# SUMTER COUNTY

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Carrie Van Hooijdonk

### Teaching is the essence of life

Editor's note: This is the third story in a series featuring Šumter County Teacher of the Year nominees for the 2019-2020school year. Darlene Lanham is the focus of this week's feature.

"Teaching is the essence of life. We are taught from the time we are born until we choose to stop learning," said Bushnell Elementary School Inclusion teacher Carrie Van Hooijdonk of her profession.

"I hope that I can encourage other people to educate, because even though it is difficult, it has to be the most rewarding. As a teacher, you have the power to change someone's life and that is a big responsibility.'

VanHooijdonk said her philosophy is "don't be afraid to show yourself."

"Students think that teachers aren't people. I think it is important to show students that you make mistakes too and shown them how you learn from those mistakes.

"When they realize you don't know 'everything,' it shows them you are human, just like them.

# Time has come to town



A Bushnell Public Works employee makes a final adjustment to the clock head before its anchored into place and the electrical wiring is completed.

Family donates clock to honor Maddox for "lifelong devotion" to hometown



**Barbara Maddox and her brother David Tally** donated the clock to the city as a memorial to her late husband Warren Maddox who on the Bushnell City Council for

**By Martin Steele** Staff writer

For the half dozen volunteers of Bushnell's Park Committee, there was one day last week that was almost like bringing home a new baby ... one very big baby.

After months of anticipation, folks from the committee watched in awe last Tuesday morning, as city staff and a south Florida contractor carefully erected a 16 ft.-tall post (or street) clock in Bushnell's Downtown Park. It is the most recent addition to the sculptures, fountain and other aesthetic features of the park.

maker of large, public clocks, bells and other aesthetic items for businesses, colleges, churches, communities and such.

The ornate, 16-ft.-tall timepiece, with four 36-inch faces now stands between Bushnell City Hall and the park fountain and is viewable from multiple directions.

As one city worker noted, the clock adds a bit of "class" to the park.

While the citizen's committee supported the project with the blessings of the Bushnell City Council, it was the efforts and generosity of two individuals that resulted in the city getting the clock.

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#### Looking for a cushion on **Reverse One**

Volunteers have found success in obtaining enough signatures to get Reverse One Sumter on the ballot, but are hoping for another 1,500 as a cushion.

The total is just over 10,000 signatures right now.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, signatures can be collected via email.

About Reverse One Sumter - the effort to reverse One Sumter:

Prior to 2004, each Sumter Please see REVERSE/Page 2



vears.

The clock was produced for the city by the Verdin Company, an Ohio-based Barbara Maddox - a Bushnell resident Please see CLOCK/Page 5

## **Times takes five Florida Press awards**

The Sumter County Times took five awards in this Florida Press Association Weeklies Contest, including two first place and three second place honors.

The first place awards were in Community Service and Faith and Family Reporting.

The Community Service honor was awarded for a series of promotions and final story by Brenda Locklear on saving the home of Grant Grogan and his roommates, SCARC, Inc. clients, as they faced a funding crisis.

The other first place was awarded to Locklear for Spreading the word,' a story on a

The school district provides

bus transportation for children

living beyond walking distance

of the schools. Beginning this

year all students must wear a

face covering, and scan their stu-

dent ID card as they enter and

exit the bus. Student ID cards

may be picked up by students at

school orientation. Bus informa-

tion such as stop location, bus

"rolling revival" that was hosted at different churches around the county.

Martin Steele took second place in the Photo Series in One Issue category, for his 'Seminole battle comes to life' photos. Images from the annual Dade Battlefield Historic State Park reenactment, Steele captured a collection of images to tell the story.

Among the top coveted awards in the contest, is the General Excellence award – an evaluation of the newspaper as a whole. The Times took second place in the General Excellence category.

Face coverings, ID needed to board bus

number and arrival and depar-

ture times may be obtained by

attending orientation, checking

the e-link on the Transportation

tab of the district website, or

parents may call the Transporta-

tion Department at 793-5705. It

is recommended that all chil-

dren ride the bus on the morning

of the first day of school to assist

the driver in locating bus stops.

The entry requires that the newspaper send two to three issues, with one date specific. Judges evaluate general and departmental news, mechanical excellence and advertising enterprise; editorial page; general appearance; makeup and style; photography and promotion of community interest.

Overall Graphic Design was another second place honor for the newspaper. The category evaluates use of graphics, including typography, use of photography, line art, effectiveness of presentation and page design.

Parents may meet the bus at

school or follow it along the

route. Superintendent Shirley

has a recommendation for par-

ents, "On the first day of school,

young children in pre-kindergar-

ten, kindergarten and first grade

should wear identification tags

with first and last name, tele-

phone number(s), home address

Please see BUS/Page 2

### Couple arrested in store robbery

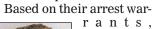
A man and woman were arrested Sunday evening,



Aug. 16. after reportedly robbing the Family Dollar in Lake Panasoffkee, according to

Dwight Hertz

Sumter County sheriff's reports.





