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# Dade City News

Serving Dade City • San Antonio • Saint Leo

Volume VII • Issue 45

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June 21, 2018

## PETA Puts Pressure On Zoo

### New Violations Alleged In Amended Complaint

by **Joe Potter**

An animal rights group has stepped up its efforts against Dade City's Wild Things for its alleged mistreatment of tigers the company formerly owned.

People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals initially sued the privately owned zoo in October 2016 when it alleged Kenneth and Kathy Stearns were failing to provide adequate housing for the tigers they kept at their Blanton Road facility. The lawsuit also alleges the company was violating the Endangered Species Act by prematurely separating tiger cubs from their mothers and forcing the cubs to swim with paying members of the public.

On June 8, PETA amended its original complaint and now alleges Wild Things is responsible for the death of three newborn tiger cubs a year ago.



Dade City's Wild Things has been promoting animal encounters with their new tiger cub on their Facebook page. Photo Provided

Violations • Continued on Page 5A

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## Chamber Helps Nonprofits

### Contributes \$3,000 To Six Local Groups

by **Joe Potter**

Six area nonprofit organizations each received checks for \$500 during the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast held Tuesday at Kafé Kokopelli.

Feeding Pasco's Elderly, Restored Hope, the Thomas Promise Foundation, Sunrise of Pasco County, Lucy Avilla of Love One Another, and Make A Difference, Inc., each received a donation and a certificate recognizing their contributions to the community.

Penny Morrill was honored as the Chamber's Ambassador of the Year.

The Community Foundation of

Chamber • Continued on Page 2A



Representatives of six nonprofits who received money from the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce are, in back, from left, John Moors, the Chamber's executive director; Larry Guilford, president, Make A Difference; and Sean Hengesbach, trustee, Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. In front, from left, are Denyve Boyle, director of philanthropy, Community Foundation of Tampa Bay; Dianna Thomas, secretary/treasurer, Thomas Promise Foundation; Nikki Armas, marketing manager, Feeding Pasco's Elderly; Penny Morrill, community outreach coordinator, Restored Hope; Kelly Sinn, CEO, Sunrise of Pasco; and Lucy Avila, founder, Love One Another. Photo by **Richard K. Riley**

## Neukom Gets A Leg Up

### Local Girl Impresses 'Dance' Judges; Moving On To First Round

by **Emily Kochanski**

Dade City's own Victoria Neukom will be moving on to the first round of competition on the TV show "So You Think You Can Dance." Neukom captivated the judges with some mind-blowing moves during Monday's audition episode. She flipped, twirled, bent, and leapt with a mesmerizing force and grace worthy of a Cirque du Soleil performer.

When her performance was complete, judges Nigel Lythgoe, Mary Murphy, Vanessa Hudgens and guest judge Stephen "tWitch" Boss were left nearly speechless. First to speak, Hudgens could only utter an awestruck "wow."

Neukom • Continued on Page 5A

## Honoring The Flag

### East Pasco Celebrates The Red, White And Blue

by **Emily Kochanski**

Pasco County residents and organizations came together June 14 to honor the stars and stripes at multiple Flag Day events including one at the American Legion of Dade City, which held their second annual flag burning ceremony.

While burning the symbol of our nation may sound like a terrible crime, it is actually an honorable method of disposing of flags that have become faded and tattered after years of use. This year, the American Legion retired more than 200 flags, about half of their total from last year.

"We would rather burn the flags than see them go to a landfill," said Edward Gorecki, the commander of the American

Flag • Continued on Page 6A



Commander Edward Gorecki, right, opens the ceremony at Dade City's American Legion Post #15 with a brief history of Flag Day. Photo by **Emily Kochanski**

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- 3A - Getting Their Goat
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- 2B - Karate Studio Welcomes Diabetics

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# Dade City Police Report Mischief, Damaged Goods Result In Arrest

**Tait Maxwell Mosher**, 27, of U.S. 301 and Morningside, was arrested by Dade City police on June 2 on a charge of criminal mischief. Contact was made with Mosher at Walmart, 12650 U.S 301, after he allegedly damaged store goods. Mosher willfully entered the store and damaged a number of items totaling \$220. He then attempted to leave the store without making any attempts to pay but was stopped and detained outside. He was later arrested after further investigation.

