

THE SANFORD HERALD

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Sanford, Florida • 50¢



Herald night at River Rats game

Baseball, hot dogs and...FREE GASOLINE!

Tonight is The Sanford Herald night at the River Rats game, and two fans will be able to drive away with a \$50 gas card just by cheering on the team at the Historic Sanford Memorial Stadium.

The Herald, which is celebrating its 100th birthday, also is handing out water bottles to the first 300 fans at the free game against the league-leading Clermont Mavericks. To be eligible for the drawing, make sure you're at the stadium by the 7 p.m. game time.

See you at the game!

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Herald photo by Joe Hendricks
Bryan Wilson speaks to reporter from local radio station during eight-hour stay at Paw Park.

Man puts self in dog's place to make a point

By Joe Hendricks
Herald staff

SANFORD – Most folks spent the 4th of July holiday attending parades, watching fireworks displays, barbecuing with friends or engaged in some other form of recreational activity.

Winter Springs resident Bryan Wilson spent the day chained to tie-out and metal spiral stake, sitting on a blanket, next to a plastic doghouse near the main entrance to Paw Park.

From 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on a warm summer day, Wilson sat on a thin blanket, wearing a dog collar around his neck, attached to a thick metal chain.

Wilson chose to spend the holiday in this fashion to draw attention to his and his wife Carla's efforts to ban the practice of prolonged chaining of dogs in Seminole County.

The couple has already spoken to administrators at Seminole County Animal Services about an anti-tethering ordinance. They have also provided informational packets to county commissioners as part of their efforts to enact an anti-tethering ordinance that would prohibit or severely limit a dog owner's ability to leave an unattended dog chained, tied or tethered out-

side for any extended period of time.

Wilson was one of hundreds of volunteers nationwide to participate in the Dogs Deserve Better annual "chain-off" demonstrations that took place from June 27 through July 7.

Now in its sixth year, the annual event coincides with the theme of "freedom" associated with Independence Day.

"It's a good day to talk about independence and we're talking about independence for the dogs," Wilson said. "Plus, this is a good opportunity to reach a lot of people who are off work."

Founded in 2002 by Tammy Sneath-Grimes, the Pennsylvania-based non-profit Dogs Deserve Better organization is "focused exclusively on ending the antiquated practice of keeping a dog tied up for its life, or for extended periods of time."

The organization's website (www.dogsdeservebetter.org) explains why she has taken up this particular cause: "Because they are the forgotten cause. Their abuse is much more subtle, no less insidious. They may not be in immediate danger of death. But death of the soul is still death to me. And they are dying out there, piece by piece, hour by hour."

Wilson and his wife, owners of a mixed-breed rescue dog, got involved last year.

"We realized that we don't have anything protecting the dogs. There's no law preventing tethering here in Seminole County. This has been about a one-year trip that hopefully is going to end with some good news for the dogs of Seminole County."

Orange County passed an anti-tethering ordinance in 2005. The ordinance prohibits the chaining of dogs between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and during periods of extreme weather. Tethering is allowed during other times under certain conditions.

The Orange County ordinance says the restraining device must have a minimum length of 10 feet and must provide for humane, unrestrained range of movement to ensure the animal is not exposed to hazard or injury. The ordinance also requires the animal to have "food, water, shelter, adequate ventilation, protection from the elements or other care generally considered to be normal and usual."

The ordinance states that restraining devices shall not be used to confine a dog on an owner's property between the

See Dogs, Page 3

Women's clothing exchange evolves

By Rachel Delinski
Herald Staff

SANFORD – There were women with clothes draped over their arms and smiles on their faces, all chatting and remarking what a great idea it was. There was the clothing, stacked high on tables, hanging from racks, and being pulled out of bags.

But, it was the idea of two women, Sammy Hudson and Brenda Cioe, that made the Seminole County Women's Clothing Exchange possible. As they stood taking money and handing out wristbands, even they commented on the large turnout.

"We've had a great response to this," said Cioe, co-founder of the exchange. Before Wednesday evening, the exchange had three meetings which were held on Saturday afternoon.

"Since it was during the



Herald photo by Rachel Delinski
Brenda Cioe and Sammy Hudson, organizers of clothing exchange.

weekend, a lot of women couldn't make it. Now, since we've made it a weekday evening, more women can come after work," said Hudson, co-founder and director.

In addition to directing the clothing exchange, Hudson owns and operates The Next Best Thing consignment shop on 1st Street in Sanford.

The clothing exchange began as a website where women could meet up and find out where to swap clothes.

Cioe, the original director, let Hudson take over and makeover the exchange to see if it could attract more women.

See Clothing, Page 2

Project Homeless Connect finds new home at Northland

By Herald staff

A controversial one-day event in Sanford to provide medical and social services to the homeless was moved Tuesday to a Longwood church after several people complained the program should not be held at the city's downtown civic center.

Northland, A Church Distributed, agreed to host the 40 organizations that want to offer help at Project Homeless Connect for those in need.

