

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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Number 10

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Photo courtesy of the Campoamor family

Beth, Joe, Jr. and Joe Campoamor, Sr. are ready to cook up a batch of the family's sauce recipe at the annual Bloomingdale Athletic Booster Club Pasta Supper, Thursday, Nov. 5.

Giving is in the sauce

For generations, the Campoamors have given their time as well as their sauce to worthy causes. See story, page 4.

Seniors enjoy Silver Sneakers

Program helps older adults with mobility as well as health. See story, page 14.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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Mohandas Gandhi

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The ghouls and goblins are coming

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church (UMC) is full of fun this fall season. The annual pumpkin patch sale begins on Saturday, Oct. 11 and through Friday, Oct. 30. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from noon 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 12:30 to 7p.m. Oct. 17 has special family related activities. Pumpkins range in price from \$4 to \$20. Proceeds from the sale benefit the youth program at St. Andrew's UMC.

Event is free and open to the public. St. Andrew's UMC is located at 3315 Bryan Road in Brandon. For more information please visit www.StAndrewsBrandon.org, or call (813) 689-6849. For more information about the Pumpkin Patch please contact Dan Segale at 813-689-6849 ext 217



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SUPPORT GROUP



This Month's Topic:
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Thursday, Oct. 22nd
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Seminar – 260 S. Moon Ave., Classroom B, Brandon
Support Group – 262 S. Moon Ave., Classroom A, Brandon

Cardiac Support Group

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The secret is in the sauce

Armed with a super-secret family recipe, the Campoamors have given back to the community for three generations

By LESLIE WHITE

Three generations of Campoamors have helped local schools and organizations raise money and Bloomingdale residents Joe and Beth Campoamor are doing their part to continue the tradition. The main ingredient in these fundraisers is the family's pasta sauce recipe. Every year the Campoamor's host a pasta supper benefitting the Bloomingdale Athletic Booster Club, a tradition which started shortly after the school opened in 1987. At the time, Joe's brother Michael played football. Their parents, Joe Sr. and Margaret, got the booster club started, in large part due to the sales of dinners to raise money for the athletes.

"My mother-in-law, Margaret Campoamor, started the pasta dinners as a fundraiser over 35 years ago at Stephen Foster Elementary, then Brooker Elementary and then on to Bloomingdale High School," said Beth.

When Margaret mentioned to Joe Jr. and Beth what a success the dinners were, they decided it was time to continue the tradition for their own chil-

dren, Joe and Jacob. For the past 10 years they have been cooking, raising funds for the sports teams their boys played on as well as the schools they attended.

Obviously, the Campoamors have the recipe for success. And that recipe has been in the family for generations. Like many well-kept culinary secrets within families, the recipe isn't written down; it's simply told and demonstrated to the next generation.

"After I was married, I was honored to be 'told' the ingredients for the family sauce recipe," said Beth. "After making the sauce for several years, and not having it quite taste like my mother-in-law's, I just so happened to be watching my mother-in-law teach my new sister-in-law, Summer, the recipe. I noticed that she added an additional ingredient that she did not share when giving me the recipe. How interesting to find out that the same thing happened to my mother-in-law when learning the recipe from her grandmother. She swears she had told me about the 'nutmeg' ingre-

diént. We all just get a good laugh from it, and it is also funny how my sauce now tastes just like my mother-in-laws!"

This recipe started with Joe, Jr.'s great-grandmother, Nana Maria. Her son, Nino Nicco, learned the recipe and, according to Beth, "actually began the family cooking tradition of community fundraisers, cooking pasta dinners for the Masons and Shriners."

As the fundraising efforts grew, so the did the need for a bigger pot, so the Campoamor family crafted a custom oversized cooking pot and wooden oar with which to stir the much sought after sauce.

"It's huge!" said Beth.

The recipe has been tasted by many but recreated by none and seems to be as unique as the family that cooks it. Of her mother-in-law Margaret, Beth said, "I have been so very blessed with a wonderful, loving mother-in-law. She has always treated me just like I was her very own daughter. I have a tremendous appreciation and respect for her and she tells me the same all the time. I think the key to our relationship is realizing that we both want



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Beth Campoamor helps organize and serve JV football players their pre-game meal every week throughout the season, often assisted by her mother, Betty Rogers, and her mother-in-law, Margaret Campoamor. Beth and her husband, Joe, have two sons at Bloomingdale: Joe, a senior, plays football as well as baseball, and Jake, a sophomore, plays football for the Bulls.