**Jakeevis Lamont Pearson**, 20, of 37641 Church Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on June 7 on charges of battery and trespassing. Police made contact with the victim on the 38000 block of Lake Avenue while responding to a disturbance. Upon arrival, officers witnessed Pearson fleeing the scene. The victim advised that Pearson was trespassed from her home the previous night and that he arrived that morning and, when she opened the door, allegedly grabbed her by the arm and refused to leave. A trespass warning was confirmed and Pearson was arrested after emerging from some bushes across the street where he was hiding.

**Zach P. Shaw**, 28, at large, was arrested by Dade City police on June 7 on a charge of battery. Shaw and he victim were re-

portedly engaged in a verbal argument at 12804 U.S. 301. The argument turned physical when the victim threw water into Shaw's face. Shaw then allegedly pushed the victim repeatedly. Upon making contact, Shaw advised authorities that he did push the victim but that the two of them were only playing around and he helped her up afterward. He was then arrested and later released with a notice to appear.

**Carol Lynn Lancaster**, 45, of Webster, was arrested by Dade City police on June 9 on a charge of leaving the scene of an accident. Lancaster allegedly struck another vehicle while driving, resulting in minor damage to the vehicle, and then left the scene without stopping. Post Miranda, Lancaster stated she left the scene at the request of her passenger. Lancaster was placed under arrest and later released with a notice to appear.

**Nash Robert Noonan**, 22, of 13647 Sheila Lynn Court, was arrested by Dade City police on May 31 on a Pasco County warrant for violation of probation - battery. Police made contact with Noonan in reference to a possible warrant, which was later confirmed. He was placed under arrest and transferred to the Pasco County jail.

*Information provided in the Dade City Police report is taken from public record. All parties are considered innocent until proven guilty.*



**Penny Morrill, center, was honored as the 2018 Ambassador of the Year by the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce during Tuesday's business breakfast held at Kafe Kokopelli.**

*Photo by Richard K. Riley*

**Chamber • Continued from Page 1A**

Tampa Bay sponsored the breakfast. Founded in 1990, the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay connects donors, nonprofits, community and business leaders, professional advisors, volunteers and residents to make the maximum positive impact in the Tampa Bay region.

Denyve Boyle, the foundation's director of philanthropy, and Seton Hegensebach, a Hernando County estate planning attorney, both spoke on behalf of the foundation.

"We're a catalyst of collaboration. We bring together the bigger players," Boyle said.

"We are going to help you market

yourself and to make nonprofits more sustainable."

People are often looking for ways to have their assets distributed to support specific causes after they die, Hegensebach said. They may want their money to be used to help pets or for other causes, and they are, in most cases, used for that purpose for perpetuity, Hegensebach said.

The foundation currently has total assets of more than \$224 million.

Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfasts are held the third Tuesday of each month. To become involved or attend as a member or potential member, please contact the Chamber at (352) 567-3769 or [jmoors@dadecitychamber.org](mailto:jmoors@dadecitychamber.org).



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# Getting Their Goat

## Seniors Stretch With Fun, Furry Partners

by Emily Kochanski

The Zephyrhills community learned Monday that the key to good health is regular exercise and a little bit of laughter. That's when American House Zephyrhills invited the community to participate in a relaxing, fun-filled goat yoga class.

Goat yoga has recently become a rapidly growing trend, and it's easy to see why. It combines a low impact, relaxing workout with the joy received from cuddling with baby animals. The Grady Goat Foundation, which hosted the event, detailed a number of other significant benefits for some truly deserving children.

"Our foundation raises money for charities who support children with disabilities," said Debbie Canton, the founder of the Grady Goat Foundation. "My husband suggested that I start the foundation and use goat yoga as a fundraiser every weekend."

Canton founded and named the foundation after



Consuela Gonzales of Dade City receives the attention of two young goats as she assumes the table top yoga position. About 30 people participated or observed the event with 10 small goats. Photo by Richard K. Riley



Even those not participating in yoga got the chance to cuddle with the goats. Photo by Emily Kochanski

a goat named Grady who was born blind and deaf. Her compassion for Grady is what prompted her to direct the foundation's funds towards children who were suffering from similar afflictions. This is what attracted yoga instructor Leiko KoKo Bergers, whose daughter suffers from cerebral palsy. Goat yoga combined Bergers' love for her daughter with her love for animals.

"I have a company called Urban Wilderness Yoga. All of my classes are held outside, and I'm obsessed with animals," said Bergers. "One day, I'd like to have my own animal sanctuary."