"It will be a wonderful location for the homeless in Longwood and Casselberry, and we're really grateful to Northland," said Cathy Jackson of the organizing Homeless Services Network.

"But we're disappointed because the largest concentration of homeless in Seminole is in Sanford and just outside of the city."

Jackson said there are 40 homeless camps in or close to Sanford, with 150 homeless on the streets every night.

"Those folks desperately need services to get back to self sufficiency and out of their homeless situation," Jackson said.

HNS and city officials met last week to try to resolve the issue after concerns were raised by a few merchants and residents about holding the event a second time at the civic center, which is in the core of the business and tourism area of the city.

Steve Bruton, a Northland employee who helped HNS organize last year's event at the civic center, approached Northland's pastor, the Rev. Joel Hunter, about holding this month's event. Hunter agreed this was an important outreach, Jackson said.

Last year, more than 350 people attended. About 250 volunteers offered medical services, testing for HIV and AIDS, employment counseling, food, showers, mental health assistance and other help.

Because of the change of location, Jackson said she expects the number of homeless participants to decline this year, to about 200. She said she expects more families to attend this year, however.

Like last year, HNS will not transport participants to the event, but will give each of them a Lynx bus pass as they leave.

"I certainly hope that Sanford citizens will now step up to the plate and offer their assistance and volunteer their time or make financial contributions to help this worthwhile organization in their efforts to assist those in need," said Mayor Linda Kuhn.

Jackson said she also would like to hold meetings with Sanford's business community and residences to dispel misconceptions about the homeless.



Herald photo by Joe Hendricks
Propeller lies in grass after fatal July 10, 2007 plane crash

Thursday marks 1 year since fatal plane crash

By Joe Hendricks
Herald staff

A moment of silence and a memorial service will be held Thursday morning in remembrance of the Dechat and Woodard family members who died July 10, 2007, when a small plane crashed into two homes in the Preserve at Lake Monroe subdivision.

The memorial service will also serve as a tribute to those who survived the horrific events that unfolded that day.

Taking place at roughly the same time the NASCAR-owned twin-engine plane plunged into the Dechat and Woodard homes, Thursday's service will get under way at 8:15 a.m. The service will be held on Willowbay Ridge

Street, in the very spot where the two homes once stood.

The Dechat's pastor will conduct the service. Joe Woodard, who lost his wife and son in the tragic accident, will be present.

It is not known by organizers if Millie Dechat and her son Daniel Happy will be present, but efforts are being made to contact them. Four-year-old Gabby Dechat also died that day. Her father and Millie's husband, Pete, is making significant progress as he recovers from severe burns that left friends and loved ones wondering if he would survive.

A candlelight vigil will take place later that evening. The vigil will begin at 6:30 p.m. and take place in the court near the crash site.

Dogs

Continued from Page 1

hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and is in effect 365 days a year, 24 hours a day during times of extreme weather or freezing conditions.

"Dogs Deserve Better was instrumental in getting the Orange County ordinance changed," Wilson said.

Adopted in 2008, the anti-tethering ordinance passed by elected officials in Miami prohibits the chaining of dogs entirely, unless the owner is outside with the dog and other requirements are also met.

Anti-tethering ordinances have also been adopted in Alachua County, Fort Lauderdale, Gainesville and many other Florida cities and counties.

California, Texas, Connecticut, Virginia and West Virginia have enacted statewide bans prohibiting the tethering or chaining of dogs.

Family member or lawn ornament?

"Most people think of their dogs as members of the family," Wilson said. "The animal becomes attached to you and you become attached to the animal - it does all the family things with you. And unfortunately the problem is with the people don't make that same connection of the dog as part of the family, then it becomes, effectively, a lawn ornament."

When asked what he would say to a dog owner who feels there is no harm in leaving a dog chained outside, Wilson said, "He should really find another pet. If he wants to have an animal as part of his life, he needs to pick something that's not going to have to be chained up in backyard."

Looking at it from the dog's perspective, Wilson said, "Dogs are very social. Historically they ran in packs. We changed that so it's no longer safe for the dogs to run wild in packs, so the human family becomes the pack for the dog. By chaining the dog up, you're effectively separating them from the pack. That can create aggression in the dog and can create



Herald photo by Joe Hendricks

Bryan Wilson gets moral support from Mellie the barkless dog.

psychotic behavior."

Wilson believes a chained dog is more likely to bite.

"When you take an animal and you reduce its territory down to a three-foot radius, he's going to do anything he can to protect it. By separating the dog from human interactions the dog doesn't know that a person isn't going to be a threat, so any person coming becomes a threat to the dog's territory and it's going to act instinctively, which is with aggression."

As for the reaction he got from dogs owners during his first six hours at the dog park, Wilson said, "Very positive; these people are already pro-dog. These are the type of people who include their dogs in their families. They're taking time out of their holiday to come spend time with their dog."

He said many people told him they had neighbors that chained their dogs outside and they too would like to see the practice come to an end.

