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Featured Story:

Summer Safety

see page 9



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

2003 Bloomingdale High School valedictorian Eddie Walsh, and salutatorian Jennifer Daily.

**Bloomingdale Grads
 Share Friendship, Honors**

By LAURA FRAZIER

Bloomingdale High Class of 2003 graduates Jennifer Daily and Eddie Walsh first met four years ago at an elective summer school "Think Camp" for rising ninth graders.

Walsh attended Bloomingdale area schools since the seventh grade, but the Daily family had just moved from Seffner to Valrico that summer. Jennifer was anxious about starting high school as a strange face in the crowd.

"Eddie was the first person I met at Bloomingdale, and we've been friends ever since," she said.

The two share a number of traits that fueled their friendship. Bright and articulate, both students obviously have strong work ethics, a love of humanity, boundless energy, and a serious dedication to stellar academic achievement.

It's only befitting then that the fast friends, four years later, stand side by side at the top of Bloomingdale's Class of 2003 - Walsh as valedictorian, and Daily as salutatorian.

Walsh graduated at the top of his class with a grade point average of 6.60. Daily ran a close second with an average of 6.24.

See Grads, Page 20



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I-75	S.R. 60	Knights Parsons
	Bloomingtondale	

326486

Next Cleanup Day Set For August 16

**6 SECTIONS,
950 HOMES CHOSEN**

By CHERYL KEHRMEYER
BHA Director

Bloomingtondale's Neighborhood PRIDE Program got off to a great start in April. Thanks to our neighborhood leaders and all the residents who participated in our first clean up April 26, a slew of trash and castoffs was discarded from our garages, yards and parks. It's the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association's goal to implement the PRIDE program in every one of our 40 neighborhood sections by year-end, and you're helping us do just that.

This quarter, we'll be helping the Neighborhood PRIDE Program get off the ground in Erin Arbor, Heritage Park and sections C3, C4, E and I west of Bell Shoals Road (see participating street names below). These areas include more than 950 homes.

Now that we have selected more neighborhoods, we need you to make this happen. We need volunteers from the selected sections to call or e-mail our office and become PRIDE Neighborhood Team Captains. The BHA will provide you with training and resources on how to lead the residents in your neighborhood and how to implement



BHA Director Cheryl Kehmeyer heads up the Bloomingtondale PRIDE committee - People Revitalizing, Improving, Developing and Enjoying our great community.

the program.

In July, the BHA will send letters to every residence in each selected neighborhood listing the selected street names, what items can be disposed of on cleanup day, and the details of the program-including neighborhood training session dates.

At these valuable sessions, we will provide each Neighborhood Team Captain with a PRIDE Resource Manual

that includes tips and ideas on forming a team, organizing volunteers, running a neighborhood clean-up day, and getting helping hands from the community (Boy Scouts, church youth groups, high school service groups, etc.).

In August, the Cleanup Day will occur and the Neighborhood PRIDE Program will be rolled out to more neighborhoods. We'll have large disposal bins at a specified location and each individual Neighborhood PRIDE Team may decide on additional activities as well, such as a big end of clean-up day neighborhood barbecue!

What a great way to celebrate a rewarding day of improving our homes, yards and streets.

We need volunteers now for this quarter's neighborhoods, and it's also never too early to get your neighborhood signed up for next quarter's clean up.

If you'd like to get involved or if you have any questions, please call the BHA office at

681-2051 or e-mail Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net. We look forward to hearing from you!

Section A

- BRIARPARK WY
- CASABA LP
- GREENFORD ST
- GREENROCK PL
- GREENSTONE PL
- ORANGECREST ST
- ORANGEPOINTE RD
- SAND PEBBLE DR

Section B

- BRIARLAKE DR
- EASTRIDGE DR
- GREENMARK LN
- HIGHGROVE CT
- ORANGEFIELD PL

Section C 3 & 4

- CALIENTE DR
- FORTUNA DR

Section E

- BLOOMINGFIELD DR (# 606 to 714)
- CLOVERHILL CT
- OAKMOSS DR
- SHADY NOOK DR
- SWEETLEAF CT
- WINDTREE CT

Bloomingtondale PRIDE Good Neighbor Tip

Welcome To Bloomingtondale!

Summer is a popular time for families to relocate. Let's make it a point to warmly welcome new neighbors to our community, and be sure to tell them about the BHA, The Bloomingtondale Gazette, our Neighborhood PRIDE Program, and all the other wonderful things happening in Bloomingtondale.

See Pride, Page 6

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594.
(813) 681-2051. Fax: (813) 651-1129
E-mail: Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net
Web Site: www.BloomingtondaleGazette.com
BHA meetings are at the community office on the 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President — Ted Grable
Vice President — Joe Hickle
Treasurer — Pam Liguori
Director — Tony Diolosa
Director — Steve Heckel
Director — Cheryl Kehmeyer
Director — Michele Caballer
Director — Joseph Grem

Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 684-6667
BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President — Thom Snelling
Vice President — Russell Jones

Treasurer — Dale Kahn
Recording Secretary — Alice Burleson
Correspondence Secretary — David West
Trustee — Myron Magedanz
Trustee — Michael Buday
Property Manager — Al Devney

Bloomingtondale Mobile Watch Coordinator/Equipment Manager —

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146
Treasurer — Paul

Kelmer, 681-9701
Patrol Member — Steven Heckel, 654-4266

Patrol Member — Brad Scharp, 643-5000
Patrol Member — Paul Warr, 685-7883

Bloomingtondale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132. (813) 685-2817
BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

President — Bill Grace
Treasurer — Fred Englehart



Wireless provider for Bloomingtondale Mobile Watch

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980
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Letters

Send letters to Letters@BloomingtondaleGazette.com or Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. All letters are subject to editing.

Tax Letter Riles Residents

We received a letter regarding the 2003 tax assessment roll for the Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District. The letter did not identify the BSTD or provide information regarding the nature of the entity or the reason for the tax assessment. There is no phone number listed in the letter that one could call to clarify the nature of the letter.

Beside the lack of information in the letter, the tone of the last paragraph was very threatening. It reads, "Non-

payment of your assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property, which may result in a loss of title." I am sure that the BSTD felt it necessary to inform people of the consequences of payment failure, but that combined with the lack of information of the purpose of the special tax assessment made for a very scary letter. Also, there is no explanation as to how the tax will be collected or where one must send payment to be in compliance.

I had to do a web search and happened to stumble upon the information about the BSTD on the Bloomingtondale Gazette web site. Now that I have read what the BSTD does and how the money will be spent in maintenance and improvement projects, I support the agenda and feel that the increase to \$100 is reasonable.

I propose that in the future the following information is

included on any communication sent by the BSTD: What is a special taxing district? Why does Bloomingtondale have a special taxing district? How much does the BSTD cost residents? How is the tax collected? How is the money spent?

If there are legal limitations to the content you can include in a letter, at least provide a phone number or the link to the Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District FAQ's located in the Bloomingtondale Gazette web site (www.bloomingtondalegazette.com).

Claudia Caceres-Camilla

—Shortly after the Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District in May mailed out the tax increase notice required by Hillsborough County, the Bloomingtondale community office was swamped with questions and complaints. The county requires the specific form letter you received to be mailed first class to

every homeowner in the taxing district area. The taxing district board was advised by the tax collector's office that variations or additions to the letter are not allowed.

Bloomingtondale residents in September 2002 voted to approve a \$20 annual increase to the community's special tax assessment of \$80. The annual assessment, now a total of \$100 per home, is added to each homeowner's annual property tax bill. The new amount will be included in the 2003 property tax bill homeowners receive this November. The monies collected are used to maintain and improve Bloomingtondale's common property (entryways, perimeter walls, landscaping, irrigation, signage, etc.)

The statement that appeared to threaten foreclosure if the assessment is not paid angered and worried

See Letters, Page 18

7/23 FIXED RATE
4.125% APR 5.34

30 YEAR FIXED
5.0% APR 5.27

15 YEAR FIXED
4.375% APR 4.86

3/1 ARM
3.125% APR 5.46

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Members of the St. Stephen Catholic Church Angels Among Us Dinner and Auction committee prepare to hit the streets, soliciting donations for this year's event. From left are Bridget Wray, Ann McCabe, Nancy Shirina, Bonnie Rose and Michelle Greene.

Photo courtesy St. Stephen Catholic Church

Wanted: Angels On Earth

DINNER, AUCTION TO BENEFIT SCHOOL

A Gazette Report

Wanted: Angels on Earth willing to donate items, services, gift certificates and anything else people might be willing to bid on at the fourth annual Angels Among Us Dinner and Auction hosted by St. Stephen Catholic Church and School.

