BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXX Number 5

MAY 2011 . THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980



survivor walk for Relay For Life started off the evening at Bloomingdale High School.

Relay against cancer

Bloomingdale High School hosted a Relay For Life event March 25-26, raising \$93,665 among the 52 teams who participated. See story, page 4.

INSIDE

While the date has changed, the clean-up is the same

Community Cleanup Day will be Saturday, June 11. Make sure to save the date. See story, page 12

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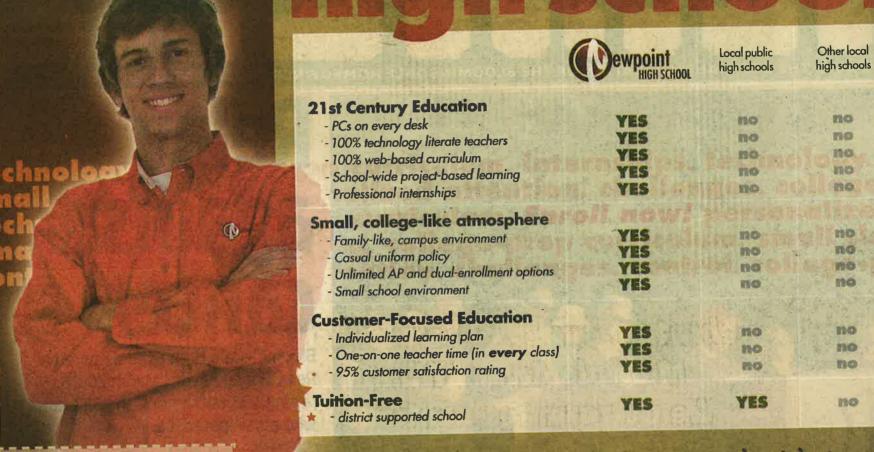
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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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Charles Darwin

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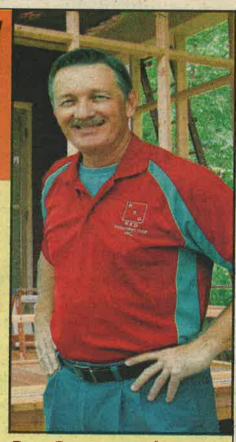
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Meetings: first Tuesday in January, March, May, September and November at 7 p.m.

Web site: bloomingdalegazette.com

President: Stanley Lee Vice president: Jim Harris Secretary: Jane Lee Treasurer: Dennis Osborn **Directors:**

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The Gazette is delivered free to Bloomingdale residents on the first Saturday of each month.



The survivor walk was lead by a drum line from Bloomingdale High School's marching band.

Bloomingdale Relay For Life was a success

BY KIM WALLACE

This year Bloomingdale High School hosted a successful event on March 25-26 by raising \$93,665. This is just \$4,335 short of meeting their goal of \$98,000. This was raised with 52 teams who participated in the event. Sara Levinson, event director, was extremely pleased with the outcome of the money raised considering the economy. Last year's event had 46 teams and raised \$90,000. Sara commented that there is still time to meet Bloomingthe help of the communi-

You can still donate to this event by going to www.relayforlife.org/ bloomingdalefl or mailing your donation to the American Cancer Society, 1462 Oakfield Drive, Bran-

name on it.



Sara Levinson, director, and Sarah Weiss, event chair, prepare for Relay For Life.

This event would not have been successful without the help of the following teams: The top team in the event was Cimino Eledale's Goal of \$98,000 with mentary school with more than \$10,000 in donations, followed by Frost Elementary with \$7,501, Alafia Elementary with \$6,307, Yates Elementary with \$5,613, and Lithia Springs Elementary with \$5,605.

Congratulations Bloomingdale! The American don, FL 33511. Please be Cancer Society says..."It is sure to mark your teams About a Community That Takes Up The Fight."



Brad Lott, Cindy Lott, Brooke Lott, Blair Lott, Mark Lott, and Brittany Lott walk to raise money in honor of their mother, who is fight strong!



The Faith Is Believing Team raised \$3,000 during Relay for Life.

