameter.

Reddish brown bark weathers to an ashy gray. The closer it grows to the water or wetlands, the more buttressed it gets about the base, horizontal roots often sending conical woody projections called “knees” above the waterline.

The function of knees is poorly understood, Britannica states. They may help oxygenate the roots or provide support in the soft muddy soil, both of which concur with Largess’ opinions.

The trees have flat needle-like leaves arranged alternately in two ranks along small twigs. The trees are deciduous. Though the leaves can persist year-round in warm climates, the trees often drop them in colder times of the year.

In addition to conservation, Largess sees value in eco-tourism for Arbuckle Creek, which could result in more regular hiking and boating tours from Camp Arbuckle and other launch sites.

Those efforts would have to coincide with education. The west bank already indicates plenty of human activity, with plastic food containers and the occasional beer bottle or soft drink can littering the shore.

“See that Walmart chair sprouting out there,” Arnold said, indicating a dark green plastic stackable patio chair that had sunk into the soft ground and foliage just a few feet from the water. “In a few years, it’ll be full grown.”

Litter is less common on the east bank, where signs posted on trees regularly warn boaters that beyond that point is a U.S. military installation, and that trespassing is prohibited.



PHOTO BY PHIL ATTINGER

Matthew ‘Twig’ Largess, arborist, rides down Arbuckle Creek from Camp Arbuckle on Lake Arbuckle. Both the creek and lake are surrounded by old-growth bald cypress forest, Largess says, and he hopes to prove it is the largest such forest in existence, both for scientific reasons and potential tourism for Highlands and Polk Counties.

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BARTOW NEWS

Cigar factory's fate still in limbo while report is completed

By **JEFF ROSLOW**
Contributing Writer

BARTOW – It was an eventful week for the Bartow City Commission, especially pertaining to the Thompson & Company Cigar Factory.

The latest effort to renovate the factory found itself in jeopardy early in the week, as a local developer who had been interested in aiding the efforts informed the city Feb. 14 he would no longer be pursuing the project.

“Unfortunately I have come to the conclusion that I will not be able to provide the outcome for this structure that we had hoped for during our meetings,” wrote Greg Fancelli.

Commissioners and Fancelli had met twice previously to discuss his plan. Fancelli pulling out of the project upset Bartow Commissioner James Clements, who utilized his time during commissioner comments at the Feb. 18 commission meeting to say as much.

“We spent five or six hours talking to this man and his people and we basically ran him off,” Clements said. “All of us got his his email this past week. When it popped up on my phone with his name, I knew exactly what this email would be about. ... (Fancelli) didn't have a grand idea of an outcome, but he was interested in preserving that building for our community.”

“We questioned him and questioned him. Had the first session — a lot questions. Had the second one and he had stuff to check out. ‘How much do you want?’ And we couldn't give him a straight answer.”

The issue did not die at the Feb. 18 meeting, though, as it had already been

on the books for a work session Feb. 22.

During that session, commissioners expressed their displeasure with how Clements reacted earlier in the week. Mayor Leo Longworth had a few pages of notes from the two previous discussions with Greg Fancelli and read them, disputing Clements' notion that the commission had ran off the developer.

“I didn't see that,” Longworth said after finishing reading the minutes. “I — we — didn't hear anything that made him run away.”

“James went off on three commissioners,” he continued. “I didn't think that was professional. ... I know this is emotional, but you can be emotional and respectful.”

As for the project itself, Fancelli outlined his original reasoning for exiting the talks in his email message.

“Restoring the structure is only half of the equation,” Francelli wrote. “For this project to be successful, we would also need to determine what users would be bringing new life back to the building and possibly the neighborhood. For various reasons, I am not able to fully complete all that is needed to assure a positive outcome for the old cigar factory.”

Commissioners are still not sure what to do with the property and at least three have expressed that they do not want to continue to spend taxpayer money on it. The city has spent more than \$200,000 on the factory since it was acquired in 2011. Those commissioners expressing pause about continuing to spend taxpayer money on the structure include Longworth, Vice Mayor Billy Simpson and Commissioner Scott Sjoblom.

Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer is in favor of preserving the building, and on Feb. 22 said it “is part of the rich fabric of our his-

tory” and encouraged her fellow commissioners to tour the facility.

Additionally, Pfeifer cited three reports suggesting the factory can be a catalyst for growth and thereby would not be wasting taxpayer money.