In the course of an hour, Monday's attendees participated in a typical yoga class, engaging in all of the common gentle stretches and poses. But once the participants got down on their hands and knees, the goats literally leapt into action, prancing from the back of one person to the next. One American House resident who was quite popular among the bleating critters was 81-year-old Ron Hinson.

"I got down on the ground and I didn't know if I would be able to get back up," Hinson said. "But that was some experience. Those goats climbed all over my back. I think I even had two of them on me at once."

The happiness Hinson took away from the experience is, according to Canton, the biggest benefit of goat yoga.

"Besides the stretching that comes with the yoga, you're also getting the joy that it brings to you," Canton said. "Laughter is the best medicine, right?"

"I love seeing all of the smiles during the classes and the fact that people just move freely and are in the moment," Bergers said. "There are just so many beautiful and amazing things that happen during these goat yoga classes."

The Grady Goat Foundation offers classes every weekend at their Thonotosassa ranch, but you must reserve a spot in advance. To purchase tickets or learn more about the Grady Goat Foundation, visit [gradygoat.org](http://gradygoat.org).

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## East Pasco Events

**June 21 – Sippin’ with Sunrise** – Support Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic and Sexual Violence Center by attending a wine tasting event at Covington Farm, 36222 Covington Road, from 6-8:30 p.m. Food, craft beer and vendors will also be featured. General admission is \$40 and \$75 for a pair. VIP tickets are \$55 and \$100 for a pair. Visit [sunrisepasco.org](http://sunrisepasco.org) or call (352) 521-3358 for tickets and information.

**June 21 – Bingo in the Thyme Out Café** – Join us for a few fun games of Bingo and enjoy a delicious slice of chocolate and vanilla cake with buttercream icing. Shane Sanborn, PT, DPT, MBA, Director of Rehabilitation Services for Florida Hospital Dade City, will speak about the importance of maintaining an active lifestyle. Reservations required. Held 2-3 p.m. at FHDC, 13100 Fort King Road. Call (833) 300-2371 for information.

**June 21 – Guns N’ Coolers Bash** – The third annual Ducks Unlimited event will be held from 6-9 p.m. at Al’s Famous Pizza, 11929 Curley St., San Antonio. Admission ticket automatically enters you into 15 drawings and Al’s famous pizza will be served. Cold beer, music, and raffles will be featured. Contact Heath at (813) 714-3837 or Steve at (813) 503-5094 or visit [www.ducksystem.com](http://www.ducksystem.com) for tickets.

**June 22 – Business Roundtable** – Learn how affordable children’s coverage can strengthen your business and assist your employees. Held 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Florida Hospital Center Ice, 3173 Cypress Ridge Blvd., Wesley Chapel. Presented by Premier Community Healthcare and Florida KidCare. The guest speaker will be state Rep. Danny Burgess. Reservations required by June 20. Contact Rachel at [rblaasch@hcnetwork.org](mailto:rblaasch@hcnetwork.org) or (352) 518-2000 for information and to RSVP.

**June 22 – Basic Survival Sewing** – Free lessons. Sewing machine and basic supplies provided. Registration is required. Held 10-11 a.m. at Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St. Call (352) 567-3576 or visit [www.pascolibraries.org](http://www.pascolibraries.org) for information.

**June 23 – Summer Fest** – Saint Leo University is hosting Summer Fest from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at its main campus, 33701 S.R. 52, St. Leo. Prospective students and their families will have the opportunity to enjoy a day of music, food, fun and sun. There is no cost for this event. Visit [choose.saintleo.edu/summer-fest](http://choose.saintleo.edu/summer-fest) to register. Contact nicole.lesko@saintleo.edu for information or special accommodations.

**June 23 – Family Field Day** – Color Me Abstract is hosting the second annual event at 10 a.m. at the Pioneer Florida Museum, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road. Bounce houses, face painting, music, water games, and more will be featured. Admission is free and includes prizes and giveaways. All are encouraged to bring donations to help support local charities Bright Hopes and Sunrise of Pasco County. Visit the Color Me Abstract Facebook page or [www.icolormeabstract.com](http://www.icolormeabstract.com) for information.

