

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXX
Number 2

FEBRUARY 2010 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980



Best wishes, Pete

The man who established the Bloomingdale Community Station and served as Bloomingdale's first community resource officer is calling it a career.

See story, page 4.

INSIDE

Meeting times are changing

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Board of Directors now meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in January, March, May, September and November.

See story, page 9.

Sheriff David Gee congratulates Dep. Pete Maurer after hearing of his well-deserved retirement plans.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Frequently the more trifling the subject, the more animated and protracted the discussion."

Franklin Pierce



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FEBRUARY 2010

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Interventional Cardiologist

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Thursday, Feb. 25th 6:30 p.m.
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Support Group – 262 S. Moon Ave., Classroom A, Brandon



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Phone: (813) 681-2051
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bloomingtondale.
homeowners@
verizon.net

Meetings: first Tuesday each month at 7 p.m., January, March, May, September and November.

Web site:
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Deputy Pete – 12 years of service to Bloomingdale

By MACK AUSTIN

The year was 1998. To put this year in perspective, the average cost of a new car was \$17,200, Apple introduced the iPod, Google was established, a stamp cost 32 cents and President Clinton got caught.

For the Bloomingdale area, 1998 saw the beginning of what was to be a very important program that would significantly improve the safety and security of its residents, families, homes and businesses. Then Sheriff Cal Henderson established the Community Resource Deputy Program. The deputy selected to serve the Bloomingdale community was Deputy Pete Maurer.

Deputy Maurer had served as a member of the sheriff's newly formed "Crime Fighters Squad," the foundation for the current Street Crimes Unit, and worked as an undercover narcotics investigator patrolling the Bloomingdale and Seffner areas. He had previously served as a reserve deputy in Idaho working with law enforcement and community members to improve safety and security. He had also served as a combat defense air policeman in the United States Air Force. He worked as a

sheriff's resident park deputy for several years, living right in a county park in Brandon. His background was perfect for establishing an effective "community policing program" in the Bloomingdale area.

Deputy Maurer was partnered with Community Services Officer (CSO) Sandy Capitano.

Deputy Pete and Sandy, as they were soon to be called by area residents, worked with area volunteers to set up the Bloomingdale Community Station on Bell Shoals Road. The Bloomingdale Community Station continues to serve as a focal point for residents to obtain personal assistance and information on issues ranging from crimes, state statutes, traffic problems, family issues, fingerprinting, safety and security. The station also serves as a work area during evenings and on weekends for area deputies to rest and handle law enforcement issues.

Soon to follow was the establishment of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council, better known as the BACC. The BACC serves as a direct liaison between the Bloomingdale community and the Sheriff's Office



File photo by BOB WESTENHOUSER

HCSO Community Resource Officer Peter Pete Maurer cleaning the counter tops at the HCSO Community sub-station before it officially opened the corner of Bell Shoals Road and Glenhaven.

and multiple Hillsborough County departments. The BACC is an informal group led by Deputy Pete and made up of area volunteers with some representing their homeowners' associations and some wanting to just make a positive difference in their community.

Over the last 12 years the BACC, along with area legislators and their aides, have worked enough issues, addressed enough concerns and completed enough projects to fill a book, and all in the interest of making our area safer and more secure for residents, their families, their homes and their businesses.

Deputy Pete provided the positive leadership to help improve the safety and security environments in our community by working directly with his contacts within the Sheriff's Office. These deputies provided critical information for BACC members on subjects ranging from gang activity to crime statistics and

traffic. Area legislators have been and still are directly involved with working with the BACC to establish new laws that improve safety and security.

Safety issues addressed include school safety, bus safety, crosswalks, sidewalks, speed zones, sexual predators and offenders, bicycle safety, gun safety, speeding, traffic control and disaster preparedness. One of Deputy Pete's major accomplishments was the mobile radar speed monitor he personally built on his own time and with his own funds, using it to monitor speeding in our community.

Projects that Deputy Pete completed that continue to improve our community's safety and security environment include the successful establishment of a Bloomingdale area Sheriff's Volunteer Citizen's Patrol team, helping one BACC member become a Reserve II Deputy, and having several BACC mem-

bers complete the Sheriff's Citizen's Academy with two later becoming Honorary Deputies. These members continue to carry on the tradition of community policing.

Deputy Pete's involvement in the community also included several Christmas projects for migrant families and vets, supporting the Bloomingdale Senior High School Reading Improvement Program, working directly with the BSHS School Resource Deputy, and setting up a resident deputy in Bloomingdale West.

Monthly he provided critical, useful information on safety and security for area residents through his Bloomingdale Area Community Station Notes in the Bloomingdale Gazette. His genuine concern for helping residents learn how to protect their families, homes and businesses never stopped.

During Deputy Pete's



File photo by ROBERT BURKE

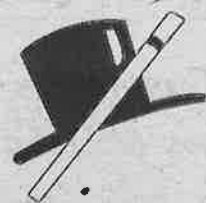
From 2006, Dep. Maurer fingerprints Andrea Childree, who was opening a child care business.

See PETE, Page 23 »



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Bulls strive to improve locker room

After nearly 25 years, coaches feel its time to upgrade the facilities.

By **LESLIE WHITE**

In the off season, the Bloomingdale Bulls' football team works hard in the weight room to build muscle and strength, but head coach John Booth is looking to build something more. He wants to build Bloomingdale a future they can be proud of. It starts, he says, with improving their locker room and weight room facilities, instilling in them a sense of pride and belonging.

"Top notch teams have top notch facilities," said Booth. "What we're trying to do here is build something our kids can be really proud of, which will help them start believing in themselves and in this program. We also want to give them these facilities so that we can be much

more efficient with our time in here."