Fancelli attended the workshop Feb. 22, and he said the email he had sent the week prior was to show his intention to hold off on having further meetings now, as they are not moving forward. A study that is under way by Orlando-based planning consultants GAI was recently started.

Fancelli suggested the best course of action is to wait for the report and also

sought to clear the air.

“I have the highest regard for all of you,” Fancelli said. “I want what is best for Bartow.”

While taking feedback from his colleagues, Clements apologized for his actions on Feb. 18.

“I went out of line, as I caught up emotionally,” Clements said. “I will try to watch myself with what time I have remaining on the commission. It had nothing to do with disrespect. We are lucky and blessed to have the relationship and how we work together as a team.”

Path cleared for downtown microbrewery

By **JEFF ROSLOW**
Contributing Writer

BARTOW – After a second public hearing on changes to the land development code in Bartow, the definitions of microbrewery and brew pub were unanimously altered so that code now allows a microbrewery in the downtown district.

Bill and Jonnie Levin plan to open a microbrewery at 190 S. Florida Ave. in what used to be the offices for the Polk News-Sun — formerly named The Polk County Democrat.

Commissioners added to the Unified Land Development Code the requirements for a brew pub and a microbrewery. The main difference between the two is that a brew pub has more than 50 percent of its sales from food, whereas the same is not so for a microbrewery.

The establishment the Levins have planned would be a microbrewery that would also have outdoor service and food trucks, as well as a kitchen area of its own.

City Planning Director Bob Wieggers explained to commissioners that the definition of a brew pub and microbrewery have much of the same criteria. One difference is microbreweries would allow for food trucks. The trucks would have to be on the property and only open when the microbrewery is open, and additionally they would not be allowed the use of generators.

Jonnie Levin has let commissioners know that she will likely use food trucks, but she wants to go a step beyond that she said at the meeting.

“We plan on approaching restaurants to ask if they would deliver. We are not

providing food on site,” she said.

In the public hearing, Gerald Cochran — a candidate for the Bartow commission seat to be voted upon in April — asked about the potential smell from the would-be microbrewery, as well as guidelines for being near schools and churches.

“I talked at the first meeting about the smell,” he said. “I am against 2019-12 because of the smell. Another question I ask (is) ‘what's the guideline of being near schools or churches?’ No one has brought that up.”

Responding to Cochran's concerns, Wieggers said in another part of the land code there is a separation from churches and schools and that is an item the planning staff checks with on everything.

“That requires a state license signed by the city and I'm the one who signs on it,” Wieggers said.

After Cochran asked about the odor previously, at the first public hearing on Feb. 4, Wieggers said he checked with the owner of Grove Roots and Winter Haven officials and they reported back that there has not been any “noticeable odor to speak of.”

Wieggers added, “I think Winter Haven has had a fair amount of experience in the last year or two. I don't believe that will become an issue.”

Jonnie Levin said the concern of the odor should not be a concern.

With changes made to the unified land development code, the Levins have the city's green light to move forward. However, the couple still has to go before Bartow's Board of Adjustments on Feb. 28 to request a special exception use approval for the microbrewery.



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COUNTY SPORTS

Symetra Tour event in Winter Haven was springboard for 2018 winner

By **BRIAN ACKLEY**
Contributing Writer

WINTER HAVEN – Like winners in past events, Lauren Kim’s win in the 2018 Florida’s Natural Charity Classic was a springboard to more success.

So, the question for 2019, when the popular Symetra Tour women’s golf event returns to Winter Haven Country Club in a few weeks, is “who’s next?”

After a sizzling final round 63, capped off by a birdie on the the course’s par five finishing hole, the Stanford University graduate was philosophical about her first-ever professional triumph.

“I have always marveled at how the longer I play golf, the more I realize the ways in which this sport teaches me about life,” she told the tour’s Zack Sepanik about 10 days after her win. “Just as golfers birdie some holes and bogey others, so too will life (metaphorically) seem to throw both birdies and bogies—sometimes more bogies, it seems. Nevertheless, with as many life bogies seem to appear, there is always a subsequent birdie waiting.”

Kim, who will be returning to play in this year’s event, had three birdies in her first six holes, erasing a four-stroke deficit after the second round.