Taste Test

The Campoamor's next pasta supper is Thursday, Nov. 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Bloomingdale High School cafeteria and will benefit the Bloomingdale Athletic Booster Club. Tickets are \$5 and are presold through Bloomingdale athletes or in the school's front office. Setting the mood will be the Bloomingdale High School jazz band, which will play for an hour during the supper. For information contact Brenda Acquaviva at 643-5833.

Membership drive in full swing

The 2009 Bloomingdale Homeowners Association membership drive is now in full swing. You should have received in the mail your BHA dues notice. These funds provide community services and support the Bloomingdale

Homeowners Association. Membership forms are mailed to each homeowner in the Bloomingdale district. The \$25 (per home) annual membership dues are the association's sole means of financial support.

With the continued financial and volunteer support of its residents, The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. (BHA) will continue its efforts to ensure that Bloomingdale remains a great community in which

to live – one that is vital, cohesive, active, safe and beautiful. The BHA represents Bloomingdale's 44 neighborhood sections of more than 5,000 homes. The organization's board of directors, all volunteers who live in Bloomingdale,

speaks and acts on behalf of residents to address neighborhood, county, school, land development and law enforcement issues.

The Bloomingdale Gazette, now in its 28th year of publication, is also

funded through the yearly dues drive funds. The BHA also established and maintains the community web site, Bloomingdale-Gazette.com. For more information, call (813) 681-2051.

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Brandon area churches join others to Feed the Bay

By LESLIE WHITE

With these economically challenging times leading the news every day, 19 local churches have decided to join forces, unifying their efforts to stock local food banks and help care for those in need. Bay Life Church of Brandon started Feed the Bay in 2006 to help feed the hungry of Tampa, drawing their inspiration from the Bible's Book of Matthew, in which Jesus says, "For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat."

That first year, 30,000 pounds of food was collected in a matter of three hours. Typically, a canned food collection drive collects only 1,000 pounds in a month.

Last year, 27 churches joined together and collectively gathered more than 270,000 pounds of

food in just five hours. This year, over 30 Hillsborough County churches of various denominations are joining with two grocery store chains — Publix and Sweetbay — as well as 13 local charitable organizations to feed thousands of hungry people.

During Sunday, Sept. 27 worship services, congregations all over Hillsborough County were released early and given a pre-printed shopping list, which they were encouraged to take, along with their family, to area Sweetbay and Publix supermarkets. The goal was to collect and deliver over 300,000 pounds of food to area food banks before the holidays.

It is estimated that every day 40,000 families in the Tampa Bay

and surrounding communities do not have enough food to feed their families, and this year, more than in recent years, the need is great. Recipients of the collection include: Amazing Love Ministries; America's Second Harvest; Beth El Farm Worker Ministry; Bread of Life; Cynthia Pinckney Ministries; Day Star Faith Center; ECHO (Emergency Care Help Organization); Good Samaritan Mission, Inc.; Lighthouse Ministries; Metropolitan Ministries of Tampa; Mission Tampa; Our Lady's Pantry; and, Women's Resource Center.

Shoppers crowded the aisles at local stores, list in hand, and loaded carts with pantry staples like flour, sugar, canned meats, dry milk, pasta,

sauce and breakfast foods. Trucks were positioned in the parking lots to collect the donations, and when loaded, pulled out to deliver the food to area food banks. Volunteers will return to these charities in two weeks to help sort and distribute all that was collected. For a list of participating Publix and Sweetbay locations, visit feedthebay.org.

PARTICIPATING CHURCHES IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Apollo Beach Community Church; Bay Life Church-Brandon, River-view and SR 60; Bell Shoals Baptist Church-Brandon and Eastbay; Brandon Assembly of God; Browning Road Baptist Church; Celebration Church; Centerpoint Church; Corner-

stone Baptist Church of Brandon; Faith Work (First Baptist Church of Apollo Beach); First Baptist Church of Brandon; First Presbyterian Church of Brandon; First United Methodist Church of Brandon; First United Methodist Church of Seffner; Fish-Hawk Fellowship Church; Grace Community United Methodist Church at FishHawk; Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church; Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church; Horizon Christian Church; Kings Avenue Baptist Church; Journey Church @ Valrico; Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale; Presbyterian Church of Seffner; Redeemer Presbyterian Church in America of South Brandon; Resurrection Catholic Church;



An example of some of the food gathered by the drive

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Cage puts Bulls in a pinch

By LESLIE WHITE

The saying goes, if you don't like the weather in Florida, stick around – it'll change. In the land of perpetual summer, life is interrupted daily during the rainy season with those ever-predictable afternoon thundershowers. Though they're expected, tolerated and, during a drought, even appreciated, when the rain affects your sport, hindering your practice time as a team, that's no day at the beach. Just ask the Bloomingdale Bulls baseball team.

