

# The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XIV, Number 3

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March 1993

## Roads In East On The Mend



County road crews will be busy digging up and patching roadways that have buckled in Bloomingdale East over the years, creating a problem for drivers. At the request of residents Rick Pitrowski and Joe Liguori, Commissioner Lydia Miller and officials of the road engineering department visited the

troublesome sites in East in late February. Work to smooth out the problems on Erindale have been completed, leaving several other streets on the agenda. According to the county road department, the soft, wet soil under the road surfaces shifts causing the top layer of asphalt to crack and buckle.

## Commercial Developer Pulls Out Of Bell Shoals

by Rozel Sciuilli

While plans for the residential development of Bloomingdale East are progressing as planned, a kink has dented the plans for commercial development at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale. Less than one month after the county approved rezoning of the remaining vacant land in East, the developer who was expected to complete the commercial center has pulled out.

According to Ron Weaver, attorney for Metropolitan Life Real Estate Investment, several interested parties have expressed an interest in the corner. "It is one of the best commercial sites in the county," said Weaver.

Stephen Roth, spokesman for The Barclay Group, could not be reached for comment. His company was to have developed the 172,000 square feet of commercial space as well as the single family attached housing of 150 units proposed for East behind the present Bloomingdale Woods Apartments.

In January, Hillsborough's county commissioners placed a stipulation on the approval of re-zoning which provided for acceleration of roadway improvements in the area. Any one of several options costing between \$500,000 and \$700,000 could be exercised by developers of the

See PLANS, pg. 9

## If You Live On Sweetleaf Or Cedargrove...

...and your home backs up to Bloomingdale Park West, the BHA wants to hear from you now! To date the BHA has requested but had limited input as to the type of buffer (eg: fence) homeowners would like to see installed between their home and the park. Please contact your neighbors Steve Miller at 684-3223 or Patricia Radel at 651-0210 to have your say.

## Rec Center One Step Closer

by Rozel Sciuilli

Pursuant to a request by county Parks and Recreation officials, members of the BHA board held a special meeting Feb. 17 to review the plans for the proposed recreation center in Bloomingdale Community Park West.

Members of the board met with project supervisor Joel Jackson and recreational services manager Lois Kessler so the board could recommend any changes to the site plan and building. According to Jackson, had the county waited until the board's regularly scheduled March meeting, it would have been too late to make changes.

The county is looking for the board's endorsement of the project, but that is still several months away, according to BHA president Randy Wolfe.

"In general, we are very pleased with the direction the county is taking," said Wolfe. "We have instructed them to proceed full speed ahead.

"I anticipate full endorsement of the project in the months to come. It was important for us to see the plans at this stage because it was the last chance we had to make significant changes."

Jackson, who presented blueprints of the park site as well as the floor plan of the 4,591-square foot building, explained the drafts and how he and his staff arrived at the present stage.

Already 600 square feet larger than originally planned, the rec center is an all-new design for Hillsborough County. According to Jackson, the

See REC, pg. 8

## Big Brothers Build Special Bond With Boys

by Rozel Sciuilli

Every now and then, if a child is lucky, someone comes along in their young life and leaves an impression that will last a lifetime. For some, it may be a special teacher who encourages the student to reach his or her potential. For others it may be a parent or other relative who sets the ideals for which the child strives or sets examples for the child to follow.

In the case of seven-year old Ryan and nine-year old Waylon that special person is a Big Brother that each has received within the last six months.



Tom Spurrier and Waylon see each other often and are working together to achieve goals for Waylon.

Through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Tampa, boys and girls ages five to 15 are matched with an adult male or female for a minimum of one year. During that time the Big Brother or Big Sister sees the child a minimum of three to five hours three times a month. And for the children who benefit, it may mean the difference in male or female influence in their young lives.

Currently there are 370 children awaiting a "match", of which 325 are boys.

"These are normal kids from single parent families," said spokesperson Lorie Plyler Briggs. "Often people think that all the children are inner-city kids. We have many children out here."

According to Briggs, children are screened and the child and parent have to want a big brother or big sister. Often a recommendation for the need of a big brother or big sister comes from a school counselor. In addition, there must be no male or female, as the case may be, in the home. A unique couples program offers children the opportunity to see adult interaction.

Funded by the United Way, the Children's Board, and two major fund raisers a year, the organization offers many

services to families including free counseling.

For Ryan and Waylon, though, the best part of the program is having a big brother to go with to ball games, occasionally a fast food restaurant, and sometimes even do homework.

Paul Noble, a 22-year old junior at the University of South Florida, is Ryan's big brother. He first became interested in becoming a big brother through the counseling experiences he has had at summer camps. Paul, himself a product of a broken home, said he "knows what it's like" to not have a father around. The East Bay graduate was a high school wrestler and currently substitutes in the public schools while studying math education in the evenings.

He and Ryan enjoy attending Bucs games, riding bikes and bowling. Paul tries to spend time with Ryan every week, and normal talk during those visits includes parental advice on manners and use of good judgement.

But, as Briggs explains it, "we're not looking for theme park visits, just quality time spent together."

Tom Spurrier, a sales representative who has lived in the area for two years, feels it's important to set an example for young Waylon. When the two became a team, it was decided that Waylon would work on achieving two



Paul Noble, a USF student, is Ryan's new Big Brother. Paul said he knows what it's like to grow up without a father.

goals - improving his conduct and accepting responsibility.

Tom was proud to announce that Waylon's conduct in school has improved, although he still has a knack for getting around his mom. And because Tom travels the state during the week, Waylon's responsibilities include feeding Tom's cat while he's away.

See BROTHERS, pg. 4

# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

## The Bloomingdale Gazette Board of Directors

Rick Oros      Randy Wolfe      Pam Ligouri      Joe Ligouri

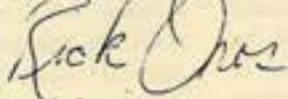
## The Bloomingdale Gazette

Dear Readers,

Being a part of a community means more than just living in the community. Good residents recognize that an alliance with their community involves mutual dependence and that, if it is not managed well, both the residents and community lose their effectiveness. Both must recognize that the resident/community relationship is not like the relationship between parent and child with the burden for controlling the relationship resting entirely on one party.

Effective community interest takes time and energy to develop and to build an affiliation that is consonant with personal styles and what is best for the entire community. Both, the residents and the community should asset the needs of each other and meet the most critical needs to effectively augment their association. Get involved!

Sincerely



Rick Oros  
President

## Some Of This And That

One of the most clever politico moves I have had the opportunity to witness occurred during a recent visit to our community by County Commissioner Lydia Miller. She and a couple of road engineering-types came out at the request of resident activist Rick Pitrowski and his sidekick Joe Ligouri to survey the buckling of some of our interior roadways. Yours truly tagged along for the photo op of the week.

Don Quixote and Sancho had the expedition all mapped out; leaving from the community office, the interested parties piled into the mini-tour van with the first stop on Erindale. As I followed along behind in my FSU-mobile I could see tongues wagging in the van up ahead. Don and Sancho were surely giving the county folks an earful about the condition of our roads, which have been buckling due to shifting soft soil underneath.

"Good," I thought. "If anyone will get something done, Lydia will." So helpful has this commissioner been to her constituents.

But, never in our wildest combined imaginations was I or any member of the entourage prepared for what we saw. There, on Erindale, not to mention, at the exact time of our visit, county road crews with heavy machinery were already tearing up the malformed section of road and would later smooth it over again with a new consistency of materials.

Could it be that in the two weeks since the invite was extended, Lydia had enough time to put the wheels in motion for the road work to take place on the very day of her visit?

"How's that for service," Miller asked as she confidently approached the workers. "This is every politician's dream," I thought. It was a great opportunity for the commissioner to commend the men and women on the front line, not to mention a great photo op. She was beaming as she pressed palms,

the road engineering guys were beaming although a bit confused, Quixote and Sancho were upstaged, but nonetheless pleased that the work was, in fact, being accomplished on the troubled roads.

