

NE Pasco News



Serving Blanton, Lacoochee, and Trilby in Northeast Pasco County, Florida –
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Karen Marler Removed; New Principal Is Shirley Ray

According to a District news release on Tuesday, Oct 5th, Lacoochee Elementary School Principal Karen Marler was transferred to a Title I Program Specialist position at Pasco High School and replaced by Seven Oaks Assistant Principal, Shirley Ray.



For the past two weeks, area residents, students and parents held supportive activities across from the Lacoochee Elementary School and



had a field trip to the Pasco Superintendent of Schools offices in Land O'Lakes.

Shirley Ray has been the Asst. Principal of Seven Oaks, a new school in a new subdivision near Wiregrass. It will be different coming to Lacoochee.



According to Pasco Times, reporter Jeff Solochek, Superintendent Heather Fiorentino stated that, "Ms. Marler has great skills working with the community."

"I know she did wonderful things for that school," she said, mentioning a variety of things including the creation of a Parent University and active participation in County and local community improvement plans and activities.

Judy Geiger, a Lacoochee resident and school volunteer, spoke to the school board at the meeting Tuesday. She said she was disappointed that Fiorentino already had decided to recommend the board transfer Marler.

"I just wish the decision had been different," Geiger said. "She has just been so good to the community."

Sandra Gallego, president of the school's Parent Teacher Community Organization, was among the group that gathered petition signatures and waved signs in support of their principal of nearly six years.

For herself, Gallego figured the only real choice was to move on.

"Hopefully, the new principal and vice principal will be just as good," she said. "If (Ray) is a nice lady and she helps us, that's all that matters."

Pastor Dave Huff Moves On

Sunday, October 3, 2010 was Pastor Dave



Huff's last service as the minister of the Trilby United Methodist Church. Over 50 people showed

their appreciation of Pastor Dave at a potluck dinner served after the service.

Pastor Huff is leaving to take over a nondenominational church in Zephyrhills. His new address is 33405 SR 54, Wesley Chapel, FL 33548. He can be reached at 813-799-5362.

Upcoming Events

"Red Ribbon" Anti-drug rally is planned. It will be Saturday, October 23rd from 9 am to 1 pm at the Historic Courthouse in Dade City.

Cpl. David Huff, Officer Friendly for the Lacoochee Elementary School. For further information, call **727 567 5171**

The Greater Trilby Community Association's annual Fall Festival and Children's Safety Rally has been postponed until the spring, probably March.

The Trilby United Methodist Church is having its first fall/winter fundraising dinner on Saturday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 and can be bought at the door. The dinner is a take-out or eat in.

On Saturday, October 23, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., there will be a Community Kick-off Welcome and FREE Bar-BQ dinner for the Leland Family Ministries' "Recovery for Life" program. Come learn about "Recovery for Life," a 12-step addiction recovery group for ALL ADDICTIONS, which is a Christian, Bible-based program emphasizing group interaction and education about addictions. The welcome and dinner will be held at the Christian Edge Dream Center located at the corner of US Highway 301 and SR 575 between Lacoochee and Trilby. Need more information? Call 813-469-0627.

----- Edition 7-A of October 6, 2010 -----

Community Unites to Keep the Tri-Community Beautiful

On Saturday, September 18th over 150 Tri-Community citizens gathered at The Christian Edge to get their assignments for the fall cleanup, including volunteers from the 4H, the local Boy Scout troop, and Lacochee Elementary School. "There were 34 students from Lacochee Elementary School who, from what I understand, collected money to pay for the use of a school bus to get them to the cleanup



Saturday! That's commitment!" Roger Kaminski, the coordinator of the cleanup, said proudly. "A few of the students took a couple of bee stings that day, got them treated and went right back out to work."

The cleanup is one of four that will be held in the area, sponsored by Pasco County Utilities Fiscal Services' Special Projects Department and Keep Pasco Beautiful, Inc. "Because this area has been overlooked for quite awhile, the county has agreed to give us four cleanup days rather than the usual two," said Kaminski. "The county provides the dumpster, gloves, t-shirts, grabbers and trash bags for the event. We supply the volunteers."

Tammy and Randy Wooten of Lacochee organized the majority of the volunteers who cleaned out the forest. "We had about 110 people from ages 8 to 80 come out to help. Everything went smoothly except when a wasp nest was uncovered and when a water moccasin was discovered in a rolled up carpet," said Tammy Wooten.

When the cleanup results were added up, the Tri-Community group collected 2.29 tons of trash. "Out of all the cleanup crews in Pasco County, our group picked up the second-most trash over all, and that weight does not include the 60+ tires that were not in the dumpster!" Kaminski boasted. "If you add that in, we would have been #1 for trash. I

don't know if we should be proud of that or not, since that reflects how much trash is out there, but it does show great commitment and dedication on the part of our volunteers working that day."

The next county-wide cleanup will be The Great American Cleanup on the third Saturday of April 2011. Please mark your calendars. However another Tri-Community cleanup is also in the works and is tentatively scheduled for a Saturday in November. Check next month's newsletter for details.