"The cages we have now are usable only when not under water," said sophomore center fielder Austin Wilson.

That's why coaches and parents of the Bulls baseball team are looking to partner with the community as well as corporate

sponsors to help build a batting cage for the team.

"The batting cage would allow our boys the opportunity to get quality practice anytime," said Booster Club Vice President Brian Wilson. "As baseball players know, it takes repetition to become a good hitter and this cage would allow for that."

According to Austin, "this fall we have 39 players in our program and with one field and one batting cage it is difficult to practice. We have great coaches and Coach Wilken's goal is to create a baseball program at Bloomingdale that is one of the best in the state. The batting cage is the next step."

Head baseball coach Kristopher Wilken echoed his player's feelings.

"The new bating cage

will allow my players to stay competitive with many of the other schools in the county," he said. "Several schools have a facility like this and they are able to improve their skills no matter what the weather is. This cage will help keep the Bloomingdale baseball program the first-class program that it has always been."

Baseball mom and Booster Club member Brenda Acquaviva is spearheading the fundraising efforts.

"This is a huge fundraiser for the baseball team," she said. "We have always had great support from the local businesses in the community as well as the parents. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$50 to \$2,500, and offer an exceptional

See CAGE, Page 22 »



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Bloomingdale's current batting cage only allows one player at a time to hone his skills and, because of its location in a low lying section to the right of the field, the area is prone to flooding after heavy rains, preventing players from practicing until the ground dries up.

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Does the newest Master of Terror live in Bloomingdale?

Since having numerous short stories published in an international horror magazine, a local author has set to penning a novel

By **LESLIE WHITE**

Stephen King is often referred to as "The Master of Horror." Upcoming author and Bloomingdale resident Mike Laquerre thinks his readers might don him "The Master of Terror."

Laquerre writes short stories and has had several published over the last few years in horror genre magazines like Morpheus Tales, a United Kingdom publication, and Horror Bound, a magazine that features both up-and-comers of the genre as well as its masters. Laquerre, who's been writing since he was 7 or 8 years old, discovered Stephen King's work at the age of 10.

"I've been influenced in that genre ever since," he said. "I chose this particular genre because there's something about instilling fear. I think people like to be scared even if they don't admit it. There is a curiosity level in that as long as it is not happening to me, I want to see what happens to the specific characters. Plus, think how much fun I have knowing I'm kept someone up so late at night."

And the man knows a thing or two about horrors that will keep you up at night. He's also a realtor.

"If you want to talk about something really scary," said the author, "then real estate it is!"

Laquerre's real estate

career is on hold, at the moment, so he can focus his efforts on writing, which currently includes a foray into the world of dramatic suspense via a novel he's working on.

"I'm currently working on a novel I think people will really like," he said. "Although it's not construed technically as a horror novel, horrible things do occur."

As for Laquerre, his accomplishments fare far better than the characters he pens. After attending The School of Visual Arts in New York City, where his intentions were to write movies, Laquerre worked with industry bigwigs such as Woody Allen,

with whom Laquerre in-

terned on the set of Allen's critically acclaimed, dark comedic psychological thriller Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989), which was nominated for several Academy Awards. The movie also gave Laquerre the opportunity to work with Alan Alda, whom he describes as "a really nice guy."

And though he initially set out to make movies, Laquerre is quite satisfied to find himself immersed in the novel aspect of the industry, calling it "my true passion." The author shares that passion with his wife, Lori.

"She is the only person that sets their eyes on it before it sees the light of day," he said.

His wife is also helping him with his novel.

"She reads the chapters in my book as I go along," he said, "She's a good reader, so I take her advice."

Writing is a daily ritual for Laquerre, who admits he pens his tales the old-fashioned way – long hand on a legal pad, seated at an antique desk in his bedroom.

"I do write every day. That's important," he said. "Some days I may write as little as a few paragraphs until I have things worked out, or I've been known to slam down some pages because it's just flowing well for me."