I got my pictures and the morning outing was a success.

Truth is, the county has been aware of the road problems in our community and is working to correct them, so we're told. Lydia and cohorts had two weeks to prepare for the meeting. It surely isn't possible that the work on Erindale was "staged" for just this visit? Let's see how quickly the other bumps in the roads are tended to. We'll keep tabs on the progress of the county's work.

### Keep Off The Grass, Please

Doesn't it just gripe you when company parks their car in front of your house and they stay, not entirely on the street, but slanted on the front lawn grass, actually the right-of-way grass? Doesn't that just gall you? I

mean, they could break a sprinkler head or leave tire marks in the grass you have labored over every weekend since moving into the house. Worse yet, with repeat abuse of this kind, the manicured lawn could be reduced to mud, laced with remnants of St. Augustine. Wouldn't that tick you off?

We'll it has ticked off the STD. Some inconsiderate people are parking up on the right-of-way on Culbreath just south of Nature's Way. The only reason to park there would be due to inadequate parking at Alafia Elementary School. So, the mummies park there to pick their children up after school. Never mind that there's a carline.

We have word that Mrs. Lizer is doing everything possible to get the word out that parents should not park there. The STD has erected "No Parking" signs (we'll see how long those last). But, the bottom line here is courtesy and respect for property.

## Our Times

by Rozel Sciuilli

### OFFICERS

**BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road  
Suite 101  
Valrico, Florida 33594  
681-2051

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Sue Boucher	Trustee	653-2018
Greg Atkinson	Administrator	759-6670

### Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

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John Britton	Treasurer	681-1553
Steve Schneider	Equipment Manager	685-8378

#### Members

David Guy	681-6943
Paul Keimer	681-9701
Rick Borling	684-2022

### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132  
Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

William Grace	President	685-2817
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681-2051  
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### MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

#### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

#### BHA Board of Directors

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

#### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

#### Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

## Public Service Announcement: Apply The Buddy System

There is a reason children are instructed to use the "Buddy System" when venturing off without an adult. It seems that this practical advise should now apply to adults as well.

With the recent escape of a local jogger from her would-be abductors along Nature's Way, *The Bloomingdale Gazette* urges area residents to exercise with a partner.

Nature's Way is the perfect path for outdoor exercise, but residents can't get

too comfortable, even in their own community.

Morning and evening walks, jogs, or bike rides are made safer and more fun if done with a spouse or friend. In the evening, remember to wear reflective clothing, patches, or armbands.

Remember to practice what is preached to children, and Don't Talk To Strangers. A leisurely early-morning jog could turn to catastrophe by stopping to give a passer-by directions.

## STD Contracts New Manager

by Rozel Sciuilli  
Bloomingdale's Special Taxing District has awarded a one-year contract to Gregory Atkinson, Inc. to handle the property management of the East and West communities. This following the expiration of the one-year contract with Leatherneck Enterprises and its owner Bob Stalker last month.

Atkinson, a resident of Plant City, is experienced in the fields of landscape and irrigation having worked in those areas since 1979. He will oversee the day-to-day maintenance of the common grounds in the community as well as oversee the bidding process and work done by sub-contractors in the area.

The new manager enters at a time when the STD



Atkinson

is undertaking perhaps its largest landscaping project to date as it works toward the promise of STD president Rick Pitrowski to make Bloomingdale one of

the bay area's premier communities. Already, Atkinson has had hands on workdays, and residents will continue to see him working around the community.

According to Pitrowski, Atkinson has already been helpful in determining the kinds of native Florida plantlife to be installed on the premises.

Atkinson was selected from among a field of 15 applicants. According to Pitrowski, the board was looking for someone who had a thorough knowledge of landscaping and irrigation systems to take on the many projects that the STD has planned this year.

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# No Bunk - It's Bunco: A Friendly Little Game

by Rozel Sciulli

Every once in a while people are moved to broaden their horizons, expand their scope of knowledge beyond their daily routine.

Sometimes it may include reading a novel, partaking of the cultural arts, learning some sort of artsy crafts technique, or even taking a continuing education class. But rarely does it mean learning a new game.

Most people can name on one hand the games they play regularly - Monopoly, bridge, Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble, Bunco.

What-o?

Bunco!

No, it's not illegal. The sheriff's department would be sorely disappointed if they staked out the group of women who play this game on a regular basis. No sting operation, here.

It's more of a neighborhood get-together once a month for 12 women who attend because of A) peer pressure, B) to get away from their children, or C) just to enjoy a night out with the girls.

They eat snacks, roll dice, discuss their children's education, roll dice, talk about neighbors who aren't there, roll dice, and talk about the latest bargains at craft shops. Oh, yeah, they also roll dice.

All it takes is a ring from the bell and a roll of the dice to get the game going. The object is to win the most games or get the most Buncos, and players receive nifty prizes. The game is played in rounds - a lot like jacks - first rolling one's using three dice, then two's and so on.

With 12 people playing, there are four players at three tables. One table is designated as the head table and all play begins and ends there. The players at the head table ring a bell to start play and when one team at that table

reaches 23 points, the bell is rung to stop play.

As long as the partners at the head table keep winning, they remain at the head table. Losers remain at tables two and three with winners advancing and changing partners.

Being at the head table has many advantages. Not the least of which are comfortable chairs, a dining room



Kathy Giacomini receives one of the Bunco prizes from hostess Sue Griggs.

setting, and the best snacks.

Players at table three are relegated to the dungeon, generally a card table outside on the patio where there are no snacks.

Points are earned based on the number being rolled at the time; a single point is given for each die face that turns

up the correct number. The player continues rolling as long as the designated number keeps coming up. Five points can be earned if three of a number other than the round's number are rolled.

If a player rolls three of the same number that corresponds to the given round, then she has a Bunco and 23 points. This, however, does not guarantee victory, since game time is controlled by those at the head table (one pair totalled 79 points before the round was closed).

It does guarantee a display similar to the excitement generated by finding a winning lotto ticket in a parking lot. Women shout BUNCO and temporarily lose leave of their senses. They also become the holder of a special gift, but not for long, as the next person to roll three of a kind will spitefully snatch it away.

Fortune is surely fleeting. One player, Mary, gave up hope a long time ago of ever scoring a Bunco. On the final round of play with time quickly running out, she rolled three six's and the crazed kindergarten teacher ran through the house with arms waving wildly overhead and grabbed that Bunco gift right away from another player, who on the next turn, rolled a Bunco and won it right back.

Some players have their lucky numbers, but no gambling here. The stakes are lovely gifts provided by the hostess at the end of the evening.

Bunco addicts one and all, they'd bribe for points. They'd cheat their neighbor out of a Bunco; even bang their fist on the table at just the right time to make the dice flip. But it's all in good fun.

And if they are still speaking at the end of the evening, the women will commit to getting together next month at yet another player's house, where they will talk about their kids, compare shopping bargains, and the dice will roll again.

## Ask Your Vet



by Harry Vildibill, DVM

Dear Dr. Vildibill,

I'm upset! My owner wants to have me neutered! Will this spoil all my fun? Will I get fat and lazy? Why would she want to do this to me anyway?

Sincerely Concerned,  
Bubba

Dear Bubba,

You won't get fat and lazy if your owner decides to neuter you. you just have to make sure your owner consults with your veterinarian on the proper

kind of diet and amount to feed you. You won't be getting into trouble by fighting other animals like you used to. It will also help keep other animals from being put to sleep at the shelters everyday. It will keep diseases down, like rabies, feline leukemia and feline aids for which there is no cure. Your chances of catching these diseases are considerably less because you won't want to go out carousing anymore.

To leave on a good note, Bubba, you can still be a consultant.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Vildibill

## BROTHERS, from pg. 1

Waylon is excited about the start of Little League baseball season because Tom will get to watch his games. And for Waylon's birthday this weekend, he and Tom will see the professionals play baseball in St. Petersburg. Ryan, Waylon and

their moms know that the commitment from their big brothers is only for one year, since that's all the organization requires. Many adults continue the relationship through the teen years, according to Briggs.