The locker room Booth envisions has a design similar to that of the NFL. Currently, Bloomingdale's locker room is too small to accommodate both varsity and JV players, and the lockers aren't big enough to hold all a player's equipment. Aside from those limitations, the lockers also lack the necessary ventilation to prevent staph from growing, thus creating a breeding ground for the very dangerous and hard to kill staph infection.

The proposed locker room renovation would accommodate all the players, giving each a 6.5-foot-tall by 2-foot-wide locker, each equipped with a bench wide enough for a

player to sit on while he dresses, with a horseshoe shaped holder overhead for their pads. The seat opens to a ventilated storage box below that also locks to protect valuables. Plans also include repainting the concrete floor and covering it with a sealant as well as converting an existing room into a conference room for the coaches, with another existing room converted to a viewing room, allowing select groups to watch films. Booth is also hoping it will be possible to finish off the ceiling in the locker room, which is currently exposed pipes and beams.

"The primary reason for this renovation is to have the team all in once place - a place that's their own, and a place that's nice,"

said Booth. The coaching staff and football parents are working together to see this dream to fruition, planning fundraisers and seeking donations from the community and local businesses. Parent volunteers are doing their part to paint the interior of the locker room to help offset costs.

The school recently spent money to update the weight room, an expenditure that benefits all Bloomingdale athletes. Booth is pleased with the end result.

"We can get three kids on a rack and three kids lined up, meaning we're working out 50 at a time without them being in each other's way. This allows us to do more, which

See **LOCKER**, Page 7 »



Photo by Leslie White

Bloomingdale's locker room has not undergone any major improvements since the school's opening in 1987.



Photo by Leslie White

The Bulls' current locker room has unventilated lockers, leading to environments likely to grow and spread staph.



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LOCKER

Continued From Page 6

means we can be more explosive, faster. It really translates onto the football field," said Booth.

The cost of the locker room project is \$11,000, covering lockers and flooring, and it will take an estimated \$10,500 to re-do the ceilings. Bloomingdale Senior High School was built in 1987, and this will be the first major renovation to the locker room.

"We really want to give the players something that lets them know the school and the coaches believe in them," said Booth.

The first official fundraiser for the "Building Our Future" campaign will be Saturday, Feb. 13, at Beef 'O' Bradys on Bell Shoals, where the team will hold a pancake breakfast – open to the community – from 8:30-10:30 that morning. The menu con-



Photo by Leslie White

Bloomingdale Bulls' athletes can now work out in a new and improved weightroom provided by the school.

sists of pancakes, French toast, sausage and a beverage. Tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased through the football team, at the front office of the school

or at the door of Beef's that morning. There will also be a car wash going on during the breakfast with all proceeds benefiting the campaign. The

breakfast will be served by the football coaching staff and patrons will be treated to Bulls football taking center stage on the restaurant's big screen TVs.



Photo by Leslie White

Bulls' football players Christian Kerr and Alex Oldham take advantage of the uncrowded weight room during the offseason.

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Wearing green once again

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, collects cell phones to raise funds for vet causes

Gazette Report

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787 has gone green, starting a program collecting old cell phones in an effort to raise funds for causes benefitting veterans. Bloomingdale resident Tom Hall, a Marine who served his country for 11 years, 19 months in Vietnam, said, "We wore green when we served our country and now we have gone green to help the environment."

This active veterans unit collects then recycles the phones, earning money to fund projects aiding outreach to homeless veterans, enhancing educational programs in local schools, awarding JROTC awards each year, and providing holiday meals

at Thanksgiving and Christmas to homeless women veterans enrolled in the Tampa VA Healthcare for the Homeless program.

"We also actively support the Fisher House at the Tampa VA hospital and assist in meeting needs at the nursing home," said Hall. "We are also active in supporting the needs of returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. It is safe to say that 93 percent of funds raised for the year go to our various programs due to a very low overhead."

The unit collects phones at three local drop off points: the AT&T store on Lithia-Pinecrest, Car Wash on the Greens at the cor-

ner of Lithia-Pinecrest and Erindale, and the AT&T store in Sun City Center. Hall also accepts donations dropped off on the front porch of his Somerset home, 2209 Allwood Ave., Bloomingdale. At least once a month, they send them to a recycling company in Fort Lauderdale, earning varying amounts per phone depending on condition, age and model number of the donation.

Hall encourages businesses that may be replacing their employee's cell phones to consider donating their old phones to their cause. "Our organization relies solely on public donations, grants and other means as a



Tom Hall served his country in the Marines.

source of revenues to fund our various veterans' projects throughout the year," said Hall.

Chapter 787 operates on the National Veterans organization's founding principal - "Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another generation of veterans."

"Our Chapter believes in this founding principle and is dedicated to fulfill our obligation to all veterans," he said.

For more information on the cell phone recycling program, contact Hall at (813) 655-7129.

Out West coming to Burns

Article submitted

Los Angeles-based actress Shelli Boone has been tapped to take her self-written and produced one-woman show, "Out West: Women of the Plains," on the road. Boone will perform the critically acclaimed "Out West," depicting scenes of women of color striving to survive during the migration West, at Burns Middle School Feb. 8.



Shelli Boone is bringing her one woman show, "Out West: Women of the Plains" To Burns Middle school

The appearance is part of Burns' Black History Month celebration.

"When I started to research the Westward Expansion, I was both shocked and fascinated," says Boone. "I never knew that African Americans, especially women, played such an important role in developing that part of the country. The Old West is always depicted in movies as white cowboys and Indians. African Americans were everywhere though; we were part of the Gold Rush, we had our own towns, our own struggles."

Boone plans to continue touring her show both in schools and theater venues throughout the country for the rest of 2010 and beyond.

Shelli Boone has appeared in over 17 films, national and international commercials, print campaigns, theatrical productions, radio spots and several television shows, including "Tyler Perry's House of Payne," and "House MD."

