

# EAST PASCO Senior News

Serving the Zephyrhills and Dade City Area

Volume VI • Issue 11

Your Community News Source • EastPascoSeniorNews.com

March 30, 2017



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## March Madness Ensues At Valleydale

### Strawberry Social A Sweet Time

Submitted by *Dotty Copeland*  
Valleydale RO

It's hard to believe people are starting to think about heading back north soon. We have been so busy putting the finishing touches on another wonderful winter here in Florida.

Our shufflers and bowlers had their banquet on March 10 at the Great Catch Restaurant. It was a great turnout with delicious food. Awards were given out and friendship and laughter were shared all evening.

Our new King and Queen, Larry and Judy Morrison, represented our park in the Founders' Day parade. It was a special day for them. Their granddaughter, MaryAlice, came over to watch them in the parade, in a princess dress, holding a sign saying "My Grandma Judy and Grandpa are royalty at Valleydale RO." Such wonderful memories were made that day.

Next up that day was our Going Home Dance on March

**Valleydale • Continued on Page 10A**



Mary Alice at the Founders' Day parade cheering on her grandparents, Larry and Judy Morrison, the 2017 King and Queen of Valleydale.

## Another Successful And Busy Season

### Highlights Of Calendar At Town & Country

Submitted by *Kimberly Hawkins*  
Town & Country RV Resort

After the initial pressure of pressure washing park models and unpacking cars, suitcases and boxes subsided, a busy party season started up this year at the Town and Country RV Resort. Thanks to our amazing group of event-organizers, there were birthday party ice cream socials each month, a Thanksgiving dinner, a Black and White party, holiday celebrations,

**Season • Continued on Page 6A**



Tom Woodworth, Kim Hawkins, Mike Beige, Candice Daks and Yvon Roberge took dog walks twice daily in the back field.

## Facts And Myths Surrounding St. Patrick's Day

Submitted by *Wendy Parsels*  
Majestic Oaks Carefree RV Resort

St. Patrick's Day occurs annually on March 17 in observance of the death of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. What began as a religious feast day in the 17th century has evolved into a variety of festivals across the globe celebrating Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing and a whole lot of green.

There are many interesting facts and myths about St. Patrick and his special day. Here are just a few:

Few of the revelers lining parade routes and filling Irish pubs have a clue about St. Patrick, the historical figure. The current celebration of St. Patrick's Day really has almost nothing to do with the real saint.

For starters, the real St. Patrick wasn't even Irish. He was born in Britain. What's more, Patrick professed no interest in Christianity as a young boy. Later, he was ordained as a priest from a bishop, and goes back and spends the rest of his life trying to convert the Irish to Christianity. Patrick's work

**Majestic • Continued on Page 12A**



Walter Pitula, Harry Turner and Jack Laubach are "wearing the green."  
Photo by Ted Dann

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# To Hell And Back In WWII

## Daughter Gives Account Of Dad's POW Suffering

Story and photo by Joe Potter

Joe Vaillancourt hated the Japanese for many years after having been one of their prisoners of war during World War II.

Pat Vaillancourt, a motivational speaker from Largo, captivated an audience at American House Zephyrhills for more than an hour on March 8 as she talked about her father's experiences.

Her dad was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and was held in POW camps for 3 1/2 years before being liberated after Japan's surrender on Aug. 15, 1945. Vaillancourt was captured in April of 1942 when Japanese forces overran the Philippines.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of the United States forces in the Pacific, had three different 'takes' filmed of the famous "People of the Philippines, I shall return," statement that he made when American forces retreated from the Philippines. "He had a bit of Hollywood in him," Pat Vaillancourt said wryly.

Her mother didn't learn her dad had been captured until she received a telegram in February of 1943. "Communications were slower back then - they didn't have Google or Twitter," the speaker said.

Her father hated the Japanese so much that one day when he was in his 80s he pushed an unlocked Japanese SUV into a retention pond after he had a little bit too much to drink, Vaillancourt said. His explanation of why he did it, combined with his family's offer to pay for any damages caused to the vehicle, kept him from being arrested.

Her father worked as a typographer for The Daily News in Lawrence, Mass., for many years before retiring. He passed

away when he was in his mid-90s.

His daughter said he surprised his family in 1994 when he bought a new Toyota Camry, claiming that he didn't want to live his life filled with hate.

Her father was treated brutally during the war.

Joe Vaillancourt was among the nearly 80,000 American and Filipino POWs who were forcibly marched more than 60 miles from Bataan to Camp O'Donnell.