It's that creative process



Local author and Bloomingdale resident Mike Laquerre

that is turning Mike Laquerre's dream into readers' nightmares. Laquerre's latest short story is due to be published in January 2010 in Morpheus Tales, which is available via Border's Bookstores in the UK.

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Cleanup Reminder

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. will hold a Community Cleanup Day Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009 at the Hillsborough County parks maintenance facility on Natures Way, near Alafia Elementary School.

The cleanup is made possible by BHA volunteers, a grant from the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations, residents' annual membership dues, and the Hillsborough County Parks Department.

The site will open at 8 a.m. and will close when all available dumpsters are full or noon, whichever comes first. Drop-off limits are two trips for those driving cars, one trip for SUVs and pick-up trucks. Trailers with more than one axle cannot be accommodated. Waste from commercial businesses will not be accepted.

Appliances, mattresses, water heaters, steel and other metals, furniture, and non-commercial construction debris will be accepted.

Yard waste or regular household trash normally picked up at the curb cannot be accepted. Hazardous materials including paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals, waste from commercial activities, and electric equipment (computers, monitors, TVs, etc) cannot be accepted.

The BHA is a voluntary, nonprofit organization run entirely by non-paid volunteers who live in the community. If you would like to help staff the collection site, please e-mail bloomingdalenews@tampabay.rr.com. High school students and scouts can earn community service hour credits for assisting with this project.

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Program aims to help seniors stay in shape

Medicare's Silver Sneakers program helps with mobility as well as pre-existing conditions

By LESLIE WHITE

Silver Sneakers may sound like a futuristic fashion trend, but it's really an opportunity for senior citizens to focus on and improve their overall health.

Started in 1992 by Healthways, Inc., Silver Sneakers is a Medicare covered fitness program that enables senior adults to develop a healthier lifestyle through exercise and fitness programs offered around the country. Marc and Nancy Michael own the Curves on Lithia-Pinecrest and saw their membership increase with the introduction of the Silver Sneakers program in January.

"Probably a quarter of our membership is Silver Sneakers. A lot of seniors do it for mobility, but it also helps with bone den-

sity," said Nancy.

A pediatric nurse practitioner, Nancy Michael has seen firsthand the physical benefits participants gain from regular exercise.

"This has been a god-send," she said, "We have gotten some that have never walked into a gym before. We've had people go off or take a lower dose of medications for high blood pressure and diabetes because they're getting healthier. We've seen people with MS start to feel better."

Allison Elrod is one of the Silver Sneakers clients at Curves. She's a retired school teacher that has been coming to Curves for more than three years and paid for a private membership up until January when her insurance began to offer it as a benefit.

"I enjoy Curves so

much. I love it!" she said as she finished up her workout.

The circuits last for 30 minutes and strengthen every muscle in the body and because they're hydraulic, according to Michael, these workouts are easier on the joints. The benefits go beyond just the physical. Michael has seen friendships formed, and new habits made.

"I think the one thing we've seen is seniors getting out of the house to come here who wouldn't normally get out at all," she said.

Perhaps it is the health benefits, or perhaps it is the friendly staff and personal service they receive at Curves. During their first three workouts a circuit coach is on hand to help new users properly use the machines to get

the maximum benefits. And if that personal consultation isn't enough, there is CurvesSmart, a computerized personal trainer that summarizes workouts, charts progression, gives a personalized list of strengths and weaknesses and does the calorie counting for you.

It's been proven that staying in good physical condition can help lessen the likelihood and severity of a fall as well as lead to quicker recovery time in the case of an injury. Regular exercise improves both balance and coordination, both preventing the likelihood of a fall, as well as developing stamina and strength that naturally declines through the years.

"We have clients from 9

See SILVER, Page 22 »



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Nancy Michael, Curves owner, talks with Silver Sneakers client Allison Elrod as she completes her circuit workout.

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A good day for a regatta



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Bloomington resident, Joshua Strom a Tiger Cub, hands his boat he made from the BSA Raingutter Regatta kit at the annual Pack 61 event to see if it qualifies for the Raingutter Regatta Sailboat Race.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Now that his boat qualified Joshua is ready to race. The race course is a gutter 9 feet long and 6 inches wide and the boys have to use a straw to blow wind in the sail of the boat to propel it to the finish line. Joshua won the race.



