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**Thursday, March 25, 2021** 109th Year - No. 28

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#### Wealth of Health

In this week's Wealth of Health, congratulations are in order for two AdventHealth hospitals in Zephyrhills and Wesley Chapel.

➤ 2B



#### Weather

Aside from Thursday, the next six days are predicted to be partly cloudy. Apparently, the small cold fronts we've had in the evenings are coming to an end. Daytime highs will be in the 80s and low 90s with evenings in the 60s.

#### **Sports**

Zephyrhills sends off seniors in track and field

The Bulldogs hosted their final track and field meet of the regular season and recognized the team's five seniors in a tuneup for what they hope is a long postseason run.

#### **East Pasco YMCA hosts** spring breakers

The East Pasco YMCA hosted Kid's Day Out during spring break. The facility offers similar camps for boys and girls during the winter break as well as the summer months.

#### Leisure Days RV Resort golfers at Southport Springs

Among the groups for league play hosted by Southport Springs is a fun bunch from Leisure Days.

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#### **Email Address**

If you would like to email The Zephyrhills News story ideas, press releases, club news, park news, special events or letters to the editor, please send your information to our email address: thezephyrhillsnews @gmail.com.

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# Jelly Bean Fling lures hundreds to Pioneer Florida Museum



Events continue at the landmark village in Dade City with children scampering for Easter eggs

> By Steve Lee News Reporter

Young children — even a few toddlers — scampered about the grounds at the Florida Pioneer Village and Museum on Saturday. Waves of boys and girls, ages 13 and under, raced around to scoop up as many Easter eggs as they could and place them in baskets. It was all part of the traditional Jelly Bean Fling, the latest in a series of fun-filled events at the six-acre property in

After collecting their plastic eggs at the bottom of the main hill, children and their parents walked up to the Mabel Jordan Barn to turn their eggs in for vouchers to play various games and do arts and crafts.

Rich and Melissa Koster, the latter of whom used to teach at Zephyrhills High, drove across the county from Hudson on the west side to take their 3-year-old daughter Julietta to Saturday's event.

'It's cute," said Melissa, who helped Julietta gather plastic-colored eggs at the base of the hill. "She has a

Friends Abygail Harlow, an 11-year-old visitor from

**▶JELLY BEAN FLING:** See Page 2A

## **CRA** approves RFP for Jeffries and **Carriage House**

Council meeting brought on new ZPD officers and the following CRA meeting sent out a Request For Proposal for occupants of the Jeffries House

> By Andy Warrener News Reporter

A bit of ceremony kicked off the meeting as newly-minted ZPD officers Larry Brass and Pedro Miliano were sworn in by Chief Derek Brewer. Emiliano is a fresh PHSC Law Enforcement graduate, while Brass is a former Hillsborough County Detention Deputy and City of

Tampa police officer.

"We support our police officers from day one," Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield said. 'This is day one.'

The swearing-in was quickly followed by a proclamation by Whitfield acknowledging water conservation month, the month of April. Utilities director John Bostic received the proclamation and gave a few remarks.

"People take for granted that when they turn their faucet on, water comes out," Bostic said. "Water is a limited resource in Florida. With so many people moving to Florida, we have to be careful and keep in mind that water is a limited resource.'

Next up was the Consent Agenda items. Item 2.1 approved minutes from the March 8 meeting. Item 2.2 would approve a task assignment for Jones Edmunds to conduct a predesign study on expanding sewer capabilities on the growing north side of town. The study will include a lift station and force main and will run \$53,985, funded through the Utilities Department and Water Division Infrastructure. Item 2.3 entered into an agreement with Source Technologies, LLC to perform odor and corrosion control for the City's wastewater collection system. A 2014 study performed by Source Technologies revealed Hydrogen Sulfide readings upward of 800 parts per million. After treatment was applied, that number dropped to less than 1 part per million.