Although the auction is five months away, auction chairwoman Ann McCabe and her committee of volunteers are already hard at work soliciting items for the annual event, which raises

funds for the school.

"The community has been very responsive," said McCabe. "But we need a lot more help."

The committee is seeking a variety of items to be auctioned including vacation getaways and cruises, gift certificates for restaurants, hair salons and spas, pet services, sports memorabilia and collectibles as well as handmade items and products to fill themed baskets.

In past years, popular items to bid on have included a dinner prepared by the Rev. Paul Pecchie, golf lessons, a concert by singer Tanya Enriquez, a barbecue

prepared by the St. Stephen Men's Club, a birthday party at a fire training center, a prime parking spot at church and the title of Principal for a Day for one lucky St. Stephen Catholic School student.

Last year, more than 200 baskets were auctioned during a silent auction followed by a live auction, raising \$50,000 for the school.

This year's auction will take place Sept. 20 at Higgins Hall at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Tampa.

The committee is seeking items or services to be auctioned. For information, contact McCabe at 657-3359.

Bloomington Oaks Position Open

One or two seats are open on the Bloomington Oaks Special Taxing District board of trustees. As volunteer residents of Bloomington Oaks, trustees oversee and budget for the maintenance and improvement of the neighborhood's common

areas (lighting, painting, landscaping, etc.) Each of Bloomington Oaks' 185 homeowners pays a maximum special tax assessment of \$80 per year. The board meets once a month on Cade Lane. Information: Bill Grace, 685-2817.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN
THE
BLOOMINGDALE
GAZETTE

Pride

From page 3

Section I
BRINTON CT
CANOGA PARK DR
(Even #s 4102 to 4126)
CURRAN CT
KERLIEN PL
SANDY CREEK DR
(# 623 to 657)
TYNDALE DR

Section J & K
KALEWOOD PL
KANTREL PL
KENTFIELD PL
KINGSFORD PL
KIRKMONT PL
KITMORE PL
KNOBCREST PL
MURRAY DALE DR
PEACHFIELD DR

Erin Arbor
COLUSA LN
ELK RIDGE LN
SEQUOIA WY
SPRINGVILLE DR
WARMSRING WY

Heritage Park
CLARESIDE DR
SIENA WY

USF Offers Free Program For Students

FOCUS: CAREERS IN TRANSPORTATION

A Gazette Report

The Center for Urban Transportation and Research at the University of South Florida will hold the 2003 Summer Transportation Education Program July 14-16, at its facility on campus.

The program, which is offered at no cost to high school students, is designed to introduce them to careers in the field of public transportation.

During the three-day program, students will talk with practicing transportation professionals, participate in hands-on activities, and take field trips to major transportation operation facilities.

Deadline for application is June 9. For more information, contact Chandra Foreman at 974-9793.

Commissioner's Corner

New Parkway Will Improve Road Access, Capacity

By COUNTY COMMISSIONER RONDA STORMS

My office has received many phone calls regarding the new roadway project along Pauls Drive, adjacent to Lumsden Road.

I am happy to say that as a former member of the Expressway Board, I voted several years ago with my fellow members to conceptually approve this innovative project known as the Brandon Parkway, a true asset to the Brandon community.

The Brandon Parkway, primarily funded by the collection of tolls, will connect Brandon with downtown Tampa, a 9-mile stretch.

An elevated reversible-lane bridge will be built in the median along the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway.

The Parkway will not only provide greater access and increased capacity but also will encompass many beautiful architectural features, including foun-

tains, benches, walkways, lampposts, delightful landscaping and a 3-mile recreational trail.

The schedule for completion is the fall of 2003 and will connect the future Gateway Bridge over Interstate 75 to the reversible elevated bridge.

While the lower level road will still remain operable for exit choices, the Reversible-Lane Bridge, which is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2005, will give commuters a non-exit route from Brandon to downtown Tampa.

It is designed for cars and express buses only and will reduce the traffic congestion on the Crosstown Expressway.

Computer-synchronized traffic signals on the connecting roads in Brandon and Tampa will prevent backups at each end of the bridge.

Thank you to Perry Dawn Brown for contributing to this article.



Ronda Storms

45th Annual Parade Set For July 4

A Gazette Report

The 45th annual Brandon Fourth of July Parade kicks off 10 a.m. on Friday, July 4.

More than 100 participating groups on floats, in vehicles, on horseback and on foot will line up 8 a.m. at the start of the parade route, on Lumsden Road between Kings Avenue and John Moore Road.

The parade will proceed east to Parsons Road, continuing north on Parsons, then west on Robertson Street.

An estimated 50,000 spectators lined the parade route

last year, cheering on hundreds of participants from local military, civic, school and government groups who threw candy and bead necklaces to the crowd.

Parking is available at many business and churches on streets surrounding the route.

Parade-goers are encouraged to arrive early, bring water to drink, lawn chairs or towels to sit on... and don't forget the sunglasses and sunscreen.

For more information or to help with the parade, call LaWayne Wyatt, 741-0193.

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Mark Kanarek, M.D., F.A.A.P.
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SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Group Honors Math, Science High Achievers

A Gazette Report

The Brandon Branch, American Association of University Women honored 27 Girls Can! Award recipients at its tenth annual Recognition Tea May 10 at the Brandon Community Center.

The branch honored two eighth grade girls and two twelfth grade girls from Brandon area schools who achieved the highest grade point average either in math or science.

Three twelfth grade award recipients were previously recognized as eighth grade students in 1999 - Ashley Fertic, Jamie Franz, and Cheryl Kravchuck.

Twelfth grade recipients were awarded a \$200 United States Savings Bond. Eight grade girls were presented with a \$100 United States Savings Bond. Since this program's inception in 1994, \$30,400 in United States Savings Bonds has been awarded to 202 eighth and twelfth grade girls who have excelled in math and science.

Twelfth grade girls receiving Excellence in Math awards were Oluwakemi Adegoke, King International Baccalaureate, daughter of Mike and Victoria Adegoke, Riverview; Bridget Asplund, Riverview High School, daughter of Stewart and Beth-Ann Asplund, Riverview; Clarissa DeGarmo, Plant City High School, daughter of Melanie DeGarmo, Plant City; Caitlin Faulk, Brandon High School, daughter of Myron and Sandra Faulk, Brandon; Ashley Fertic, Durant High School, daughter of James and Linda Fertic, Valrico; Cheryl Kravchuck, Bloomingdale High School, daughter of Robert and Joan Kravchuck, Valrico; and Brittany Reidy, Armwood High School, daughter of Patrick and Christine Reidy, Seffner.

Twelfth Grade Girls receiving Excellence in Science awards were Lynsey Ellis, Riverview High School, daughter of Sam and Brenda Ellis, Brandon; Jamie Franz, King International Baccalaureate Program, daughter of James and Janet Franz, Valrico; Sara Hall, Plant City High School, daughter of Floyd and Mary Ann Hall, Plant City; Heather Kominsky, Bloomingdale High School, daughter of Robert and Darlene Kominsky, Valrico; Kaitlin Lenhart, Brandon High School, daughter of Martin and Mary Lenhart, Seffner; Kerri Marsh, Durant High School, daughter of Steven and Sherri Marsh, Valrico; and Brittany Reidy, Armwood High School, daughter of Patrick and Christine Reidy, Seffner.

Eighth grade girls receiving Excellence in Math Awards were Barbara Bricker, Randall Middle School, daughter of Gregory and Colleen Bricker, Valrico; Melissa Chudow, Burns Middle School, daughter of Marc and Kathy Chudow, Valrico; Courtney Holloway, Horace Mann Middle School, daughter of John and Judith Holloway, Valrico; Kelsey Houser, McLane Middle School, daughter of Kerry and Karen Houser, Brandon; Rosalinda Medina, Gordon Burnett Middle School, daughter of Gerardo Palacios and Marleny Torres, Seffner; Nanci Palacios, Turkey Creek Middle School, daughter of Bertin Palacios and Helda Godinez, Sydney (FL); and Sabrina Stair, Rodgers Middle School, daughter of Michael and Patricia Smith, Riverview.



Eighth grade Girls Can! recipients.