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Colin Julian, Member Newsome High School Golf Team, Nationally Ranked Tournaments 2 top 5, 3 top 10, 6 top 20

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MAY

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Barbara Tucker

BLOOMINGDALEBUZZ

BY SUSAN GREEN

ith the price of gasoline nearing \$4 a gallon, we decided to ask local residents whether they're feeling the pinch in their wallets. We posed this month's question to lunchtime customers, all from Valrico, at the Starbucks coffeehouse on Lithia-Pinecrest Road.



Pete Cajigal



Philip Daivs and Treble

Linda DiMiceli

Has the price of gas affected your driving habits or summer travel plans?

Pete Cajigal: "No. Life goes on."

Philip Davis (pictured with his dog, Treble): "Absolutely. I have switched from putting mid-grade in my car to getting the lowest grade gasoline. I try to clump all my errands to-gether."

Barbara Tucker: "I've curtailed some trips and tried to consolidate. ... I am thinking of going back to Michigan [for vacation], but the price of gas is a factor.'

Linda DiMiceli: "Definitely. Since I'm unem-ployed right now, it definitely has curtailed my spending and limited my going out and doing things."

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John Stewart

Fruit baskets with a twist

BY SUSAN GREEN

Steve Buscarino would never star in a remake of the movie "Please Don't Eat the Daisies"; he wants people to eat the blossoms he sells at Edible Arrange-

Cut from fresh pineapple and often dipped in chocolate, the daisy bouquets at Buscarino's store make a tasty alternative to flowers for special occasions.

"The first time they come in, people always say, 'Flowers die in two days. At least we get to eat this," Buscarino said.

He and his sister, Cathy Seal, opened their franchise about five years ago in an office plaza near River Hills subdivision. In January, they moved their store to 3455 Lithia-Pinecrest Road, in the Shoppes at Lithia retail center anchored by Publix.

Already they have seen an increase in business, Buscarino said.

fic," he said. "I can't wait special to see my numbers at the match the holiday or per-

Storage

• Tables



Steve Buscarino is a co-owner of Edible Arrangements, which sells gift baskets of fresh fruit cut to resemble flowers. The store moved from the River Hills area to Bloomingdale in January.

end of the year."

Arrangements Edible has designs that celebrate ments, for example, can be all the major holidays, as well as special occasions, get-well wishes and birthdays. Floral arrangements can be fashioned from fresh bananas, berries, melons and orange slices as well as pineapple and New York, said his sister "We needed foot traf- offered to customers in has lived in the Valrico

sonality of the receiver.

Father's Day arrangeserved up in containers that resemble motorcycles, race cars, golf balls or basketballs.

Buscarino, a former police officer and car dealership service adviser from containers to area since 1990 and he

BASKETS, Page 12



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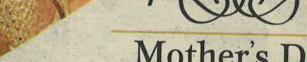






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BHS hosts first annual dodge ball game

On April 8 Blooming-dale High School hosted their first dodge ball game to help raise funds for The Humane Society of Tampa Bay.

Bethany Wallace, make it happen.



to help raise funds for The Bethany Wallace, Sal Lopez, Austin Haley, Troy Ritzel, Austin White, Katlin Suttmiller and Brenna Keeler are ready to Humane Society of Tampa make it happen.



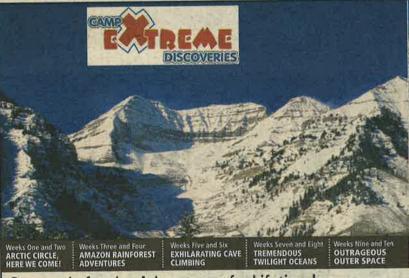
On your mark, get set, go!



Jordan Lowe, Daniel Migowski, Matthew Benedix and Cameron Clark are waiting for the whistle to blow.



Bethany Wallace and Austin Haley prepare to make a play.



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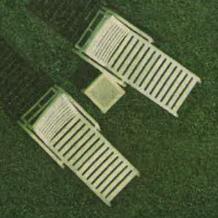
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The cleanup is made possible by BHA volunteers, a grant from the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations, residents' annual The BHA is a voluntary, membership dues, and the nonprofit organization run membership dues, and the Hillsborough County Parks Department. The site will open at 8 a.m. and close when all available Dumpsters are full or 1 p.m., whichever comes first. Waste from commercial businesses will not be accepted.

Appliances on pront organization run entirely by non-paid volunteers who live in the community. If you would like to help staff the collection siteemail inblooming-dalenews@tampa-bay.rr.com. High school students and Scouts can earn community service. steel and other metals, fur- with this project.