Whether for one year

or through their teen years, the influence of Paul and Tom on Ryan and Waylon while recognized to some degree now, will not be fully realized until the youngsters are adults and can remember the one person who left a lasting impression on their lives.

## PRIMUS Clinic Brandon

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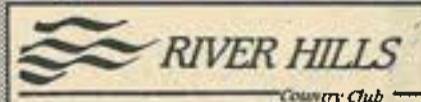
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# Military Review

by Yolanda Boronell

## Retired Major Remains Active In Community

Keeping busy is something Major Leslie Butler, Retired Army, finds easy to do. Since retiring in 1988, Major Butler has tutored at Hillsborough Community College, coached a local soccer team, and in between, has learned seven computer languages. These days, he can be found teaching computer programming at Tampa College.

Maj. Butler has always been active in the community, even before retirement. In 1982, he and wife Krystyna, daughter Krista and son Marc were among the first families to move into Bloomingdale West. This was a time when Bloomingdale was a woods-like area with very little development.

Soon after arriving in Bloomingdale, the Major became a BHA board member and was very involved with BHA activities. A former editor of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, Maj. Butler said it was more like a newsletter then and he enjoyed the challenge of putting the paper together and getting it to press.

Both Butlers attended local residents' meetings as development began and they were a part of the planning of

Bloomingdale East. In addition, both campaigned for local school district assignments.

It's easy to see why they would be so involved since both their children have been raised here. Both graduates of Bloomingdale Senior High School, Marc was on the school's State Championship soccer team. He now attends the University of West Florida, and Krista attends Tennessee Wesleyan College.

With the kids away and a new career at hand, Maj. Butler finds retired life an active life. Look for the Butlers to continue their involvement in their community as the area continues to grow.

## Air Fest '94

MacDill's Air Fest 94 promises to be another spectacular event on March 26 and 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The annual air show will feature the US Air Force Thunderbirds, an Air Combat Command Unit. The Thunderbirds aerial demonstrations include the four-aircraft diamond, the five-aircraft special formations, the six-aircraft delta formation, along with single and two-aircraft solos. The Thunderbirds Air Combat Unit will demonstrate nearly 30 precision flying formations using the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

The air show will also feature the Special Operations Command Parachute Team, composed of members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. At altitudes as high as 12,500 feet, the SOCP team will demonstrate skydiving, aerial designs, and parachuting techniques.

The AirFest will also have numerous aircraft displays, military demonstrations, personnel to answer questions, and a variety of fun activities for the whole family.

It is the one weekend a year that MacDill AFB is open to the general public, and spectators are advised to arrive early due to long lines of traffic.

# Churches Celebrate Lenten Journey

by Erin Mule

Lent is not the only season for sacrifice and giving at Bell Shoals Church of Christ. The church's Benevolence Group regularly opens the church to aid local needy. Every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. anyone in need of food, clothing or household items may visit the church for assistance. Association leader, Al Cobb, said 3200 people were served last year. All donations come from the community, he said.

Originally established to aid migrant workers, Benevolence has grown to include the large number of needy in the area. People may return for assistance every two months. However, according to Cobb, they turn no one away who is hungry.

Families in need of assistance must provide identification and complete a written application. Appointments may be made for privacy, said Cobb.

The church always welcomes donations, which may be dropped off at the church, located at 2908 Bell Shoals Rd. According to Cobb, the group is in need of children's clothing.

Crosswalk Christian Community at 1603 Bloomingdale Ave., is preparing their musical Easter service which will consist of various music performances including an octet, children's choir and piano solo. The Easter service is April 3 at 10 a.m.

Weather permitting, the members of Bloomingdale Presbyterian Church will welcome the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 2, from 10 to 11:30. An Easter Egg Hunt will feature surprises for the youngsters. The event is open to children ages two to fourth grade.

Members of South Brandon Baptist Church are planning their Easter Cantata on March 27 at 7 p.m. There is no charge and it is open to the public. Special youth activities will be held during Spring Break, the week of March 28 through April 1.

St. Mark's United Church of Christ has set its schedule for Holy Week. Palm Sunday worship services on March 27 will be at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Members will perform a drama re-enacting the evening in the supper room on Thursday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. Three Easter services are planned at 7:45, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. A continental breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 8:30 a.m.

The United Methodist Women along with local merchants will present a style show entitled "Clothed in Love" at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 19 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$6 and proceeds benefit the group's charities.

Christian vocalist, Steve Baumgartner, will present a concert and personal witness at both worship services on March 20.

Pre-school registration opens to the public on March 14. For further information, please call 689-1207.

The Easter holiday will feature a pancake breakfast and special program at the church on April 2 at

See CHURCH, pg 6



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**Restaurant Review**

**Romano's Returns Under New Name**

by Elton Dumont

Residents of the Brandon area prior to 1991 probably remembers "Romano's" restaurant across from Nativity Church on S.R. 60. To those who enjoyed the Greek/Italian cuisine, let me be one of the first to announce, "Gus is back".

That's right - Gus has opened another restaurant, this one called Cafe Romano in Kingsway Plaza (Food Lion Center) in North Brandon. Travel north of S.R. 60 for approximately 2 miles on Kingsway, and the bright red lights of Cafe Romano will become a beacon of good food.

It is a smaller place than the old one, about 14 tables; but on the other hand, it is more intimate. We dined on a week night and it was busy. We were seated immediately and there were enough waitresses to make the service good.

The plastic white tablecloths made us a tad suspicious and the iced tea's we ordered did not appear to be fresh-brewed. The menu was very interesting with a wide selection. After we ordered, we received our salad and it was room temperature! By now now we were really feeling the "uh-oh" blues; but that's when EVERYTHING improved rapidly and to a very, very good level of satisfaction.

The house creamy Italian dressing was excellent, and the fact that the lettuce was crisp made us feel we were beginning a truly good dining experience.

The garlic bread served with dinner entrees is something you will talk about for along time and it keeps coming. Although we passed on appetizers, selections include calamari rings or feta cheese and olives, as well as the more sedate cheese sticks or fried mushrooms. The

soup and salad offering, although ala carte, was also very good including a Caesar and grilled chicken salad, or any one of three sizes of Gus's own Greek salad.

My wife went for the baked spaghetti dinner with meatballs, while I chose the shrimp and eggplant Parmesan. Served in a deep metal bowl, the baked spaghetti has an abundance of tomato sauce and is baked under the cover of rich and delicious melted mozzarella cheese. The homemade meatballs made it an excellent choice and definitely worth more than the price of \$6.45

The shrimp selection was served with a very large portion of sliced eggplant, topped with large shrimp, laced with tomato sauce and once again covered with a rich blanket of melted mozzarella cheese. The side dish of pasta was also excellent.

There were six categories from which to select dinner, and I think you should be aware of them all. First is the pasta section, including pasta primavera and fettucine Alfredo. Secondly is the baked dinner section which includes the baked spaghetti as well as baked ziti or baked ziti Romano, a Gus specialty.

The next area to tempt the tastebuds is the seafood section which included my entree as well as shrimp and broccoli (in garlic and wine served over linguine).

The most popular of the Greek specialty section is the chicken riganati (lemon juice, oregano and spices), but also includes moussaka, gyro platter or a souflaki platter. The meat section includes pork chops and Italian sausage and peppers served with onions, mushrooms, and a marinara sauce. Lastly, the chicken section includes chicken bianco

or chicken primavera to name a couple.

The entrees are diverse and range in price from \$4.95 to \$8.95 which includes soup or salad and garlic bread. Desserts include Baklava, rice pudding, spumoni or a tortoni. Twelve different eight-inch subs, a burger selection, and children's menu (at \$2.95) are also available.

Without appetizers or dessert, our dinner for two was under \$20 including tax and tip. The portions were so ample, that we took home a "people box" of leftovers.

After a somewhat dubious start, we can't wait to go back and visit Cafe Romano again and try some of the more esoteric offerings. It's a good meal at a great value.