Councilman Alan Knight made the initial motion to bundle all three items and pass them. Council members voted 4-0 to pass the

➤ CITY COUNCIL: See Page 4A

## Construction is finally under way for a Veterans Clinic

*New 14,000-square foot* Zephyrhills facility is being built off Eiland Boulevard

> By Steve Lee News Reporter

A groundbreaking for a new Veterans Affairs Clinic in Zephyrhills took place in June of 2019, but there have been several delays. At long last, a permit was issued by the Zephyrhills Building Department this past October and the project is finally under way.

The new clinic is being designed to combine the current Zephyrhills Community Based Outpatient Clinic and the Zephyrhills Mental Health departments. The 14,000, square-foot facility will be located at 378727 Eiland Blvd. The current Zephyrhills-based clinic for veterans is at 6937

"It's good to see it's actually coming out of the ground," said Bob Hatfield, a former Zephyrhills High teacher and current aide to Gus Bilirakis, a U.S. Representative for Florida's 12th congressional district and staunch supporter of

veterans. "Let's get it done. Let's get it open."

"It's finally going vertical, I see," added city planner
Todd Vande Berg. "We have a lot of veterans in the region, so I think it's a huge amenity and enhancement to Zephyrhills."

Initially slated to open late in 2020, there has been no official comment from the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa. Local officials have reported some changes



**VETERANS CLINIC:** See Page 8A Brick and mortar reveal the beginning stages of the new Veterans Affairs Clinic in Zephyrhills.

#### The Zephyrhills Aems





38333 5th Ave. Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 (813) 782-1558

#### E-mail: thezephyrhillsnews@gmail.com

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Right: The Soccer Collies were a big hit at the Jelly Bean Fling with children and parents marveling at how the dogs ran and

> balls. STEVE LEE

jumped to

chase down

large beach



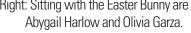


Above: At the Mabel Jordan Barn, boys and girls brought the plastic-colored eggs they collected to redeem them for arts and crafts and to play various games.

Above: Gathering Easter eggs at the base of a hill on the six-acre property were Mima Romeiro and her children, Kai and Sam; along with Alyssa Nolting and her sons, Chase and

> Right: Isabelle Aduddell is pulled along for a pony ride with her parents, Joe and Winter, in tow.

Right: Sitting with the Easter Bunny are Abygail Harlow and Olivia Garza.





Pennsylvania who is home-schooled, and 10-yearold Olivia Garza, who is from Dade City and attends Chester Taylor Elementary School, offered two different perspectives on the event that is associated with Easter.

"I like finding eggs," Garza said. Harlow had a more spiritual outlook, saying,

"We're celebrating Jesus." Angie Harlow, Abygail's mother who is a snowbird residing in Dade City during the winter months, brings the girls to numerous events at the village and

"We're members here," Angie said, adding, "The

World War II (reenactment of a battle) was our favorite. The Civil War (reenactment) was neat too."

Among the volunteers in the barn to lend a hand with the youngsters were members of the Dade City Blackout, a travel softball team comprised of players from Zephyrhills and Dade City.

"I've been volunteering since I was little for just whatever needs help," said Brooke Lea, a first baseman who came up through the Dade City Little League and also plays for Zephyrhills High. "I want to go into something that helps kids."

As is always the case for events at the village, there were several vendors, along with local ranchers and farmers that brought in farm animals for the children to pet and ponies to ride.

While 3-year-old Isabelle Aduddell rode a pony with a guide, her father Joe walked closely alongside and her mother Winter took photos with her cell phone from close by. The Dade City couple and their daughter previously came to the village for a Halloween-themed event last October.

"She likes everything here," Winter said, adding that Isabelle "Loves the bub-

That would be large streams of bubbles dispersed members of the Spheres Bubble Magic Show. Boys and girls lined up to eagerly chase batches of bubbles that

blown into the wind. Over at

the petting zoo, Graham Taylor, a former Zephyrhills standout pitcher and 2002 graduate, spent time watching his wife Nicole, 8-month-old daughter Cypress and 2-yearold son Maverick get close to the goats, rabbits, chickens and ponies.

"It's nice to get out in the fresh air," he said.