Photos courtesy AAUW



Twelfth grade Girls Can! recipients.

ter of Gregory and Colleen Bricker, Valrico; Melissa Chudow, Burns Middle School, daughter of Marc and Kathy Chudow, Valrico; Courtney Holloway, Horace Mann Middle School, daughter of John and Judith Holloway, Valrico; Kelsey Houser, McLane Middle School, daughter of Kerry and Karen Houser, Brandon; Rosalinda Medina, Gordon Burnett Middle School, daughter of Gerardo Palacios and Marleny Torres, Seffner; Nanci Palacios, Turkey Creek Middle School, daughter of Bertin Palacios and Helda Godinez, Sydney (FL); and Sabrina Stair, Rodgers Middle School, daughter of Michael and Patricia Smith, Riverview.

Eighth grade girls receiving Excellence in Science Awards were Karri Becker, Rodgers Middle School, daughter of Karl and Sharon Becker, Riverview; Chelsea Calhoun, Turkey Creek Middle School, daughter of Travis

and Lisa Calhoun, Plant city; Amanda Hinds, Gordon Burnett Middle School, daughter of John and Diane Hinds, Seffner; Danielle Hinson, Turkey Creek Middle School, daughter of Kevin and Pamela Hinson, Dover; Amy Hoover, Horace Mann Middle School, daughter of Michael Hoover, Valrico; Chelsae Johansen, Burns Middle School, daughter of Gregory and Dianne Johansen, Valrico; and Puja Padalia, Randall Middle School, daughter of Bharat and Mina Padalia, Riverview.

The American Association of University Women offers the "Give a Grad a Gift" program, which provides a year's free membership in the association, between now and August 30, to a new graduate from an accredited four-year college or university.

Contact Arlene at 689-8457 or Barbara at 671-3078 for more information.

Bloomingtondale Substation Notes

School's Out For Summer

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN ORDER

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER and OFFICER SANDY CAPITANO

The Bloomingdale Community Substation, at 4342 Bell Shoals Road, near Beef O'Brady's restaurant in the Village Center Plaza, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Information: 635-8040. For immediate assistance, call the Sheriff's Dept. at 247-8200 or 911 for emergencies.

This time of the year is very special for our kids, but it is also a time for parents to take special precautions. Before things get too busy and crazy, take the time to sit down with your kids and talk about the need to be careful and cautious.

Some kids will spend time at home alone. Emphasize to them the importance of keeping doors locked, not telling others they are home alone and being sure to lock up when they leave.

Talk about safety issues involving bikes, pools, fires and driving. With school comes more free time, and for some - more time to get into trouble.

Parents, know where your kids are at all times. Idle time is dangerous time. Set specific rules for your kids to follow. Don't let them end the summer with a criminal record or a serious injury.

Fire Safety

Some teens will spend time at home possibly caring for younger children, either their own brothers or sisters or babysitting. All teens need to know about fire safety. This includes having fire extinguishers in the home and knowing how to use them.

Knowing how to escape from a burning house and how to get others out by dropping and crawling is very critical. All homes must have smoke detectors.

Bike Safety

There are specific laws requiring children to wear helmets when riding their bikes. The best enforcers of this rule are parents.

Get your children good helmets. Insure that they wear them. Set the example by wearing helmets yourself. Head injuries can easily become lifetime injuries.

Pool Safety

Many homes in our community have beautiful pools for children to enjoy. Proper barriers to keep young children out are essential.

All children should learn how to swim. Completing CPR/First Aid training is a wonderful benefit for teens, especially those who care for other children or have older adults in their homes. This training has proven to be life saving.

Idle Time

Summer time can be fun, or it can be dangerous and cause lots of problems. Kids caught vandalizing or burglarizing the property of others can face serious consequences including heavy fines and possible jail time. This occurred several times

last month when several vehicles were "egged" by some teens as a "practical joke." The joke turned into possible felony charges due to the extremely high dollar amount of damage done to the vehicles, requiring expensive repair work. These types of activities are no "joke."

Home and Auto Safety

Many Bloomingdale residents will be taking many

summer vacations. Don't forget to protect your home and autos while you're away.

One way to add to the security of your home is to request a "Security Check" through the Bloomingdale Community Station. Forms are available and can be used for vacation only. It provides additional surveillance.

Other personal actions required to improve the security of your home and possessions include securing all doors and windows, stopping newspapers and mail or having a neighbor collect them, putting lights on timers, having someone mow your lawn, securing valuables inside and securing any vehicles left outside.

Take the precautions, and enjoy your vacation.

Create Something to Show

...for your summer vacation.

No Studio Fees!

Projects include:

- Just in Time - Check
- Mosaics - Lamp Camp
- Bubble Painting
- Family Time Project
- Christmas in July
- It's Your Turn to do the Dishes

Day Care Programs Welcome

Ages 6 - 12 Welcome.
All materials and instruction included.
Call to learn more about our summertime packages.

Tuesdays & Thursdays
In June & July
Pre-Registration Required.
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Summer Camp has never been so much fun!
You will learn to sponge, stamp & stencil your way to a masterpiece.
Create a work of art you'll treasure!

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2551 SR 60, E. • 643-0014 • (60 & Miller Rd.) Valrico

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingtondaleGazette.com

Community Council Update

By MACK AUSTIN

Volunteers with the Bloomingdale Area Community Council, also known as the BACC, meet monthly with local law enforcement and county departments to research and resolve neighborhood issues and concerns. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the community station. For information, call Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer or Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano at 635-8040.

The council addressed the following items at its May 2003 meeting:

Vandalism

Deputy Maurer updated council members on recent vandalism incidents in the Bloomingdale Community. The "egging" of private vehicles was one of the major sources of destruction. Information from several sources has assisted Sheriff's deputies in locating several prime suspects. Residents are asked to be vigilant, note any suspicious activity, obtain critical information (vehicle descriptions, tag numbers, etc) and immediately contact the Sheriff's Dispatch at 247-8200. Based on the significant dollar amounts of damage done, some of these crimes will be classified as felonies and carry heavy fines and jail time. Rewards are available for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the criminals.

Traffic Calming

Several Bloomingdale neighborhoods have worked with representatives from Hillsborough County's "Traffic Calming" Program to improve safety in their areas. A variety of measures have been implemented.

Hurley Road residents elected to use speed humps. Fox Run residents are having medians installed. Resi-



Fox Run residents worked with the county's traffic calming department to install medians designed to slow neighborhood traffic.



Residents from neighborhoods that open onto Culbreath Road, like The Links, are growing increasingly concerned about speeders.

dents in areas off Culbreath Road such as The Links are also concerned about speeders and are looking into the options available to slow them down. Deputy Maurer stated, "This (speeding) is a never ending problem. It is controlled by the attitudes of the drivers."

Dog Park

Coordination continues on acquisition of the property off Springvale Avenue needed to

See Council, Page 11

Thanks, Farewell To Deputy Bashner

The Bloomingdale community, students, faculty and administration at Bloomingdale Senior High School extend this special note of appreciation to School Resource Officer Harrison Bashner.

Thank you, Officer Bashner, for your dedication and hard work to improve safety and security at our high school.

You will be missed. Best wishes for much success in your new endeavors.

Women's Care Expansion Complete

OFFICE HAS TWICE THE SPACE, NEW DÉCOR

A Gazette Report

Women's Care of Brandon in May held the grand opening of a major expansion of their facility and patient service capabilities at their South Parsons Avenue location.

Dr. Jerry Stein, managing partner of the practice, which also includes Drs. Keith Whitehead, Pamela Asghar, Maruja Fernandez and Nurse Practitioners Lisa Martin and Cynthia McKinie, discussed the philosophy behind the project that began in September 2001.

"After listening to our patients over the last twenty years and taking cues from the benefits of non-traditional approaches to healthcare, we took a totally different approach to the atmosphere we wanted to create," Stein said.

"The majority of our gynecologic patients are generally healthy, and our pregnant patients are clearly in an uplifted mood. We wanted to get away from the typical sterile medical office environment and reflect these

positive feelings in our design and décor."

Patients entering the reception area first notice the pleasant gurgling of a cascading waterfall mixed with the chirping of live birds in two custom-designed aviaries.