Rating: (based on 5 stars)

- Food.....\*\*\*\*
- Service.....\*\*\*1/2
- Ambience....\*\*\*
- Overall.....\*\*\*1/2

Until We Eat Again,  
Elton Dumont



**CHURCH, from pg. 5**

9:30 and 11 a.m.

Rehearsals for the "Living Cross" have begun at First United Methodist Church of Brandon. It will be presented on March 25, 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and at the 10:55 worship service on the 27th. Maundy Thursday will be celebrated on March 31 with "The Living Last Supper" and communion.

The Youth Group at St. Stephen's Catholic Church will be camping out over Spring Break. Approximately 20 teens will head for Camp Florida for the camp-out March 28 through 30. When they return, members of the Senior High Youth Group will present the Living Stations of the Cross at the 7 p.m. Good Friday service.

Bell Shoals Baptist Church's new pastor, Dr. Ken Alford, will celebrate the risen Savior with his message and a multi-media presentation at all Easter services on April 3. Times are 8 a.m., 9:30 and 11 a.m.

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**Bits N Pieces**  
Around Bloomingdale



**by Marcy MacKenzie**  
**Playgroups Great For Kids, Moms**

Often mothers are somewhat overwhelmed after the birth of their child. To help ease the burden, groups have been forming around the Bloomingdale area designed to give support to the mothers and create social interactions for the children. The playgroups as they are so often called are very enriching for both mother and child.

Playgroups gather at homes or parks, or may even include shopping trips to the area malls. This spring brings creative ideas to keep toddlers busy. For instance, some groups are planning swimming lessons at the YMCA or local swim club. Trips to the park for a picnic are an enjoyable way for mother and child to get out of the house and enjoy the beautiful weather.

These groups are a cost effective way for your child to get the social interactions of a day care without leaving your child. Often playgroups choose a new location every week and on rainy days, a mom's house is a wise choice. It is necessary to plan activities several weeks ahead, in order to keep up with the constant restraints on

busy moms. Pick a day that is most convenient to all mothers in the group and stick with it. This gives moms a day to look forward to each week.

When asked, most mothers agreed that playgroups ensure a greater amount of sanity for themselves and helpful advice from others on topics of child care and discipline. The children learn to share and inadvertently teach each other new skills. Playgroups around the area advocate toy sharing. Mothers trade their children's toys around the group as many children quickly become bored with their new toys. When the toy makes it back to their original owner, it is like new to the child.

Most of the area's playgroups were formed by friends and neighbors with only a strand of common ground. A way to local a local group in a convenient area is to look for advertisements in local children's shops, the YMCA, or church bulletin boards. The more diverse the background of the mothers, the more interesting and well-rounded the groups become.

**Getting Children To Help With Spring Cleaning**

Why is it that cleaning is synonymous with spring? Why is it that as soon as the first ray of warm sunshine beams down on our face we begin this furry of household cleaning projects? All kids want to do, of course, is play outside, go

to the park, or ride their bikes, not to mention your own lack of interest in chores, too. Getting children to help with the cleaning is a struggle. You want a clean house; they want to play. Don't sweat it. Here are a few hints to get the kids to pitch in.

Let's create a funday of working around the house. Tell your children a few days ahead of time that the family is going to work together so that there aren't any plans broken. Skipping this family project is not an option.

A good start is to pool all your interests (aka chores). Find out from your kids what they think needs to be done around the house. Many times this will surprise you. Write down all the viable ideas on pieces of paper, throw them into a bag and have everyone draw a chore. Next, with a poster board, a magic marker, a few stickers and a little imagination your children can monitor their progress and you can see what still needs to be done.

Once the children have selected their chores go over with each child exactly how the chores need to be done. Not doing so, can lead parents to wish they had never asked in the first place. Children need to be taught how to do many things and sometimes even shown. Their idea of what looks good may not meet up to your expectations, so be very specific and set the example.

Some more suggestions on a more productive spring cleaning day? Keep the TV off. This is important; your children won't know what they are missing if it isn't on. Instead, let your children decide on a selection of music to listen to while they work. Sometimes parents and kids don't exactly have the same musical taste. If this is the case, a good word of advice - headphones. A pediatrician once said, "Choose your

battles." This may not be the time to argue over music.

Reward your children with simple things. For instance, offer to make your children's favorite dessert or order out for pizza when the work is completed. Designate a separate day to go to the beach or park or rent them their favorite movie. Always remember this if nothing else, motivation and accomplishment is the driving force behind every child.

Starting these ideas at an early age with your children is helpful, but with a little bit of loving firmness, even your older children can learn to help out. Set the example, show your children that cleaning isn't as bad as they make it out to be, and can even be fun. Even if you have to grin and bear it, in the end it will be worth all the effort.

**Engagement**

Leslie and Krystyna Butler of Bloomingdale West announce the engagement of their daughter Krista L. Butler to Mr. Bradley N. Weir, son of Robert and Judy Weir of Ringold, Ga.

Kirsta is a 1991 graduate of Bloomingdale Senior High School. She and Weir are students currently attending Tennessee Wesleyan College where they plan to graduate in the summer of 1995.

If you have questions about planning a wedding reception, anniversary celebration, or graduation party, write to Marcy at *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 101, Valrico 33594. Please send wedding and engagement announcements to the same address, attention Marcy MacKenzie.

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Send your social news to *The Bloomingdale Gazette* 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101, Valrico, FL 33594, or stop by our office in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza. Please be sure to include a phone number. Photographs are also welcomed.

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# Youths Have High Hopes

by Rozel Sciulli

For Courtland Hunt and Brad Weinstein, spring has always meant baseball, with June and the end of another season coming all too quickly. But this year the two Bloomingdale youths have set their sights on continuing their baseball play right through the summer as members of East-West Baseball Ambassadors.

Courtland, old son of Terry Hunt, hopes to order to participate. Ambassadors will take him and mates overseas an international Holland. Prior to ment, the team practice games around the French countryside.



Courtland Hunt

the 12-year and Debbie raise \$4500 in pate in an program that his team- to take part in tournament in the tourna- will play

Weinstein is 11 and the son of Barry Weinstein. He hopes to raise in excess of \$2000 that will allow him to play in tournaments in Canada.

Both young men will be holding fund raisers throughout the spring to aid their cause, and both parents say that donations may be made to East-West Ambassadors in each boy's name and mailing it to East-West Baseball Ambassadors, 2805-B Millwood Ave., Columbia, SC 29205. According to Mrs. Hunt, contributors should remember to include the player's name.

Hunt and Weinstein were selected to the Ambassadors after try-outs through the Doyle Baseball School in Dover.

Hunt, a 7th grader at Grace Christian School, has been playing baseball since he was six. He has also raced BMX bicycles at the state and national levels. In 1992, he placed third at the Grand

The pitcher is active in his Last fall he raised the fall improvements to Bloomingdale facility. In addition Debbie Hunt members of the Watch program. Hunt's fund is to have a homerun derby, where he will enlist donations based on the number of homers he can hit out of the Little League's major field.



Brad Weinstein

Weinstein is a straight A student at Progress Village sixth grade center. A well-rounded athlete, Weinstein also plays county rec basketball and has taken karate for three years. Weinstein is raising money for his trip by selling candy bars, and so far he has several business sponsorships.

For further information about the Ambassadors program, residents may call the Weinstein's at 685-9092, or the Hunt's at 684-5342.

## REC, from pg. 1

Bloomingdale center will have a large multi-purpose room, arts and crafts room, game room, a kitchen, office space, storage areas, and restroom facilities. Unique to this building is the visibility from the centrally located office into each of the large rooms.

The center will face Bloomingfield with entrance to the parking lot on Canoga Park Drive. The parking lot will be expanded to take in the land currently occupied by the basketball courts. Two new basketball courts will be laid southeast of (behind) the building, closer to Canoga Park Drive.

The site plan also features a jogging trail along the northern and eastern perimeters of the park, possibly connecting with existing sidewalks. Those two sides of the park will also be cordoned off by 24" posts situated approximately five feet apart.

