



In the know

PORT RICHEY CONSULTANT SOUGHT TO HELP WITH VISIONING

In an effort to bring the city's future into sharper focus, Port Richey officials are looking for a consultant to develop a vision and objectives for the next five years.

COUNTYWIDE Help School Board oversee use of tax

The Pasco School Board seeks volunteers to serve on its Penny for Pasco Oversight Committee. The committee has watched over how the district has spent its share of the local-option 1 percent sales tax since January 2005.

Pasco deaths

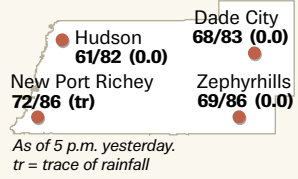
- Davis, Arlyn M. de Oliveira, Antonio B. Geadt, Verna L. Gregg, Martha Jacobs, Albert Johnson, Kenneth T. Natoli, Rosemary J. Pruce, Joyce E. Sulypa, Anna Swan, Marie R. Williams, G.C. "Harry" Young, Raymond

This list is from detailed obituaries published in Section B.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. Opinion: 2, Happenings: 4, Sports: 6

WEATHER WATCH

For complete weather coverage, see 2A.



Pasco Times

tampabay.com



EDMUND D. FOUNTAIN | Times

Devin Deschaine finds comfort while his mother, Melissa Deschaine, 20, keeps him amused at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg on Friday. The 2-year-old had just finished his first chemotherapy treatment for stage 4 neuroblastoma.

Hope for home and Devin

A mother facing the reality of having a child with cancer could also be faced with eviction.

BY CAMILLE C. SPENCER Times Staff Writer

PORT RICHEY — The little boy's limp was the first clue that something was wrong. Devin Deschaine's mother and grandmother noticed it a few weeks back, while he played in the living room of his home.

"You read about this and see movies and you cry," Deschaine said, "but it doesn't happen to you."

Neuroblastoma develops in nerve cells found in different areas of the body. About 650 people in the United States are diagnosed with it each year.

The disease more commonly affects children 5 and younger like Devin. He is in stage four, the most severe stage of the disease. Patients in his stage have a 30 to 40 percent chance of survival.

Its cause is unknown, and doctors have yet to find a cure.

The most common treatment is chemotherapy, which Devin is undergoing to shrink his tumors. Then doctors plan to remove them.

After losing her son to neuroblastoma nine years ago, Patricia Tallungan started the Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation

BENEFIT

Lend a hand

Friends are putting on a yard sale and bake sale to benefit the Deschaines from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday through Sunday at 8829 Chilton Drive in Port Richey.

in Illinois. The nonprofit raises money for research and helps families of patients cope.

Like Devin, Nicholas Tallungan started showing symptoms with a limp. Doctors discovered a tumor on his adrenal gland. Chemotherapy removed it, but it reappeared. Nicholas died when he was 10.

"You have to hope with this disease," his mother said, "and keep looking forward."

Devin was admitted to All Children's See DEVIN, 6



Rockin' Horse Farm in New Port Richey is home to a variety of animals, including horses of all sizes.

It's not horse heaven, but it's close

A New Port Richey family savors its idyllic horse farm on the Pithlachascotee River.

BY ELIZABETH BETTENDORF Times Correspondent

NEW PORT RICHEY — Tucked away on 17 lushly wooded acres along a narrow passage of the Pithlachascotee River sits a farm so enchanting it might double as the setting for a children's book.

Imagine a swimming hole so deep and clear it looks like you could stand on the dock and touch a toe to the sandy bottom. Walk a little closer to the barn and you'll see a sweet, energetic pig named Tinkerbell and her friend, Ragtime, a copper-colored Shetland pony so adept at kicking a soccer ball he

might have once performed in a circus. There's a tin-roofed little girl's playhouse on stilts overlooking a creek where wild lilies bloom and a bridge built from old truck beds that allows the adventuresome to cross the river on foot.

But everyone will tell you that the spirit of Rockin' Horse Farm is all about the horses: Tennessee Walkers and Paints and Welsh ponies and quarter horses, a herd of gentle creatures seasoned for long trail rides through the Florida woods that buffer the property.

You can ride here for nearly an hour without seeing the same thing twice and without ever being bored by the palmettos and cypress, oaks, magnolia and palm trees. When the weather's good, it's possible to cross the river on horseback, a pleasure so

unique and simple that if you've ever experienced it you've probably never forgotten how it feels.

Owner Amy Baird, 41, knows she's discovered a gem.

Pasco County might be subdivision mecca, but it still harbors places like Rockin' Horse Farm.

You just have to look hard to find them, she says.

"We have uplands, wetlands and lots of shade, too," Baird says of the property bordered by a backdrop of semitropical wilderness as far as the eye can see. "It's really a unique piece of land with lots of trees. Not just a bare patch of property with paddocks."

Baird, who grew up in Rockaway, N.J., knew this is what she always wanted.

See HORSE FARM, 3

Reward offered in cat cruelty case

A group hopes \$500 will net a solid lead.

Times Staff Writer

NEW PORT RICHEY — The Tucson-based Animal Defense Council announced Monday it is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who shot a cat with a hunting arrow.

The cat, named Arwen by Dr. Geoffrey Adams, the veterinarian who treated her, died May 4. She had been found three days earlier near Sims Park in New Port Richey, with the arrow still through her body.

A story detailing the crime appeared in Monday's Pasco Times.

"Whoever committed this horrific act of animal cruelty should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and undergo psychological coun-

FAST FACTS

How to help

Anyone with information is urged to call the New Port Richey Police Department at (727) 841-4550. Tips can be anonymous.

seling. We are deeply concerned that the person or persons who perpetrated this barbaric crime will commit more acts of animal cruelty, and will eventually harm people in the community," said Carmine Cardamone, director of the ADC. "Cruelty against animals is often an indicator of future violence against humans."

According to Lt. Scott Baker, no new leads have yet been found. To reach the Animal Defense Council, call (520) 792-0500.



Veterinarian Geoffrey Adams holds the razor-tipped arrow he removed from a cat.

WEEKLY PULSE PAGE WILL MOVE TO PASCO TIMES NEXT TUESDAY

Pulse, our weekly page of health and medical coverage, is moving next Tuesday to the Pasco Times.

Pulse will continue to appear weekly. We will anchor it to Tuesday so you know when to look for it.

In its new home, Pulse will hold true to its mission of providing information that deepens your understanding of health-related and medical issues.

You will continue to get insight and advice. You will read the best thinking and recommendations of respected medical professionals.

You will stay current on new findings, new treatments, new procedures. You will get timely, explanatory reporting on important advances.

And you will continue to read how some people improved

Pulse page graphic with headline 'BRUSHING UP ON ORAL HYGIENE' and an image of a woman brushing her teeth.

their health as well as how others confronted medical challenges. Pulse is moving as we restructure the newspaper to meet the changing needs of readers in

Tampa Bay. Please look for Pulse next Tuesday. To offer your comments, send e-mail to readerfeedback@tampabay.com.