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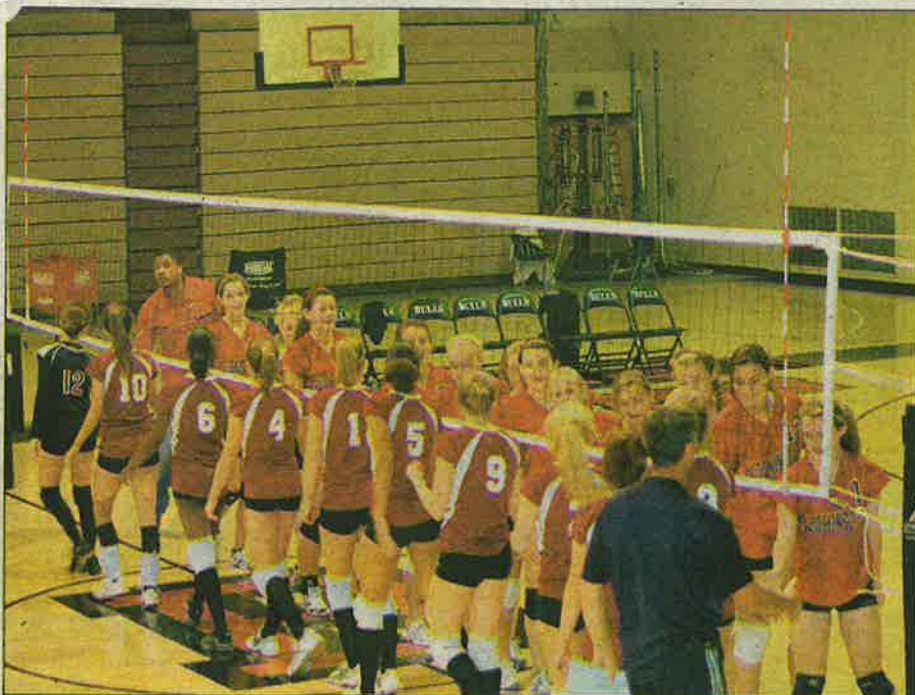
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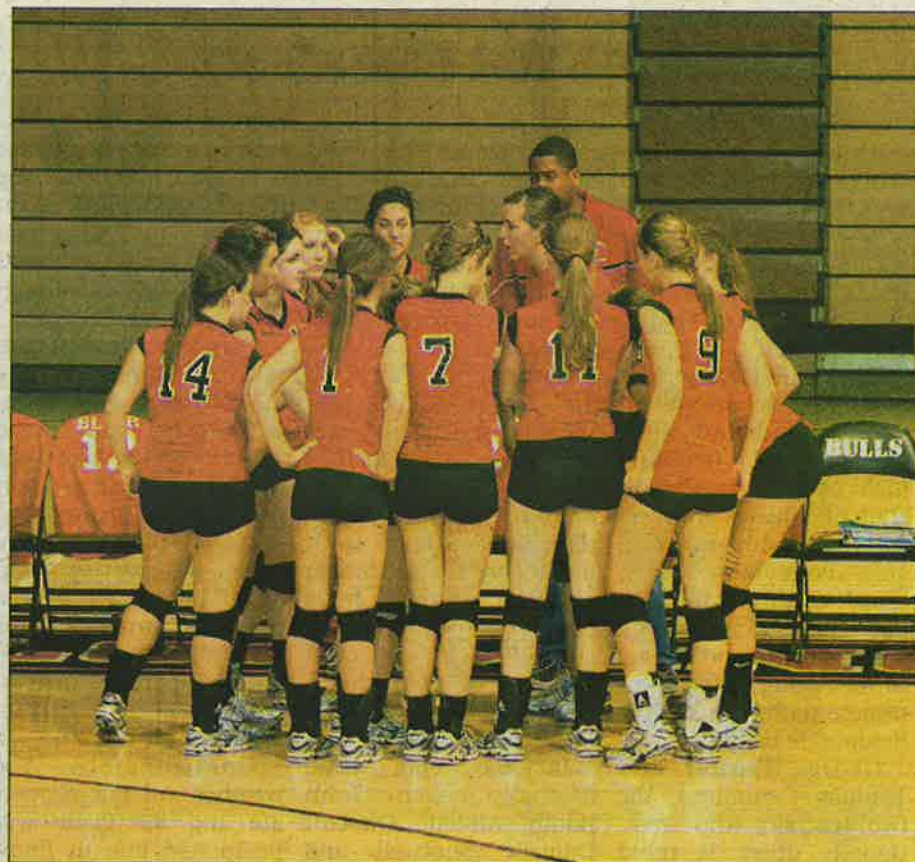
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Volleyball gets underway

Pictures by Kim Wallace



Bloomington JV volleyball team is getting ready to play first game against Brandon High School.