Plenty of others felt the same way, including a group of musicians who brought their guitars, banjos and violins. They were called the Barking Dogs Old-Time Jam and often show up for events at the village.

"It's just getting together and playing with the people in the outdoors," said member Jim Strickland.

"It's jamming with our friends," Bill Dudley



John Novikoff

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SUNRISE: MOONRISE:

MOONSET:

5:35am

5:43pm

6:16am

6:48pm

6:55am

7:55pm

7:32am

9:01pm

8:09am

10:09pm

8:48am

FRIDAY **91**|63

SUNSET:

Partly Cloudy SUNRISE:

7:26am MOONRISE: SUNSET: 7:43pm

MOONSET:

7:27am

7:42pm

SATURDAY Partly Cloudy

SUNRISE:

7:25am MOONRISE: MOONSET:

MOONSET:

MOONRISE:

MOONSET:

SUNDAY **90**|63 Partly Cloudy

SUNRISE: 7:24am MOONRISE: SUNSET: 7:44pm

MONDAY **84**|63

Partly Cloudy SUNRISE: 7:22am

SUNSET: 7:45pm

TUESDAY **86**|63

Partly Cloudy SUNRISE:

7:21am MOONRISE: SUNSET: MOONSET: 7:45pm

WEDNESDAY

Partly Cloudy

SUNRISE:

SUNSET:

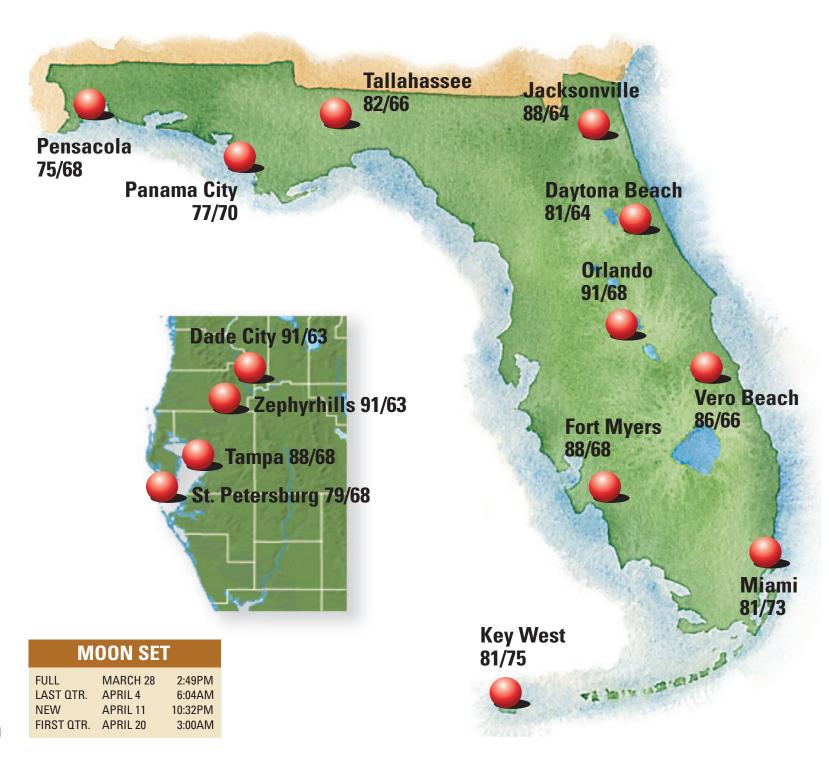
7:20am MOONRISE: 7:46pm

11:18pm MOONSET: 9:29am

he Furniture Peoble

## weather forecast 4:38pm

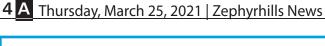
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Above: CRA director Gail Hamilton presents mural finalists in the subsequent meeting.

Right: Newly minted ZPD Officer Pedro Miliano takes his oath at the council meeting.

ANDY WARRENER







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#### CITY COUNCIL: From Page 1A

In the City Clerk's Report, a date was set for the swearing in of newly-seated council members Jodi Wilkeson (Seat 3) and Charlie Proctor (Seat 5). Both incumbents ran unopposed and are automatically assigned to their new seats. A swearing-in ceremony was set for April 16 at 6 p.m. at which time, council will also reorganize. Councilman Knight made the motion to accept the time and date and the measure passed 4-0.