Approximately 13,000 men perished during the "death march," Vaillancourt said.

Many of the POWs died of heat exhaustion or were bayoneted. The Japanese had orders to not waste a bullet on any of them, she said.

The POWs had to learn how to survive while being held in captivity. Vaillancourt's father told her that each POW would have four or five other people around him that he could trust and that they would look after one another. Her father also learned the Japanese language and could understand what the guards were saying.

The POWs learned the rituals the guards observed and obtained food and medical supplies from the black market at the time of day the guards went inside for a while, she said. Also, the POWs or black marketers would hide food or medicine in their groin area when coming into camp because that was one area the guards wouldn't search.

"That's how we got the expression, 'You don't know what's coming down the road,'" Vaillancourt told the audience.

Her father was eventually held at Camp #17 at Fukota, Japan, only 35 miles from Nagasaki. He and fellow POWs saw the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, and didn't know what



Pat Vaillancourt with a notebook full of information about her father and other servicemen who were Japanese prisoners of war during World War II following a March 8 presentation at American House.

had happened, she said. He initially thought a large ammunition depot had been destroyed. But he and the other prisoners soon realized it was something significantly greater when they saw the enormous mushroom cloud that formed over the fated city where 40,000 people were instantly killed.

Vaillancourt told the group that the Japanese did not have a concept of surrender during WWII. This was because they operated under the Bushido code that was ingrained in them from childhood. They would rather die than surrender.

Some of the guards became friendlier

towards the POWs after the second atomic bomb was dropped but several of them committed ritual suicide rather than surrender.

None of the POWs at Camp #17 were exposed to radiation because the wind was blowing away from their camp. That wasn't known at the time and Joe Vaillancourt and other POWs were cautioned about starting families after they returned home. Doctors told them there was a chance their children could have birth defects.

"I turned out pretty normal," Pat Vaillancourt said, laughing.



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# AREA HAPPENINGS

For more events.  
Visit [www.pasconewspublications.com](http://www.pasconewspublications.com)

**March 31 – Relay for Life of Zephyrhills** – This year's Relay for Life festival will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight at Main Street Zephyrhills, 38454 Fifth Ave. downtown. Relay for Life is the signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society's programs of research, education, advocacy and service programs that can reduce cancer deaths and cancer incidence, and improve the quality of life for those touched by cancer. Visit [www.relayforlife.org/zephyrhillsfl](http://www.relayforlife.org/zephyrhillsfl) for information or to register. Call (404) 329-5113 with questions or to get involved.

**April 1 – Prelude to Easter Concert** – The Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Chorale will present "A Prelude to Easter" starting at 5 p.m. at the East Pasco Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7333 Dairy Road. This free, community concert is an annual spring event led by conductor Marvin Robertson, PhD. FHZ Chorale members volunteer their time and are comprised of hospital employees and non-employees who have a gift for and love of music. The concert features Teresa Ancaya on piano and Keith Rasmussen on organ and as part of the brass ensemble. Reservations are not taken.

**April 1 – Cruise In** – Free event featuring DJ Starvin' Darwin and a hula hoop contest for kids. Come on down with your prized car/truck, or just with the family to check out all the wonderful antique and specialty cars. Enjoy lunch at one of our many exceptional restaurants, and shop in out antique and specialty shops. Held in downtown Dade City from 1:30-5:30 p.m. Contact the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce at (352) 567-3769 for information.

**April 1 – Market Place** – Fresh produce, garden accessories, home decor, soaps, honey, jewelry and so much more. Pet friendly event held in Hibiscus Park from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact Lucy Avila at (352) 521-5858 or [lucyavila707@gmail.com](mailto:lucyavila707@gmail.com) for information.

**April 1 – Races at Academy at the Farm** – Academy at the Farm, 9500 Alex Lange Way, is holding a 5K, 1-mile and 200-meter dash set of races. It is a 'Wonderland' themed event and costumes are encouraged. The course will go through the school campus and neighboring farm and community. The first 500 participants will receive a t-shirt. There will be a \$5 pancake breakfast following the race. Visit [athlinks.com/event/mad-dash-134444](http://athlinks.com/event/mad-dash-134444) to sign up or call (352) 588-9737 for information.

**April 1 – Pasco Master Gardener Plant Sale** – The Pasco Master Gardeners will hold a plant show from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. in front of the Extension Office at 36702 S.R. 52 in Dade City. A greenhouse inventory clearance will be held with cultural information included with each plant. Educational material and Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening and lawn care questions. A free seminar on "Butterflies and their Blooms" will be held at 9 a.m. in Clayton Hall.