New Varsity Volleyball Coach Danielle Leffer is getting her team ready to take on Brandon High School.



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Bloomingtondale marks Sept. 11

By LESLIE WHITE

Bloomingtondale High School students marked Sept. 11 – Patriot Day – with a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the exact time the first plane struck the north tower of the World Trade Center.

Later that day, the tone in the high school shifted into a thunderous patriotic pep rally honoring their country as well as student athletes from all fall sports. Athletes from golf, volleyball, swim, cross country, football and cheer were greeted with screams and cheers as they entered the gymnasium to the beats of the Rajun' Bull band.

George Garner and Thomas Cummings, the two teachers who traditionally dress as rabid Bulls' fans wielding the coveted "spirit stick," said only two words to rally the crowded gymnasium,

"let's roll," the phrase made famous by Todd Beamer, one of the passengers aboard flight 93, which went down in a Pennsylvania field due to the heroic resistance of the doomed passengers.

Bloomingtondale's U.S. Air Force JROTC presented the colors and led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance, then put on a dazzling rifle drill. School spirit made way for patriotism as each student body class competed in a chant of "Red, red, red," "white, white, white," "blue, blue, blue," and "U.S.A."

In the end, head football coach John Booth, Athletic Director Danielle Shotwell and head boys' track team coach James Booth convened in a conference to decide which class was

loudest. The junior class took top honors, after which the student body raised hands to the air in horns formation and swayed collectively as they sang the Bloomingtondale alma mater.

This was the first pep rally of the year and the day of their home opener. Coach Booth urged all students to come out and show their support at that night's game.

"Our players have been working so hard and I believe we have a top hat program," he said. "I want to see everybody come out tonight as we go up against East Bay."

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and the game was postponed due to thunderstorms. Rescheduled for the next day, the Bulls lost to the Indians, 17 to 14.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Bloomingtondale ROTC members preparing to raise flag in memory of 9/11.

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Lt. Col. John Wayne and CM Sgt. Gerald Bertucci and ROTC members of Bloomingdale salute flag as it is raised to half staff in memory of those whose lives were taking on 9/11 and those who are fighting for our country.

Photo by KIM WALLACE



Photo by KIM WALLACE

New ROTC members of Bloomingdale stand and watch the flag being raised to half staff in memory of 9/11

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Girl Scouts help to keep area clean, beautiful



Kim Wallace

Troop 672 working together to keep Hillsborough County Beautiful at Davis Park.



Bloomington resident Marce Strom and Ellen Randall are Girl Scout Leaders for Troop 672. Back Left to Right, Marce Strom, Jessica Strom, Keri Randall, Megan O'Hare, Kilia Fontaine, Ellen Randall Front Left to Right, Courtney Randall, Amanda Bohn, Kristen Gaertner, Mascot and Nicole Orlando

Kim Wallace



The girls take a little break to have some fun, after working so hard at, Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful 2009 International Coastal Cleanup, Saturday Sept. 19.

Chicken 'n dumplings

What can you do with a can of biscuits, a rotisserie chicken and a box of chicken stock? No, this is not a riddle; it's this month's Dinner @ 6!

While other states are starting to experience the bliss of cooler temperatures and leaves that actually change color, we Floridians are forced to make our own fall, and we're going to experience a culinary change of seasons with this featured recipe.

Chicken 'n dumplings. My grandmother's best dish. I can taste the savory warmth of that dish and remember sitting around her table enjoying every bite. When she passed away, I thought I would never taste anything that wonderful again, since

none of us ever learned to make it just like she did.

She would cook the chicken in a pot of water until the meat fell off the bone, then mix up her dough, rolling it out nearly paper thin, cutting slender strips of dumplings, eventually cooking them in the broth and adding the torn pieces of chicken back in with it. It was quite an ordeal for her to whip up a batch, and yes, it was worth it, but admittedly, I lack the time and culinary talent to do it the old fashioned way. Yes, I've tried. Yes, I've failed.

What I have here is a no-fail recipe with very little wait - the kind of meal that will bring back

memories of long-forgotten suppers at the family dinner table and a season some Floridians long to experience, at least for a few days this time of year. Enjoy this taste of fall.