Up next was a Utility Director's Report that detailed a number of municipal fees added to different line items in the utility department. It was made clear that the changes were to fees and not to utility rates. One notable change was the hours that would encompass "after hours" utility turn on. The only change to the after-hour \$50 fee was the time frame. Previously, that time was 3 p.m. The measure would change that after hours time to 4 p.m. Customers still have the option to wait until the following business day and avoid the charge. The utilities department does not turn off services on Fridays. A three-quarters meter reading charge increased by less than three dollars. Sewer installation and Inter Departmental Review both had increases to fees, installation a cost plus unspecified recovery fee and review change based on the number of units. Now 50 units or less now incur a \$250 fee and a review of over 50 units will incur a \$500 fee. The item passed 5-0 with councilman Lance Smith then-present for the vote.

Then Zephyrhills Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc gave a department update. In the update, it was revealed that the department has 35 full time employees, maintains 35 retention ponds, six pump stations, 161 inlets and 5.75 miles of treatment swales. Additionally, public works maintains 68 lane miles, 3,126 street signs and a whole heck of a lot of trees. The sanitation division of the department has now put 10,453 Z-Carts into use and picks them up twice per week. LeBlanc noted in his report that 70 new Z-Carts have been issued since January. LeBlanc also noted that the Z-Carts improve the cleanliness of the city, as there are not bags or assortments of random trash cans, now that the Z-Cart has been implemented.

In Citizen Comments, East Pasco Meals on Wheels Executive Director Beth Aker first upbraided council members about their absence at her recent ribbon cutting at the Genesis Community Center and then summarily asked the city for \$35,000 to improve the facility. Aker detailed the support of 14 charities and 400,000 pounds of food that Meals on Wheels of Pasco County provides but council members were wary of opening a door to

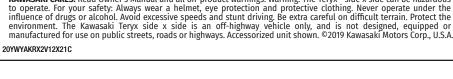
allow a bevy of other non-profits to then ask for funding. Local resident Barbara Conklin spoke out against a food service provider, she dubbed a "soup kitchen" for the homeless, across the street from Zephyrhills High School. She complained about declining property values and expressed concern about, "the children" on multiple occasions. She also expressed concern about recently installed showers and that the kitchen was evolv-

ing into a shelter. Building official Bill Burgess countered that the facility was absolutely not a shelter and Zephyrhills City Manager William Poe Jr. stated that providing meals was part of the zoning per-

mitted with that property.

A couple of Noted Items made it into the agenda but were not discussed. Most prominent thereof were items announcing a \$23,000 grant for the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport from Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act funding, as announced by the U.S. Department of Transportation in an email to Whitfield. Noted Item 7.4 acknowledged the Stewart Middle School teams of the girls varsity basketball, boys JV basketball, boys varsity basketball and football teams all winning Conference and district titles for the first time in school history.

The regular council meeting gave way to the CRA meeting, where finalists for the mural at 13th Street and 13th Avenue were presented to the board with a recommended finalist. The other major item was the CRA sending out an RFP (Request For Proposal) for ideas of what to do with the historic Jeffries House and adjoining Carriage House. Several ideas were bandied about but ultimately, the CRA will have to await the June 1 deadline for the RFP to see what kinds of options they will be presented with.



#### Church News

First Baptist Church of Zephyrhills, 38231 5th Ave., invites you to Sunday services with Pastor Rob McKinney

The teen TRUTH ministries, is Wednesdays at 6 p.m., with youth leaders, Carla Berger and Paul Warner. Bus transportation is avail-

The children ministry, TeamKid, is Wednesdays at 6 p.m. with director, Lorraine Mc-Kinney, and teachers, Carol Arnold and Sarah

The Sunday services are: Sunday school for all ages, 9:30 a.m.; worship service, 10:45 a.m.; and evening service at 6 p.m. Wednesday midweek service, 6 p.m. and choir practice is at 6 p.m. For more information, call the church at (813) 782-5574.