**April 2 – Uncorked in Dade City** – The Garden Club is proud to present the third Uncorked in Dade City, an adventure in wine, food and music. Held at the club, 13630 Fifth St. from 3-6 p.m. There will be six unique wines to sample, each set up in wine stations in the beautiful gardens, paired with appropriate appetizers. Gift basket raffle tickets and wine will be available for purchase. Contact Debbie at (352) 567-9003 or [DebLParks@aol.com](mailto:DebLParks@aol.com) for tickets and information.

**April 4 – Movie Screening and Community Seminar** – Gulfside Regional Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care will be

hosting a screening of the movie "Still Alice" and a discussion on Alzheimer's Disease at 2 p.m. at the New River Branch Library, 34043 S.R. 54. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Call Anna Davis at (727) 992-8042 for information and to RSVP.

**April 5 – Pinterest Party** – Come learn about this fun yet informative website at your neighborhood Humana. Ever wondered how to "upcycle" newspaper into a picture frame or turn old wine bottles into wind chimes? Well come out and join us at 1 p.m. All are welcome. We will also make a craft for you to take home after class. Humana is located in the Zephyr Commons Shopping Center at 7920 Gall Blvd. Call (813) 780-7300 for information or visit us in person to get a copy of our full calendar of events for this month.

**April 5 – Presentation on Tampa History** – American House Zephyrhills, 38130 Pretty Pond Road, will be hosting a fun and informative presentation by author Joshua McMorrow-Hernandez, a Tampa native and historian who grew up in Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. Come hear the presentation and get your name in a raffle for a prize. Tours of American House will be available after. Call (813) 400-2263 for information and RSVP by April 3.

**April 5 – All American Youth Art Walk** – The second annual event will feature the incredible talents of the county's K-12 students. Located in the Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center, 38053 Live Oak Ave. in Dade City from 5-6:30 p.m. Presented by the District School Board of Pasco County and the Pasco County Clerk and Comptroller's Office.

**April 7 – Joe Kiefer Golf Tournament** – The Dade City Chamber of Commerce presents the 32nd annual golf tournament at Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club, 12900 Lake Jovita Blvd. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Registration deadline is March 31. Visit [dadecitychamber.org](http://dadecitychamber.org) for a full list of registration and sponsorship opportunities or call the Chamber at (352) 567-3769 for information.

**April 7 – Florida Bats** – Join Shari Clark, with Florida Bat Conservancy, as we listen to a bat program, see live bats and go look and listen for wild bats. Cost is \$3/vehicle or annual park pass. Held from 6-7:30 p.m. at Dade Battlefield, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

**April 7 – BonWorth Grand Re-Opening** – A grand re-opening will be held all day from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. with a ribbon cutting from the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce at noon. Located at Merchant Square Mall, 7409 Gall Blvd. Come for 10-year anniversary celebration fun for all, red hot deals and prizes. Call (813) 715-0057 for information.

**April 7 – Build Your Family Tree** – Need help building your family tree? Join us at the local Zephyrhills Humana for a class to learn how to build your family tree online for free. Held from 12-1 p.m. at the Neighborhood Humana, located in the Zephyr Commons Shopping Center at 7920 Gall Blvd. Free for all to join. Call (813) 780-7300 for information or visit us in person to get a copy of our full calendar of events for this month.

**April 8 – Farmers Market** – Held in the San Antonio City Park from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The market, sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Antonio, will offer fresh produce, hand-crafted wine, yard art, plants, jams and jellies, dog treats, honey

and other bee products, repurposed glass items, dried herbs and herbal products and baked goods. Hungry shoppers will be able to purchase hot dogs, popcorn, coffee and sodas. Vendor spaces are available for a fee of \$25. Contact Winnie Burke at (352) 437-5161 or [rotarysanantoniofl@gmail.com](mailto:rotarysanantoniofl@gmail.com) for information.

**April 8 – Birdies and Blackjack** – The Zephyrhills Bulldog Booster Club presents a golf tournament and casino night event, Mardi Gras style. Held at Silverado Golf & Country Club, 36841 Clubhouse Drive, with a 9 a.m. shotgun golf tournament. A trick shot artist will be on hand for entertainment. Park three poker challenges with payouts for top three finishers. Casino Night starts at 6 p.m. with a slew of classic casino games, music, food and raffles. Don't forget to dress up for the masquerade contest with prizes for winners. Contact Randy at (216) 780-4485 or [zhsathleticboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:zhsathleticboosterclub@gmail.com) for tickets or information. Must be 21 to participate at Casino Night.

