

THE LAKE MARY Herald

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Our Town Local AARP seeks funds

The Lake Mary Chapter of the AARP has always had a reputation of helping others. Currently, they're trying to help out the Good Samaritan Home of Sanford. The AARP will be collecting



Mary Rowell

items the Home is in need of and you can help. Even if you're not a member of the AARP, you can drop items at the Lake Mary Senior Center during the week. The center is located at 911 Wallace Court. It's open from 9AM to 1PM and from 2PM to 5PM.

The AARP will be collecting hard candy, nuts, shower caps, toiletries, tissues, mints, combs and crackers. None of these items are expensive and this is a great way to teach your children about helping others. Take your children shopping with you. Let them help you pick out the items to donate.

The Good Samaritan Home of Sanford is a 501(c)(3) organization that has been helping others for more than 50 years.

Entertainment announced for Lake Mary Celebrates

The Lake Mary Historical Society announced their entertainment lineup for Lake Mary Celebrates, scheduled for Saturday, March 1 at Lake Mary City Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Society was very fortunate to get the "Cats in the House" blues and jazz variety band. The band, known throughout Central Florida, is a versatile band that plays hot blues and cool jazz. Their instruments include the sax, trumpet, harmonica, washboard, guitars, drums, keyboard and bass.

Dr. Cindy Frazier, vocalist and saxophonist, will start the day off by singing the National Anthem. She'll also entertain the audience with some of her favorite songs.

Two local schools are scheduled to perform; the Lake Mary Elementary School Band and Chorus and the Greenwood Lakes Middle School Chorus. You'll also have a chance to see some great dancing with Miriam and Valerie's School of Dance Arts and the Edge Dance Studio. Looking for another after school activity for your child? Then don't miss Ace Gymnastics demonstrating their skills or the Hero Academy demonstrating their martial arts.

Of course, although he's not scheduled to entertain, he's very entertaining. That's Gus, Jr., of course, the Shriners kissing camel. Gus, Jr. will be around all day to kiss kids and adults!

If you have any items of interest in Lake Mary, email maryrowell29@yahoo.com. Please remember to include a contact name and number.



Kyle, Ryan and Jamie work hard on a recent project in Lake Mary.

Herald photo by Joe Hendricks

It's curveballs to Kwik Kerb

By Joe Hendricks
Herald Staff

LAKE MARY — Now in their mid-20s, twin brothers Kyle and Ryan Bono have made a successful transition from the field of dreams to the field of small business ownership.

The co-owners of the Sanford based Kwik Kerb Designs spent the first part of the decade starting as a pitcher-catcher tandem for the Lake Mary High School Rams (1999-2002), the University of Central Florida Knights and the Chatham A's of the Cape Cod summer league.

No longer toiling between the chalked white lines of the baseball diamond, the Bono brothers now spend their days installing decorative concrete curbing and

landscape edging for residential and commercial clients in Sanford, Lake Mary, Heathrow and beyond.

Play ball

Kyle spent two seasons as a dominant relief pitcher at UCF, earning All-America honors in 2004, his sophomore year. Later that year, the 21-year-old was drafted in the eighth round by the Boston Red Sox.

He spent the summer, with Ryan, playing for the Chatham A's before signing with the Red Sox and receiving a \$432,000 signing bonus — a record for an eighth-round pick.

Kyle began his professional career with the Red Sox' Class A team, the Lowell Spinners and started the 2005 season with the Wilmington Blue Rocks. In July, he was traded to the Arizona Diamondbacks' organi-

zation.

Kyle began the 2006 season with the Lancaster JetHawks, but after making one appearance he decided to hang up his cleats — in part, because he was a power pitcher and the Diamondbacks organization preferred "finesse" pitchers who threw more sinker balls and breaking balls.

"I decided to end my baseball career on my own terms rather than someone else telling me I was done. I never really thought I was going to be a major league baseball player," Kyle said.

"Kyle was throwback to the old hardball style of pitching," recalled Herald sports editor, Dean Smith. "He was a hard-nosed, tough kid."

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Celebrate Lake Mary on March 1

From Staff Reports

LAKE MARY — The city of Lake Mary Celebrates its past, present and future on March 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is the third event held in the manner of the old event in the early days of the city.

This year's event will be the biggest yet with more than 70 vendors, double last year's, including many from the successful Lake Mary Farmer's Market.

The event will include artists and artisans as well as kid's games and even Gus Jr., the Kissing Camel will be on hand to do what he does best.

In the vendor area, visitors will learn more about local businesses and there will be opportunities for gift buying.

The whole family can take part in games of yesteryear, including tug-of-war and sack, three-legged and egg races. There will be prizes for the winners, organizers said.

Lake Mary Celebrates will also include a food court and entertainment. While you eat food from local businesses and organizations, you can watch as musicians, dancers, singers and other entertainers perform.



Full Coverage

Don't miss the Feb. 28 edition of The Lake Mary Herald as we will preview everything you need to know to enjoy the Lake Mary Celebrates event on March 1.

We will have maps and information on vendors as well as entertainment schedules.

Upcoming Events

LAKE MARY — The city of Lake Mary will host its first annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 22 next to the Lake Mary Farmer's Market.