Crystal Springs Worship Center, 2155 Paul Buchman Hwy. is an Assembly of God Church. Adult Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. followed by the morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

The Ladies of Light Ministry Bible Study meets on Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. Wednesday night service starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (813) 788-1612.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5626 20th St., invites you to Saturday worship service at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday worship services at 9 a.m. at 11 a.m. Reservations are required. Maximum will be 90 for each service. Masks are required to enter the building and must be worn at all times, as well as social distancing. Hand sanitizer is located at the entry ways.

You can also watch live streamed on Sunday at 9 a.m. https://www.facebook.com/ OurSaviorLutheranChurchOfZephyrhillsFl. For more information, call (813) 782-1369.

Dade City Grace Bible Church, 15000 U.S. Hwy. 301, Dade City Business Center, Suite 403, will meet 9:30 a.m. for fellowship. The Song and Devotional Bible Thought for the Week begins at 10 a.m. along with Pastor Willard L. Sessoms preaching the morning Grace Bible Study message. Youth Bible study lesson, for ages 6-10 years old, is during the morning Message

The church provides a Tract and Literature Ministry at the Webster Flea Market on Mondays during the season. For more information, visit www.BibleTruthForToday.com or call (352) 567-3955.

The Church at Chancey Road, 34921 Chancey Rd., and Pastor Tim Mitchell invite you to Sundays at 10:15 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. for worship, Bible study and communion. Nursery and kids programs are available at all services.

The Abundant Blessings Food Pantry is open, Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. For those in attendance at either the Sunday 10:15 a.m. or Wednesday 6:45 p.m. services the Food Pantry will be open after each service.

For more information on the ministries of the church visit: www.thechurchatchanceyroad.com and you can also watch live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tim.mitchell every Sunday and Wednesday.

East Pasco Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7333 Dairy Rd. invites you to Saturday services with Lead Pastor Ray Pichette and Associate Pastor, Ricardo Barriffe. Bible study is at 10:15 a.m. and worship services are at 9 and 11 a.m. Wednesday mid-week services are at 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous is Sunday, 7 p.m., Al-Anon (Noon Solutions) is Monday, 12 p.m., Al-Anon (Serenity), Wednesday, 7 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous is Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous is Friday at 10 a.m. and Overeaters Anonymous is Monday, 5:30 p.m. and Friday, 11:30 a.m.

Women's Ministries Bible Study Group is Thursday, 5 p.m.

The Adventist Health Food Store is open at the church Wednesdays,1-4 p.m. For more information, call (813) 782-2000.

First United Methodist Church, 38635 5th Ave. is inviting the community to join them for

several new activities. The Contemporary Worship Leader, Amanda Hawk, is organizing activities for the children and youth on Wednesday nights, beginning March 31, 6:30-8 p.m., in Cooper Hall,

for an 8-week session. Senior Pastor Steve Ezra will start a new 8-week Adult Discipleship Class, "A Firm Foundation," on March 31, 6:30-8 p.m., in Lamplighters Room, Cooper Hall. Call the church office at (813) 782-5645 or email officemanager@fumczhills.org so a book can be or-

dered (\$12.95 per person). Bible Study, Living in the Word, resumes with Eugene Williams, on March 31. This is a study on the Book of Genesis, and begins at 7 p.m. in the chapel.

Nursery services will be available for parents attending the Wednesday evening studies for infants through 5 years old.

Social distancing guidelines are in affect, be sure to wear your masks.