“I went into Sunday with a relaxed mind and intention to have fun. I went through my warm-up just as I would for any other tournament—drank a cup of coffee, ate a salad with some veggies and an egg, and listened to the same playlist as usual, she recalled. “Then suddenly, in a whirlwind of shots executed and putts made, I was standing on the 14th tee box at 7-under par on the day, 8-under for the tournament, and in the outright lead.”

Reaching the 18th in two, Kim made sure she put the final touch on her fantastic finish.

“Watching that ball disappear made me want to celebrate the round simply for the love of the game because no matter the outcome, I was still beyond thrilled with how I had just played. Figuratively, I had just made a birdie in life.”

The win came after a swirl of thoughts that included her quitting the pro game for good.

“When I think about those times—frustration, lack of belief, doubt—it seemed as if I was on life’s bogey train with no sign of stopping. Only through this experience was I able to assess why I was playing the game and what I needed to continue playing competitively, she added. “In spite of the struggle, I found a renewed joy and love for the game of golf, which became the theme of Sunday’s round. I figured, why not play for the love of competition? Why not, see how low I can shoot? Why not, have some fun? Where last season I would have found every reason against having the round of my life, in Winter Haven I found every refreshing reason for it.”

She went on last year to have her best finishes on the LPGA tour, including a tie for 17th in the Shoprite Classic, cashing a check which was just a few hundred dollars less than what she took home from the Florida’s Natural event.

Who’s next? Find out when the field tees off for the 54-hole event on Friday, March 15, at Country Club of Winter Haven.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Lauren Kim, a Stanford grad, won the 2018 Florida’s Natural Charity Classic in Winter Haven. She is playing in the event again this year. The tournament will tee off March 15.

Ridge Rewind

Auburndale boys soccer wins 3rd state title

By **BRIAN ACKLEY**
Contributing Writer

The Auburndale Bloodhounds needed 20 extra minutes to win their third state boys soccer championship this past weekend, eventually pulling away for a 5-3 win over Fort Lauderdale to win the FHSAA Class 4A crown. Ducarmel Jeannestin scored the game winner in the first 10-minute overtime session.

HIGHLANDER HIGH

Lake Wales advanced to the regional semifinals with one of its best games of the season this past Friday, an 86-46 thumping of Tampa Robinson. Rayk-won Frazier poured in 29 points. Ty Hall and Donald Gatlin tossed in 14 each as Lake Wales improved to 21-7.

SENIOR SPECIAL

Winter Haven will officially open its new senior adult outdoor fitness area on March 6. It’s all part of the growth at the Senior Adult Center on South Lake

Silver Drive. The new workout area is tucked between the shuffleboard and tennis courts.

The ceremonies will start at 10 a.m. One of the first scheduled events is the four-week, low-impact outdoor boot camp, which will start March 15. For more info, call 863-291- 5870.

BIKER BONANZA

If you live in eastern or southern Polk, be ready for a biker invasion – non-motorized division – when the annual Chain of Lakes Cycling Classic hits town March 9 and 10.

Saturday’s time trials and road race will be in the area of Lake Buffum, east of Fort Meade. Sunday, bikers will ride a closed course in downtown Winter Haven, with both speed and agility events featured, starting at 8 a.m. around Central Park.

Proceeds will benefit the local Humane Society.

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VIEWPOINTS

Thinking Out Loud

A trendsetter at last

By S.L. FRISBIE
News Columnists

Whatever achievements I may claim for myself, being a trendsetter is not among them.

When I became president of the Florida Press Association in 1976, the newspaper staff gave me a light blue leisure suit for Christmas. They told me, in a kindly way, that they wanted me to represent myself and them before my peers in the style of the day.

I cannot remember for sure, but I suspect I wore it for several years after the leisure suit faded from the scene as a trendsetting fashion.

It was about that same time that I grew a mustache.

I would like to say I was inspired by the fact that Dad, at about my age, grew a mustache while serving in the Army during World War II. Not sure it was anything as noble as that. I was in the Florida National Guard, and the Guard had loosened its grooming standards a few years earlier to allow neatly trimmed mustaches.

The temptation was too great. In deciding to grow a 'stache, I was a trend follower, not a trendsetter. One of my young daughters called it a caterpillar. I should have realized that while it was a child's pet name, there was more truth than fiction in her appraisal.

My wife said nothing about my fashion statement in all the years that I attempted to grow a decent mustache, and made no comment when I shaved it off. A woman can communicate a lot without saying anything.

Let me stray down a rabbit trail for a moment.