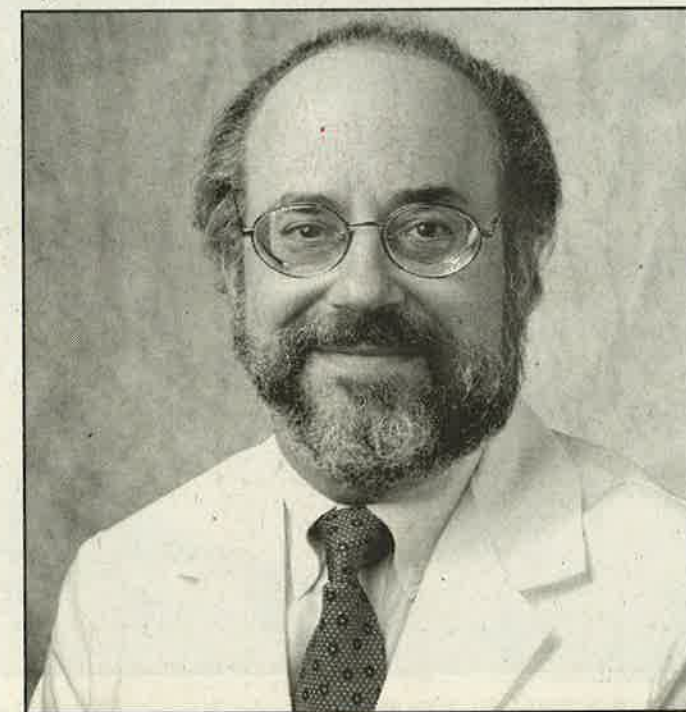
Since each patient has a different idea of what their most relaxing setting is, Stein said, seven examination rooms decorated to reflect various natural environments are offered; Autumn in Vermont, English Countryside, Arizona Vistas, Rockies in Winter, Harbourside, African Safari, and Seaside.

Stein's hobby of nature photography is displayed throughout the exam rooms, even overhead on specially designed backlit panels.

"We've had a great response from our patients, and even our staff seems more relaxed in the natural environments," Stein said.

"Everyone, including our providers, has their favorite setting."

For more information, call 661-9307.



Dr. Jerry Stein

Photo courtesy Women's Care of Brandon

Council

From page 10

allow access to the land projected to become a Dog Park for Bloomingdale dog owners.

Crime Watch

Deputy Maurer updated council members on several recent criminal mischief incidents in the Bloomingdale community.

Car windows were being destroyed with marbles. Homes were burglarized. The Bloomingdale Little

League concession stand was burglarized.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's detectives are making significant progress on these crimes and some will possibly be upgraded to felonies.

Assistance from residents is needed. All residents should be alert and watch out for each other.

The BHA offers a \$500 reward for assistance in solving vandalism cases in our community.

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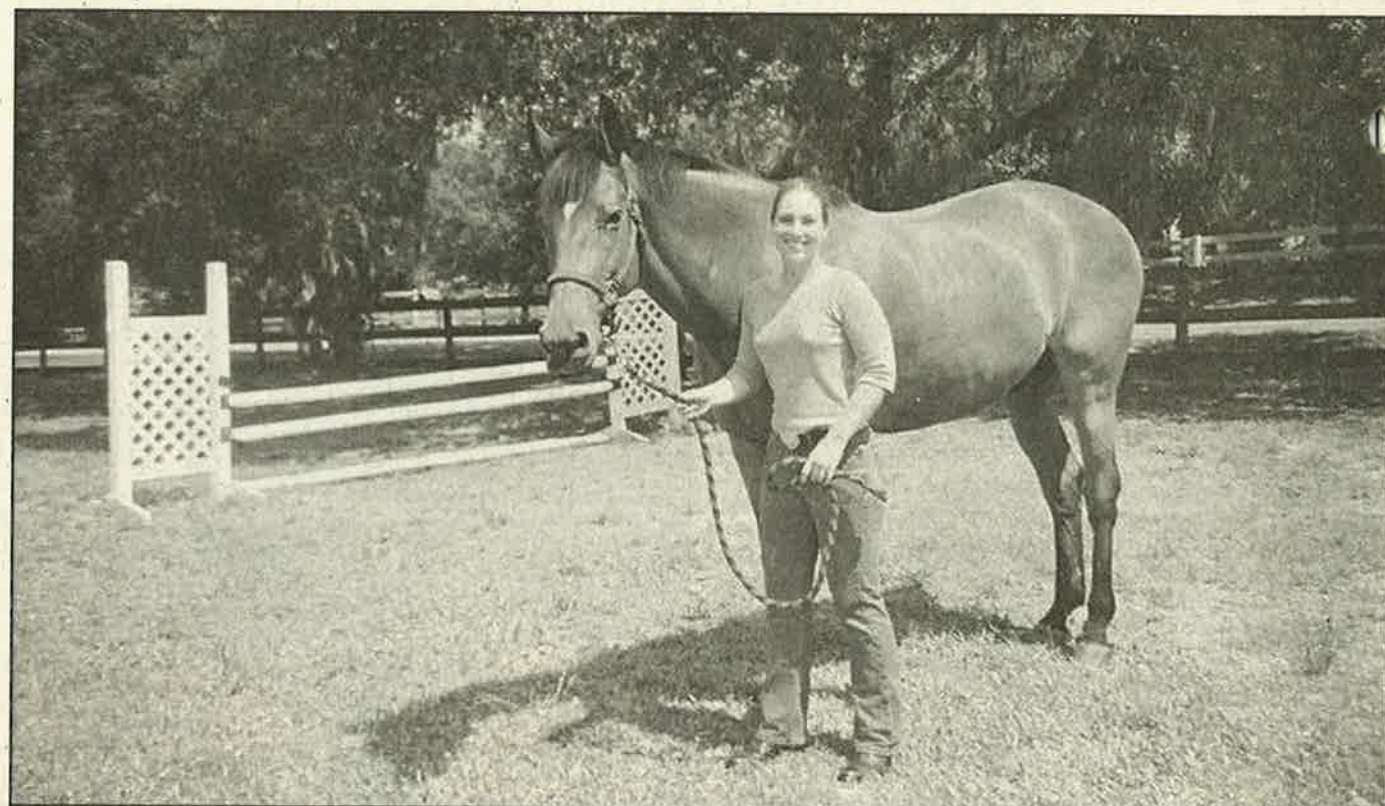
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COUPON EXPIRES 7/1/03



Whitney Grim, with Romeo, invites Bloomingdale area kids to visit her family's Paragrims Farm this summer.

LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Kids Can Horse Around In Bloomingdale

FARM OFFERS SUMMER RIDING CAMPS

By LESLIE WHITE

It's summertime - time to horse around a little. And that's just what's on the agenda at Paragrims Farm. Located just 50 yards off busy Bell Shoals Road in Bloomingdale, this tranquil horse farm is the perfect location for summer day camps for all ages.

For twenty-four years, three generations of the Grim family have shared their love of horses and offered year-round lessons, as well as equestrian alternatives to the typical summer camp, on their 10-acre farm.

Week long day camps run the month of June for kids ranging in age from 6 to 15. There's even a "mini-camp" for 5 to 6 year olds the last week in June.

All skill levels are welcomed, and owners Andy and

"We change each camp every week, so there are new things for the kids who come back."

ANDY GRIM
owner, Paragrims Farm

Patsy Grim, as well as their daughter, Whitney, make sure there are activities planned that will entertain any child during the 4 hour camp.

Each weeklong camp is kept to a total of 15 kids, providing a 3 to 1 camper-to-counselor ratio, ensuring each child will have some valuable one-on-one time with an experienced rider.

More than just riding skills, kids in this camp will learn about horses; how to groom them; how to feed them; how to care for the tack used to ride them.

The Grimms have devised some fun games to educate the kids. Owner Andy Grim says the days are a breakdown of 60% fun and 25%

educational, with that 25% wrapped in something that falls under the guise of "fun."

Grim explained, "We have a scavenger hunt and give the kids a list of various tack they have to find. On that list might be a type of specialized bit. They have to know the qualities of that bit to mark it off their list."

Other activities might include eating donuts dangling from a string, all while sitting atop a horse. And the kids aren't the only ones whose skills are tested. The horses might be pitted against each other bobbing for apples.

Kids must love it, because Paragrims Farm has campers who participate in the program several weeks each

summer, year after year.

They even draw people from Sweden.

"Because of the military families based in this area, we have several who moved away to Europe, yet still send their kids back here every summer to participate in the camp."

They've had kids travel in from Montana, and even as far away as Russia. In reference to the repeat kids, Grim says, "We change each camp every week so that it's not the same, and there are new things for the kids who come back week after week. New games, new experiences."

Paragrims Farm will hold camps each week in June, weekdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Beginners are welcome, and all equipment is furnished. All you need to bring is your love of horses!

For registration or more information, call 689-1814.

Alafia, Cimino Readers Survive Battle of Books

TEAMS ADVANCED TO FINALS, SEMI-FINALS

By SHANNAN D. POWELL
Correspondent

Elementary schools in Hillsborough County waged battle against one another April 30 at the Tampa Convention Center.