**April 8 – Hittin' the Road for Hospice** – This year's annual motorcycle poker run is set. Riders will be cruising across Pasco County. The run starts at Harley-Davidson of New Port Richey, 5817 S.R. 54. Check-in, registration, and breakfast at 8 a.m. and last bike out at 10 a.m. Post-run celebration starts at 1 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Zephyrhills #3752, at 4149 New River Road. Visit [www.HittinTheRoadForHospice.org](http://www.HittinTheRoadForHospice.org) to register.

**April 8 – Spring Arts and Craft Fair** – The Lighthouse Crafters of Southport Springs will be holding their annual arts and crafts fair from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the clubhouse located just off Chancey Road. Vendors will be displaying beautiful handmade items and a bake sale and Chinese auction will also be featured. Call Linda at (813) 778-1359 for information.

**April 8 – Jelly Bean Fling** – A new event for the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village including a visit with the Easter Bunny, an Easter bonnet parade and egg hunts. You'll also have a chance to visit all of the wonderful exhibits at the museum. Held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 15602 Pioneer Museum Road. Call (352) 567-0262 or visit [www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org](http://www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org) for information.

**April 9 – Easter Eggstravaganza** – Saint Leo University's Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority and the First Year Experience team are hosting Easter Eggstravaganza from 2-4 p.m. Children of all ages from the community, as well as faculty, staff and students, are welcome to attend this free event, which will be held in The

Bowl, behind Saint Francis Hall and the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library at 33701 S.R. 52. Activities will include an Easter egg hunt, egg toss, egg race and more. Contact [orientation@saintleo.edu](mailto:orientation@saintleo.edu) for more information.

**April 13 – Last Bingo of Season** – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills (FHZ) will host its last Bingo program until autumn from 2-3 p.m. in the hospital's Creation Café at 7050 Gall Blvd. The speaker will be Natasha Forbes-Thorne, OTR, MBA/HCM, FHZ's director for acute care rehabilitation. Homemade peanut butter pie will be served along with hot coffee while a few games of Bingo are played and prizes are presented to winners. Due to space limitations, reservations are required. Call (877) 534-3108 for information and reservations.

**April 13 – Sunrise of Pasco Benefit** – Beef O'Brady's, located at 14136 Seventh St. will donate 10 percent of its earnings tonight to Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic and Sexual Violence Center. Call (352) 567-4136 for information.

**April 15 – Eggs in the Park** – Free annual event for children ages 0-12 and their families. Egg hunt starts promptly at 10 a.m. for all ages followed by several games and relays. Held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Dade Battlefield, 7200 C.R. 603 in Bushnell. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

**April 18-30 – Tunes in Bloom** – As part of our New Moon Concert Series, join St. Leo Singers, St. Leo Chambers Singers, Saint Leo Rhythm Machine and Saint Leo Strings for a musical showcase starting at 7 p.m. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Seating is limited. Contact [jennifer.orendorf@saintleo.edu](mailto:jennifer.orendorf@saintleo.edu) to ensure your place in the audience. Don't forget to indicate the number of seats you'd like to reserve. Held at the Black Box Theatre, Benedictine Hall at the west end of campus, 33701 S.R. 52, with its own parking entrance.

**April 29 – Free Diabetic Education Class** – If you were recently diagnosed with diabetes or struggles with managing your diabetes, then this certified education class will help you. Presented in a group setting by Bayfront Health Medical Group. Held from 10-11 a.m. at 13100 Fort King Road, Medical Plaza I, Classroom 108. Call (352) 567-6763 for information or to reserve your space.

**April 30 – Open House** – Holy Name Monastery will be holding an open house for the new retreat wing from 2-4 p.m. at 12138 Wichers Road in St. Leo, just south of S.R. 52. Refreshments will be served.

## Pasco News Publications

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## GEM ESTATES



Ron Raymond is an excellent volunteer in the Gem Estates community.

# Spring A Gem Of A Season

## Games Keep Rolling At Gem Estates

Submitted by *Mabel Budzinski*  
Gem Estates

March 13 Euchre winners were Dorothy Massoll and Larry Sharp. Wednesday morning Bruce Hudson won three games at shuffleboard on March 15.

The morning of March 16, 122 folks attended coffee hour. Dave Hunt gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Linda Files moderated

the conversation and Dick Burgess provided a bit of humor.