USDA and Habitat Workshops Held

A workshop was held on Thursday, September 16th at Lacochee Elementary School, and primarily covered what a family needs to do to qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home.

Vernon Fuller from the USDA office in Ocala also presented information on grants and loans for home improvements.

Habitat for Humanity is an organization that makes home ownership a reality for low-income families that have a demonstrated need for housing and the financial ability to own a home, even though they would not qualify for a traditional mortgage. Habitat arranges mortgages with zero interest for those families that meet its qualifications.

To be eligible for a Habitat for Humanity home a family: 1) must live in inadequate housing; 2) must have lived in East or Central Pasco for the last 12 months; 3) must have been employed at the same job for at least 12 months; 4) must be willing to partner with Habitat, volunteer 400 hours and attend homeowner classes; 5) must be able to make monthly payments.

Other qualifications are also necessary. A family must also pass background and credit checks. A person applying for a home may be single, married or divorced.

The workshop also covered the "Brush with Kindness" program. As part of this program, Habitat volunteers will clean up the yard, put on a fresh coat of paint and can make very minor repairs, such as repairing a screen door, to a home.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, contact Stephanie Black at (352) 567-1444 or e-mail her at sblack-epascoh@earthlink.net or go to the Habitat for Humanity website, www.habitatpasco.org.



Girl Scout Pinning

Cheryl Riley pins an award on Salin Bennett



at a regional GSA meeting held at George and Gladys's in Trilby last

month.

The Girl Scouts are looking for volunteers and members in the area and are hoping to establish a Troop at the Trilby United Methodist Church soon.

Blanton News

By Suzanne Hill

The new food pantry at Blanton United Methodist Church, 17481 Spring Valley Road, is off to a great start. We served more people in the community in September and look forward to continued growth in the future. Spread the word – our next food pantry day is Saturday, October 16, from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, or if you would like to help, call 352-567-3810. Leave a message and we will get back with you.

Don't forget that you can help your community and the environment at the same time. Blanton United Methodist Church is accepting aluminum cans to help Habitat for Humanity and newspapers for Meals for Wheels. They add up fast, and together we can make a big difference in Blanton.

The SHARE Food Program is a great way to stretch your budget. Order deadline for this month is October 6th. Pick-up and new menus and order forms are available in the SHARE info box at Blanton UMC and at Vaughan's Store.

Last but not least, Happy Birthday to our food pantry coordinators Ginny Pelkey (October 6th) and Anne Brothers (October 16th). You are much appreciated in the Blanton community!

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

Marion and Roger Kaminski's Mother Passes

DURDEN, Elmetter Parker, 91, was called to her new place of residence with her Lord at the midnight hour of September 8, 2010.

She was born January 28, 1919, in Grand Ridge, Fla., to Curtis and Carrie Lee Parker. She moved to Lacochee, Fla., in 1937. She and her husband, Glen owned and operated Durden's Grocery in Lacochee, for over 20 years. She also worked at Lacochee Elementary School as part of the cafeteria staff for ten years.

She was an active member of the Church of God, in Lacochee, for most of her life. She most recently attended Anchor Church in Ridge Manor, Fla. She was known for her kindness and beautiful smile. She enjoyed making quilts, cooking, working in her yard, and being with her family.

Elmetter leaves behind her daughter and son-in-law, Frances and Jimmy Boyette, of Belleview, Fla.; daughter and son-in-law, Marion and Roger Kaminski, of Lacochee and The Christian Edge; six grand-children, Glen Eding Durden, of Oslo, Norway; Linda Hoie, of Oslo, Norway, Kevin Boyette (Carolyn), of Ocala, Fla.; Stacey Boyette, of Belleview, Fla.; Ben Kaminski, of Lacochee, Fla; Dan Kaminski, Odessa, FL; four great-grand-children, Henning Durden, Daniel Durden, Rodney Boyette and Celine Hoie; two great-grandchildren: Hunter and Nikolai. She was preceded in death by her husband, Glen; son, Leon; and her grandson, Rodney.

The family would like to thank HPH Hospice for their assistance in providing homecare during her illness.

Area Food Pantries Get a Boost

By Rev. David C. Raley

On Monday, September 20th, a 24' long truck pulled into the parking lot at the New Life Center in Trilacoochee. It was filled with canned and dry goods from the Volunteer Way to be distributed to food pantries in the Tri-Community area.

The Volunteer Way is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, partnered with the Manna Project International, whose mission is to distribute food



directly to low-income families or to soup kitchens and food pantries in Florida. Last year, the organization distributed 4,000,000 pounds of food throughout the state. Unlike most food banks, the

Volunteer Way gives away food free of charge.

"Lester Cyphers, the leader of the Volunteer Way in New Port Richey, had visited the area several months ago and saw how much we needed help, said Rev. Dave Raley of the New Life Center. "He called me when he had made the connection with Manna Ministries, and told me the food would be arriving the next day."

"I look at myself as a food broker for the area and my church as the warehouse," Rev. Raley said. "As a food broker, I look for sources of food and then make the connections so local churches and other organizations with food pantries can get the food as easily as possible."