It was a war of words, so to speak, pitting reader against reader.

Teams of fourth-grade students came together for the county's annual Battle of the Books competition to test their knowledge of 20 books they had read since January.

Among those teams were Bloomingdale's Alafia and Cimino elementaries.

The program's goal is to encourage recreational reading, expose children to the variety of literary genres and authors, and to share books through written and oral expression.

"Battle of the Books is a very tough competition," said Cindy Dowdy, Cimino media specialist. "Students must be able to remember characters, quotes, and minute details from each of the 20 books."

Remembering the details was challenging since many of the books were very similar in setting and theme.

The teams spent a lot of time practicing together to learn to recall information quickly and to be able to identify books by author's name and title.

"I read all the books, and I could not have competed with them," said Dowdy.

Students were tested on their grasp of the books, with the highest scoring individuals chosen to represent their school in the area competition.

Six winners from the area competition went on to battle in the district competition May 15 at Tropicana Field.



SHANNAN POWELL/Photo

Cimino Elementary School's Battle of the Books team, from left, Laura Kelley, Laura Jones, Julia Chanen and Nicole Ervast, qualified for the area finals.

This year's champion was Lawton Chiles Elementary.

Cimino's team, which qualified for the area finals, consisted of Laura Kelley, Laura Jones, Julia Chanen and Nicole Ervast.

Representing Alafia through the area semifinals were Kayla Jurrens, Alex Waite, Ashley Figueredo and Meghan Placke.

Many children participated in the program, though they did not qualify to compete - a feat considering the number of works they were required to read.

Cimino participants included Creighton Adams, Julia Chanen, Zackery Field, Arielle Brown, Emily Dees, Laura Jones, Lindsey Cash, Nicole Ervast and Laura Kelly.

Alafia participants included Kayla Jurrens, Alex Waite, Ashley Figueredo, Taylor McDade, Natasha Miller, Megan Bergevin, Megan Berg and Chelsea Fordham.

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Investing in uncertain markets is never easy. Yet, such times can provide some of the best opportunities for long-term investment returns. If you've been waiting to invest, join us as *Newsweek* Columnist and ABC Commentator **George Will** offers a mid-year report on the state of our nation, economy and financial markets. Together, our veteran financial experts will show why now may be an ideal time for serious, long-term investors to put their money to work in the market.

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Worship Watch Works

PROGRAM PROMOTES SAFETY, SECURITY

By MACK AUSTIN

Our houses of worship are very personal, important places in our lives. Whether it's a church, a synagogue or temple, we want them to be safe and protected.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Worship Watch program is designed to provide law enforcement services to the religious facilities in Hillsborough County. The Sheriff's Community Relations Section developed the program to include two types of services - crime prevention and property security.

The first goal of Worship Watch is to offer programs in crime prevention and law enforcement awareness to congregation members. Members are given valuable information on personal safety, burglary prevention, home security, fraud, con games, drug awareness and auto theft. Presentations of these programs are often scheduled in conjunction with other programs or activities.

These programs offer valuable, interesting information



Churches such as Bell Shoals Baptist have learned the outstanding value of working with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Worship Watch program to improve the safety and security of its members and facilities.

that can be immediately used by members. It helps prepare members to develop plans to protect themselves, their families and their property.

The second goal of Worship Watch is to provide congregations with a safe, secure place to meet and worship. Upon request by a church staff member, a deputy will con-

duct a security survey of all buildings and grounds and offer suggestions, information and hints for improving safety and security.

The program has already made significant improvements in several houses of worship in Hillsborough County. It has allowed for a much closer working rela-

tionship between members of a variety of congregations and the Sheriff's Office. Working together to face today's challenges and concerns can make a positive difference.

For more information, contact the Sheriff's Office Community Relations Section at 247-8115.

You Remind Me So Much Of My Daddy

By ANDY ANDREWS
Author of The Traveler's Gift

I have been a Dad now for a little over three years. First Austin, then about a year ago, Adam. Beautiful boys. They crawl all over me, watch me, run to me when they are hurt, and of course, I am trying hard to become the man they think I am-the man my father was. Sometimes, I wonder if I will live up to the example he set for me.

"You remind me so much of your Dad." I still hear that a lot from people who knew him.

It is a compliment. Though appearance is a factor, I believe it to be the similarity in our personalities to which

they are referring. My father was a nut. Not a professional nut like I have become-but a nut nonetheless.

He was a minister-the minister to all the kids in town. My friends loved him. They had no choice; he made them laugh! Coming home from a date on any Friday night, I might find as many as twenty teenagers at our house. They would all be gathered around my Dad, all listening to him talk.

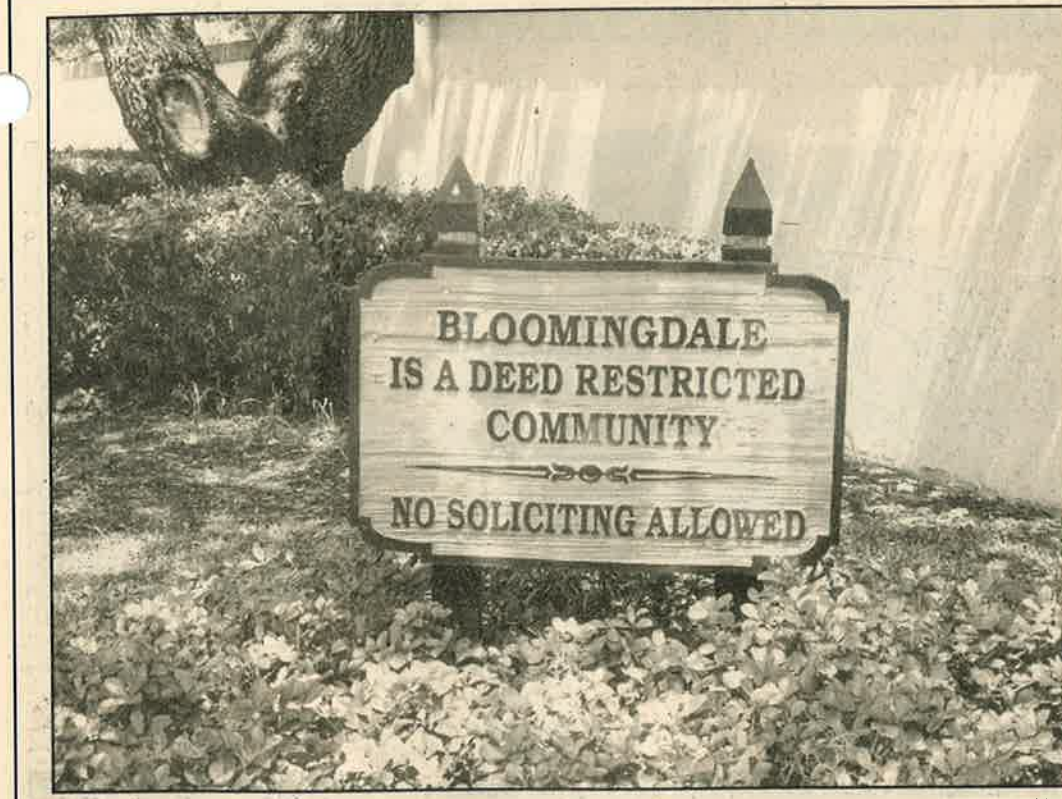
"Speak French, Mr. Andrews," someone would say. And he would do it.

"Speak Russian now!"

"Spanish!"

He "spoke" them, too. My father had

See Daddy, Page 22



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Bloomingtondale Discourages Solicitors

A friendly reminder to anyone who decides to go door-to-door in our community - most homeowners associations and residents in Bloomingtondale strongly discourage soliciting. Any resident who is approached by aggressive solicitors or notices suspicious persons in their neighborhoods can contact the Sheriff's Community Station at 635-8040.

Recycle Ink Cartridges at Community Office

A Gazette Report

Bloomingtondale residents who wish to recycle their spent computer ink cartridges to benefit our neighborhood schools are invited to use the collection box in the Bloomingtondale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

The office is at the rear of the SunTrust Bank/Citgo gas station just south of Bloomingtondale Avenue, and is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Tina Pietrzyk, a Bloomingtondale resident and representative of A Smart Choice of

Florida recycling company, will collect the cartridges and issue checks to Bloomingtondale area public schools including Alafia Elementary, Cimino Elementary, Burns Middle and Bloomingtondale High, or the private school of your choice.