**June 23 – Social Dance** – A dance will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Strawberry Square, 4401 Promenade Blvd., Plant City. Cost is \$6. Bring your own snacks, drinks and table service. No alcohol allowed on the property. Visit [strawberrysquaredancing.com](http://strawberrysquaredancing.com) for information or contact (863) 409-7714 or [psocialdanceclub@inbox.com](mailto:psocialdanceclub@inbox.com) for directions.

**June 23-24 – Amateur Radio Society Field Day** – The East Pasco Amateur Radio Society is hosting the annual Field Day event at 30832 Deer Run, Dade City. This event is free and open to the public. We will be demonstrating emergency communications via Amateur Radio. Start time is 12 p.m. and runs for a full 24 hours. Visit [www.eparsonline.org](http://www.eparsonline.org) or email [DuaneK4EX@ARRL.NET](mailto:DuaneK4EX@ARRL.NET) for information.

**June 25 – Free Amplified Phones** – Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation will have free phones to share with Florida residents who have a certified hearing loss at the CARES Crescent Center, 13906 Fifth St., from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Cordless and corded phones are also available to persons with mild to severe hearing loss at distribution centers statewide. The limit is one per customer. Call (727) 312-3881 for information.

**June 28 – Pasco Community Job Fair** – Pasco County Schools is partnering with county agencies to host a job fair from 4-6 p.m. at Cypress Creek Middle/High School, 8701 Old Pasco Road, Wesley Chapel. Representatives from the school district and several schools; Pasco Sheriff’s Office; and Pasco County government, clerk of court, emergency services (911), property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and tax collector will be present to talk to job applicants. Visit [www.pascoschools.org](http://www.pascoschools.org), and click on the Job Fair banner at the top for information.

**July 1 – Patriotic Family Fun Day** – Join the Dade Battlefield park for a free event that includes games, contests and competitions, a pet parade with prizes, and music by the Barking Dogs. Held from 4-8 p.m. at 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Food will be available at the park booth.

**July 4 – Sparklebration** – The annual Sparklebration celebration of Independence Day will take place at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52, starting at 4 p.m. Parking is \$5 per vehicle and admission is \$6 per person for those 13 years old and older. Kids 12 and under are free. Food vendors, live entertainment, bounce houses, pony rides, and more will be featured. Participate in watermelon and hot dog eating contests, and a karaoke competition. Fireworks are scheduled for 9:15 p.m. Visit [www.sparklebration.com](http://www.sparklebration.com) or call (352) 567-6678 for information.

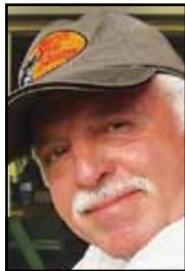
**July 6 – First Friday** – Stop by downtown Dade City starting at 5 p.m. for extended shop hours, specials, sales and live entertainment. Visit the Dade City Merchants Association for information.

**July 11 – Cooking Demo** – Learn how to create a delicious vegetable dumpling packed with nutrients. Reservations required. Held from 4-5 p.m. in the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road, Zephyrhills. Call (813) 779-6476 for information.

**July 13-14 – Book Bazaar** – The Friends of the Hugh Embry Library announce the monthly Book Bazaar to be held both days from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the library, located at 14215 Fourth St. This Book Bazaar will feature a diverse selection of books, audio and video media, magazines and related materials. These are available for a modest cost. Admission is open to the public. Contact (352) 567-7449 or [bookbollard@icloud.com](mailto:bookbollard@icloud.com) for information.

For more events visit [www.pasconewspubs.com](http://www.pasconewspubs.com)

## Commentary



### First Things First

Greg First

## Pasco Wades Into Scallop Season

Scalloping was banned here in Pasco County beginning in 1994 in an effort to help save Florida’s shellfish population.

Well, 24 years later the tables have turned and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has decided to bring Pasco in for a 10-day period beginning July 20. Farther up the road into Hernando County, the season starts July 1 and runs through Sept. 24. As I have always heard, “Some things just don’t seem fair.” Hey, it’s a start. Pasco gets another 10-day season in 2019, as well. The hope is beginning in 2020 Pasco can join other areas for a more inclusive scallop-hunting season.

To collect these tasty bay scallops you have to have a Florida saltwater fishing license, unless you are exempt or have a free shoreline fishing license and plan to wade out to score your catch. The limits are strictly enforced: Two gallons of whole bay scallops in the shell or one pint of scallop meat per person per day. There is a maximum limit per vessel of 10 gallons in the shell or a half-gallon of scallop meat.