#### **O**BITUARIES



#### Glenn E. Hall

HALL, Glenn E., 84, passed away March 14, 2021. He was loving husband, father and grandfather. Glenn was the only child of Edwin and Dorothea Hall, born in Patterson, N.J. on Aug. 12, 1936. He spent his childhood years in New Jersey, graduating from Ramsey High School in 1953. He loved to tell stories of his time attending Emory & Henry College in Virginia. When it was time to leave Virginia, he made a big move to Brattleboro, Vt. to pursue a career in law enforcement. Glenn began his career as an officer with the Brattleboro Police Department before becoming a Trooper with the Vermont State Police in 1965. His time with the VT State Police began in Shaftsbury. In this wonderful, small town community, he settled on Sycamore Lane and raised his family. Glenn spent most of his career in southern Vermont various assignments in the Shaftsbury and Rocking-

ham barracks. Glenn and his family moved north to Essex following his promotion to Captain of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation at Headquarters, a position he held until his retirement in 1990 after 25 years with VSP. Glenn was a brave and strong man with a big presence, something that came through clearly right up until his last days. He was a proud member of the VSP family and dedicated his life to serving his community and the state of Vermont. His love for his family has always come through clearly in faithful action, not empty words. Always interested, encouraging and challenging us to be our best. Since his retirement, Glenn and his wife Pamela have enjoyed winters in Zephyrhills and many summers in southern Vermont on Lake St. Catherine. Glenn had a love of golf and he and Pam enjoyed spending time with family and the many life long friends they shared together. Glenn is survived by his loving wife, of 32 years, Pamela Hall; three children, daughter, Karen Forbes and husband, Joe of Westford, Vt., son, Glenn Hall Jr. and wife, Amy of Alexandria, Virg. and son, Mark Hall and wife, Suzanne of Dunbarton, N.H.; three stepchildren, Ronnie Chenard of Bennington, Vt., Jeffrey Chenard of Peru, Vt. and Kellie Morrison and her husband, Andrew of Tinmouth, Vt.; and uniform and as a detective at seven grandchildren, Ryan Forbes, David Forbes, Megan

Forbes, Jacob Hall, Nicolas Hall, Bradford Hall and Jackson Hall. A memorial service will be held in Vermont at a date to be determined.



#### **Mary Ferguson**

FERGUSON, Mary, 76, of Kathleen, passed away March 10, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Tom; and children, Tom Jr., Rebecca, Joe and



#### Raymond Arendt

ARENDT, Raymond, 76, of Wesley Chapel, passed away March 19, 2021. He is survived by his children, Tony, Chris, Andy and Cindy.



#### Lawrence B. Myott

MYOTT, Lawrence B., 77, of Zephyrhills, passed away March 18, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Diane; eight children; and four sisters.



## **AMVET POST #550**

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FOR GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF **POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND** (2 Timothy 1:7) Today we ask ourselves: How can we not be fearful and afraid in this world of virus diseases and

vaccine questions abounding? And all this against the back-drop of crime and all sorts of evilness of man; And this along with another question: Who can we trust for right answers?

GOD'S WORD WILL PROVIDE US WITH TRUTH! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE (Titus 1:2). In Matthew 10: 28 we read: And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Also, in Hebrews 9:27 we read: And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

BUT GOD'S LOVE IS RICH TOWARD MAN. HIS LOVE FOR US FAR EXCEEDS ANYTHING THAT MAN CAN DO TO HARM US. HEREIN IS THE SUM OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US:

THE SON OF GOD-BECAME THE SON OF MAN

SO THAT THE SONS OF MEN--COULD BECOME THE SONS OF GOD.

1. The Son of God—the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, lowered himself when he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and then virgin born of woman to be man's redeemer.

2. The Lord Jesus Christ humbled himself, became obedient unto the death of the cross, paid the penalty for man's sin, and was resurrected from the dead on the third day.

3. NOW unto all and upon all who believe this gospel, God imputes or gives unto man his Son's righteousness, forgiveness of sins, eternal life in heaven, thus becoming joint heirs in Christ as sons of God.

The first man, Adam, brought sin and death into the world. Death has passed upon all men for that all have sinned (Romans 5:12); but the 2nd man--the 2nd Adam from heaven brought life.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23). But God commendeth (proved) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

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Evening Service...

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TRUTH teen ministries ...... 6:15 p.m

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Monday ...

Wednesday .....