Leslie White can be reached

by emailing: lwwhite_bloomingtondalegazette@yahoo.com. For more recipes visit [Dinner@6 online at www.dinnerat6-lesliewhite.blogspot.com](http://Dinner@6onlineatwww.dinnerat6-lesliewhite.blogspot.com). Readers are invited to share their quick and easy meal solutions, comments and ideas.



Chicken 'n Dumplings

1 whole rotisserie chicken (I suggest mojo or original)

1 (32 ounce) box chicken stock

1 large can of biscuits, extra flaky

Bring stock to a boil in a large pot over high heat. While this is heating, remove skin from chicken and tear pieces of meat, dropping the meat into the stock. Once the stock and chicken are at a rolling boil, separate layers of individual biscuits and drop them into the boiling stock, one at a time, not allowing them to overlap. Stir, then add another layer of dumplings.

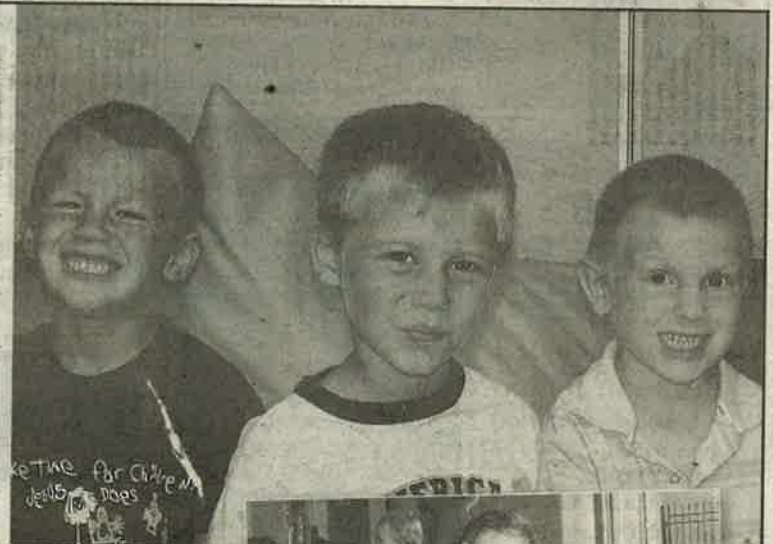
You don't have to use the entire can of biscuits. I only used four and it made for plenty of dumplings. Cook the rest according to package directions to serve alongside this tasty dish. (Serves six)



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Halloween: Make it safe and fun

In some ways Halloween has turned into a dangerous "trick or treat" event by those with no regard for others.

PARENTS

Follow these safety steps and make Halloween a safe and fun time:

1. If you let your kids go trick or treating, go with them or have someone escort them.

2. Make sure everyone has a flashlight and wears light colored clothing or costumes.

3. Only stop at homes with their front porch lights on.

4. Cross only at intersections or clear areas and not between parked cars.

5. Check all treats before your kids eat them. When in doubt throw them out.

6. Consider alternative activities. Many churches and schools have activities.

7. Insure everyone wears their seat belts.



Dep. Pete Maurer

8. Insure your pets are kept under-control.

9. Remember that fireworks are illegal in Florida and can be very dangerous!

10. Watch out for kids walking through neighborhoods.

TEENS

Follow these steps to stay safe:

1. If you go to Halloween parties, use your seat belts and don't drink if you're underage.

2. If you're old enough to drink, don't drink and drive.

3. Don't ride with anyone who has been drinking.

4. Don't use any illegal drugs.

5. Have fun, but remember that bad "tricks" can be very costly and get both you and your parents into a lot of trouble.

6. Remember that all fireworks are illegal in Florida and can be very dangerous!

7. Have a good time but don't spend it at the Emergency Room.

CAGE

Continued From Page 10

amount of visibility. Our sponsors will be recognized on the batting cage billboard, banners on the baseball field fence as well as announcing your company at all upcoming home games."

As school starts, fundraising becomes a proverbial four letter word because every school, every level, every sport, seemingly is hosting an event every. Just ask Shelly Wilson.

"My high school experience was here in Brandon," she said. "I remember how involved the community was in high school sports and activities. All of the programs were supported. One of my desires with being involved in the Booster Club is to raise awareness for the many needs in our schools."

Brian agrees with his wife.

"The cage would also represent the community's commitment to BSHS and its athletic programs," he said. "Coach Wilken is a great coach and only wants the best for his teams and this cage would

allow him to improve the players."