Jenny and I have pretty much gone

out every season. It’s so much fun to load up the boat and take the trip down the Homosassa River into the beautiful Gulf of Mexico. Along the way you might spot a dolphin or two playing in the boat’s wake. Once you find a good spot you can drop the anchor, ideally in four to six feet of water.

Scallops are a moving target and love to play hide and seek in the sea grass. They may be in one area today and gone tomorrow. Once spotted, they are pretty easy to reach down and grab them. If the scallop sees you it will probably take off and the chase is on. Remember they have up to 100 eyes.

Don’t fret if you don’t have a boat or a friend who asks you to join them. Most scalloping areas have a multitude of boat captains who can make your trip fun. When you go out with them they have the saltwater fishing licenses for all onboard. They have all of the safety equipment, dive flags and equipment you will need including a mask, fins and snorkel, along with a bag for the scallops. They are very knowledgeable of the water in those areas. Last season it seemed like most were getting their limits with no problem.

To schedule a trip, just Google ‘scallop trips’ and it would be wise to make your boat reservations right now. Keep in mind that during the season it gets really busy so plan ahead.

Scalloping is great family fun and the rewards are pretty tasty but you won’t get to sample them in a restaurant. Commercial harvesting of bay scallops is prohibited. The only way you are going to enjoy them is to catch them yourself. When you do don’t forget to invite your friends and maybe, if you are lucky, they will do the same for you.

## Visit Pasco Launches Matching Marketing Sponsorship Program

Special event organizers have an exciting opportunity to expand their market reach through Visit Pasco’s new Matching Marketing Sponsorship Program. The Pasco County Office of Tourism Development is launching the program, which will provide up to \$5,000 to promote events and increase visitation to Pasco.

“Matching provides a win-win partnership for the County and event organizers,” said Tourism Program Manager Consuelo Sanchez. “It’s a great tool to reach new markets outside the Tampa Bay region and to increase attendance.”

Matching Marketing Sponsorship Program guidelines:

- Applications must be received by June 28
- Approved applicants must present

a funding request to the Tourist Development Council

- The Pasco Board of County Commissioners grants final approval
- MMSP requires a dollar-for-dollar match and/or in-kind goods or services
- Maximum allowable match is \$5,000
- MMSP funds are for event-related marketing expenditures only
- Marketing dollars must be used to promote outside the Tampa Bay Area
- MMSP program replaces the previous Special Event Marketing Program

To apply for funding, contact the Office of Tourism Development at (727) 847-8129 or [cbsanchez@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:cbsanchez@pascocountyfl.net).

Visit [www.visitpasco.net](http://www.visitpasco.net) for more information about Pasco County Tourism and events.

## Pasco News Publications

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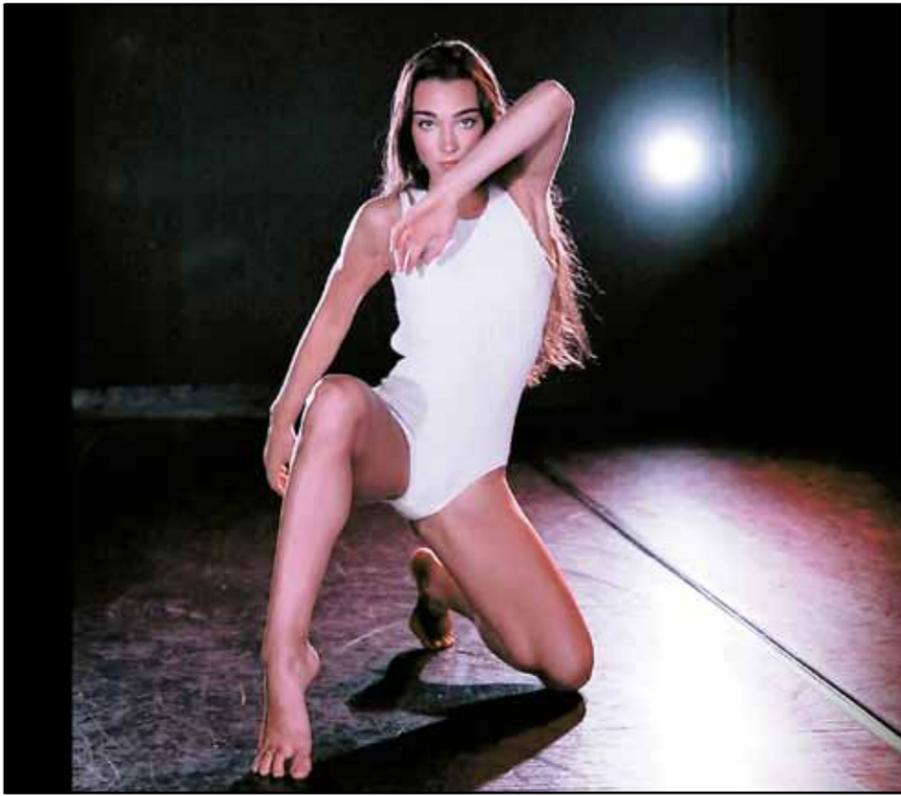
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Local dancer Victoria Neukom made a successful television debut on 'So You Think You Can Dance' earlier this week.