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#### www.eastpascoadventist.com ZEPHYRHILLS **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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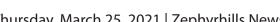
(813) 783-2727 Pastor Stephen R. Lamb Sunday Adult Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Coffee and Donut Fellowship...... 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship. Evening Worship... ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday

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#### Prayer and Praise Service ... 6 p.m. "The end of your search for an old fashioned church" cornerstonebczhills.org

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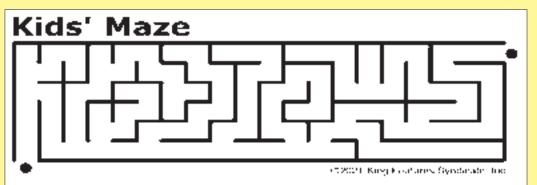
15000 U.S. Hwy. 301 (352) 567-3955 Pastor Willard L. Sessoms Fellowship... .. 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service .. www.bibletruthfortoday.com



SALOME'S STAR

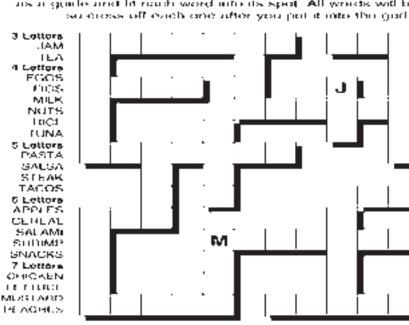
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With change dominant this week, don't be surprised to find new facts emerging that could put another slant on a situation and offer you another choice. Think it through before you decide.

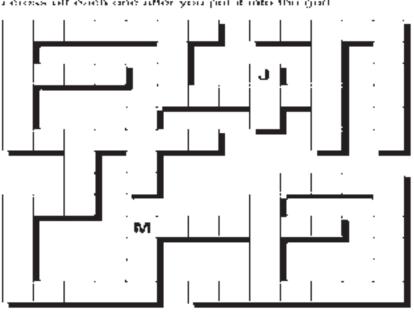
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) There could be some lingering problems from a previous matter that involved a decision you felt you had to make. Resolve the situation with your strong Taurean no-nonsense



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Cach word will fit into one spot in the god. Use the starting letters are a grounds arried by reach world infracts speak. All wreads will be usual,







GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The Gemini's carefully made plans could be undone by someone's unexpected decision. Getting the full story behind that surprise move can help you decide how to deal with the matter.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Recently uncovered information might put a new light on a situation you thought had been resolved. Keep an open mind about possible changes that you might have

LEO (July 23 to August 22) With a potential revision of an old agreement, you can't beat the Big Cat for knowing how to sharpen a "clause" to the best advantage. Someone close could have the news you've been waiting for.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Certain issues in the workplace could put you in the middle of a dispute you'd rather not deal with. Express your honest feelings before the pressure to take sides

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might feel uneasy disagreeing with someone you've been close to. But your relationship should be able to withstand and even thrive when confronted with your true feelings.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A roman-

tic situation seems to be creating more confusion than you can handle. If so, own up to your feelings. The sooner you do, the better your chances are for working things out.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) With change directing the Archer's aim, consider a second look at your plans and see where they might benefit from a revision. A workplace matter is close to a resolution.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) New contacts help you learn some important informa-tion about upcoming developments. The week calls for the Sea Goat to be more flexible than usual in a number of matters.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) With both change and uncertainty in your aspect, you might feel less confident in a previous decision. That's OK. Check it out and see where it could be modified, if necessary.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Old relationships that seemed to be sinking are buoyant again, and new relationships are benefiting from Cupid's loving care. This could be a good time to make a major move.