Remember your Project Dark House forms are due this month.

My pick for volunteer of the week is Ron Raymond. Ron is chairman of the maintenance committee, works Wednesday evening bingo, works with the kitchen crew and anywhere he is needed.

On March 18, Gem Estates residents enjoyed an afternoon of good food, good friends and good weather for outdoor games at their spring celebration.



Residents enjoy some friendly competition playing a corn bag toss game.



A delicious buffet spread for the spring celebration.

# Come Worship Our Risen Lord

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, in partnership with the Zephyrhills-Wesley Chapel Ministerial Association, cordially invites you to attend this event. Children are welcome.



### GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF THE CROSS

Friday, April 14, 2017

The Walk of the Cross on Good Friday takes a pilgrimage with a cross through the streets of Zephyrhills marking the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Along the way, we will stop at seven locations to reflect on the last Seven Sayings of Christ on the Cross. The evening will conclude at the First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills. The walk is a couple of miles and takes place rain or shine.

5:30 PM

Walk of the Cross begins  
St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
5316 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Zephyrhills

6:45 PM *(approximate)*

Final Reflections and Music  
First United Methodist Church  
38635 Fifth Avenue, Zephyrhills

### EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, April 16, 2017

Join Florida Hospital Zephyrhills for this annual gathering to proclaim that Jesus Christ is alive! Celebrating through song, prayer and scripture, this beautiful, hour-long service will uplift and inspire you. The service takes place rain or shine.

*"Why do you seek the living among the dead?  
He is not here, but is risen!" Luke 24: 5-6*

6:45 AM

Easter Sunrise Service  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills - Front Lawn  
7050 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills

*You're encouraged to bring lawn chairs as seating is limited.  
Complimentary refreshments provided.*

#### SPECIAL MESSAGE BY:

Pastor Nick Deford, First Church of the Nazarene, Zephyrhills | Music by: *The Sound*  
*An offering will be taken to benefit the Zephyrhills-Wesley Chapel Ministerial Association and The Samaritan Project of Zephyrhills.*



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**TOWN & COUNTRY RV RESORT**



Huge Group with Doug and Carol Miller on the right.

**Season • Continued from Page 1A**

Relay for Life fundraising, Ladies Luncheons and the event of the season, the Snowbird Party, with a record attendance this year.



Debra Moore Haralamos, Sue Steinhofner and Tena McCoy taking a break from line dancing at the Black and White Party.

Sandwiched in between were Bingo nights, Euchre, aerobics, shuffleboard, pool days, driving range practice sessions, campfire socials, gardening, Women's League Bocce Ball competitions, dog walks and small gatherings on neighbors' patios. Outside the park, you could find residents at weekly golf scrambles at the Abbey, flea markets, horse races, Moose Lodge dinners, the Whispering Oaks Winery, the Joy Lan Drive-In and at area restaurants and bars, such as ABC pizza for spaghetti night or Doc's Pub and Grille for two-for-one wings.

The newest weekly event this season was the Thursday Cocktail Shuffleboard League, with teams competing for uniquely designed trophies. For any organized activity, it seemed the men versus women competitions were as strong as the United States versus

**Season • Continued on Page 7A**

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# TOWN & COUNTRY RV RESORT

## Season • Continued from Page 6A

Canada competitions. Also, this year many residents ventured further up and down the U.S. 301 trail, both biking and walking, helping to increase awareness of the utility of this sidewalk trail. Some even walked four miles into downtown Dade City for lunch... and back!

The highlight of this year's party season for Sue Steinhofer, a three-year park resident, was attending and helping to plan the first annual Ugly Christmas Sweater party, a free event for all residents. One of the long-time residents, Steve Kosloski, played guitar for tips. There were also photo props, cardboard frames and a photo booth, and everyone brought snacks and drinks to pass.

Sue Steinhofer reports that she loves "the wonderful people in the park, the camaraderie, how easy it is to make friends" and notes that people are so nice here. When asked what she liked about the Town and Country park she said, "It is not as crowded here. There is more of a stamp around your lot, the streets are wide and the park is meticulously cared for."

Three years ago, Steinhofer had initially booked an RV park in New Port Richey, but upon arrival found it difficult to back-in her travel trailer, found the pool to be gross and said there was no way she was going to stay there. She opened up the Good Sam book and when someone answered the phone at the second park she dialed in the Dade City area, Sue and her husband came on over.