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Meeting times are changing

Meetings the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center

A Gazette report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Board of Directors have recently elected, in accordance with corporation by-laws, to hold public meetings during the months of January, March, May, September and November. The meetings will continue to take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center.

Regular committee meetings will be held as needed to keep community events running on schedule. If you would like

to join a committee or have an idea for a new event, please contact us by calling the below number.

The BHA Board would like to invite and encourage all Bloomingdale residents to attend the public meetings held during these months in order to stay informed on Bloomingdale news and events.

If you have any questions, news to report, or simply need information, please contact us by calling (813) 681-2051 or by e-mailing us at inbloom@ingdalenews@tampabay.rr.com.

Airman, Negro League players to be at library

Players from a Tampa Negro League team, and a former Tuskegee Airman, will make appearances at the 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. library in February. The appearances coincide with the library system's hosting of a traveling exhibit dedicated to the Negro Leagues.

At Bloomingdale, patrons can meet Raydell Maddix, Clifford Brown and Walter Gibbons, during a Feb. 6 reception at 2 p.m. Former Tuskegee airman Herbert H. Jones will be on hand Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. The Tuskegee Airman were America's first black fighter pilots who broke the color barrier in World War II.

For more information about the exhibit, related events and other library programs, visit heplc.org.

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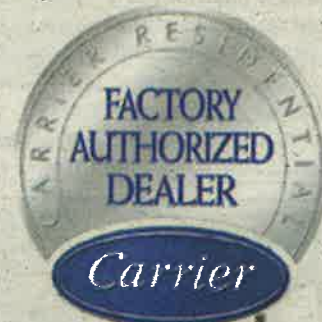


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Reading goals reached

In celebration of Cimino Elementary Kindergarten students meeting their reading goal for the second grading period, teachers hosted a pajama party with snacks, movie and of course reading to the children.



Mrs. McHale reading to kindergarten students



Kindergarten students enjoy pajama party
Photo by KIM WALLACE



Students enjoy pajama party while being read to
Photo by KIM WALLACE



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At Hit the Trails, Dunn is off and running

With more than 150 races under his belt, Dunn offers more than shoes at his store, he also offers experience.

By LESLIE WHITE

Before you hit the ground running, Steve Dunn hopes you'll visit Hit the Trails, his running specialty store. For the past four years, Hit the Trails has carried running and outdoor gear from shoes to accessories to meet the needs of all types of walkers and runners, whether track, cross country, recreational or competitive. Passionate about running, store owner Dunn has competed in 11 marathons, including the Boston Marathon, and has completed nearly 150 races of various distances on and off road.

Dunn brings that same passion and experience into Hit the Trails. "We're not just a store," he said. "We get to know our customers. We offer free stride analysis. We put you on the treadmill and look at your stride to see if you're over or under-rotating." This process is de-

signed to ensure the perfect fit for any runner. Other factors to consider when purchasing a running shoe are weight, miles run per week and any knee injuries. Dunn says he offers the latest shoes at the same prices as the bigger chains, but says "at Hit the Trails you also get my expertise." Dunn is a certified RRCA (Road Runners Club of America) running coach, as well as a Newsome High School track and cross country coach, and he has also worked closely with Bloomington's track and cross country teams.

He also offers that expertise as an individual or group coach, available for private instruction to help runners reach their specific goals. Dunn opens his store to hold monthly clinics, bringing in speakers to address issues concerning today's runners.

"So many people today are running. It's a stress reliever," said Dunn, who averages 40 miles a week, both in his work as a coach and personal trainer, as well as the miles he runs just for himself. "I'm very competitive," he admits.

He's also a teacher to local running enthusiasts. To help others meet their running goals, Dunn started the FishHawk Roadrunner's Club, where runners of every caliber gather several times a week to encourage and support each other's efforts. Dunn plans training regimens and workouts designed to improve a runner's skill, speed and endurance.

Dunn is also very philanthropic, donating much of his time and energy to support charitable community events, helping plan fundraising runs for places like the Ruskin No-Kill Animal Shelter and the

Pediatric Cancer Society, raising thousands of dollars for them. He also funds high school scholarships for runners with good grades.

"I believe in supporting my community. I really donate a lot of my time and energy to raising money for a lot of different charities," he said. Dunn also helps local athletes improve in their sport by offering speed and agility clinics, of great interest to football players, especially.

For more information on any of Dunn's clinics, personal training, or monthly clinics at Hit the Trails, call (813) 681-6141 or come by the store at 13433 Boyette Road, at the corner of Bell Shoals and FishHawk Boulevard, or online at www.hitthetrails.com.

Hit the Trail's next monthly clinic will be Feb. 20 in the store and will focus on helping



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Steve Dunn is an avid runner who has competed in more than 11 marathons and over 150 races. Dunn owns and operates Hit the Trails running specialty store.

runners prepare for the Gasparilla Distance Classic 5k, 15k, half or full marathon the following weekend. For more information about FishHawk Roadrunner's Club, visit www.fishhawkrunning.com.

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Burnham to take the mound for the Vikings

By **LESLIE WHITE**
Bloomingdale Bulls' pitcher Stevie Burnham has been playing baseball since he knocked his first ball off the tee for Bloom-

ingdale Little League at the age of 5. He played first base for three years before trying his hand at pitching, and from then on, Stevie honed his skill

– the skill that earned him a full ride and a position as pitcher for the Polk State Community College Vikings' baseball team.

Amidst family, friends, coaches and teammates, Burnham signed a commitment to attend Polk State.

"I'm excited and ready for the change," said Burnham, who will start training with his new team in August.

Burnham believes his high school years have prepared him well for this new endeavor.

"I learned a lot about the mental side of the game here. Coach Wilken makes it hard on us, but not too hard. He makes us succeed. He makes us better," he said. Burnham, having spent the



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Stevie Burnham from Bloomingdale High School signing to play baseball with Polk Community College.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Stevie Burnham with parents Dale and Michelle Burnham, sister Amber, grandparents Roy and Joan Petsche and Vernon and Bobbie Harrington

majority of his life thus far passionate about his sport, said, "In baseball, anything can happen. Anyone can win. You always expect something

new and different."