Organizers expect about 2,000 people to attend the event.

Other upcoming family fun items include the monthly movie night at Central Park on the grounds of City Hall. The next one on March 13 will show the animated comedy, "The Bee Movie," at 6:30 p.m. starring Jerry Seinfeld.

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Photo by Mike Bono

A job well done in Lake Mary.

Kerb

Continued from Page 1

Upon returning home, Kyle began working as a pitching instructor at the Hit & Run Baseball Training facility in Sanford, where his older brother Mickey served as a hitting and pitching instructor.

He also returned to school and in December earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and communication.

While Kyle played out his minor league career, Ryan stayed at UCF and earned his degree in marketing and communications. On the field, he was regarded as one of the best catchers in school history and in his senior year he was a top-10 finalist for the prestigious Johnny Bench Award. While playing for the Chatham A's, he once threw out three base runners in the same inning.

After graduating from UCF, Ryan joined Mickey, Kyle, and their father Mike at Hit & Run Baseball Training, where they operate as Bono Baseball LLC, working in conjunction with owner Mike Jackson and serving as the facility's training arm.

In addition to serving as the facility's Director of Business Development, Mike also lends his business acumen and marketing expertise to the Kwik Kerb operation.

Last spring, the Houston Astros invited Ryan to participate in spring training as a free agent. When the team broke camp he was offered a spot with one of the Astros' Class A affiliates. Based on his decision in part on Kyle's experiences in the minor leagues, Ryan turned down the offer, opting to concentrate on the Kwik Kerb and Bono Baseball operations instead.

In regard to the baseball instruction, Kyle said, "We played base-

ball together throughout our careers. We think coaching is what we'd rather do now, instead of playing. We enjoy private instruction."

"I like doing outside work and my brother Ryan and I wanted to do something together," Kyle explained.

Kwik start

Hit & Run Baseball Training is located next to the Kwik Kerb corporate headquarters on Central Park Place, in Sanford.

Similar in theory to a franchise, minus the revenue sharing and other long term entanglements, an individual investor can purchase the Kwik Kerb business system for \$50,000 or so – more if you want to start with a larger, more elaborate package.

The business system includes a bright red, do-it-all Kwik Kerb trailer that provides storage and transportation space for Edgemaster extruder, the cement mixer, the decorative stamping tools, the red wheel barrow and all the other equipment and materials needed at the job site. Training and marketing strategies are also part of the Kwik Kerb business system.

While working at Hit & Run, Kyle made the acquaintance of a Kwik Kerb operator and eventually went to work for him. In June 2006, Kyle decided he wanted to be his own boss so he purchased his former employer's Kwik Kerb system, using some of his signing bonus.

In 2007, Ryan bought into what is now a family business, making the two brothers teammates yet again.

The Bono brothers recently purchased a second trailer and equipment package from another Kwik

the company was headquartered in Lake Mary.

Speaking in a deep toned voice tinged with a strong Australian accent, Buckland said, "I think it's probably one of the highest profit businesses in North America for such a low investment business. It has the least amount of risk attached to it, without all the franchise fees."

In praise of Kyle and Ryan, he said, "The Bono boys are great examples of that. They came in about a year ago and they can hardly keep up. They're a great couple of lads."

"The boys have done some wonderful work."

On the job

Assisted by former UCF Knights teammate Jamie Douglas, the Bono brothers spent part of last week working in Lake Mary, where they installed more than 500 linear feet of decorative concrete landscape edging at the Lake Emma Animal Hospital, located on Primera Boulevard.

Their work now enhances the borders of the animal hospital's main entrance, the landscaping alongside the building and the northern edge of the property line.

The animal hospital job came their way when Practice Manager Karen Sprinkle noticed the quality of the work done by Kwik Kerb Design outside the Chili's restaurant in Lake Mary.

Kerb owner-operator, which now gives them the ability to work two jobs sites simultaneously.

At some point down the road, Kyle and Ryan hope to step away from the manual labor aspect and concentrate more on sales, marketing and management aspects.

Regan Bloss formed Kwik Kerb in Melbourne, Australia in 1987. One year later, Kwik Kerb President Gordon Buckland joined the company that was later headquartered in Orlando area for nine years. Before moving to Sanford,

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"They came at the crack of dawn, just like they said they would," Sprinkle said of the Kwik Kerb team, noting that they went "above and beyond" their expected duties by removing some old landscaping at no additional charge.

As in the world of outdoor sports, the Kwik Kerb Design team is subject to the Florida weather. Some midweek rain caused some delays in the Lake Emma Animal Hospital job, but as soon as the weather cleared, the boys were back at work.

"They came back and finished it after the rain stopped and it looks great," Sprinkle said, noting that the Bonos are going to further compliment their work

by adding mulch and other landscaping features – bringing yet another dimension to the residential and commercial services they provide.

"They've done an excellent job and I'm actually going to have them come out to my house," Sprinkle said.

Kyle sees the recently completed work at the Lake Emma Animal Hospital and the Lake Mary Chili's as signs that he and Kyle's efforts to expand beyond the residential market are succeeding.

For more information on Kwik Kerb Design, visit www.kwikkerbdesign.com or call 877-233-KERB (5372).

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