**Neukom • Continued from Page 1A**

"You did a great job of using the length of your body," said Boss. "And the transitions, I thought, were seamless." Lythgoe will be the one Neukom will have to impress in upcoming episodes. While impressed with her skills, he found her audition lacked one specific element:

He was a tad disappointed that Neukom's routine focused mainly on gymnastic inspired moves rather than ballet. But, in the end, it was Lythgoe who welcomed her up to the judges' table to receive her ticket to the first round. "So You Think You Can Dance" airs every Mon. at 8 p.m. on Fox 13. Tune in every week to watch Victoria's progress.

**Violations • Continued from Page 1A**

The deaths reportedly occurred while the cubs and 19 adult tigers were being transferred to a park in Oklahoma just ahead of a court-ordered inspection. A March 2 decision by the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida "allows PETA to hold Dade City's Wild Things' feet to the fire for sending 19 [adult] tigers on an 18-hour journey without air conditioning or water, which proved deadly for three newborn cubs," said Brittany Peet, PETA Foundation Director of Captive Animal Law Enforcement. "Nineteen tigers have subsequently been relocated and are recovering at a reputable sanctuary, and PETA's lawsuit is working to ensure that this facility [Wild Things] will never possess tigers again," Peet said in the June 8 press release.

Federal Magistrate Judge Amanda Sansone's ruling in March said Wild Things is no longer allowed to own any tigers because of the Stearns's "flagrant disregard" for the court. However, Wild Things distributed an email this week announcing the addition of a new program at its facility called Animal Ambassadors. The 'ambassadors' reportedly include baby monkeys, wallabies, goats, a baby sloth and fennec fox, and a new tiger cub. Tiger cub encounters with the new baby are already available. Wild Things said encounters with the other animals were already available. Attempts on Monday to gain comments from the Stearns' couple or their attorney, Gus Centrone of Centrone & Schrader of Tampa, were unsuccessful.

# Oral Hygiene Addressed

## Grant To Give More Help To Children

by Keri McAlpine

Pasco Kids First is launching a new bilingual oral health navigation program, which will directly benefit hundreds of children and families in east Pasco. The three-year \$283,553 grant from the Florida Blue Foundation will provide enough funding to allow an Oral Health Navigator to personally assist families, as well as assist with treatment costs and transportation to appointments when needed. "Our mission is to help people and communities achieve better health. As we see the number of visits to the emergency room for dental pain and oral health issues skyrocket across the state, it's important that we start the habit of good oral health at a young age," said David Pizzo, Florida Blue Market President for the West Florida Region. Julissa Cantillo, the Oral Health Navigator, began visiting individual families in February and is scheduled to visit 100 families in a year's time. By the end of the three-year grant, 400 families will be served, according to Becky Bennett, Director of Development of Pasco Kids First. The grant not only serves east Pasco, but the entire county as well as Hernando. In east Pasco alone, PKF's Healthy Families Pasco-Hernando program serves about 120 families each year. The need for oral health education and prevention was determined by the home visits through the healthy families program, which focuses on teaching new parents the skills and goals to be self-sufficient. While other health services have been performing well through PKF's 29 years in Pasco, the dental care was lacking.