His mother, Michelle, said she "felt Polk was the best fit." "Coach Arnold brought a lot of knowledge and experience to

the table," she said. Aside for pitching for the Vikings, Burnham will be pursuing a degree in criminal justice when he enters college this fall

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With a bullet

On Jan. 16, Bullets Baseball Gold was recognized for winning the 2009 AAU Summer National Championships at the Sunshine Athletics Florida AAU Awards Banquet in Orlando. In front are Doug Sandberg, Reeves Martin, Jake Sullivan, Justin Nardello and Dylan Strickland. In the middle are Drayden Williams, Cade Kelley, Wes Davis, Jonathan Register, Austin Bergner and Keshawn Lynch. In back are coaches Rodd Kelley, Dan Strickland, Mark Bergner and Randy Sullivan. Not pictured are Logan Crouse, Brandon Ray, Danny Schroeder, Nick Breen and Darren Miller. By winning, Major League Baseball sponsored the team's trip to Memphis, Tenn., where they competed in MLB Networks New Era National Youth Baseball Championships.



Photo submitted by Scott Sandberg



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Bloomington Bulls Cheerleaders Take Back Western Conference Title

By KIM WALLACE

On Jan. 19, the Western Conference Cheerleader Competition took place at Freedom High School. All 27 high school teams in Hillsborough County

competed for the championship title.

Bloomington High came back after two years and took the championship, with Durant taking second and Chamberlain

third. The other top 10 teams were Newsome, Freedom, Robinson, Wharton, Steinbrenner, Riverview and Plant. All of these teams brought a lot to the floor with extreme tumbling, stunting, dance and cheer in their routines.

"Bloomington has worked hard and this is a great year to get it back", Captain Larissa Menke said. "We just feel so honored and proud."

Bloomington has come together to prove to themselves, to their new coach and school that they have the confidence and pride in each other as a team. They are looking forward to a third title.

The FHSAA Competitive Cheerleading Championships in Kissimmee is Feb. 5.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Alexis Davidson is tagging Coaches car for trip to Western Conference, how else can you show school spirit



Photo by KIM WALLACE

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Walk supports Life Care

Story and photos by
KIM WALLACE

Life Care of Brandon – Supporting Positive Life Choices is an organization who helps with facing unplanned pregnancy. This organization has helped thousands of women sort through the difficult choices a teen or unplanned pregnancy brings. On Sunday Jan. 24, they hosted an Inspire Life

Sunday Walk For Life. Churches in the Bloomingdale, Brandon and Valrico area helped in supporting this event with donations of diapers and wipes, among other supplies. This walk brought more than 600 people out to walk and support women in making positive life choices. For information, visit www.lifecareofbrandon.com.



Volunteers load donated items into a waiting truck.



A group from Horizon Christian Church is prepared for Walk For Life Sunday.



Walkers that came out for a great cause "Walk For Life"

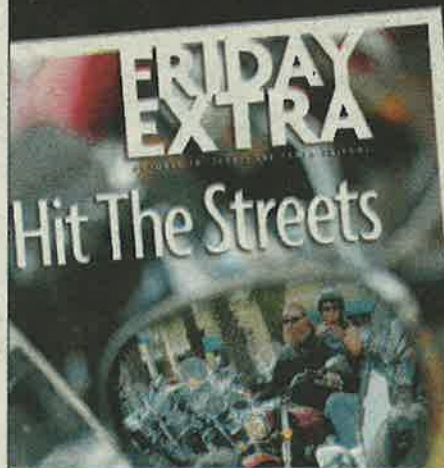


Bloomingdale residents Natalie, Whitney, Bev, Christian, Tommy, Nikki and Amanda are enjoying the Walk For Life



Walkers that came out for a great cause "Walk For Life"

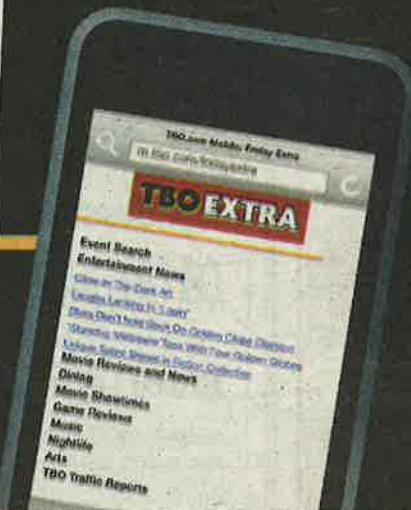
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The Jessica Rose Foundation: spreading hope on the wings of a butterfly

Submitted by the Jessica Rose Foundation

The mission of the foundation is to help support families with a child undergoing cancer treatment. In addition to the emotional devastation of this tragedy is the added financial burden families endure while they care for their child and seek treatment.

The foundation is committed to creating awareness and raising funds for these families to help ease some of the financial burden. The foundation's program will sponsor a family by providing up to \$1,000 in financial support in the form of gift cards for food and other household expenses, travel expenses relating to treatment such as gas, airline tickets and lodging and reimbursement of

uncovered medical expenses such as co-payments for office visits and medications. All monetary donations and property, goods and services donated to the foundation will be used to fund the program.

We are a non-profit organization and recognized by Florida Department of State as such. Your donation is tax-deductible. The organization's 501c3 status is in process with the IRS. Receipt of the tax-exempt certificate is expected in early 2010. The foundation will provide each sponsor/donor with a receipt for their donation.

There are more children in the Greater Tampa Bay area currently in cancer treatment than most realize - and more children are being diag-

nosed every week.