One time I referred to Mary's last car as "gray." She fixed a steely gaze on me and declared, "it's silver."

It was a mistake I never made again. Back to trendsetting.

Last week on the Today show, we heard the breath-taking announcement that some cosmetics manufacturer had announced the Hair Color of the Year for 2019. I never knew there was a Hair Color of the Year, but somehow I assumed it was blonde. When I was a kid, teenage trendsetters, both male and female, often dyed (or peroxidized) their hair, or at least a streak of it, blonde. I figured it was still the trendsetting color.

Not so.

This year's Hair Color of the Year is silver. Not gray, mind you. Silver.

Mary and I looked at each other with pride.

We had both, without assistance of anything more powerful than the passage of time, achieved the Hair Color of the Year.

Silver, not gray.

(S. L. Frisbie is retired. He still doesn't know why it took him so long to give up on the mustache. But in all the years since he did, he has never gone more than three days without shaving. What color would it be if he let his mustache grow out now, at the age of 78? He'll never know. Well, probably not — he has learned to be careful in using the word "never.")

Sound off!

Readers of the Winter Haven Sun and the Polk News-Sun are welcome to send Letters to the Editor for consideration for publication. All entries must be fewer than 250 words and include the author's full name and city of residence. Submissions should be emailed to news@scmginc.com with "Letter to the Editor" in the message title.

Crime at an all-time low in Polk

By GRADY JUDD
Sheriff

Have you heard the great news?

Crime in the unincorporated areas of Polk County, and the Polk County Sheriff's Office's contract cities (Dundee, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Frostproof, Mulberry, and Polk City), is at an all-time low according to our annual crime statistics!

Each year we submit our Uniform Crime Report (UCR) to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and, in 2018, there were 415 less crimes in our jurisdiction than in 2017 — which is a 5.9 percent decrease.

The crime rate, which is the number of crimes per 100 residents, is down 7.3 percent from 2017 (1.64) to 2018 (1.52).

This is the lowest crime rate ever measured in PCSO's jurisdiction, breaking the previous record low of 1.64 crimes per 100 from last year.

Please remember that a low crime rate doesn't just happen — it takes a community and law enforcement working together to keep people safe.

I'm very proud of our deputies and

their crime reduction efforts last year, and I truly appreciate our community partnerships that help make Polk County a safe place to live, work and play.

All over the state, sheriffs and police chiefs also report their crime numbers semi-annually and annually to FDLE, and it looks like — overwhelmingly — crime is down statewide.

My message to our legislators is — don't mess with success.

The rules in place have created the opportunity for a low crime rate. I hope our legislators are paying attention to this statewide trending low crime rate, and will acknowledge that putting the right people in prison is key.

Some legislators want to release robbers, burglars, and thieves in your neighborhoods, but we know that without the proper rules and without locking up the offenders who commit crimes, crime will go up.

If you'd like more information about our UCR crime report, please visit our website www.polksheriff.org and click on "News and Investigations" — there you'll see the full news release.

Be safe, everyone.

Editorial cartoon



MUELLER REPORT WATCH PARTY

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Tue & Thur for
additional details.
Se habla Español.

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Asking \$16,500 For more info
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Wales is seeking a nursery
attendant to add to our staff
on Sunday mornings and/or
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ground check required.
Please contact Lisa Carter at
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HELP WANTED

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ty. D-R Media & Investments LLC is a growth oriented
company, that publishes multiple products and publi-
cations in Polk County, Lake County, Sumter County
and Highlands County. We offer a strong benefit pack-
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ronment and competitive pay.

Email your resume to
Kim Edwards at
kedwards@scmginc.com

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice Under Fictitious Name
Law Pursuant to Section
865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the undersigned, desiring
to engage in business under the
fictitious name of Haven Mag-
azine located at PO Box 1607,
in the County of Polk, in the
City of Winter Haven, Florida
33882 intends to register the
said name with the Division
of Corporations of the Florida
Department of State, Tallahas-
see, Florida. Dated at Winter
Haven, Florida, this 26th day of
February, 2019
Destroyer Media and Market-
ing LLC
February 27, 2019
406082 3661080