A previously-proposed retention pond has been scratched from the plan. Instead, the existing wetland will be rehydrated by run-off from the property.

The board and the county made

agreed to several changes including moving new playground equipment to a location farther away from the street. In addition, a suggestion was made to plant trees as a buffer between the park and homes on Cedar Grove and Sweetleaf that back up to it.

Still a source of contention with residents whose properties abut the park is the county's decision not to erect fencing along the south and west sides of the property. According to Kessler, it is customary for the county to install chain-link fencing on park perimeters to separate the park from homes, but this would not comply with Bloomingdale deed restrictions.

Board member and park neighbor Steve Miller plans, once again, to survey fellow neighbors this time to determine if a joint venture between the homeowners and the county can be agreed to, whereby homeowners would pay for wooden privacy fence that the county would install.

Jackson hopes at this point to proceed with the final, more detailed plans, and if all goes well, construction could begin in late summer or early fall.



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Astrid Davies-Owner

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U. S. Congressman Charles Canady, who represents part of Valrico, was a guest of members of Bloomingdale Senior High School's FFA last week.

### PLANS, from pg. 1

commercial site. These improvements could involve, but are not limited to, the widening of Bloomingdale from Bell Shoals to Lithia Pinecrest, the installation of traffic control devices along Bell Shoals, or improvements to any one of the regional roadways which would sustain "significant impact."

Talks with residential developers Shimberg/Cross are proceeding as planned, according to Weaver. Upon completion of negotiations, the developers will be responsible for the addition of 1100 new single family homes in Bloomingdale East.

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# Bruin Beat



by Laura Vella

Colleen Fawk, Allison McDonald, and Ashley Ott, all ninth graders at Burns Junior High, were selected to play in the Hillsborough County High School Honors Orchestra. The three were chosen on the basis of their displayed talent and skillful playing. They were selected for the elite group by Burns orchestra instructor, Mrs. Jean Hart.

Held at Brandon High School, the rehearsals and concert took place on Thursday, Feb. 10 through Saturday, Feb. 12, ending with the concert on Saturday night. The orchestra, under the experienced conduction of Mr. Larry Cullison, performed pieces including "Carmen Suite Number 1," "Unfinished Symphony: First Movement", and "The Red Carpet."

### Annual Read-in

Students who have participated in the Read For The

Stars reading program at Burns and have read three or more books participated in the Annual Read In in the school's media center Friday. It was an afternoon of reading, reading related activities, snacks and fun. The students had an opportunity to win door prizes, and they all tallied the total number of pages that have been read during the course of the program.

### Principal's Honor Roll

Burns students who earned Principal's Honor Roll standing with straight A's for the second grading period included the following:

8th graders Megan Allen, Elizabeth Bauer, Kelly Boehm, Ryan Bolchoz, Shannon Brewer, Arika Brown, Valerie Bryan, Melissa Cantwell, Amandeep Dhaliwal, Robert Eisenberg, Daniel Elkins, Christopher Gatlyn, Alexis Gordon, Andrew Hooker, Megan Hubbard, Aju Jacob, Michelle Jones, Daniel Lorch, Andrew Lund, Jessica Moats, Nekeshia Negussie, Natalie Papienski, Erin Porter, Jaime Ramirez, Michael Rhey, Vivian Ryan, Melissa Scheereff, Katherine Teel, Veronica Tegen, Tiffany Tharpe, Amanda Wetherington, and Kelly Wicklund.

9th graders Angela Covington, Amy D'Urso, Robert Doss, Stanley Kurek, Kelley Lavandera, Julie Neuber, Christine Nichols, Timothy Parrish, Michael Pennock, Nina Seenath, Amanda Smith, Angela Spiker, Diane

Standaert, Mark Stock, Mary Thomas, Courtney Tinder, Laura Vella, and Margaret Willman.

## March Calendar

- 8 - Math League at Mann; 1:15
- 10-Track: vs. Pierce at Leto; 5:30
- 11-French & Spanish field trip
- Student Government Dance; 7:30-10p.m.
- 15-Track: Field Events at Brandon
- 17-Track: Divisional Running Events at Brandon
- 19-Solo & Ensemble Concert Orchestra at Armwood
- 21-Music Spring Concert at Bloomingtondale; 7 p.m.
- 22-Music Spring Concert at Bloomingtondale; 7 p.m.
- Track: Jr. High Championship at Gaither
- 23-Club Day; early dismissal
- 28-April 1 - Spring Break; NO SCHOOL!

# Bulls Eye



by Brian Crim

Last month was highlighted by the annual tradition of rushing for service clubs. Interact Club, Jayteens, Key Club and Leo Club all held evaluations and interviews during February to determine whether applicants would gain admission to their clubs.

Organizations have a 100-member cap and all use the same application form. Clarification about the rules against hazing were made clear, distinctly prohibiting the

requirement of rushees to engage in any act of self-humiliation.

Service clubs offer the student body opportunities to help their community through service projects.

"We want students that want to be involved," said Matt Hauer, adviser to Leo Club. Service clubs look for well-rounded students, but also for people who are unique in their own right.

The clubs have collectively gone to schools and held parties for children, held beach clean-ups, raised money for special causes, held canned food drives and other projects. Bloomingdale's service clubs have maintained a solid reputation around the Brandon and Valrico areas.

Important to the clubs' prosperity are the advisors, Clyde Trathowen and Nick Pennington direct Interact. Donna Schreier is in charge of Jayteens. Franci Dupre and Jim Rich head Key Club, and Hauer administers Leo. These faculty members contribute countless

amounts of hours to ensure that their clubs run smoothly.

by Brian Okay

Vendors and students combined their talents last month to present the Junior Class Council Arts and Crafts Fair in front of Bloomingdale Senior High School. Participants in the fair included 30 junior class council members and officers, Mrs. Barr, the junior class sponsor, and 24 vendors and artisans.

Held to raise money for grad night and the prom for their own graduating year (1995), the arts and crafts fair was a big success. "It was the junior class's best fund raiser this year," said Mrs. Barr.

The vendors are part of a group that travel to fund-raiser fairs to sell their items. Some of the items sold included authentic wooden furniture, handmade tepees, quilts, and even interesting hair pins.

Don't forget to congratulate our seniors! To place a graduation ad in our May issue call *The Bloomingdale Gazette* at 681-2051 between 9:30 & 12:30, Monday through Friday.

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## Educational Edge



by Dr. Raymond J. Huntington

Report card day brings stress to many households. When parents look at their child's report card and performance record, the most important things to evaluate are these: Is the student doing his or her best? Is he or she achieving to his or her highest potential?

If the parents believe their child could be doing better than the grades reflect, the situation should be remedied.

If a skill is not learned adequately, future skills will suffer. It's like trying to build a second story on a house when the foundation is shaky.

Mediocre or poor grades can result from a variety of problems. When a child brings home a poor report card:

**Examine the situation realistically.** It's important to remember that every drop in grades indicates that valuable

skills are being missed. An effort should be made to learn and reinforce those skills. But while this is being done, it's also important to identify and remedy the basic problem so it does not continue to hurt the child's education.

**What is really the problem?** Is there a behavior problem? Sometimes, bright students get bad grades for behavior related activities. Is the child turning in homework? Is it correct and on-time? Is the child bored with the school work and therefore is not paying enough attention? These are not excuses; they are symptoms of different problems. They must be identified before they can be remedied.

**Talk with the child.** Why does the child think he or she is receiving poor grades? Does the student take the situation seriously? Does the student have plans to do better? It's important that the student knows that the parents take the situation seriously. Parents should work with the student to develop a plan that will help him or her achieve better grades. Parents should let the student know that they are supportive and that they believe the student.

**Talk with the teacher or counselor.** The student's teacher or counselor is a professional. What are the instructor's observations. What are his or her recommendations?