On Feb. 6, 2010, the foundation will hold its grand opening fundraiser event at the Sunset Bay Chapel in the community of FishHawk Ranch in Lithia, Florida, from noon to 5 p.m. Feb. 6 marks the one-year anniversary of Jessica's passing - her first "angel day." We will honor her memory with a celebration of fun for the whole family and all proceeds go to the foundation to fund the program. The day's events include: food, music, raffles, silent auction, super slide, moon bounce, face painting, arts/crafts, photo booth, costume characters, pony rides and much more.

Your donation makes a difference!

(813) 451-6544 or jessicarosefoundation.org

[on real estate] Protect your home and your wallet



Ray Chadderton

If you own or plan to purchase a home, then you know that insurance is not just a luxury, it's a requirement. While you should not skimp on certain coverage items, there are some steps you can take to reduce your overall premium.

If you have a security system installed (and operating), you might lower your premium by 5 percent or more. You'll just need to provide your insurer with a copy of your contract or latest statement. Also, while newer homes have smoke alarms installed, hooking them up in an older home might also reduce your premium by as much as

10 percent.

Just like health or auto insurance, if you increase your deductible on homeowners insurance, you'll reduce your premium. Just be sure you are prepared to pay out of pocket for smaller repairs like broken windows or damages from leaks.

If your policy is held by a company that also offers auto or health insurance, look into discounts for multiple policies. You could save a percentage on both your homeowners and auto policies, for example.

Another money (and time and stress) saver is to document everything in your home with a pho-

tographic inventory. Store photos, CDs or videos in a fireproof box, or, preferably, in a safe deposit box off site. This will reduce the time and effort required to complete a claim and guarantee an accurate replacement payment.

Ray Chadderton of Keller-Williams Realty can be reached at (813) 601-0597.

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[dinner@6]

Warm soup for cold bones

I don't know about you, but that cold snap tested my mettle as a Floridian! We were cold from the bone out for more than a week, constantly craving those comfort foods that add warmth to winter – soup, chili and homey casseroles – anything soothingly warm.

So that's when I decided to feature a recipe that was not only unbelievably easy, but surprisingly flavorful, and still managed to give us those warm fuzzies that lasted throughout the night, even when the night dipped down to the low 30s!

If you need a little meat to make a heartier meal, I suggest adding in a can of shredded cooked chicken, a pound of cooked ground beef, seasoned with taco seasoning or frozen fajita chicken strips, thawed or warmed before placed in soup.

Simple. Satisfying. Savory, and so warm! That's this month's Dinner @ 6!

Leslie White can be reached by emailing: lwhite_bloominglegazette@yahoo.com. For more recipes visit Dinner @ 6 online at www.dinnerat6-lesliewhite.blogspot.com. Readers are invited to share their quick & easy meal solutions, comments and ideas.

Taco Soup

- 1 (10 ounce) can Rotel
- 1(15 ounce) can corn, undrained
- 3 (16 ounce) cans black beans, undrained
- 1 (10 ounce) can tomatoes, undrained
- 3 (14 ounce) cans beef broth
- 1 package dry ranch dressing mix
- 1 package dry taco seasoning

Add all ingredients to slow cooker. Cook on low for 8-10 hours or on high for 4-5 hours. Serve with a garnish of mozzarella cheese and a dollop of sour cream. Top with crushed tortilla chips. Serves eight.

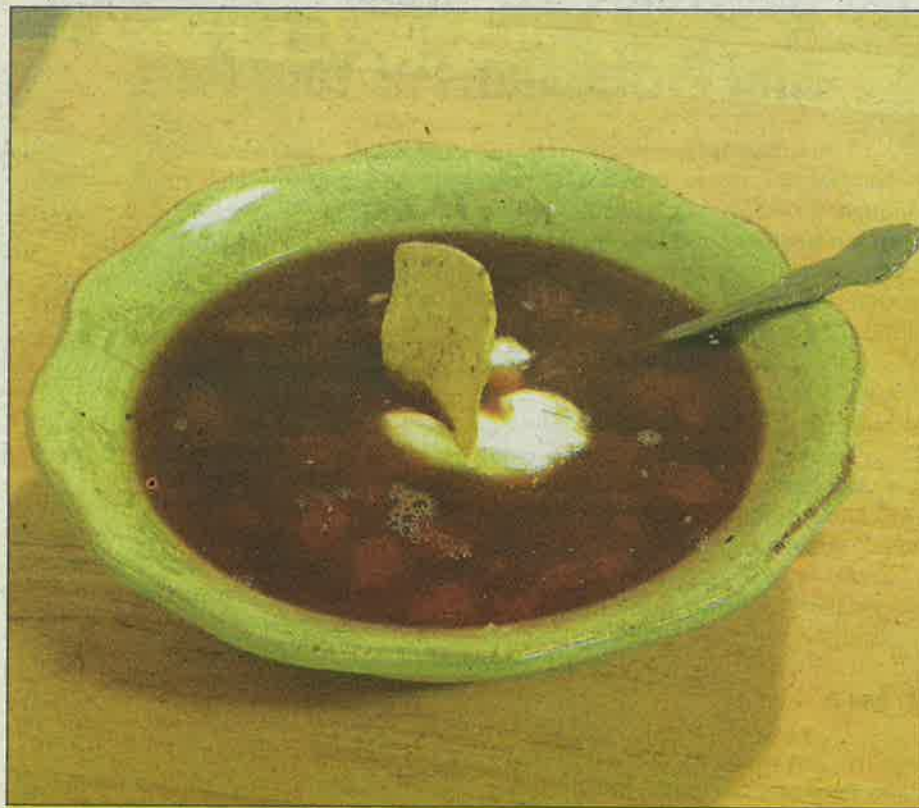


Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Taco soup can be served with or without meat

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It's Doggone Cold: Show Compassion And Protection For Your Pets

Gazette report

Natural fur coats are not always enough to keep pets warm during extreme weather conditions. Cold temperatures can suppress a pet's immune system, making it more susceptible to illness. Pediatric and geriatric pets are especially prone to sickness as their bodies fight to stay warm.

