



Carrie Van Hooijdonk

## Teaching is the essence of life

Editor's note: This is the third story in a series featuring Sumter County Teacher of the Year nominees for the 2019-2020 school 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.

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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

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# 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

BY MARTIN STEELE  
Staff writer



Barbara Maddox and her brother David Tally donated the clock to the city as a memorial to her late husband Warren Maddox who served on the Bushnell City Council for 15 years.

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.

The clock was produced for the city by the Verdin Company, an Ohio-based

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.

Barbara Maddox - a Bushnell resident

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## 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

"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.

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.

## 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 Sumter County



Dwight Hertz

sheriff's reports.

Based on their arrest warrants,



Ashely Lavally

The following is the chain of events, according to the

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## Face coverings, ID needed to board bus

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 student ID card as they enter and exit the bus. Student ID cards may be picked up by students at school orientation. Bus information such as stop location, bus

number and arrival and departure times may be obtained by attending orientation, checking the e-link on the Transportation tab of the district website, or parents may call the Transportation Department at 793-5705. It is recommended that all children ride the bus on the morning of the first day of school to assist the driver in locating bus stops.

Parents may meet the bus at school or follow it along the route. Superintendent Shirley has a recommendation for parents, "On the first day of school, young children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade should wear identification tags with first and last name, telephone number(s), home address

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# Overcoming the Hurdles of Life...

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