Notice Under Fictitious Name
Law Pursuant to Section
865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the undersigned, desiring
to engage in business under the
fictitious name of LKLD Maga-
zine located at PO
Box 1607, in the County of
Polk, in the City of Winter Ha-
ven, Florida 33882 intends to
register the said name with the
Division of Corporations of the
Florida Department of
State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Dated at Winter Haven, Flori-
da, this 26th day of February,
2019
Destroyer Media and Market-
ing LLC
February 27, 2019
406082 3661095

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COUNTY COURT
OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
POLK COUNTY,
FLORIDA
HOLLY HILL ESTATES
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIA-
TION, INC.
Plaintiff,
vs.
MARGARETH DORVILLE
AND UNKNOWN PARTIES
IN POSSESSION
Defendant.
CASE NO.:
2018-CC-000415000000
NOTICE OF SALE
PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 45

Notice is given pursuant to the
Amended Final Judgment of
Foreclosure dated Septem-
ber 17, 2018, in Case No.
2018-CC000415000000, of
the County Court in and for
Polk County, Florida, where-
in HOLLY HILL ESTATES
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIA-
TION, INC., is Plaintiff and
MARGARETH DORVILLE
AND UNKNOWN PARTIES
IN POSSESSION are the De-
fendants, the Clerk of the
Court shall sell the property at
public sale on March 13, 2019,
online at 10:00 a.m., accord-
ing to Administrative Order
201-01, at www.polk.realforeclose.com, in accordance with
Section 45.031, Fla.Stat. The
following described property
set forth in the Order of Final
Judgment:

Lot 16, HOLLY HILL ESTATES,
according to the plat thereof,
as recorded in Plat Book 123,
at Pages 27-29, inclusive, of the
Public Records of Polk Coun-
ty, Florida Property Address:
652 Lobelia Drive, Davenport,
FL 33837 Any Person claiming
an interest in the surplus from
the sale, if any, other than the
property owner as of the date of
the lis pendens must file a claim
within 60 days after the sale.
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
I HEREBY CERTIFY a true
and correct copy of the forego-
ing was sent to; Margarita Dor-
ville, 652 Lobelia Drive, Daven-
port, FL 33837, on this 25th day
of February, 2019.
/s/ Alan Schwartzseid
ALAN SCHWARTZSEID, ES-
QUIRE
Florida Bar No.: 57124
CLAYTON & MCCULLOH,
P.A. 1065 Maitland Center
Commons Blvd. Maitland,
Florida 32751
(407) 875-2655 Telephone
E-mail:
aschwartzseid@clayton-mc-
culloh.com
lfpolk@clayton-mcculloh.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff
IF YOU ARE A PERSON
WITH A DISABILITY WHO
NEEDS ANY ACCOMMO-
DATION IN ORDER TO
PARTICIPATE IN THIS PRO-
CEEDING, YOU ARE EN-
TITLED, AT NO COST TO
YOU, TO THE PROVISION
OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE.
PLEASE CONTACT COURT
PLEASE CONTACT COURT
ADMINISTRATION, 255 N
BROADWAY AVE, BARTOW,
FL 33830, TELEPHONE: (863)
534-4000 WITHIN 2 WORK-
ING DAYS OF YOUR RE-
CEIPT OF THIS NOTICE OF
SALE.
54784
February 27, March 6, 2019
280737 3661052

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annette.frederick@highlandsnewssun.com

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863.533.4183

HELP WANTED

Reeves Farms, LLC - 5 Temporary workers needed in Houston and Houlika, MS from April 10, 2019 to November 11, 2019. Workers will perform assigned duties as instructed by their supervisor. Duties will include clearing ground of rocks, sticks and roots by hand; clearing brush and trees with a chain saw. General Field and Fence Maintenance: building and repairing potato boxes using chop saw, table saw, planer, nail guns, and staple guns; prepare ground for planting; manually weeding fields by hand or using hand tools; drain water from fields with hand tools and shovels when needed; load and unload boxes on truck, trailers, or sweet potato harvesters. All tools, supplies, and equipment will be provided at no cost to workers. May transport workers to fields and grocery store. Valid driver's license required. Workers will use mechanical digging equipment to harvest potatoes; may harvest sweet potatoes by hand with use of buckets. Workers may be asked to operate tractors pulling disc, hipers, do-all, diviner, transplanter, rolling cultivators and two row diggers. Workers must be able to sort, grade, and pack potatoes by size, quality, or type. Must be 18 years old. Three (3) months experience in riding mechanical diggers, transplanter, hand-cutting slips, sorting and grading sweet potatoes. Safety training for the operation and use of farm equipment and tractors will be provided. **To ensure the safety of all employees, those interested in operating machinery must be able to communicate with and adequately follow instructions given by management. Management reserves the right to restrict employees from operational duties who do not show a proficiency to effectively communicate with management, and may therefore place other employee's safety at risk. Lifting requirements 5-60 lbs. The employer may conduct background checks. Cell phones can only be used during breaks and emergencies. The majority of the workday is spent on one's feet and outdoors. 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 reduced hours during growing time. 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 trial period, the employee will receive warnings, hours may be reduced to the minimum allowed in the certified petition or the worker may be terminated. Workers will be paid \$11.33 per hour, three fourths guarantee, 35 hours per week. Workers may be offered more than the standard hours of work in a single workday. Workers may volunteer to work additional hours when work is available. Hours of work may increase/decrease depending on crop yield and or weather and can occur at anytime throughout the season. Housing, equipment and transportation 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# MS292176.**