Bloomingdale niture, and non-commer-Inc. will hold its Community Cleanup Day Saturday, June 11, 2011. The date was originally set for May 14. The cleanup day will be accepted. Televisions, microwaves, computers and their components (printers, faxes, monitors, etc.) cannot be accepted. Yard waste or regular household trash normally picked up at the curb cannot be accepted. Hazardous materials including paint batteries

Appliances, earn community service mattresses, water heaters, hour credits for assisting

BASKETS

From Page 8

used to visit her before moving here. When tl. siblings decided to become business partners, they were looking for something "a little differ-ent" and ended up open-ing the first Edible Arrangements franchise in Hillsborough County.

Buscarino said many of his first customers hailed from the Northeast and ordered gift arrangements for friends or relatives who retired to Central Florida.

Gifts start at \$25 for a box of chocolate-dipped fruit. The price range for arrangements is \$35 to \$200 or more, depending on size, fruit variety and container.The store is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays. For information, visit or call (813) 571-7200.

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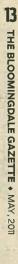
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Championship sealed with 'drop-less' performance

BY SUSAN GREEN

For most of life's endeavors, the mark of performance perfection can be described as "spotless."

In the world of flag twirling, a flawless performance is better characterized as "drop-less." And that's how Susan Maley, mother of a member of Bloomingdale High School's color guard, describes the performance that won the Crimson Guard a state title last month at Flagler Palm Coast High School on the east side of the state.

"Nobody dropped anything in this championship show," she said, noting that the flag corps encompassed 26 members bers. Maley, whose daugh- working-woman

ter Lauren, 16, is finishing Team members her third year in the guard. said that's remarkable, especially given the highpetition in front of a large home.

"I felt giddy about it," she added.

competed with flag teams teams. from 13 other schools in their division in the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit state-level competition. The championship is believed to be a first for Bloomingdale's family and friends played a guard, Maley said.

developed for the color Coast to cheer on the guard competition season, Bloomingdale contingent. was based on "Rosie the twirling rifles, flags and sa- Riveter," a World War II but help them," Maley icon. said.

blue-collar dresses with flowery skirts.

Billy Sullivan, a teacher stakes nature of the com- in Tampa, coaches the girls in all aspects of percrowd three hours from formance. Maley reflected on how remarkable the Crimson Guard's win was after she saw the size and The Crimson Guard coaching staffs of other

> "Nobody had 26," Maley said, noting that most teams had fewer performers. "Almost all had multiple instructors,"

Maley said support from role in the win. More than The girls' dance routine, 50 people traveled to Palm

"I think that did nothing



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r High School football team hosts their second annual Football 360 Youth Camp Friday, June 24, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 25, from 9-11:30 a.m., at the Brandon Ravens football field.

This camp is for ages 10-13 and is designed for players from all experience levels, from the first year player to the most experi-enced. Football 360 is a comprehensive, fun-filled camp that is geared to develop all aspects toward becoming a complete stu-

The Bloomingdale Se- dent/athlete. The athletes will learn technique and fundamentals of every position on the field, the importance of high academic achievement and teamwork as well as respect for coaches, parents and other authority.

Registration forms will be sent home through local schools, or you can contact Head Coach John Booth at Bloomingdale Senior High School for information. Camp cost is \$40 for early registration or \$60 for late registration.

Boys and girls basketball summer camp offered

Bloomingdale Senior High School head basketball coach Joe Willis will be hosting the Bulls Basketball Camp for boys and girls of all skill levels. The camp will be held in two one-week sessions. Ses-sion I will be June 20-23 and Session II will be June

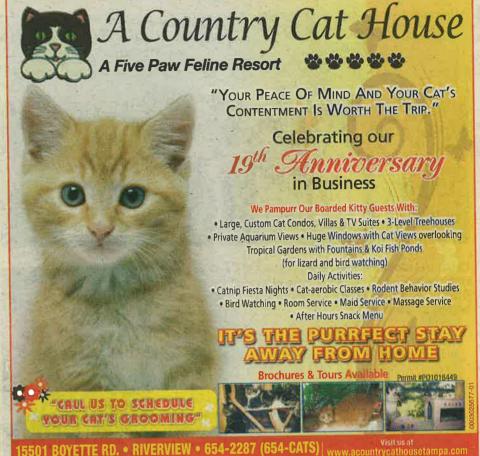
Senior 27-30. Cost of each session will be \$75 per person and they will receive a Nike camp T-shirt. The focus of the camp will be on fundamentals, sportsmanship and fun. For information call Coach Willis at (813) 298-3448.