The most commonly used cartridges will yield from \$1 to \$7 each.

Residents can indicate the school they wish to contribute to by placing the cartridge in a baggie and marking it with the school name.

If you have questions about the recycling program, contact Pietrzyk at 625-9450.

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New Chili's Is Hot

The Bloomingdale community now officially has a new Chili's restaurant, on Lithia-Pinecrest Road just south of Bloomingdale Avenue. Like all popular new restaurants, the lines have been long. But we think the great food is worth it, and let's face it - a dinner with no cooking or cleaning up involved is always a good choice!



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Restaurant Review

Mimi's Café Boasts Uncommon Flair, Variety, Service

By ELTON DUMONT
Humble Gazette
Gastronomical Servant

Rating based on 5 Stars

- Breakfast ★★★★★
- Dinner ★★★★★
- Ambience ★★★★★
- Service ★★★★★
- Overall ★★★★★

Brandon is quite the hot spot for new restaurants - they seem to open at the rate of one or two per month! Mimi's Café on Providence Road, just north of Lumsden, is one that has quickly out-paced the pack. As a matter of fact, I've been three times in the past two weeks, once for dinner and twice for breakfast.

Mimi's successfully mixes New Orleans' French Cajun style with an American flair. Housed in a European style building with an outer courtyard and four separate dining rooms inside (a feature I really like), seating is also available at the wine bar if you prefer.

Our first trip was a dinner

jaunt, and we got an immediate taste of Mimi's first class service. We started off with the Spinach and Artichoke Dip (\$6.99) with sun dried tomatoes, served with chips and sour dough bread. I defy anyone to find a better one!

My wife had the Pot Roast (\$9.99) complete with soup or salad and a choice of potatoes. The roast is braised slowly with carrots, celery and onion. Although a little fatty, it was just like home made, with gravy and all.

I chose the Barbequed Meat Loaf (\$9.99), served with hickory sauce and mashed potatoes. Unfortunately it was spongy and not something I would order any time again soon. But the fresh-garlic rolls and carrot bread (we asked for seconds) were absolutely mouth watering. The veggies included carrots, zucchini, spinach and broccoli, all absolutely fresh, tasty and tender.

Other featured entrees include Grilled Chicken Tuscan Style, Turkey Breast, Grilled Beef Liver, Apple Cider Glazed Pork Chops, King Salmon, Shrimp Spaghettini, or Fillet of

"Soul." Entrée prices range from about \$9 to \$15.

The soups are made fresh daily, and appetizers include Black and Bleu Chicken Quesadilla or Jazz Fest popcorn shrimp and chicken strips with buffalo sauce. Sandwich and burgers include a French Quarter Burger with avocado, bacon, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles and 1000 island dressing, and A.J.'s West Coast Reuben. Also on the menu are salads, pasta, and desserts including Warm Apple Cinnamon Cobbler.

On one of our breakfast visits, we had a party of six. The breakfast menu offers five different juices (orange and grapefruit are fresh squeezed), and muffins have the following selection: honey bran, carrot raisin, buttermilk spice or low fat blueberry. In a word? HUGE! There is also Corned Beef Hash and Eggs, Cajun chicken Sausage and Eggs, Pot Roast and Eggs, Pork Chop and Eggs, and the list goes on and on.

Wayne ordered the Oeufs Et Pain Perdu - a combination of 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, redskin potatoes,

Freedom Toast stuffed with cream cheese and marmalade (\$7.49). I chose the value meal - two large eggs, fresh squeezed juice, redskin potatoes and a (HUGE!) muffin of your choice (\$4.99). Al had the most interesting dish called San Francisco Freedom Toast. It is a sliced sour-dough baguette dipped in cream, egg, orange and vanilla, topped with blueberries, strawberries and a raspberry compote mixture (\$6.99).

My wife had the Ham, Cheddar and Broccoli Omelet (\$7.49), also served with redskin potatoes and a muffin. This time the service was slower than our previous two trips. But the wait staff service was still terrific, and the six of us allowed the time to ease by.

The espresso bar offers Caffe Latte, Mocha Latte and Iced Cappuccino.

Mimi's Café is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. They offer a children's menu and call-ahead take-out service.

It was a wonderful experience on each of my visits. Remember the old TV ad, "Try it, you'll like it!"

Century 21 Shaw Realty Makes Top 100 List

A Gazette Report

Century 21 Shaw Realty was recently recognized by Century 21 Real Estate Corporation as being in the top 100 real estate companies in the United States for the first quarter of 2003. The company was also recognized at the Century 21 Regional Awards Banquet as earning the coveted Centurion Award for 2002.

Jeff Shaw, Broker/Owner, started Century 21 Shaw Realty seven years ago. From a start-up company, Shaw said, it has grown to be the largest Century 21 company in Hillsborough County and the entire country, with over 200 associates and offices in Tampa, New Tampa, and Brandon/Valrico. In addition to residential real estate, the company has a full commercial department that handles commercial sales, leasing, business opportunity brokerage, and property management.

"The professionalism of our associates, managers, and the quality of our in-house training is what has made the difference," said Shaw. "Our training pro-



Photo courtesy Jeff Shaw

Jeff Shaw, Century 21 Broker/Owner (at left); Christopher Baker, New Tampa Manager; Donnie Russell, Training Director; Jeff LaBudde, Brandon/Valrico Manager; Rich Crete, Tampa Manager; not pictured is Jack McCurry, Commercial Department Manager.

gram allows our associates to successfully assist our clients with all their real estate needs, and our marketing program is second to none." For information call 689-2121.

Summer Fun For Kids

A FEW SLOTS STILL OPEN

By SHANNAN D. POWELL
Correspondent

With summer time upon us, Bloomingdale parents may be looking for a way to ward off that all too common seasonal question from the kids: We're bored - what is there to do? Here are a few options close to home.

Campo YMCA

The Campo Family YMCA has a host of summer activities and camps scheduled to fit most needs from part-time entertainment to full-time care. Families do not need to be facility members to take

advantage of the camps, but can pay a \$30 annual program fee to participate in specific activities.

For ages 5-12, Campo offers day programs at a cost of \$105 per week for facility members and \$125 per week for program members. With varying themes from week to week that include field trips to local area attractions, children will learn about dinosaurs, the circus, the earth, space and heroes, to name a few.

Children ages 7-12 have additional options for camps. Sports camps focus on different sports each week, including fishing, rock climbing and world sports, and are

See Summer, Page 23

NOW ENROLLING FOR SUMMER

When school is out Huntington is in!

If you are unhappy with your child's report card, the time to take action is now.

If your child has been struggling with schoolwork, the summer is an excellent time to get ahead for the next school year. Huntington Learning Center can help. Our dedicated teachers can pinpoint your child's strengths and weaknesses and tailor a program of instruction to meet his or her needs.

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Studio 22 Offers Full Salon, Spa Services

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Visiting Studio 22, you'll feel like you're a million miles away, when you're really only five minutes from home. The Brandon area's newest salon and day spa is located on Lithia Center Lane, just north of Bloomingdale Avenue near Kazbor's restaurant.

The salon and spa offers a wide range of personal services and a full line of retail products. Owners Hind Amen and Renee Hassoun opened the salon in January this year, bringing over 25 years of collective experience to the business. Customer service is their number one goal.

"We take time out for our customers," says Amen. "One appointment will take care of everything. They get pampered. They even get lunch. They're not going to feel like they're on an assembly line. At Studio 22, it's one tech per client."

Amen says of the staff, "We're more in tune to catering to individuals' needs on a personal level."

They want their customers



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Studio 22 is located on Lithia Center Lane, just north of Bloomingdale Avenue off Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

to feel as if they're "custom fitted" for their day at the spa. Services include hair care, thermal straightening, braids, extensions, waxing, makeovers, permanent makeup and facials, and a complete line of nail services. They also offer a variety of massages, including Swedish, therapeutic, lava stone, aromatherapy and sports or neuromuscular massages. There is even a

massage specially designed for the mother-to-be. Massages are by appointment and come in 30, 60- or 90-minute increments.

Packages are available for full-day or half-day relaxation treatments, and clients can custom design the day of their dreams to include the services that most interest them. A Wedding Package is available for brides and grooms that includes a cus-

tomized day of massages, manicures, pedicures and facials - in other words, the works.

And it's not just women that come in - men and kids are welcome too.

Their hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To make an appointment call 571-2212. They also accept walk-ins.