## Alafia PTA Hosts Dinner

by Sheri Ogorek

Back by popular demand, the Alafia Elementary PTA will sponsor the 2nd annual Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, March 10, from 5:30 to 7:30, in the school's cafeteria. The fund raiser will feature spaghetti, salad, and breadsticks catered by the Olive Garden Restaurant, dessert and a drink. Carry-outs will also be available.

Ticket prices in advance of the dinner are \$5.50 for adults, \$3.75 for children three to 12, and free for children two and under. Prices will be 50 cents higher at the door.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Alafia children under the direction of the school's music teachers. This event is open to the public.

At their last meeting on March 1, the PTA addressed the topic of substance abuse and more specifically the effects of cigarettes, alcohol and drugs on the body. Speakers included a therapist from St. Joseph's Hospital, a representative from the American Cancer Society, and a local pharmacist. The meeting was held in conjunction with the school's week-long campaign against alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

Earlier in the day, professional wrestler Brian Blair of the Killer Bees wrestling team, visited the children and talked with them about the importance of staying drug free and free from other abusive substances.

### Terrific Kids

January's Terrific Kids, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Bloomingdale/Valrico, were the following:

Kindergarteners Connor Singleton, Michelle Nietfeld, Stephen Lydon, Suhey Gonzalez-Lopez, and Johnny Goodrich; 1st graders David Vassalotti, Katherine Lugert, Cameron Worden, Jackie Sills, Megan Anderson, and Kayleigh Goodrich; 2nd graders Daniel Butson, Trevor Brewer, Emily Bailey, Jillian Taurig, Timothy Cocrane, and Jewel-Lee Byers;

3rd graders Rhyann Reidy, Carolyn Burke, Aaron Wise, Michael Wiesenhart, Christel Holton, Laura Licciardello; 4th graders Sarah Wylie, Tyler Austin, Andrea Yacub, Sandra Yaich, Peter Moretuzzo, and Bobby Reyes; 5th graders Mitch Grafton, Howard Magruder, Ryan Mower, Jillian Murray, and Andrea Goselin. Other Terrific Kids included Victoria Auten, Akim Outing, Kristy Currey, Jason Marra, and Hampton Holland.

The program recognizes students for their efforts to improve in any area, academic or otherwise.

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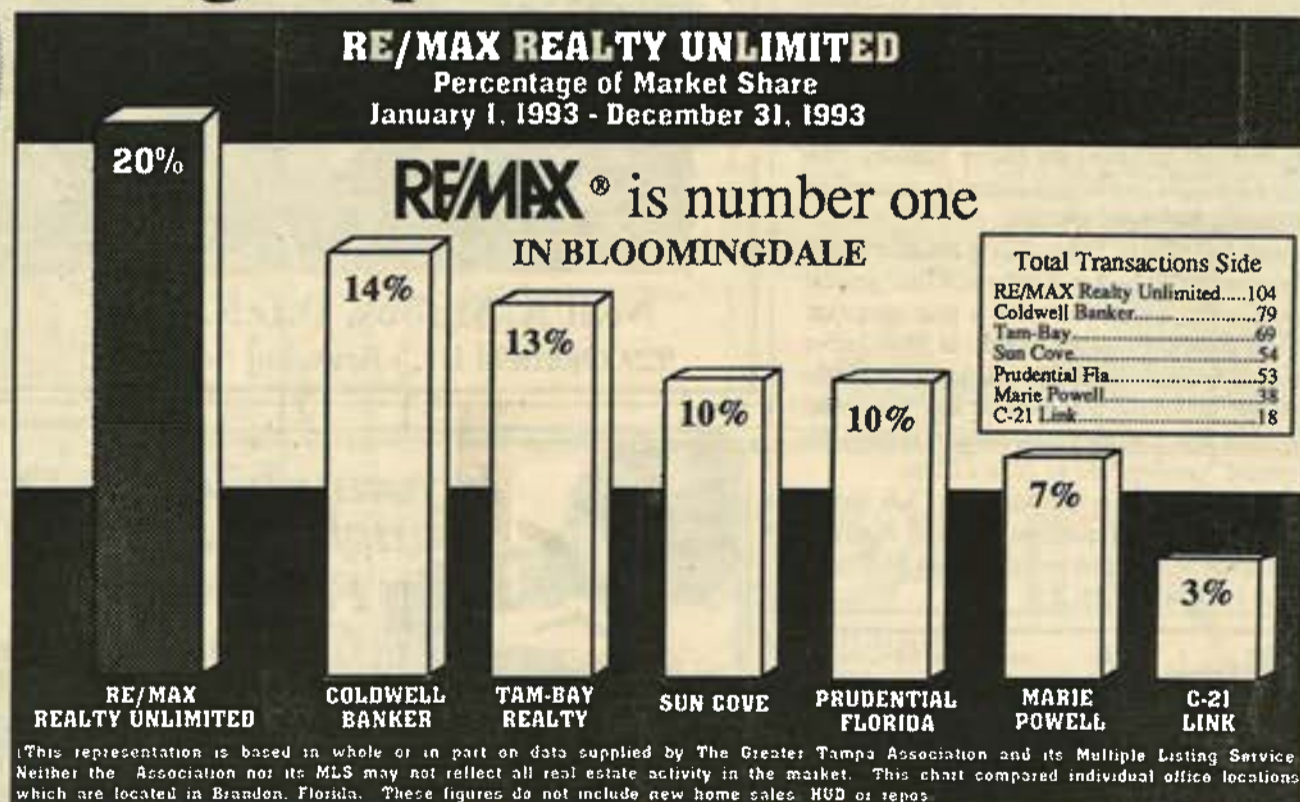
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# Kids Kalendar Rated G



### Lunch With Easter Bunny

Hop on over to the annual "Lunch With The Easster Bunny" on Saturday, March 26, which will be held at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. Sponsored by Center Place, the lunch will begin at 11 a.m. and will be followed by an egg hunt. The cost is \$2.50 per person and reservations are required. Please call 685-8888 for information and reservations.

### Science Fair

The Hillsborough County Regional Science Fair will present hundreds of outstanding science projects of both private and public school students in grades kindergarten through 12th. The projects will be on display this Wednesday and Thursday, March 9 and 10 at the USF Sun Dome.

## March The Perfect Time To Adopt Paddy Doyle

### Special To The Gazette

This year, families and children can be truly "green" for St. Patrick's Day by celebrating the Irish spirit and showing environment concern by adopting the manatee Paddy Doyle. The Save the Manatee Club offers adoptions of its manatees for \$15. "Adoptive parents" will receive an adoption certificate, an underwater photo of Paddy Doyle, his life history, and an annual subscription to the Save the Manatee Club Newsletter.

According to the organization, the West Indian manatee is listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Manatees can be found in Florida's shallow, slow-moving rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals, and coastal areas. Sometimes in the summer, they can be found as far west as Alabama and as far north as the Carolinas.

Although manatees are not considered green in color (they are gray-brown), algae has been known to grow on their backs, giving them a "bit on" the green."

The manatee Paddy Doyle bears the perfect name for a St. Patrick's Day gift. Named after the Irish boxer, he has the distinction of being one of the most feisty manatees in SMC's adoption program. He was chosen three different years to be monitored by a radio tracking program (researchers use information from radio tracking to monitor and study manatee migration patterns, habitat preferences and association behavior).

Each time Paddy Doyle had to be captured to place the radio collar on his trail, it turned into a major event, according to SMC spokesperson Nancy Sadusky. "He resisted so vigorously that he was named by researchers after the fighting Irishman," she said.

It is easy to identify Paddy Doyle because of the distinctive scars on his back and tail which bear graphic testimony to a close encounter with a boat propeller. Paddy Doyle spends his winter months at Blue Spring State Park, near Orange City, Florida. Sadusky said he the manatee seems to like the area so much that he remains close to the park area even during the summer months. He is often spotted "cruising" the St. John's River.

Sadusky said the Save the Manatee Club should receive adoption orders no later than March 10. Requests may be sent to 500 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL 32751, or by calling 1-800-432-JOIN.

Judging will take place on the 9th, with awards to be presented on March 10.