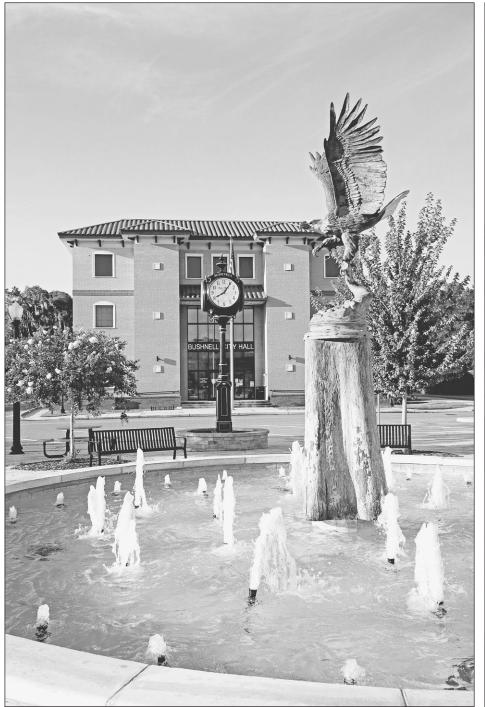
Dwight Hertz, 50, and Ashely Lavally, 29, were arrested Sunday night, in connection with the

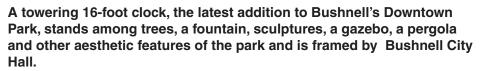
Ashely Lavally

robbery. The following is the chain of events, according to the

Please see ARREST/Page 9

**Overcoming the Hurdles of Life...** Wadelaw, P.A. JAMES E. WADE III, Esq. **Attorney at Law** Bushnell, FL **Full Service Law Firm Aviation Law - Probate** 352-568-2500 Wrongful Death - Nursing Home Abuse Litigation - Criminal Defense - Real Estate 







Workers move the cast iron base into place with the help of crane. The clock is featured in Bushnell's downtown park on the plaza, located directly across from Sumter County's historic courthouse.



street clock, installed last week in the city's downtown park. Maddox and her brother David Tally of Alexandria, Va., funded the purchase to establish a memorial to her late husband Warren Maddox, a life-long resident of the city and Bushnell City Council member for 15 years.

Bushnell Public Works staff and contractor for the Verdin Company guide the 700-poind cast iron base and post assembly into place as the clock installation gets underway.

the curlicue and gold ball fixtures at

#### CLOCK Continued from Page 1

and widow of the late War- pensable input and supon the Bushnell Council from 1999 until his death reality." in 2014 - and her brother David Tally of Alexandria, Va., For decades, Tally has been a frequent visitor to Bushnell and his sister's home. They paid approximately \$27,000 for the clock.

The project stemmed description. from her desire to honor her late husband's "lifelong devotion to his hometown of Bushnell and his commitment to making it a quality place to live," she said.

Warren "was instrumental in the development of the park at Bushnell Plaza, as an oasis of beauty and enjoyment for all," Maddox said. "I'm fortunate, noted. along with my brother David, to be able to present this beautiful clock to the city in Warren's memory.

City of Bushnell staff committee.

especially Mike Eastburn and the Public Works Department, City Manager Jody Young and the City Council for their indisren Maddox, who served port in making my memorial to Warren a

> Her enthusiasm was shared by members of the Park Committee, most of whom were on site to observe the clock installation. Member Marge Theis said her sentiments were almost beyond

"It's beautiful, awesome," she said. "It's more than I could ever have expected to have in our little park. It's a beautiful asset to what I consider a city park should be. It's finally becoming envisioned." what we

Barbara and her brother were instrumental in getting this for the city, she

Maddox presented her idea to the committee about a year ago. "I love clocks and thought it would be a great thing," "My heartfelt thanks she said, noting that she also go to my fellow Park was really struck by the Committee members, the positive reaction of the



Sculptural lion reliefs decorate each of the lower corners of the clock head.

It took a while to get total lack of response from things going. One of the clock vendors, from inquifirst issues was an almost ries by Public Works Di-

rector Mike Eastburn.

When a connection was eventually established with Verdin, numerous discussions followed with the committee on design elements, size and such. After the order was placed, there was more delay as the Covid-19 virus impacted the Verdin factory's production.

But, under sunny skies and the watchful eyes of a few Park Committee members on hand to observe the installation, the clock components were uncrated and very carefully set into place by city crews and Verdin sub-contractor Ken Trolenberg.

Committee members on hand noted that it's something special to have in a relatively small community. Bushnell is among places such as Leesburg, St. Augustine, Clearwater, Havana (Fla.), Palm Beach, Bonita Springs, the University of Florida and many others across the U.S. having these Verdin clocks.

In Bushnell, the clock stands among trees, flower planters, a fountain, gazebo, pergola and a handful of colorful sculptures.

"I'm very happy with it," Maddox said while visiting the park on a recent morning as the workday was beginning. "It's so beautiful with the sun on it from the east."

The clock leaves no doubt as to the location -"Bushnell" appears on placards above each face of the device. Also, each clock face is imprinted with "Est. 1885" to commemorate the founding date of the city.

The clock head - somewhat of a rounded cubeshape - has some distinctive embellishments. Each end of the Bushnell name placards feature sculptural curlicues tipped with gold balls. The underside corners of the clock are decorated with lion-head sculptural reliefs, each mouth clutching a hoop. The assembly is elevated on a rectangular, cast iron base and slightly tapered fluted column.

And, for those who might be out and about evenings, the clock has softly illuminated dials.

Contact staff writer Martin Steele at 352-793-2161 or msteele@sctnews.com.