Letters

From page 5

quite a few residents. Some called the tax collectors office and sheriff's office. At least one resident even promptly sent a check for the assessment to the community office. The check was returned; there is no need for homeowners to pay the assessment separately from their property tax bill. The county simply requires the statement about property owners' legal responsibility to pay all their taxes (or else!) to appear on public notices about taxes.

It is important to note that prior to the vote in September, the BSTD held four public meetings to explain the assessment and answer questions about the proposed increase. The matter was publicized in local newspa-

pers including the Gazette, The Brandon News and The Tampa Tribune, and on the Bloomingdale community web site. Letters were mailed to every homeowner in the district. In addition, residents who registered to receive free e-mail updates about Bloomingdale news received those notices.

As stated in the form letter, the taxing district board will formally adopt the new assessment rate at its meeting on Monday, June 9. The meeting will be held 7 p.m. at the community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. All meetings are open to the public. Although the vote in September gives the taxing district the authority to raise the assessment to \$100 starting

this year, those who wish to object may appeal in writing prior to the June 9 meeting.

For more information about the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District, call 684-6667 or visit www.BloomingdaleGazette.com.

Ideas To Slow Traffic

I am a resident of The Links, and have noticed that there has been a lot of speeding on Culbreath Road. I would like to suggest a couple of ways of preventing drivers from speeding. First, add stop signs to both sides of Culbreath where it meets Erindale and Natures Way (by Cimino Elementary). No traffic lights, please. Second, install speed humps on Cul-

breath. Our area is growing and riding a bike or even crossing Culbreath is getting very dangerous.

Carlos R. Cruz

To report concerns about speeding in Bloomingdale neighborhoods, call or visit the Bloomingdale Sheriff's Substation, 635-8040. Deputies at the station can provide you with information about what the Sheriff's Office and the Bloomingdale Area Community Council can do to monitor and resolve the problem. Information about the county's traffic calming program is also available. The substation is at the corner of Bell Shoals Road and Glenhaven, and is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pledge Author's Home Honored

Members of the John Donaldson, Jr. Chapter Daughters of the American Colonists, from left, Gail Crosby, Barbara Card, Linda Neal, Janett Tetrick and Nell Truitt, recently attended the dedication of an historic plaque placed on the former Tampa home of Francis Bellamy, writer of the United States Pledge of Allegiance. The dedication, also attended by former Mayor Dick Greco and several Hillsborough County commissioners, marked the home in which the Bellamy family lived from 1924 until 1931.



Photo courtesy Nell Truitt

DAR Chapter Honors JROTC Students

BLOOMINGDALE'S BYRGE HONORED

By NELL TRUITT
Alafia River Chapter DAR

The Alafia River Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution of Brandon recently gave Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps awards to five Brandon area high school students.

Chapter Regent Mary Standaert presented the Tampa Bay Tech award to Cadet Peli Valerie M. Schazo, National Defense Chairman Rosa Hayward presented to Bloomingdale student Cadet Jessica Byrge and to Brandon student Cadet Lorraine Pacfia; Wharton High School cadet Georgiana Foote received her award medal from Master Chief Deale; and Nell Truitt presented awards to Freedom High School Cadet Cindy Quinonez and Armwood High School 1st Lt. Christopher Pietrafesa.

Students were chosen on the criteria of cadets who are in the upper 25 percent of their classes and academic subjects, demonstrated qualities of dependability and good character, adherence to



Photo courtesy Nell Truitt

Bloomingdale Senior High School student Cadet Jessica Byrge receives her medal from DAR National Defense Chairman Rosa Hayward.

Congratulations

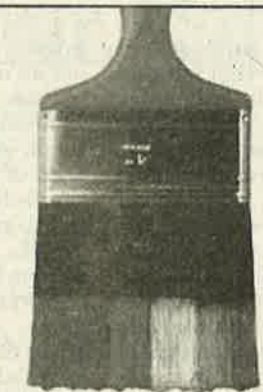


Cadet Jessica Byrge

military discipline, leadership ability, and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of ROTC training.

A bronze medal is awarded to graduating students in Junior ROTC programs, and they also receive a certificate of achievement from the local DAR chapter.

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Let Us Color Your World!

Youth Sports Complex Planned

Plans are already in the works for the new County Youth Sports Complex on Fish Hawk Boulevard. As we continue to improve and maintain Bloomingdale area recreation facilities, we can also look forward to sharing the new county complexes emerging in our neighboring communities.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Grads

From page 1

Walsh, who will attend Yale University this fall and plans to major in economics with a degree in political science, said he took the most challenging courses available throughout his high school career. Inspired by his retired U. S. Army Major father and an older brother who currently attends Yale, Walsh plans to pursue his MBA at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Lively dinner conversations over the years at the Walsh home also inspired the graduate to pursue his current career goals.

"When my dad retired from the Army, he started teaching American government and history at St. Pete College in Dowdell, and my brother is attending Yale majoring in economics and political science," he said.

"Government, history - that's all we ever talk about at our house," he said.

Walsh's long list of extracurricular activities

proves, however, that he's not all about politics.

As a defensive end on the Bloomingdale Bulls football team, Walsh said he learned a lot of discipline. Although the Bulls are still struggling to become strong contenders, Walsh said the team has always had a lot of heart.

"Every time we had a game, I thought we were going to win."

Walsh also served as president of the Key Club, treasurer of the Spanish Honor Society and secretary of the National Honor Society.

He plans to spend his summer working as a day camp counselor at Brandon Swim and Tennis Club.

"I love little kids and would definitely like to have a huge family someday," Walsh said. Salutatorian Jennifer Daily also plans to keep busy this summer.

"I'll be working at Nextel in Brandon as a receptionist, secretary - whatever comes up," she said.

Like Walsh, Daily thrived

with the challenge of advanced placement classes throughout her high school years. She plans to keep the pressure on throughout college.

Daily will attend USF this fall with a major in biology. Then it's on to Stanford University in California.

"I want to get through college as fast as I can so I can begin the undergraduate program at Stanford in two years," she said confidently.

Daily is anxious to delve into medical research.

"There is a lot of potential in stem cell research that hasn't even begun to be realized," she said.

Daily served as vice president of Bloomingdale's Interact student service club and president of the French Honor Society. She was also a member of the Bulls Cross Country team.

Both students said they owe a debt of gratitude to their families and to the teachers and guidance staff at Bloomingdale for helping

them excel and meet their goals.

The duo also shares long-term dreams of traveling throughout Europe and someday living in exotic, elegant locales.

"I had a taste of Europe this summer," Walsh said with stars in his eyes. "France and Italy were incredible. I will definitely go back some day, but ultimately I'd like to live on the coast of Honduras. We lived there for four years when my dad was stationed there. It's so beautiful and so pristine."

Daily's plans to travel to Europe with friends this summer have been put on hold due to the precarious war situation. She said without a doubt, she'll get there someday. She will, after all, need to start searching for her eventual dream home.

"Someday," she said, "you will find me in my villa on the coast of Italy."

Valrico Team Hoops It Up

B-BALL TEAM PLACES 2ND

A Gazette Report

As a last minute entry into the 2003 NBA Hoop It Up competition, held in April at the state fair grounds, a local Valrico team consisting of four good friends took runner up position in the 12 and under class.

With just three practices, the boys managed to get into game shape and put together enough plays to win two games on Saturday and the first two games on Sunday.

That meant they got to participate in the third game on Sunday for the championship. Although they lost the championship game 16 to 13, the boys were proud of their efforts and look forward to participating again next year.



Second place Hoop It Up 12 and under class team members were (left to right): Cody Schwartz, Randall Middle School; Todd Young and Sean Hayes, Booker T. Washington Middle School; and Danny Davis, Burns Middle School. Team coaches were Scott Young and Allen Schwartz.

Game Over... For Now

One more time around the bases... it's hard to believe another Spring Season of Little League Baseball/Softball has come and gone. There are still some tournaments and baseball camps to enjoy. Thanks to all the volunteer parents, coaches, umpires, concession workers and committee members, this was another great season. Great job. See you during Winter Season!