"We stayed the night, thought it was so clean, so nice and so friendly. The prices were reasonable, it had a wonderful feeling and we never left" she said. Sue and her husband bought a park model last season.

Here at the Town and Country RV Resort, we host a very active community although if you drive around you will spot a resident or two relaxing and

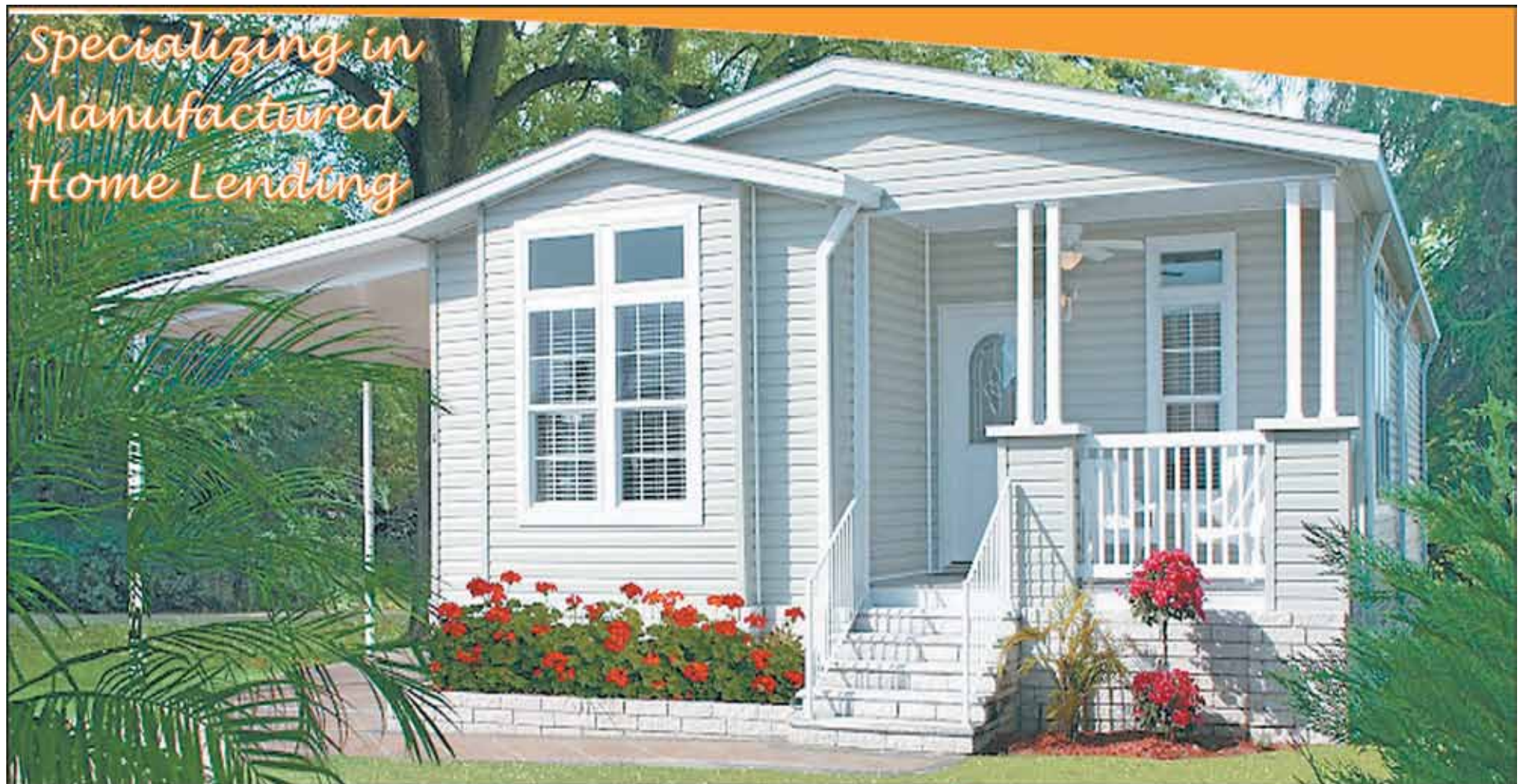
enjoying a good book on the patio. Lawn ornaments have been a big hit this year, from glammed up solar powered hanging lights to hand-painted concrete elephants, lighthouses and mermaids. Once in town, you might be tempted to help raise money for cancer research or just stop by for snacks and drinks on a friends' porch. Thanks to our residents for a great season.