In that capacity, Rev. Raley contacted area churches and organizations in the Tri-Community area on Monday to come and collect the boxes of food at the New Life Center.

Two organizations responded immediately, the Trilby United Methodist Church and the Greater Trilby Community Association. Volunteers sorted and boxed enough food to fill about 40 boxes. The food will soon be on the food pantries' shelves but it must be inventoried before it will be ready for distribution.

"Please remind people that I will NOT be giving out any food to individuals at my church," said Rev. Raley. "The purpose of this whole new venture is for me to provide a resource to other churches, ministries, and the community that they wouldn't have otherwise."

Volunteers needed for ACCESS site.

Because of increased use, GTCA is in immediate need of assistance at the Trilby House to help eligible recipients of food stamps, Medicare and Medicaid services. Volunteers will be trained to help applicants use computers to register and apply for assistance. Please contact Sharon Adams, 583-5936.



Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency

[Apply for Food Stamps, Temporary Cash Assistance or Medicaid.](#)

[Report Changes to your Food Stamps, Temporary Cash Assistance or Medicaid case.](#)

[Check Case Status or Benefit Information.](#)

[Medicare Prescription Drug Program - SSA's Low Income Subsidy application.](#)

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These services are available 10 am to 1 pm,
Monday through Friday
at the Trilby House (Community Center),
37452 Trilby Road
Across from the Trilby Post Office

This service is provided by GTCA in cooperation with the Florida Department of Children and Families

East Pasco Has Website

If you want to find out what is happening in East Pasco, there is a website you must visit: www.eastpascopriorities.com. This website was created by Michael Brittingham, who is the director of the Boys and Girls Club in Lacombe, and has been in existence since 2009. The goal of the site is to be "a place where concerned citizens, clubs and organizations get together to discuss all things East Pasco."

When you enter the site you have many options. Among the things you can do are: you can invite others to join you, create a page of your own, list upcoming events in the area, share photos and videos, initiate or participate in forum discussions and post blog entries.

There is no membership fee and everyone is encouraged to use the site. If you need more information, you can contact Michael Brittingham at mbrittingham@bgctampa.org or 352-583-2994.

Renovation and Reopening

Jack's Barbershop on US301 is being renovated by Ray and Jerry Crawford in preparation for John Drouhard to begin cutting hair later this month.



Lacombe's Joe D. Sampson Dies in Car Accident

On Thursday evening, September 16th, Joe D. Sampson, 83, of Lacombe, died after his car was in a wreck and then was hit by a tow truck, which left the scene.

Mr. Sampson, the father of 11 children, came to the area years ago from Arkansas. He was described as a warm, generous man by Norma, his wife of 23 years. "He would do anything for anyone," Mrs. Sampson said. "If anyone in the community got sick, he was the first to organize a fundraiser. When someone hit hard times, he would offer day labor to put cash in their pocket."

Mr. Sampson loved his work as a hog farmer and part-time scrap metal collector. At one time he had 200 hogs on his property but now had about 30. He enjoyed selling meat at lower prices to friends who wanted to have a holiday barbeque, and never got tired of eating bacon, sausage, ham and chops. "He goes to see his hogs first thing in the morning, sometimes 5 o'clock in the morning. He says they have to eat before I do," said Norma Sampson.

Mr. Sampson knew everyone and almost everyone knew him or went to school with several of his children. "I think he raised a large family of all 'good eggs' because he made it clear what he expected of each one and they each had enough respect for him that they didn't wander," said Scott Black, mayor of Dade City. "He took an active interest in all of the local young people and helped raise more than just his own family of children."

"He was an awesome person," Wilton Simpson, a Trilby egg farmer, remembers. He had seen Sampson about two weeks before the accident and talked about how different the younger generation was. "Typical grandfather talk," said Simpson.

Mr. Sampson was involved in the community all his life and that involvement didn't diminish with age. He was the oldest deacon at his church, Greater Love Outreach Ministries in Hernando County.

"Mr. Sampson was an institution to just about everyone in the Trilby-Lacombe communities," said Scott Black. "There are a lot of sad people in the area."

Affordable Tax Services



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352 567-5000

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www.affordabletax.federaldirect.us Dade City, FL 33525
Mention this ad and receive \$20 off your prep fee!

Trilby United Methodist Church Thrift Shop

Women's, Men's, & Children's
Clothes
Baby clothes are priced 50 cents
to a dollar
Household items
Linens -- Shoes and purses
All sorts of other bargains

Open Tuesdays and Saturdays
9 am to 1 pm



Other Photos for the Online Edition:



New Culvert on Coit Road in the Withlacoochee Forest near Colter Hammock. Major road improvements were provided by the State Department of Forestry.



Gradual demolition of old Lacochee store-fronts. After the roof collapsed earlier this year, this building was marked for removal. This month, an early morning driver decided to help speed the event along.

GTCA News

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----- There is always room for more news. We are very appreciative of our regional editors. However, there are always more things happening and we would like to publish them. Please email stories and / or photos to Kathy Riley at kwr48@yahoo.com, and we will try to publish them.

Girl Scouts



Another photo of when Cheryl Riley had a pinning Ceremony at George and Gladys's in September.