Hillsborough County Animal Services offers the following suggestions to keep pets safe during cold snaps:

1. Have a heart – bring the animals inside whenever possible.
2. Be a pal and lead the pack. Accompany dogs on potty breaks because they, too, may resist “the call” to go out into the cold – which will lead to indoor accidents.

3. Insulate outdoor doghouses against the elements, including moisture. By law, a doghouse must provide such protection with three solid sides and a base, no bare ground or wire gratings. In severe temperatures, bed-

ding is also required.

4. Attempt to provide similar shelter for outdoor cats, even if just a temporary structure containing blankets.

5. Cats often seek shelter in the warmth of engines or wheel wells. If your vehicle is not garaged, check before starting the engine. The alternative could be tragic.

6. Keep you pet's ID securely fastened. Only your county registration tag lets neighbors know your lost pet is vaccinated and is safe to shelter until help arrives. Tags are a free phone call home and easily traced through the county Web site.

7. Consider a donation of clean – even used – towels and bedding to your neighborhood animal shelter.

For more information on pet health or to report animal neglect, contact Hillsborough County Animal Services at (813) 744-5660 or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices.

Lithia-Pinecrest Road public hearing needs you

Brandon Chamber of Commerce

In 2005 The Brandon Chamber of Commerce was asked to work to improve Lithia-Pinecrest Road by member businesses of the chamber and more than 400 community representatives. As a community partner and business voice, we are committed to this project.

It is imperative that those in support of this project attend and share their position both verbally and on written comment forms.

The action steps below are ways you can help:

Action 1: Attend the public hearing on Feb. 9,

2010

It is critical that community residents and business representatives wishing to see improvements made to Lithia-Pinecrest Road attend this meeting Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m., at Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Special Events Center, 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico

Action 2: Be Heard!

At this point in the process, quantity of supporters counts. Even if public speaking is not one of your favorite things to do, there are ways to engage. All comments are treated equally, to include:

- Sending comments via e-mail ([\[dy.com\]\(http://dy.com\) and select the 'Comment Form'\)](http://www.lpcstu-

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- Writing on a comment form at the hearing; or

- Speaking at the hearing to a court reporter during the formal portion of the hearing.

Your message can be as brief as: “I support the build option for Lithia-Pinecrest” or “I am in support of Lithia-Pinecrest improvements.”

Comments must be received by Feb. 23, 2010 to be included in the public hearing record.

Whatever form of comment you choose, your physical presence is still needed on Feb. 9!



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The training wheels are off

By LESLIE WHITE

Bloomington residents Shannon Lipp, Wanda Sandberg, Sherri O'Steen, Shelia Voyles and Melissa Gross, along with a few other friends, recently trained for and completed the 2009 Longleaf Mini-Triathlon, some as a relay team, others as individuals. For several of the women, this was their first race, and training was a new experience.

Sherri O'Steen, who did the biking portion for her relay team, said, "Due to time constraints my training was limited to sporadic workouts at Campo YMCA and riding my bike around Nature's Way. My son, Sean, joined me on a few of those trips to push me," she said.

Melissa Gross did all

three portions of the triathlon – swim, bike, and run – and admits, "Prior to this I was only working out minimally." It was her friend, Mary Pat McGuire, a trainer for Shapes, who encouraged her to consider competing. After deciding to enter, Gross undertook as 12-week training program to get herself ready. She and several of her Bloomington friends worked out three days a week together and three days a week on their own, taking one day off to rest. During the race, Gross was thinking, "I just want to finish. My kids are here and I want them to see me finish." And finish she did with times of 7:23 in the swimming portion, 44:45 for the biking, and 37:06 in the running leg of



Photo provided by Sherri O'Steen

Shannon Lipp, Wanda Sandberg, Sherri O'Steen, Shelia Voyles and Melissa Gross

the race. "I think my kids were surprised I finished and that I didn't come in last," she admitted.

O'Steen said, "During the race, I kept thinking that I had another teammate counting on me to get back so that she could do her portion. We all had family and friends there that came to watch us and I kept pushing to

make them proud and to prove to myself that I could accomplish what I set out to do that day." O'Steen said that all of the friends that participated together enjoyed the experience and cheered each other on to do their best. Both women said, "This is definitely something we'll consider doing again!"

Ford Hillsboro's new branch manager

Hillsboro Bank announces new branch manager

Hillsboro Bank, 1016 Bloomington Ave., has announced that it has a new branch manager, Aimee Ford.

Ms. Ford started with Hillsboro Bank on Nov. 12 and has been in the banking industry for eight years.

She has lived in the area for the past six years and is originally from the Midwest. She enjoys working for a local community bank that gives her the opportunity to get to know the customers and support the community.

Hillsboro Bank is located at the front of Plaza Bella and is a full service bank.



Hillsboro Bank's new branch manager, Aimee Ford. The bank is located at the front of Plaza Bella and is a full service bank.

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Website

www.bloomingtondalegazette.com

Purpose

The objective of the Scholarships is to reward and encourage high school seniors who are residents of the Bloomingtondale community to pursue a college career, and to honor the exemplary efforts and outstanding dedication of BJ Stelter, the Principal of Bloomingtondale High School from 1991 - 2005.

Awards

All awards are for graduates of the current school year and are non-renewable.

Eligibility Requirements

• Candidate's parent/guardian must be a resi-

dent of Bloomingtondale, as defined on the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Web site: www.bloomingtondalegazette.com

• Proof of residency requirements will be required before scholarship disbursement.

• Candidate's parent/guardian must be a member of the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association in good standing. Membership must be current when the submission of an application occurs.

• Candidate must be a graduating high school senior at from the Bloomingtondale Community.