The batting cage they're raising funds to build would allow multiple players to practice simultaneously, something currently unachievable, not to mention the negative impact of inclement weather. Austin is one player who is hopeful about the possibilities of seeing these dream facilities become a reality.

"We could practice no matter what the weather is like," he said. "Coach Wilken would be able to work with each of us one on one to tweak different things. We have the athletes, the coaches and now we need the facilities to help us do that."

Thus; in a way, the Bloomingdale Bulls' baseball team is seeking financial backing for their own field of dreams.

"If you donate - we will build," said Acquaviva, "We are very excited and would like to have the project completed by the upcoming baseball season."

For information on becoming a sponsor or making a donation, please call Brenda Acquaviva at (813) 643-5833.

Come to the Fall Festival

Cimino Elementary is hosting its Fall Festival Oct. 23. The festival is from 4 to 8 p.m. Cimino is located at 4329 Culbreath Road, Valrico.

There will be games, prizes, bounce houses, a dunk tank, lots of great food, a fabulous silent auction and many other fun activities!

SILVER

Continued From Page 14

to 91," said Michael, "The younger clients help the older clients and encourage them. It's so cute!"

Curves also offers free weight management classes as a community service project. These classes are held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. This month, during the week of October 19, Curves is offering to waive the service fee for anyone signing up and making a \$25 donation to the American Cancer Society. They will also be hosting a "Bunco for Breast Cancer" night Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

For more information about any of these programs, Silver Sneakers or Curves, call (813) 413-8400 or stop by 3409 Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

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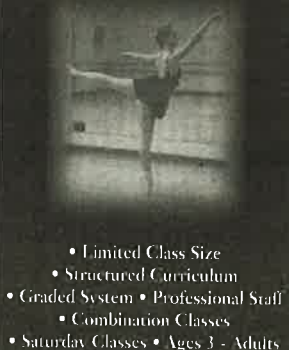


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An update from State Rep. Rich Glorioso

DEPUTY PETE MAURER

The Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (B.A.C.C.) was honored to have State Representative Rich Glorioso present at the September meeting. Also attending were Maj. Ron Hartley, District 4 Commander, Sgt. Rob Rodriguez, District 4 Patrol Supervisor and Lt. Mark Corso, District 4 Shift Supervisor.

Rep. Glorioso and the three sheriff's supervisors were at the BACC meeting for a specific purpose. One of the many major concerns of law enforcement, the BACC and area parents is teen involvement in criminal activity. Many teens start with small crimes; those small

crimes, over time, evolve into larger ones. Some join gangs and their criminal activity escalates even more.

When these juveniles are caught, they are simply processed and released to their parents. Studies have shown that after being processed and released a few times, juvenile criminals learn the system – and things get worse. Studies and research into juvenile crime are being conducted to find out how to stop this cycle. With law enforcement professionals working with legislators like Rep. Glorioso, hopefully either new laws or other actions can be taken to prevent teens from entering into a life of crime.

Of course the best preventative measure is parental involvement – the kind where parents teach their teens the difference between right and wrong and enforce rules. Parents can also work with law enforcement to develop good relationships and together both can help teens that show signs of getting into trouble.

Rep. Glorioso also briefed BACC members on other legislative issues that he is working on in Tallahassee.

These include a follow-up to the seat belt law that is now in affect. This project involves a much needed booster seat bill. Too many small children are killed or seriously injured because they are not prop-

erly secured into their booster seat. In fact, a baby died in Hillsborough County from this situation last month.

Another special project involves a concurrent custody bill that covers "relatives raising relatives," like when grandparents raise their grandchildren. Many such families run into bureaucratic walls of paperwork and face laws that cost them time and money.

One other project involves the distance restrictions placed on known sexual predators and how to keep them away from children.

Rep. Glorioso and his staff are very busy in Tallahassee working hard to make more secure the



Photo by TIM BOONE

State Representative Rich Glorioso; Major Ron Hartley, District 4 Commander; Sgt. Rob Rodriguez, District 4 Patrol Commander and Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer meet at the September BACC meeting to discuss critical law enforcement issues.

quality of life for residents in our communities.

Many residents would be surprised to find out just how many bills are being processed and just what issues are being covered. You can check out

the bills by going to myfloridahouse.gov. Let Rep.


Glorioso and his staff know your concerns and where you stand. Contact them at (813) 757-9110 or rich.glorioso@myfloridahouse.gov.



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