### Tampa Museum of Art

One Saturday each month at the Tampa Museum of Art is dedicated to children with various workshops through June.

This month's workshop and walking tour combined will be held March 12 at the museum located on Ashley Street just north of Kennedy Blvd. Children and their parents may participate in the Family Walking Tour with Tampa City Councilwoman Linda Saul-Sena. Beginning at 10 a.m. until noon, it will feature Tampa's art and architecture.

Fees are \$3 for members and \$6 for non-members.

Also this month at the museum is the opening of the 23rd annual International Children's Art Exhibition from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 6. From noon to five children can enjoy the art making activity area of the Gasparilla Sidewalk Art Festival. General admission to the museum is \$1 during the festival.

Upcoming children's workshops include "The Potter's Art", "Creative Recycling", and an opportunity to "Design and Create Crafts."

Leroy Thompson, one of the original Cracker cowboys, and his horse visited the children at Primary Prep Pre-School last month when the school sponsored "Cowboy Day". At right, Brock Bjornson, J. J. Clark, and Patrick Moffitt, who look like real cowboys, enjoy their ride around the playground. Valrico was a stop along the cattle drive from Kissimmee to the Tampa shipping docks in the early part of this century.



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# Business Notes



## Teens "Work Out" This Week

Not weight lifting or jogging, but lifting telephones and running from office to office, will be a part of the "Great American Work Out", sponsored by the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, in conjunction with Little Caesar's Pizza and Hillsborough County Schools.

According to chamber vice president Barbara Baroni, on Wednesday, over 250 10th grade students representing Bloomingdale, Brandon, and Armwood High Schools, will spend about two hours in the morning with various area businesses observing and, when possible, getting hands-on opportunities to discover the variety of skills needed in today's job market. These students, she said, will

be getting first-hand information from business experts - the employers and their employees.

Baroni explained the main objective of this program is to emphasize to members of the "future work force" the importance of thinking on their fee, organizational skills, and coping with a wide range of personalities.

Participating businesses will host at least two students, taking them to their place of business and then enjoying a pizza luncheon.

Students were surveyed prior to the work out to determine which workplace skills they feel are the most important. After the experience, they will have an opportunity to change their choices, said Baroni.

## Monroe & Bogie's

Janice, Toni and Cindy have recently joined the staff of Monroe and Bogie's at 4332 S. Bell Shoals.

Janice and Toni have had many years collectively as hair designers who specialize with that individual hairstyle that's right for you.

Along with Janice and Toni, Cindy, an experienced nail tech, enhances the detailed care given to their clients.

## Realtor Wins Regional Sales Award

Local realtor, Frank S. Pierre of Coldwell Banker, was recently named the 1993 Number One Sales Associate for the Tampa Bay area of the West Central Florida operations of Coldwell Banker Residential Group.

In addition, St. Pierre received the International President's Elite award, the highest honor among Coldwell Banker Sales associates. Ranked as one of the top 25 Coldwell Banker associates in the United States, St. Pierre also received the Chairman's Advisory Council award, presented to the top one percent of the Chairman's Club members.

## Realtors Excel

Donna MacGiffert surpassed one million dollars in production for Sun Cove Realty in January. She was named Agent of the Month for overall Sales Leadership and was number one in listings and closed business. Also at the local office, Nancy Dawsey was number one in listings sold, and Mark Sorenson was number one in sales pending.

## Real Estate Moves Who Sets The Price?



Imagine that there is only one home for sale in town - yours. Next consider that 10 families are moving to town in the next two weeks, and all of them need a home. Who do you think will set the price on your home?

No only will you be the one setting the price, one of those families will pay your price, and maybe more! They need what you have - the only house in town for sale.

Enter "supply and demand." In a free market economy, with many buyers and many sellers, another factor enters the picture - competition. All sellers are competing against one another for the attention of buyers.

Who sets the sale price of each home now? Is it the seller, the real estate agent, or the buyer?

Sellers can set the "asking" price at any level, high or low. They can base the price on their need to purchase another home, or on their desire to purchase a new boat from the proceeds of the sale. More realistically, they may choose a price based on other homes currently for

sale, in order to compete effectively against those homes for the attention of buyers.

The seller's agent can provide valuable information upon which the asking price may be based. Prices paid recently for similar homes tell what buyers are willing to pay in today's market. Factual information about other homes currently for sale tells the story about the competition.

Who sets the final sale price? Buyers do! They compare the value offered by all homes, then make their purchase decision. When sellers price their home based on factual information, they often attract buyers willing to pay the full asking price.

To locate buyers at full price, sellers need only the right competitive information. An asking price based on the facts may even cause buyers to compete for a home. *Michael Davis is affiliated with RE/MAX Realty Unlimited.*

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# Bloomingtondale Nine Take The Field

by Brian Bergren

Last week marked the official opening of the Bloomingtondale High School baseball season. After finishing the season with an impressive 19-8 record last year and capturing their district title, the Bulls are ready to again attempt to bring home a state championship title to Bloomingtondale.

At the helm of this highly regarded team is Manager Jack Miltner, who said the team's success this year depends on the strength of the Bulls' defense. After a season with only two errorless games, the Bulls plan to make defense a key concern in 1994.

The Bulls' bats were hot last year and are predicted to be even hotter in the hands of team captains Mac Mackiewitz and Josh Etheridge, both teammates on a South Brandon Little League team that went national's three years ago. Mackiewitz led the team with a .400 average last year, and Etheridge wasn't far behind putting up an impressive .390.

The Bulls' bats played a big role in the success of last year's team and gave the team its deserved reputation as an offensive powerhouse. The familiar faces of Mackiewitz at first and Etheridge at short will give the Bulls the added defense it needs to capture the state title. At the other corner of the diamond is Jeremy Robinson, making the powerful throws to first with what is rumored to be one of the strongest arms on the team. Leading the defense from behind the plate this year is senior catcher Jeff Stein.

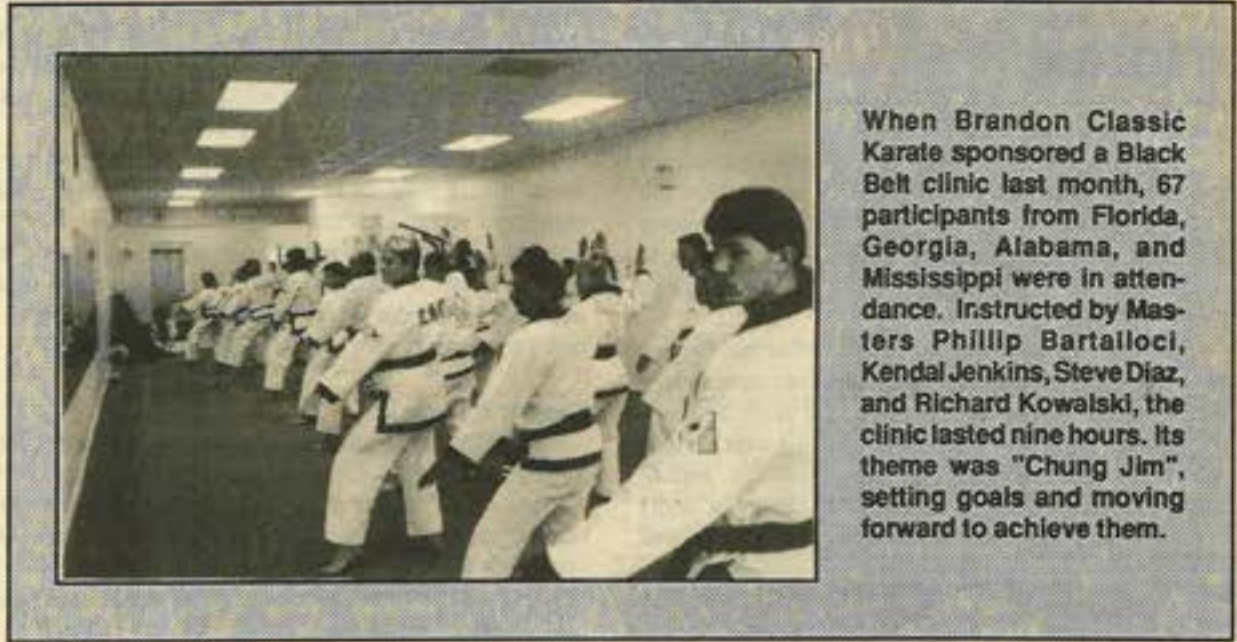
Last year's pitching staff is a tough act to follow considering Perugini's and Chandler's no-hitters, but this year's crew has come strong arms and the ability to throw some no-hitters of their-own. Returning to the mount is Mackiewitz with a 1993 ERA of 0.00 and a 1-1 record. Junior Mike Valdez and senior Jeff Wools are the other starters.