Crossword Answers from Page 15

M	A	D	E		S	O	D	A		P	A	R	M		J	A	R	S							
I	B	E	T		C	H	R	I	S	T	E	N	D	O	M		A	M	A	T					
A	L	W	A	Y	S	H	A	S	F	O	L	I	A	G	E		P	I	M	A					
T	A	I	P	E	I				P	O	M	E	S		U	L	Y	A	N	O	V				
A	Z	T	E	C		E	V	E	R	GREEN					A	L	L	I	N	O	N	E			
S	E	T			C	I	V	I	L			V	A	N			O	P	E	R	A	S			
					O	H	M	A	N		A	P	I	N	G		W	E	S						
M	O	C	K		BLUE		H	E	N	S	T	A	T	E		YELLOW	S	E	A						
E	N	O	L	A			S	O	W	S			E	L	M			V	S	O	P				
T	R	U	A	N	T	S		L	E	D	A		I	A	M			I	T	L	L				
H	I	G	H	S	C	H	O	O	L		S	E	C	R	E	T	C	O	D	E					
O	C	H	O		M	O	I	L	A	C	E		E	R	I	T	R	E	A						
D	E	E	M			O	L	E		C	O	L	S			M	O	I	S	T					
					D	A	N	BROWN			P	R	E	T	T	Y	I	N	PINK		R	A	T	S	
					S	O	B				U	M	A	S	S		N	O	I	S	Y				
A	R	M	O	U	R					M	A	T				R	E	L	E	T		W	K	S	
C	H	O	O	S	E	U	P			ORANGE		B	O	W	L			A	G	A	I	N			
C	O	R	N	E	A	S				T	I	M	O	N				I	N	E	S	S	E		
E	D	G	E			D	E	L	A	W	A	R	E	N	I	C	K	N	A	M	E				
S	E	A	R			S	T	A	Y	I	N	A	L	I	V	E					U	B	E	R	
S	S	N	S				O	P	E	N			T	Y	P	E					S	I	T	S	

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated.

Extra Space Storage 1492
@ 1012 US Highway 92 Auburndale, FL 33823
(863)-221-0007
(March 13, 2019 @ 11:00 AM)

H1096	Sheri Higgins	Household goods
J0602	Melissa Warnock	Household Items
H1169	Crystal Dominguez	Household Goods
I0508	Charlene Holmes	Household Goods
C0303	Joesph Smith	Household Goods
H1160	Lorraine Schulz	Household goods
H1085	Reyna Figueroa	Household Goods
G0812	Charles Jewell	Household Goods
H1081	Heather Golledge	Household Goods
I0588	Angela Jones	Household Goods

Extra Space Storage 1596
@ 2930 US Hwy 98 N Lakeland FL 33805
(863) 224-2677
(March 13, 2019 @ 12:00 PM)

4607	Carol Wood	Furniture and boxes
4606	Lynn Schaad	furniture, household
1509	Larissa Allen	Household goods
2702	Antonio Campbell	furniture and household goods
1419	Carl Matthews	Personal items
5023	Nichole Thomas	furniture and household goods
4003	Virginia Baltodano	clothing other house hold goods
1309	David Kinder	Props, back drops, couch ,house hold items.