Karen Bureaux, Ron McCoy and Arlene Buckley having fun with photo props at the Ugly Christmas Sweater Party.



Elgin, Tom and Kevin Bertrand and Ken Steinhoff. The team of three Bertrand brothers and Kenny won the unique shuffleboard trophy this year.



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# WHITE MARLIN RV PARK

## Residents Remember Neighbors At Memorial Service

### White Marlin Preparing To Return North

Submitted by *Donna Crockett-Wing*  
White Marlin RV Park

March turned out to be a very busy month here at White Marlin. Our music jams have been full and the music has been wonderful. However, it is that time when a lot of people are starting to head north. We will continue the jams as long as we can, as long as there are people to play the music.

Bingo has been successful, but that is ending next week as the snowbirds are flying out. We still have another week of bowling and Wednesday morning coffee hour. We will be having out last potluck March 30, with outside games

and lots of food.

In March we had our annual memorial service for people in our park who have passed away and also for people who used to live in our park and have now passed away. Our park chaplain, Mary Ellen Rudd, did a wonderful job organizing the service as she always does.

We had quite a few volunteers who participated to make it all come together. Special music was played on the accordion by Alma Gardner. Marion Montague and Wilma Hoyt sang a special song of remembrance.

**Marlin • Continued on Page 9A**



A memorial service was held this month to remember those who lived in White Marlin who have passed away.



A memorial table set up for those we in White Marlin have lost this year.



Chaplain Mary Ellen Rudd at the memorial service.



Alma Gardner played her accordion for music at the memorial service.

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# WHITE MARLIN RV PARK

## Marlin • Continued from Page 8A

This year we honored Earl Wells, Freda Schaumberg and Jackie Campbell.

It was a wonderful and very moving service. Once the service was concluded everyone met outside for the releasing of the balloons while all in attendance sang "I'll Fly Away."

We had a wonderful potluck to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Almost everyone wore their green and a fun time was had by all. After everything was cleaned up we stayed to watch a movie and it was hilarious.

No matter what we do, we always have fun here at White Marlin.

Until next year, safe travels and God bless.



Releasing of the balloons at the memorial service. Holding the balloons are, from left, Carol Waara with balloon for Earl Wells, Clarice Swanchera with balloon for Freda Schaumberg, and Leo Campbell with balloon for Jackie Campbell.



Everyone dressed in their green and leprechaun best for the St. Patrick's Day dinner.



A festive St. Patrick's Day potluck was held with great success.



The delicious spread for the St. Patrick's Day dinner.



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# VALLEYDALE RO



Strawberry social entertainment.



Strawberry social preparations.

### Valleydale • Continued from Page 1A

11. Over 100 residents and friends came to dance the night away. The entertainment was performed by Delaware Oldies, rock and roll and doo wop. There was a hula hoop contest with quite a few participants. The winner was Terry Nelson. For hula hoops around the neck the winners were Diane LaCourse and Pam Dinehart. We even had a group of men 'fast dancing.' Now, that was a sight we don't see too often. A special thanks to Betty and Winston for a wonderful season of hosting the dances.

On March 14, we had our coffee hour with a special goodbye sung by our Valleydale Chorus, led by Gisela Von Schilling. Everyone appreciates all the time and effort she put into this music. They performed a few times in the winter and this was the perfect ending.

Later that day, we had our park picnic, put on by Nancy Noble, with help from Linda and Ralph Harvey and a wonderful crew of helpers. Jim Ramsey and the



The 2017 park picnic was held March 14.

golf crew were grilling hot dogs and all the fixings outside the clubhouse. Joe Ensel supplied fresh fish sandwiches, caught, cleaned and cooked by him. Everyone attending brought over salads of all kinds, beans, pastas and desserts. Soft drinks, coffee and water to round

out the meal were supplied. Everyone went home smiling and well fed. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers in the park for a great time.

On March 16, the men's golf league played a full day of golf, followed by the banquet held at the clubhouse, with

catering by the Golden Corral. The day was filled with great camaraderie and sportsmanship. It was a well attended event.

March 18 was our annual Strawberry Social, hosted by Dotty Copeland, Lorraine Turner and Linda Harvey. We had strawberry shortcake served on angel food cake, yellow cake, sponge cake and biscuits and lots of cool whip. Our berries were bought by Alan and Lorraine Turner. Our cleaners and preparers were Joyce MacAdam, Pat Robinson, Barbara Fitzgerald, Nancy and Larry Roth, Marilyn Featherston and Edith and Roger Dennis. The lovely ladies who served everyone were Sonja Faulkingham, Shirley Kolden, Judy Morrison, Joanne Pasquale, Althea Gaumont and Georgette Lewis. Judy Morrison served in multiple slots where needed. Tickets and posters were made by Ken Weiler. Tickets were sold at the door by Daryl Bariteau. Before the main event started, we had some Irish

### Valleydale • Continued on Page 11A



Members of the men's golf league.