"Research shows that poor oral health has an effect on overall health," said Bennett. "More than one quarter of U.S. children aged 2 to 5 and approximately one half of all children have tooth decay. There are 10 teaspoons of sugar in one can of soda." The visits from the Oral Health Navigator will be entertaining and educational. Activities and pictures will be used to teach children proper oral hygiene, while resources will be presented to parents in determining the best route of professional dental care. "The goal is to help provide them with different options, providers," Bennett said. "She'll be connecting them based on what their dental insurance is, or lack of insurance ... which is really difficult." Bennett said about 8 percent of dentists accept Medicaid, which makes the search for a dentist challenging. But, routine dental visits are important. Many struggling families will ignore oral problems until a more major procedure – such as a root canal – comes up resulting in a possible trip to the emergency room. Basic supplies such as toothbrushes and toothpaste will be provided to families during visits to improve oral hygiene status in between dentist visits. Delaying such preventative care, Bennett said, leads to time away from school and time away from work for the parents. Pasco Kids First is partnering with Premier Community HealthCare and the Pasco County Health Department to provide assessments and treatment for kids and their parents at no cost to the families. For more information about Pasco Kids First and the Healthy Families Pasco-Hernando program Visit [www.pascokidsfirst.org](http://www.pascokidsfirst.org) or contact Bennett at (727) 967-7509.

# New Site Planned For Credit Union

by Joe Potter

San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union plans to open a new banking center next year in the Shoppes of Dade City. The proposed nearly 6,700-square-foot building will be constructed on the city's south side near the intersection of Clinton Avenue and U.S. 301. A Publix Supermarket is the anchor store for the plaza in which the new

credit union branch will be located. No decision has been made yet regarding how the credit union's current location at 37925 Church Ave. will be used after the new branch opens, Tim Baldwin, the credit union's president. The credit union was chartered in 1955 and currently has branches in San Antonio, Dade City and Zephyrhills. SACFCU currently has 15,768 members and \$213 million in assets.



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**Flag • Continued from Page 1A**

Legion Post #15. “Burning has always been the proper way to dispose of the flag. We do it ceremoniously, the way it should be done.”

Attendees at this year’s ceremony included Dade City Commissioner Nicole Deese Newlon, post developmental chairman of the American Legion Eunice Butts, and Bob Hatfield, representing Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Tarpon Springs).

“That flag is a symbol that defines who we are and binds us together as a nation,” Hatfield said. “We ask ourselves ‘why does America have an immigration problem?’ It’s really simple: we are that beacon of opportunity, that beacon of hope and liberty.”

In keeping with the patriotic spirit that the day holds, American House Zephyrhills hosted their own Flag Day

festivities beginning at 11:45. Staff, residents, and members of the community gathered together for a flag raising at the facility’s entrance.

“When you walk into any American House on Flag Day, you will see the same kind of event going on,” said Keaton Hobbs, the facility’s community and relations director. “It’s such a fun way to honor the flag and our country.”

The event featured a few inspiring words from Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield and a gun salute and rendition of taps courtesy of the honor guard. The ceremony concluded with an all-American spread featuring hamburgers, hot dogs and baked beans.

“Our residents look forward to this every year,” Hobbs said. “It’s something we’ve done for the last three years. We do have a lot of veterans here, so we use this event to honor them as well.”



As part of the annual flag retirement ceremony, members of the Dade City American Legion formally inspect the flags that have been turned in for a respectful disposal.



A little more than 200 flags were honorably burned at this year’s event.



Keaton Hobbs of American House welcomes dozens of residents and guests for the senior living community’s annual Flag Day celebration. *Photos by Richard K. Riley*

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# Men's Health Focus Of Fair

## Event Offered Screenings, BMI Data

by Keri McAlpine

Premier Community HealthCare is known for holding a range of different free health care events, but last week they added a new one to their roster. The Men's Health Day debuted on June 13 at the Dade City Family Health Center on Fifth Street.

Men aged 18 and older were welcomed to the event to access free health screenings, which included blood pressure screenings, skin cancer scans and a body mass index calculation. Organizations providing information on cancer were also on hand to answer questions.

After patients were seen, they were treated to some light refreshments and a small toolkit keychain.

Premier CEO Joey Resnick said the event was "great". A total of 17 patients

stopped by the three-hour event.

"We do events catered for women throughout the year so we wanted to do one catered to men. Resnick said. "It was very successful for our first one."

"I admit, it's my wife that encouraged me to attend the event today," said Miguel, a Men's Health Day patient. "With a demanding work schedule, no insurance and children to care for it is nearly financially impossible to get healthcare services, but not anymore ... without an event like this my health needs would continue to be overlooked."