Bloomingdale High Red Envelope Program a success

Bloomingdale The High School PTSA successfully launched a new senior program called the "Red Envelope."

Parents of 2011 graduates were asked to send in congratulation notes from family and friends. These well wishes will be distributed to the seniors at the end of the school year.

According to Bloomingdale PTSA presidents, Catrina Miller, the PTSA is all about giving back to the school. "This is a new tradition at Bloomingdale and is a great opportunity to honor our students and acknowledge their achievements," says Miller.



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KIM WALLACE

Congratulations for your accomplishments. Left to right: Matt Neil, Conor Alloy, Nate Krouse, D.J. Hess, Jeff Griffith, Ryan Carl, Robby Kalaf and Brandon Acquaviva with their parents.

BSHS Baseball senior night

Coach Lombard presented flowers to Brenda Aquaviva from players for being the team mom the last few





McKenzie Carter with parents Trish, Jeff Carter and sister Peyton; Kaelyn Castellanos with parents Joe and Castellanos at Senior Night.

> **BSHS Softball** senior night

Senior McKenzie Carter and Kaelyn Castellanos with Coach Clemons at their last game of season on their home field.



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Community Station Notes

Were you and your family ready?

hen the torna-does and storms hit during the last two months, were you and your family ready? Our storms are only a glimpse of the rough weather to come. In a few weeks, the 2011 hurricane season will be here.

time to ensure our families, homes and business- for up to 72 hours or es are ready. And not just more. Be prepared to be for hurricane season, but on your own. Have a also for the summer good First Aid kit ready storm season and fire and check for items that There have been some season as well. Here are have expired. some guidelines:

all of your preparations. munity Emergency Re-Make sure they get their sponse Training (CERT). in case you are not avail- tions involve the commuable. Make sure they have nity coming together to plenty of the required supplies on hand.

your personal documents and other important items in case you have to evacuate.

• Prepare your home as best as you can. Take photos in advance and store them in a secure area with your insurance documents.

• Find out what preparasure your contact infor- rectly with me and our 8223.



Deputy Curtis Warren

up to date. • Know the "Rule of 72." After storm,

many emergency sponders,

including fire/rescue and We all need to take the the Sheriff's Office, may not be able to reach you

· Work with your neigh-Include your family in bors, many have Comthings ready, especially As we all saw after the your kids. Be sure your strong storms recently, family knows what to do disaster recovery operapick up the pieces.When the storms are rolling in is • Prepare and secure not the time to prepare.

BACC - WHAT IS IT/AND HOW **CAN I JOIN?**

The Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) is made the folks who have comup of concerned resi- pleted their training and dents from homeowners are patrolling our comtions have been made at associations and neigh- munity. Anyone interestyour place of work. En- borhoods whowork di- ed can call (813) 247-

mation is Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano and other local government representatives to coordinate plans and actions on community issues. We meet monthly on the third Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Community Station on Erindale Drive. Here are some hot

TRAFFIC BLITZES - Spe-

cial traffic monitoring activities are continuing. complaints, but most are from drivers who have been stopped. The purpose is simple - to stop and cite those drivers breaking traffic laws. Break the law and pay big - running a traffic light costs around \$184.50. That is a lot of gas money! CITIZENS ON PA PROGRAM - The Shem's Volunteer Citizen Patrol Program is currently very active and successful in Bloomingdale. With the area's continued growth, this program is a critical addition. Many thanks to

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Meet Bailey, this week's winner of a \$20 gift certificate to PetSmart. Bailey is a mini Australian Shepherd. He is 7 months old, loves peanut butter and chasing squirrels. The medium-length coat of the Miniature Australian Shepherd is slightly wavy and moderate in length. They are easy going dogs that love to play. Courageous, loval and affectionate, they are excellent children's companions and a devoted friend and guardian. They are very lively, agile, and attentive and are eager to please with a sixth sense about what the owner wants. Miniature Australian Shepherds are highly intelligent and easy to train. Send in your "Pet of the Month" nomination to Chadderton Group, Keller Williams Realty, www.chaddertongroup.com, or if you prefer, send it to the paper at InBloomingdalenews@tampabay.rr.com.