Bloomingtondale has had a reputation for turning out pro material and this year is no exception. The University of North Florida has offered Mackiewitz a full four-year scholarship, and a professional career is almost assured for the all-state, second team first baseman. Etheridge also has been offered a full scholarship to Auburn University. A number of pro scouts frequent the Bulls' practices and games, and there are "more scouts than ever," according to Miltner. Last year, Bobby Lentz and Terrence Freeman's rights were acquired by the Montreal Expos and the California Angels, respectively. This history of great talent brings scouts from all over the country to Bloomingtondale.

The team's goal is to win it all this year, and according to some, the Bulls' chances this year are better than they have ever been before.

"If we don't get to the final four, I'll be disappointed," said Miltner.

Great expectations for a great team.



When Brandon Classic Karate sponsored a Black Belt clinic last month, 67 participants from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi were in attendance. Instructed by Masters Phillip Bartaloci, Kendal Jenkins, Steve Diaz, and Richard Kowalski, the clinic lasted nine hours. Its theme was "Chung Jim", setting goals and moving forward to achieve them.

## Time-Out

### Bears Set Football Sign-ups

Members of the Brandon Bears youth football organization will hold the first of three sign-ups for the 1994 season on Saturday, March 26, at the Bloomingtondale Civic Center, located at the corner of Bloomingtondale and Lithia Pinecrest.

Registration for returning players and cheerleaders is set from 9 a.m. to noon. Open registration for new players and cheerleaders will be held from noon to 3 p.m.

The Brandon Bears accepts children ages seven to 16 with a July 31 birthday cut-off. Applicants must present a copy of their birth certificate at registration.

For further information, parents may call Karen Brown at 653-3768, or Brenda Rogers at 684-6944.

The Bears' season begins in September with practices beginning Aug. 1.

### Tennis Winners Announced

Three winners emerged from the Men's and Women's Club Singles Championships at Brandon Swim and Tennis Club last month. In the 4.0- category, Diane Stabelin was the women's champ defeating Alyce Goldsmith 6-3, 6-1. Chris Cook defeated Mark Batcho 6-4, 7-6 in the same division. In the 4.5+ bracket, Ken Novak bested Tom Rocco 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

## Athletic Calendar

Bulls Home Schedules  
(For Baseball, Golf, Tennis, Track, Softball)

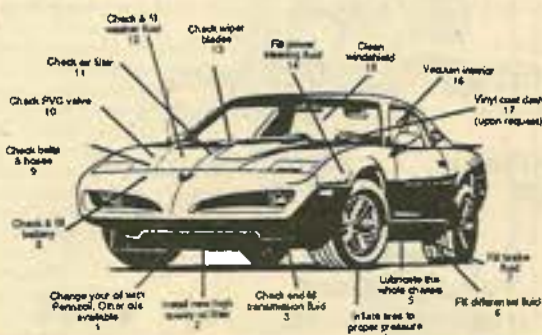
Mar. 5	Softball v. Gaither 7 p.m. Baseball v. Gaither 7 p.m.
Mar. 7	Boys Tennis v. East Bay
Mar. 8	Girls Golf v. Brandon & P.C.
Mar. 10	Boys & Girls Golf v. Leto Girls Tennis v. Robinson
Mar. 11	Softball v. Brandon 7 p.m. Baseball v. Brandon 7 p.m.
Mar. 14	Boys Tennis v. Armwood Girls Golf v. Leto & P.C.
Mar. 15	Boys Golf v. Leto & T.C. Track v. Gaither 6 p.m.
Mar. 17	Boys Tennis v. Jefferson Boys Golf v. CHS & Gaither
Mar. 18	Softball v. Plant 7 p.m. Baseball v. Plant 7 p.m.
Mar. 21	Boys Tennis v. Hillsborough
Mar. 22	Softball v. Tampa Tech 7 p.m. Baseball v. Tampa Tech 7 p.m. Boys Golf v. East Bay & Jesuit
Mar. 23	Girls Golf v. King & CHS
Mar. 24	Girls Tennis v. Plant City Boys Golf v. East Bay & Plant Softball v. Robinson 7 p.m. Baseball v. Robinson 7 p.m.



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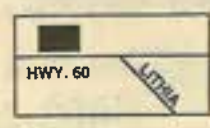
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**Bloomington Homeowner's Association**

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**Kiwanis Club**

Weekly meetings of the Kiwanis Club of Bloomingdale/Valrico are held each Wednesday at noon at Pat's Place restaurant, corner of Bloomingdale and John Moore.

**Move-Along-Athon**

Bloomingtondale Park East will be the site of a "thon" sponsored by the American Cancer Society, Saturday, March 12. Registration is 8 a.m. with a 9 a.m. start time. "Making Strides Against Cancer" is the theme for this Move-Along-Athon which will accept walkers, runners, wheelchair competitors, skaters, or rollerbladers. Proceeds will raise money for research, education and service/rehabilitation programs in the Brandon community.

Participants will win prizes for pledges obtained.

**Coping With Bullies**

Parents who are worried about the rising trend in violence or whose children are having peer-related problems on the playground or are victims of bullies, may have their concerns addressed at a talk presented by Dr. Terrence Webster-Doyle on Friday, April 15, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Brandon TaeKwonDo in Bloomingtondale Square.

Dr. Webster is an educator, a martial artist, and author of "Why is Everybody Always Picking on Me: A Guide to Handling Bullies."

The talk is open to parents and students at a cost of \$5 per person.

**PCHS Class Reunion**

Calling all grads from the Plant City High School class of 1959. A 35th reunion is being planned on Saturday, June 4. All graduates of this class are asked to contact Sally Taylor, 1316 Jim Johnson Loop, Plant City, FL 33566.

**Annual Spring Picnic**

The Brothers and students of Mary Help of Christians School will hold their annual Spring Picnic on Sunday, March 20 at the campus located at 6400 E. Chelsea St., Tampa. The 66th annual event will begin with a special Mass at 11 a.m. followed by a barbecue chicken dinner from noon until 5 p.m. Games, drawings, a flea market, bingo, fast foods and beverages, entertainment, and school open house from 1 to 3 p.m. will round out the day's festivities.

The school is accepting donations for the flea market. Items may be dropped off at the school, which will arrange to pick up large items such as furniture. To make this arrangement, residents are asked to call 626-6191.

**Blood Bank Makes Plea**

The critical shortage of blood experienced by blood centers across the US since early January has hit the Tampa Bay area. Members of Florida Blood Services are experiencing severe inventory shortages of blood types O+ and O-. Local residents may donate at the Brandon Branch of the Southwest Florida Blood Bank, 274 S. Moon Avenue, across from Brandon Hospital.

**Hats Off**



Rob Webster, former Bloomingdale High honor student and basketball standout and graduate with the class of 1991, continues on the road to success, according to his parents, Rob

and Diane Webster of Bloomingdale West. He is presently a second semester junior at Florida State University where he continues his academic achievements. Rob has been accepted into the



Webster

College of Business and for the third time, has been named to the Dean's List. He has earned a 3.93 GPA. When not in class, Rob coaches a youth basketball league team of 11 and 12-year olds in Tallahassee. Additionally, he plays center/forward for his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, basketball team.

**Classified**

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