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### **KING CROSSWORD - MARCH 25**

#### **ACROSS**

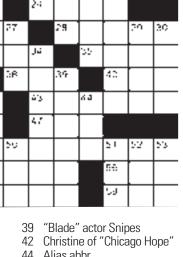
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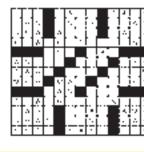
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## Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

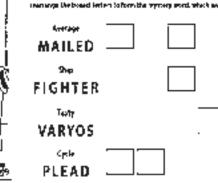
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SCRAMBLERS

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TODAY'S WORD



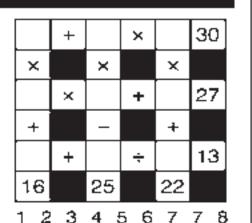
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#### by Linda Thistle

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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## Tax collector Mike Fasano and staff raise over \$6,000 for Bridging Freedom

The featured charitable organization of the visible" criminal operation. month for January 2021 was Bridging Freedom, an organization dedicated to ending human trafficking and assisting survivors of that crime. Human trafficking is a pervasive and often "in-

Bridging Freedom's mission is to combat minor sex-trafficking by bringing restoration to those rescued and victim prevention to those who learn about the horrors of human traffick-

crease awareness of this unconscionable issue. Bridging Freedom wishes to thank the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office for their valued partnership in ending human trafficking," said Alan Wilkett, board chair and director of Outreach and Training. "With the donation from January's charitable project, Bridging Freedom will be able to provide critical services for minor female victims of human trafficking. Thank you, Pasco residents, for your generosity, the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office members and staff for your engagement, and Mike Fasano for your unwavering support. Together we make a collective statement - Human Trafficking has

ing. Bridging Freedom educates the commu-

nity and works with partners in the area to in-

no place in Pasco County."

During the month of January 2021, the Pasco Tax Collector's Office raised over \$6,000 in cash and in-kind donations for this incredibly important organization. The funds will be used not only help the victims who suffer greatly, they will also be used to educate the public, local businesses, and others about the importance of recognizing human trafficking for the horrendous crime it is

"It is through the dedicated people who work for Bridging Freedom and other victim advocacy services that human and sex trafficking will one day come to an end," said Fasano. "Through the support of a generous public the funds raised will open doors to victims so they may escape the enslavement caused by traffickers. Thank you to every person who donated to this good program. Your financial help will help Bridging Freedom expand and be able to rescue and offer help to even more victims."



Tax collector Mike Fasano, Bill Cronin, president/ CEO of the Pasco Economic Development Council and staff from the tax collector's office present a check to Alan Wilkett, board chair and director of Outreach and Training for Bridging Freedom.





Workers showed up early one morning this week to continue building the structure of the new Veterans Affairs Clinic off Eiland Boulevard, just east of Fort King Road.

**VETERANS CLINIC:** From Page 1A

with the project also being adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

State Senator Danny Burgess, who represents District 20 that serves Zephyrhills and parts of northern Hillsborough County, has strong personal feelings about the new building and how it can benefit veterans of the Unit-

ed States Armed Forces. Aside from being a former member of the Florida House of Representatives for District 38, Burgess has served in the Army Reserves and once was the executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"It's very exciting to see the progress of the new VA facility in Zephyrhills," said Burgess who lists supporting our veterans among his legislative priorities. "This bigger, better clinic will provide greater access to care for our local community heroes.'

The new handicapped-accessible clinic will add services for podiatry and physical therapy while expanding primary care from seven to 10 exam rooms, plus increasing mental health space from five to six rooms. Veterans in east Pasco also will have greater access to women's health, lab work, telehealth and an anticoagulation pharmacy.

As expected, many local veterans are eagerly awaiting the opening of the new clinic. Among that group of men and women who have served in any of our military branches is Rod Rehrig, commandant of the Marine Corps League Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Curtin Detachment

"I think everybody's looking forward to it, so we don't have to go down into Tampa," said Rehrg, who served with the Marines and in later years with the Air Force. "It's going to save several trips. I just saw that they had roads paved, which is good." While Rehrig has made numerous trips to

the VA hospital in Tampa, he got to stay close to home recently by having some lab work done at the current Zephyrhills clinic "just to make sure everything was in balance as far as my cholesterol and blood pressure."

When the clinic in Zephyrhills opens it will give the veterans affairs office two new buildings in Pasco County.

A similar project in New Port Richey began early last year and is expected to open at some point in 2021. Like the new Zephyrhills facility the clinic on the west side of the county will provide upgraded and expanded services