Wilson did say that he has no problem with a dog being chained outside while its owner washes the car, does yard work in the general vicinity of the tethering device.

On the subject of fenced in yards, Wilson said, "The fenced in backyard is only acceptable if the people really have no other option. The dog has room to move

around and there's nothing to get tangled in, but there's still the heat, the humidity and the possible issue of the dog injuring itself or being injured by a wild animal or poisonous snake."

Building support

"The Chain-off event was a great opportunity to bring local attention to a national cause," Wilson said. "We're going to need the public's support when this comes to commission. We want to make sure supporters let their commissioners know in advance that they support the idea. The commissioners have been receptive to the information and we're very confident this is going to happen."

Speaking by phone earlier this week, Seminole County Animal Services Manager Morgan Woodward confirmed that he and his staff have been contacted by the Wilsons about an anti-tethering ordinance.

Woodward said he favors the idea of such a law: "What I'm doing right now is we're looking at entire animal control ordinance as a whole. It hasn't been updated in quite some time and we're looking to bring the entire ordinance up to speed - and one of the larger additions that we're looking to add to the ordinance is an anti-tethering ordinance."

Woodward said he and his staff have been looking at ordinances passed in other

Florida cities and counties, including the ordinance in effect in Orange County, which he thinks Seminole County may even be able to improve upon.

Woodward hopes to present a written proposal for review by his superiors in the next few months, followed by a more formal proposal made to county commissioners in late 2008 or early 2009.

"We're going to get it done as quickly as possible," he said.

Woodward said an anti-tethering law would probably place additional burdens on the Animal Services staff, but he does not feel additional staff would need to be hired for enforcement purposes.

"I'm sure we're going to have a vast number of calls come in immediately, but just like anything else they'll start to taper off and become more routine to where we know how to handle it once we have the experience," he said.

Woodward said the majority of calls made to his office in terms of chained animals generally pertain to neglect, as opposed to the threat of attack and injury caused by a chained animal that is not secured from children by fencing as well.

"I know in the past we've had animals where the collar was embedded in their neck and had to be surgically removed. Dogs that are extremely emaciated, just because they've been neglected. Their owners put them on a chain and forget about them," Woodward said.

Woodward said the trick is to come up with an ordinance that "is the right mix for Seminole County."

He said: "Not everyone believes a pet belongs inside the home and if they want to keep the animal outside and their association won't allow them to build a fence what other options do you have? Those are some of the challenges we have to look at as a whole to try and make it a good fit for Seminole County - not just for people that are allowed to have fences or that can afford to have fences."

Sanford Scene

WEDNESDAY - July 9

The Emerald Hen - Trivia Night, 8 p.m.

Little Fish Huge Pond - Vintage Country and Western Night, 10 p.m.

Sanford Wine Company - Acoustic Open Mic Night Hosted by Sheri Strange, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY - July 10

The Alley - Blues Jam following Alive After Five

The Emerald Hen - Alive After Five After Party

Sanford Wine Company - Donnie Lee (solo) during Alive After Five

Wolfy's - Shane Cotter (Rock), 7:30 p.m.

Willow Tree Café - Schunkelabend, traditional German music and sing-a-long, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY - July 11

The Alley - Shaun Rounds (Blues), 8 p.m.

The Emerald Hen - Jam Night, 9 p.m.

Sanford Wine Company - Matt the Sax Man (Smooth Jazz), 8 p.m.

Two Blondes and a Shrimp - Caesar Frasier (Jazz/Funk), 6:30 p.m.

Wolfy's - 2 A.M. The Band (Rock), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY - July 12

The Alley - Shaun Rounds (Blues), 8 p.m.

The Barn - Colt Ford (Country), 9 p.m., \$7

The Emerald Hen - Texas Hold 'Em Poker, 4 p.m.

Gators Riverside Grill - The Bluesbusters (Blues), 5 p.m.

Little Fish Huge Pond - Gypsy Steve, 9 p.m.

Sanford Wine Company - Sheri Strange (Acoustic/Blues), 8 p.m.

Two Blondes and a Shrimp - Jim Mitchell (Acoustic), 6:30 p.m.

Willow Tree Café - Schunkelabend, traditional German music and sing-a-long, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Wolfy's - 2 A.M. The Band (Rock), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY - July 13

The Alley - Live Blues, performer T.B.A., 4 p.m.

Little Fish Huge Pond - Lazy Sundaze, 4 p.m.-2 a.m.

Willow Tree Café - Schunkelabend, traditional German music and sing-a-long, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

MONDAY - July 14

Little Fish Huge Pond - SIN (Service Industry Night), 8 p.m.

TUESDAY - July 15

Little Fish Huge Pond - Actor's Workshop 8 p.m.-10 p.m., Toasty Tuesday (Indie and Techno) 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Two Blondes and a Shrimp - Free Outdoor Movie Night, 7:30 p.m.

To have your event listed in the Sanford Scene email your information to: susieorr@yahoo.com.

Please send info no later than Monday afternoon.



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