Resnick said Premier plans to expand the men's event next year to spread among the organization's 10 sites in Pasco and Hernando counties.

Premier's Dade City location is at 37912 Church Ave. and can be reached by calling (352) 518-2000.



As part of the Premier Health's Men's Health Screening event, attendees were greeted and checked in by Liliana Gutierrez, research coordinator, Moffitt Cancer Center; Shamain VanErkelen, and Jose Rodriguez, community service specialists for Premier; and Rania Abdulla, research program administrator, Moffitt Cancer Center.

Photo by Richard K. Riley

# Pasco County's Summer BreakSpot Kickoff Held

## Party At Park Officially Begins Food Program

Story and photo by Joe Potter

Pasco County Schools Food and Nutrition Services kicked off its popular and highly successful Summer BreakSpot Program with a party of sorts June 14.

More than 100 youngsters were fed at last week's event at Zephyr Park's main pavilion.

The kickoff featured a water slide, face painting, games and other fun activities.

The school district has specifically equipped buses in which youngsters may sit and relax in air-conditioned comfort while eating their meals. The buses are also stocked with an ample supply of books students may borrow to read.

"The school superintendent (Kurt Browning) and the school board really support this program," said Lee Beville. He is bus driver for Pasco County schools and it's his first year driving one for BreakSpot, which actually started feeding kids June 4.

Vendors participating in last week's

party included the Pasco Sheriff's Office, CareerSource Pasco Hernando, Early Learning Coalition of Pasco-Hernando, Premier Community HealthCare, Alliance For Substance Abuse Prevention, the Pasco County Cooperative Extension Office, BayCare Behavioral Health and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



Children line up for meals during the Summer BreakSpot kick off event held at Zephyr Park last Thursday.

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Hope Landgraf sang 'Zippity Do Da,' as she auditioned for a part in this week's production of 'The Jungle Book.'

Arts in Motion is in the midst of hosting their summer event, which will conclude at the end of this week.

The camp is filled with rising 1st through 8th grade students and began



Parker Medlin auditions for a part in the production in front of a panel of other actors, singers, and crew for Arts In Motion.

Photos by **Richard K. Riley**

## Drama Camp Holds Auditions

Monday. The campers will be putting on a production of The Jungle Book, and held auditions Monday morning before beginning rehearsals and preparations.

The show is at 5:30 p.m. on Friday at the Dade City Baptist Church at 37511 Church Ave. Contact [aimtheaterinfo@gmail.com](mailto:aimtheaterinfo@gmail.com) or (352) 834-1246 for information.



Isabella Dodd during her audition for the Arts in Motion production of 'The Jungle Book.' Arts In Motion, a community youth theater arts education organization, is holding a summer theater camp this week to prepare for the production.

## Dade City Commission Honors Crossing Guards



School crossing guards were honored during the June 12 meeting of the Dade City City Commission. Shown, from left, are acting Lt. Brian Uppercue, the Dade City Police Department's public information officer; Mary Roberts, Pasco Middle School volunteer; Ana Aguirre, Pasco Elementary School volunteer; Patricia Deleo, Cox Elementary School volunteer; and James Walters, acting DCPD Chief.

Photo by **Richard K. Riley**

## Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Receives Prestigious Award

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills has been awarded the Mission: Lifeline Gold Receiving Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for implementing specific quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks. This is one of the highest awards that a hospital can attain.

More than 250,000 people experience a ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction, known as a STEMI, annually in the United States. This is a very serious type of heart attack during which one of the heart's major arteries that supplies oxygen and nutrient-rich blood to the heart muscle is blocked. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills earned the prestigious award by meeting specific criteria and standards of performance for quick and appropriate treatment of a STEMI. These include emergency procedures to re-establish blood flow to



blocked arteries in heart attack patients coming into the hospital directly or by transfer from another facility.

The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program's goal is to reduce barriers

to prompt treatment for heart attacks, beginning with the 9-1-1 call, to EMS transport and continuing through hospital treatment and discharge. The initiative provides tools, training and other resources to support heart attack care following protocols from the most recent evidence-based treatment guidelines.

"Florida Hospital Zephyrhills is dedicated to providing optimal care for heart attack patients," said Gwen Alonso, RN, Chief Nursing Officer. "We are very pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in cardiac care through Mission: Lifeline."



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