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Back to the farm at Bloomingdale party spot

BY SUSAN GREEN

a llama.

fed cows and donkeys, a great time. held a chicken egg straight playground of a puppy, all at the Red a family-owned business." Barn Petting Farm on Bloomingdale Avenue just ed the business about east of Lithia-Pinecrest eight years ago, offering Road.

from the nest and shared with the animals," she equipment said. "The kids love it, and with Oreo, a goat the size it's close to home. And it's

> Darlene Davidson startparties and field trips for

It was the second time private and public schools Logan's mother, Lenora at the farm. She said it was When he turned 2 last Johnson of Valrico, chose a natural outreach of her month, Logan Johnson got the Red Barn for a birthday love of animals, children a party, a dinosaur cake party. She said the family and the outdoors. Her parand plenty of kisses - from celebrated the seventh ents founded Bloomingbirthday of her older son, dale Growers, a plant nurs-He also took a hayride, Jacob, at the farm and had ery next door where she also works, and her moth-"We love the interaction er has operated day care facilities in the area.

> Davidson said she tries to mix education with entertainment for children who visit the Red Barn, many of whom have had little exposure to America's agricultural roots. The red barn doubles as a farm museum, housing antique equipment and displays that illustrate a bygone way of life.

> Usually, the biggest attraction is meeting the animals, including colorful turkeys and peacocks, llamas, goats, donkeys and cows. Miniature beasts, including Snowflake the dwarf albino cow, and Oreo, a black-and-white pygmy goat bottlefed as a kid by Davidson, are among the most popular.

They [guests] get to feed the animals up close sitting astride Phantom, and personal," Davidson dubbed the "Papa Llama" said.

Logan Johnson, 2, and his brother, Jacob Johnson, 7, sit astride Phantom the "Papa Llama" at the Red Barn Petting Farm.

Eric Almonte, 15, of Brandon, was among guests at Logan's party. He held the toddler up to receive a kiss from Minnie. known at the farm as "the kissing llama," and got a token of affection himself. He said it was his first llama kiss.

"It tickled my hand," Almonte said.

Children also took turns of the small herd at the farm.

Youngsters aren't the only ones who enjoy the farm. Davidson said she has hosted one "hoedown wedding" there.

Bloomingdale Growers at offers parties and field trips 3902 E. Bloomingdale Ave., at the Red Barn Petting is open to group bookings Farm, pulls up a chair in by appointment only. front of the farm museum Rates start at \$150 for 90 where children can see minutes, with half-hour antiques that teach them extensions available for how families used to make \$25 each. For information, their living through agriculcall (813) 684-6923.

SUSAN GREEN

The farm, adjacent to Darlene Davidson, who









On Real Estate

Preventing inspection delays

o matter how much you prepare, closing just seem to ake longer these days, ften up to 60 days from he date of the initial offer. A

recent sur-

Chadderton

vev of Realtors reveals that 10 to 14 percent of pending sales don't get to clos-

ng, while another 20 percent experience unplanned delays before being finalized.

Delays fall into three najor categories: financng, title research and nspection. Getting estimates and negotiating epairs can really hold up transaction, but there

Sellers may not have to fix the problems, but having an idea of the cost of repairs will help them price the home fairly...

are ways to speed up the walk through the home process.

One option is for sellers to procure a prelisting inspection and make repairs before the first potential buyer sets foot in the home. However, this can be a costly expense for sellers, especially when buyers will almost certainly hire their own inspector after making an offer, and there can often be great differences between two inspection reports.

A better alternative is for the listing agent to

with the seller, noting the age and the condition of major components of the home and securing estimates for potential repairs. Sellers may not have to fix the problems, but having an idea of the cost of repairs will help them price the home fairly, as well as reduce the time necessary for buyers to negotiate the costs. This is an excellent preventative and proactive step towards a successful closing.

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Cindy and Mark Lott, with their daughter Brooke, a senior at Bloomingdale, is the last of six children to send to prom! Happy and sad emotions for the Lott's.

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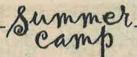
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