• Candidate must have, according to the latest available Progress Report, at least a weighted 3.0 grade point average, at the time of Scholarship disbursement. Proof of grade point average will be required before disbursement.

• Candidate must be

accepted at a 2 or 4 year accredited college or university. Students may apply for a scholarship prior to acceptance, but proof of acceptance will be required before scholarship disbursement.

• The Award will be made without regard to financial need.

• Children or grandchildren of current Directors of the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association are not eligible.

Selection Criteria

Recipients will be chosen on the basis of the following selection criteria, listed from most important to least important;

• Community Service
• Extra-curricular activities

• Essay
• Academics
• Letter of Reference

Important Dates

• February: Application

available for download at www.bloomingtondalegazette.com. Look for the button that reads, "Bloomingtondale Community Scholarship Application" in upper left part of page.

• April 1st: Deadline for Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association to receive the application.

• May: Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Board meeting. Winner will be invited to attend this meeting, and his/her name will be announced.

Essay

Each candidate will complete an essay of no more than 500 words. Essay must be typed. The student must select one of the following topics for his essay:

• "What receiving this scholarship would mean to me"

• "What performing Community Service has meant to me"

• "How living and growing up in Bloomingtondale has shaped me as a person"

Submission

Each candidate will be required to submit the following by the above defined deadline:

• A completed application
• A typed essay
• One letter of refer-

ence from their high school faculty member, or, a representative of a Community Service organization listed on the application. While either is acceptable, the latter is preferable.

• An official transcript from their high school.

• An official Discipline Record from their high school.

• A Summary Worksheet from their high school.

Submit to:

Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 7221

Brandon, FL 33508

Phone: 813-681-2051

Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@verizon.net

Additional Information

• Scholarship awards will be paid directly to the Director of Financial Aid at the recipient's school of choice.

• Funds may be used to support any educational expenses, allowed by the college/university.

• No notification will be made to those applicants not selected.

• All submissions become the property of the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association and will not be returned.

• Incomplete submissions will be disqualified.

• Winners will be in-



File photo by
KATHY MOORE-LENGELL

Elizabeth "B.J." Stelter

vited to the Scholarship Award Announcement, at the meeting of the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association during May, and agree to have their names/photos published by any interested news organization.

• By submitting an application, candidates agree to all rules contained in this document.

• The decision of the Selection Committee is final. No appeals are permitted.

• Questions may be emailed or called in to the Bloomingtondale Community Offices (info above).

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Riverview security company to take innovative HR approach

Article submitted by PSF

The past few years have seen an interesting trend among some of the most successful corporations in the country. It seems that the powers that be in these organizations have figured out that happy employees, treated well, equals increased production, better customer relations and higher profits. A little security company in Riverview is placing itself ahead of the curve and setting a trend for those companies whose job it is to keep property safe. In line with the philosophy that drives the success of larger companies like NetApp, Edward Jones, Wegmans Food Markets and other top companies that have made Fortune Magazine's list "Top 100 Companies to Work For," Protective Services of Florida is demonstrating the truth that when you put your

employees first, they will put your clients first.

Protective Services of Florida (PSF) is a full service security company providing armed and unarmed, uniformed security officers for long term and short term contracts. They service office buildings, hotels, malls, department stores, industrial facilities, construction sites and other types of properties. Additionally, PSF offers plain clothes protection when discretion is a must. The precision, discipline and skill necessary to carry out the terms of these types of contracts means that only the most competent employees are prime for the company. But those top notch employees could work anywhere, right? That is where PSF sets itself apart from other security companies – and that is what makes all the

difference.

"I started this company because I have worked for security companies that don't have a clue about what it takes to run an efficient, effective, good security company," says Chief Jonathan Hayden. "What's more, they treat their employees very badly. They don't offer them very good salaries and the benefits are almost nonexistent. So I decided to do it the right way by securing good contracts, keeping a low percentage of the profit and giving the rest to my employees. I am also one of the few security companies that offers health benefits. Because of this and other perks I give my employees, I expect my turnover rate will be at a minimum, which means more solid employees with better training and experience. It will also mean

that because my employees are remaining with the company longer, they are establishing deeper relationships with our clients. This means that the client will receive even better customer service when they sign with us."

While this "employees first" approach to business is not necessarily new, it has traditionally been a practice to which only a few companies subscribed. Over the past few years, however, the philosophy is catching on. Wegman's Food Markets was one of the earlier companies to place employees first. Their mantra, "Happy employees means happy customers" has kept them successful, profitable and growing. As PSF strives for this, there is yet another reason that this practice is so vital to their business.

In security professions,

experience, skill and knowledge are vital to not only the company's success, but to the safety of that company's clients. The longer a security professional is with a company, the more experience, knowledge and skill they acquire. The lower the turnover rate of a security company, the more competent the security officers. It's a win-win all the way around.

Chief Hayden says, "Because we treat our officers professionally and with respect, they, in turn, treat our clients the same way. We have upped the ante and raised the bar for other security companies because we treat our employees the way they deserve to be treated. We are attracting the best of the best in the industry and we are more than happy to put these top

notch security professionals to work for us. They are here because we treat them right. This is what has put us head and shoulders above other security companies – and it is what will keep us there."

Protective Services of Florida is a full service security company, handling both long term and short term contracts. Whatever your security needs, from full-scale annual security for a high-risk apartment complex to a party lasting a few hours and everything in between, PSF is the security company that will deliver. Visit PSF on the Web at www.psfsecurity.com or call (813) 401-5481 to talk to a security professional and find out how PSF can help you keep yourself, your family and your property more secure.

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Bulls take on Ravens



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Bulls Zac Vath goes head-to-head for the win



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Sean Defontaine takes a Raven wrestler down.

New Coach Sergio Matos watches from side line as Bulls have their only home match of the season against the Alonso Ravens.