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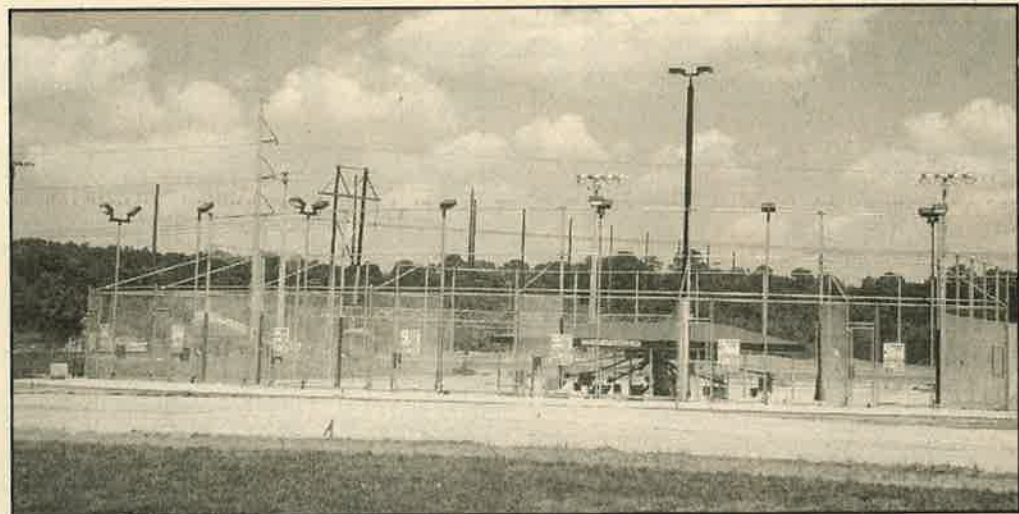
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Ace Range Open On Boyette Road

Now's the time to sharpen your batting and golf skills and have some fun at the same time. The newly opened Ace Range on Boyette Road offers a wide variety of sports entertainment including a driving range, batting cages and putt-putt golf.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Daddy

From page 14

never actually learned a foreign language, but he had a way of pronouncing individual syllables that seemed incredibly real. Using facial expressions and hand motions, he could convey his crazy thoughts - though no one ever understood a word! To my friends, it was the funniest thing in the world.

A local newspaper reporter once asked to interview Dad during what he termed "an unusually slow news week." When word got out about the upcoming feature, our whole church and neighborhood was in a frenzy of anticipation. Everyone knew that "Brother Andrews" wasn't very tolerant of people who couldn't take a joke. It was also a common theory in our town that the reporter conducting the interview must have had her sense of humor removed as a child.

No one was disappointed with the article. It included the reporter's comments about how fortunate the Baptists were to have a minister who not only spoke fourteen languages, including Swahili, but also to receive guidance from a man who often fished with Billy Graham! I have wondered many times if Dad ever asked forgiveness for those lies. I doubt it.

I was proud of the fact that even the "non-churchgoers" considered my father "an

okay guy." I'm certain that part of that feeling stemmed from the fact that he quite often (and sometimes quite publicly) denounced hypocrisy in its many forms. He could be extremely direct.

Early in his career, he spoke to a group of women who made up the Women's Missionary Union (WMU), one of the most vocal (and volatile) forces a Baptist church ever generated.

As local legend has it, he said, "Ladies, I have three things to tell you.

Number one is that there are a lot of lost people in this world. Secondly, most of you don't give a damn about them. And thirdly," he added, noting the shock on their faces, "it is a shame that you are more concerned about a minister having said the word "damn" than you are about all those lost people!"

Purely as a father, he was relatively simple. He only had a few hard and fast rules. I very clearly remember the Top Five.

Number one: "You will stand when a lady walks into the room. This includes your sister and your mother." Dad was sure that my wife would appreciate him for that rule one day. He was right.

Number two: "You will eat some of everything that is being served. You will eat everything on your plate." Dad, having been raised dur-

ing tough economic times, was stickler about this one, but I was such a picky eater that this rule was no longer in effect by the time my sister arrived. I think "The Big Liver Stand-Off of 1965" must have worn him down.

Number three: "Do not hit your sister." This was (no contest) the hardest rule to obey. My sister never had a "do not hit your brother" rule in place, and as a result, did so quite often.

Number four: "Never play in the living room with firecrackers, water balloons, skates, mud, a yoyo, bullwhip, or the dog." This rule actually started out a plain old "never play in the living room." All the other things were added in time.

Number five: "Always tell the truth. Half the truth is a lie." My father believed that the truth was like a wild animal - just let it loose and it will defend itself. "It doesn't matter if a thousand people believe something stupid," he once told me. "It's still stupid."

My Dad. He had grown up in the South during the forties and fifties - a product of that place and those times, but without many of its prevailing attitudes. He publicly dined with Wilma Rudolph, a black athlete, several times in 1962. Dad was the minister at a Baptist church in Birmingham, Alabama at the time.

He didn't have the means to pay for my college, but he saw that I went. And he saw that I worked and paid for it myself. And when I left school to "be an entertainer", he and my mom were the only people who didn't publicly declare that I had let my mind. Dad told me, "So I'm behind you. The measure of a man's worth is not in what he does - it's in what he is becoming. I don't care if you want to dig ditches for a living - just dig good ones! Then I'll bring my friends around and show 'em the ditches my boy dug. I am proud of you!"

Daddy died in an automobile accident about a year after Mom lost her battle to cancer twenty-three years ago. He wasn't wearing a seat belt at the time. But that is, honestly, the only thing I hold against him. He loved my mother. He loved my sister. And he loved me.

What a great Dad!

Last night, I watched Austin and Adam sleep. I said a prayer for their future and one for their father's part in it. The night-light cast a shadow over their sweet faces and I couldn't help but think: You remind me so much of my Daddy.

Courtesy of Andy Andrew, author of the New York Times, best-selling fiction book, *The Traveler's Gift*.

Summer

From page 17

priced the same as day camps. There are also half-day specialty camps to expose kids to art, music, writing, cooking, talents, science and computers. Weekly costs for half-day camps are \$65 for facility members and \$95 for program members.

The YMCA also offers programs for teens ages 13-17. Extreme Quest Teen Adventure is a nine-week challenge encouraging leadership, teamwork, communication, health, cultural awareness and several other topics. Weekly costs are \$105 facility and \$125 program. Teens can also join the Leadership in Training Program to learn how to be future camp counselors at \$75 a week, but only facility members are eligible.

The YMCA also offers swim lessons for various levels and ages, as well as other classes and activities. For more information, or to check class schedules, call the Campo YMCA at 684-1371 or go on to www.tampaymca.org

Stephanie Culbertson Rec Center At Bloomingdale West Park

Full day summer program spots are completely filled at most area parks, including Bloomingdale West (where registration opened in April), but there are specific programs still open.

A tennis camp will be offered by Dorothy Sorrick to kids ages 6 and up. Sorrick has been teaching children the tennis basics for four years. At Bloomingdale West Park she will teach the fundamental strokes, explain the rules of the game, address proper etiquette, control and footwork.

The camp is held from 8 to 9 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, June 16, 18, 20, 23, 25 and 27, July 14, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 25. Call the park at 744-5907 for cost and equipment requirements.

The park is also offering karate class for children ages

6 and up. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5 to 6 p.m. at a cost of \$24/month.

Hidden Palms Tennis Club

Sorrick (see Bloomingdale West Park info above) is holding another camp at Hidden Palms Tennis Club starting July 7 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m..

She has held camps annually in Atlanta and local locations drawing between 50 and 75 children in 2002.

The Target Tennis Camp, produced through Bell Shoals Academy, is open to children from first through sixth grades at a cost of \$30/week, which includes the court fees and camp t-shirts. Information: 744-5907.

Brandon Swim and Tennis Club

Brandon Swim and Tennis Club is offering its 22nd annual Summer Sports Camp for kids ages 5-14. Campers participate daily in a wide range of activities including swimming, soccer, basketball, drama, sewing, arts and crafts, music and organized field games.

Campers will also have the opportunity to go on field trips, enjoy a petting zoo and attend professionally coached classes in gymnastics, diving and tennis.

Each child must pay a registration fee of \$30. Camps run from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Five-day campers will pay weekly fees of \$100 for general members and \$125 for program members. Three-day campers will pay weekly fees of \$94 for general members and \$105 for program members. Lunch can be included weekly for an additional \$15 for five-day campers and \$10 for three-day.

For more information about the sports camp or individual activities such as swimming and diving, please call the BSTC at 689-0908.

Water Dept. Project Set For August Completion

By Mack Austin



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

The Hillsborough County Water Department's pumping upgrade project in Bloomingdale is progressing well. Heavy equipment such as this crane is being used to complete the work.

for trucks entering or exiting the site.

The area around the project is a designated construction site.

Anyone found trespassing on or vandalizing construction property is subject to a minimum \$5000 fine and possible jail time.

Anyone noticing suspicious activity in this area is asked to call the Sheriff's Dispatch Center at 247-8200.

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