Extra Space Storage 1494
@ 6445 S Florida Ave Lakeland FL 33813
(863) 647-4172
(March 13, 2019 @ 12:30 PM)

G0726	Marieli Camacho	Furniture and household items
P1508	Kayla Green	Furniture and household items
K0923	Ken Glum	Furniture and household items
C0440	Cumesha Loanmen	Furniture and household items
C0421	Timothy Franks	Furniture and household items

Extra Space Storage 1493
@ 2190 Harden Blvd, Lakeland FL 33803
(863)-680-8092
(March 13, 2019 @ 1:00 PM)

A0123	Lisa Underwood	Household goods
E0780	Antonio Pereira	Household goods
E0852	Starshemah McCaskill	household items, furniture
C0464	Jason Wilson	Household goods
D0559	Shantay Inman	Household goods
A0254	Rhonda Williams	Household goods
C0463	Stetson Wilson	household goods
E0710	Eddie Jackson	House hold goods
C0440	Crystal Zager	shelves, clothes, misc items
E0636	Jonathon Bell	household goods, lawn mover

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind and purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

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Health Events to Keep You Healthy

BayCare Events in Polk County

Featured Events (no cost to attend)

Heart-Healthy Screenings

Registration is required: (855) 269-4777

Friday, March 15, 8am–2pm

Polk Street Community Center, Bartow

Colorectal Health

Registration is required: (855) 314-8352

Tuesday, March 26, 5:30–6:30pm

Amy Curry, DO

Bartow Regional Medical Center

Classrooms 1 & 2

Cancer Support (no cost to attend)

Woman to Woman Cancer Support Group

Registration is not required.

Mondays, March 11 and March 25, 6–7pm

Winter Haven Hospital

Wellness Center Conference Room

Ovarian Cancer Support Group

Registration is not required.

Monday, March 18, 5:30–7pm

Winter Haven Hospital

Wellness Center Conference Room

Man to Man Cancer Support Group

Registration is not required.

Tuesday, March 19, 1:30–2:30pm

Winter Haven Hospital

Quality Improvement Conference Room

Orthopedic Events (no cost to attend)

Total Joint Replacement

Registration is required: (863) 297-1808

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 12:30–2pm

Winter Haven Hospital

Wellness Center Conference Room

Winter Haven Women's Hospital

Prepared Childbirth (4 Session)

Registration is required: (855) 314-8352

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30–8:45pm

Winter Haven Women's Hospital

Classroom A

Cost: \$40

Sibling Class

Registration is required: (855) 314-8352

Saturday, March 9, 10–11am

Winter Haven Women's Hospital

Classroom C

Cost: \$10

Newborn Care

Registration is required: (855) 314-8352

Saturday, March 9, 1–4pm

Winter Haven Women's Hospital

Classroom A

Cost: \$15

Breastfeeding Class

Registration is required: (855) 314-8352

Saturday, March 16, 9:30am–12pm

Winter Haven Women's Hospital

Classroom A

Cost: \$15

Birth Center Tour

Registration is required: (855) 314-8352

Tuesday, March 19, 6–7:30pm

Winter Haven Women's Hospital

Classroom A

Cost: Free

Perinatal Bereavement Support Group

Registration is required: (855) 314-8352

Tuesday, March 26, 6:30–7:30pm

North Entrance Sitting Area

Cost: Free

Support Groups (no cost to attend)

Aphasia Support Group

Registration is not required.

Thursday, March 7, 4–5:30pm

Winter Haven Hospital

Wellness Center Conference Room

Caregivers Support Group

Registration is not required.

Friday, March 8, 1–2:30pm

Winter Haven Hospital

Wellness Center Conference Room

Heart-to-Heart Cardiac Support Group

Registration is required: (863) 280-6066

Tuesday, March 12, 3–4pm

Winter Haven Hospital

Wellness Center Conference Room

Better Breathers Club

Registration is not required.

Wednesday, March 13, 1–2pm

Winter Haven Hospital

Wellness Center Conference Room

Mental Health Peer Recovery Program

Registration is not required.

Mondays, 11am–3pm

Lion's Park Clubhouse

820 Ave. L S.W., Winter Haven

Wednesdays, 12:30–4:30pm

Winter Haven Hospital

Center for Behavioral Health

1201 First St. S., Winter Haven

To register for a class or for a physician referral: (855) 314-8352

Bartow Regional Medical Center
2200 Osprey Blvd., Bartow

Winter Haven Hospital
200 Ave. F N.E., Winter Haven

Winter Haven Women's Hospital
101 Ave. O S.E., Winter Haven