Photo by KIM WALLACE



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Bloomington Bull Jeremy is on his way for a winning match against another Raven wrestler.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Bulls Hunter Douglas pins a Raven wrestler for a win.

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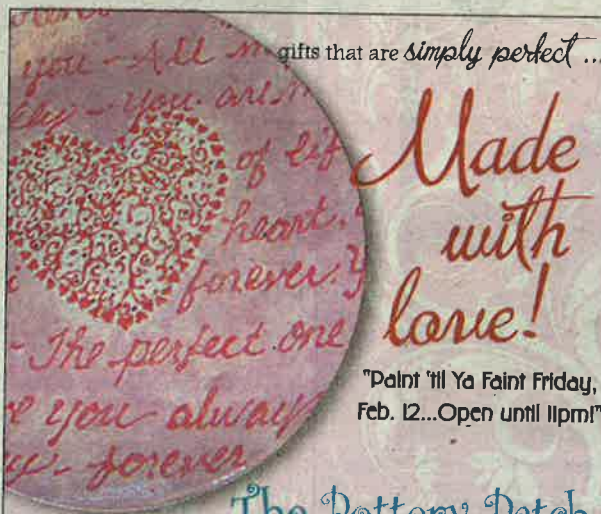
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A Special Goodbye

As of this month it has now been 12 years since the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station opened on Bell Shoals Road. That was 1998. You can really relate to how long this has been by trying to remember how much gasoline cost in 1998 or how much homes sold for and yes, homes were being built and selling back. Yes, things have really changed in 12 years.

Our very special thanks goes to the residents of the Bloomingdale and surrounding communities for the outstanding support and time they have given to those of us in the Sheriff's Office and here at the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station.

Together we have proven that we can all make our community a safer

and more secure place to live and raise our families.

Hillsborough County's Sheriff, David Gee, his staff and the many professional teams that make up the Sheriff's Office have continued to provide dedicated service even as we all face continued tough financial times. Having the community's increased support through programs such as the Volunteer Citizen Patrol Program and the Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC), means that concerned residents have helped those of us in law enforcement improve our ability to provide you with the secure home and work environment you want and deserve. These programs have significantly improved communication and coordination in solving crimes.

We will always need your cooperation and support in improving the quality of life in our community. Please continue to help us help you.

KNOW YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Fiscal year 2010 has already proven to be one of surprise and challenges. Florida and Hillsborough County has been directly affected by the continued wars overseas, the earthquakes in Haiti and ongoing budget battles. Yes, the federal and state budgets directly affect the county's budgets.

2010 is an election year. Now is the time for you to become informed, involved and prepared to vote in November. The fiscal year 2011 county budget will be even more challenging. There could be

services cut and jobs lost for residents in our community.

Find out what is being proposed and who is making the decisions. Our State Representative Rich Glorioso and State Senator Ronda Storms and their staffs are active members of the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC). They attend meetings to discuss issues that residents are concerned about, from the state's budget shortages to seat belt laws, car set laws, transportation issues, sexual predators and more.

Contact Senator Ronda Storms and her staff at (813) 651-2189 in Brandon and contact State Representative Rich Glorioso and his staff at (813) 757-9110 in Plant City. Give them and their staff mem-



Pete Maurer

bers your support on the key issues important to you.

SPECIAL NOTE

One last special note concerning the 12 years Sandy and I have been privileged to work in the Bloomingdale Community Station. February will be my last month as your Community Resource Deputy. I will be retiring to spend more time with my family.

I want to thank all of you for the honor of serving Bloomingdale as your CRD and ask that you continue to support the Sheriff's programs and deputies that are serving and protecting you.

PETE

Continued From Page 4

12 year watch, Bloomingdale and its surrounding communities have seen many serious, positive improvements in their safety and security due to Deputy Pete's hard work, personal dedication and genuine care and concern for residents.

Bloomingdale has been very blessed and honored to have had a deputy like Deputy Pete to serve and protect them. Fortunately, when Deputy Pete begins his retirement from the Sheriff's Office this month and continues to live way over in Plant City we won't have to say "goodbye" to him but just "see ya later."

We all wish Deputy Pete and his family a very restful and well deserved retirement after more than 24 years with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

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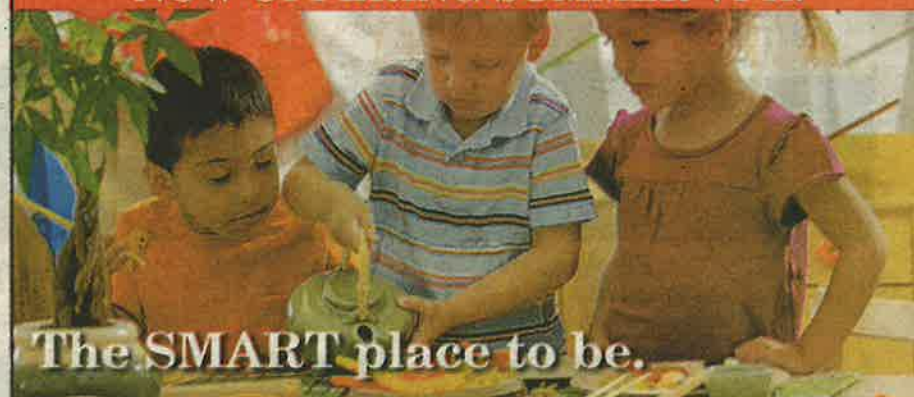
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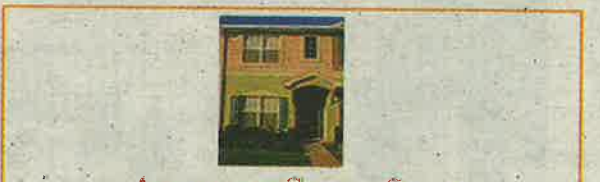
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