More members of the men's golf league.



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# VALLEYDALE RO

## Valleydale • Continued from Page 10A

entertainment, seeing that St. Patrick's Day was the day before. We held five short skits with all the entertainers from the park, Lynette and Al Wheeler, Alan Turner, Howard Dockett, Leo Campbell,

Phil Teri, Al Bariteau, Bill Copeland and Ray Marshall. A special thanks to Linda and Ralph for helping put back all the big tables. This is one of our biggest fundraisers for charity. Thank you to all who made this event successful. Till next time.



The Valleydale King and Queen at the 2017 Founders' Day parade on March 11.



Hot dog grillers hard at work for the picnic.



Hula hoop contest at the Going Home Dance held the evening of March 11.



The Valleydale chorus sang a special goodbye song at the March 14 coffee hour.



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Bob and Denise Drowne.



Tables are full of St. Patrick's Day revelers.

Photos by Ted Dann

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**Majestic • Continued from Page 1A**

in Ireland was tough – he was constantly being beaten by thugs, harassed by Irish royalty and admonished by his British superiors. After he died on March 17, 461, Patrick was largely forgotten. But slowly, mythology grew around Patrick and centuries later he was honored as the patron saint of Ireland.

According to St. Patrick's Day lore, Patrick used the three leaves of a shamrock to explain the Christian holy trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Another St. Patrick myth is the claim he banished snakes from Ireland. It's true no snakes exist on the island today, but they never did. Ireland, after all, is surrounded by icy waters – much too cold to allow snakes to migrate from Britain or anywhere else.

Until the 1970s, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland was a minor religious holiday. A priest would acknowledge the feast day

and families would celebrate with a big meal, but that was about it. St. Patrick's Day was basically invented in America by Irish-Americans. Eighteenth-century Irish soldiers fighting with the British in the U.S. Revolutionary War held the first St. Patrick's Day parades. Some soldiers, for example, marched through New York City in 1762 to reconnect with their Irish roots.

The New York City St. Patrick's Day parade has taken place over 250 times since 1762. It is always lead by the New York Army National Guard's 69th Infantry Battalion, also known as the "Fighting 69th." It takes five to six hours for the 150,000 to 250,000 marchers to traverse the 2.1-mile parade route.

Annually, 5.5 million people visit St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. There are over 450 churches named for St. Patrick in the United States.

With nearly 122 million Americans, 39 percent of the population say they

**Majestic • Continued on Page 13A**



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## MAJESTIC OAKS CAREFREE RV ESTATES



Miller and Mark filled the dance floor for the line dances, too.

**Majestic • Continued from Page 12A**

celebrate St. Patrick's Day; 83 percent wear green; 34 percent make a special dinner; and 31 percent attend a party. Twenty five percent decorate their home or office and eight million people exchange cards. All these combined equate to spending \$4.14 billion on this one holiday!

It is a pretty big event, all over, but in the towns with names relating to St. Patrick – are the festivities bigger or better? Places like Shamrock, Texas; Clover, S.C.; Ireland, W.Va.; Saint

Patrick, Mo.; Dublin, Ohio; Erin, N.Y. or Limerick, Maine.

The residents at Majestic Oaks did not have to jet set around the world to enjoy St. Patrick's Day. They danced the night away to the music of Miller and Mark. Miller and Mark kept the beat going and covered every genre of music, to keep the dance floor full all night! There was plenty of green and Irish inspired snacks and drinks! Thanks to the volunteer team that put this event together, Walter and Betty Pitula, Harry and Susan Turner and Jack and Jackie Laubach!



The train was in motion with Jan Loomis, Sharon Gammon and Pattye Starrett following the conductor, Jackie Laubach. Photos by Ted Dann

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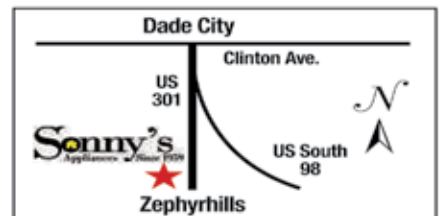
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