

# POLK NEWS-SUN



VOL. 91 NO. 3

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

www.polknewssun.com

\$1.00

THE LAKE WALES NEWS

## IN BRIEF



### Polk's online portal for vaccine reservation opens

Polk County officials announced Jan. 14 that the Florida Department of Health Polk County's COVID-19 vaccination registration portal is now open for online reservations for those 65 years old and older, who wish to be inoculated once more vaccines become available.

Through the portal — which can be found at <https://register.polk.health/> — users can create an account and upload their personal information for a future appointment.

While the online portal has opened, that doesn't mean the phone lines have closed. Those needing additional help, or who prefer to register by phone, can still call the COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at (863) 298-7500.

### Public meeting to discuss interconnected trails

A public meeting to discuss the multipurpose trails and construction projects around Lake Hancock will be held Saturday. The meeting will be held from 2:30 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23, at the large picnic pavilion at Circle B Bar Reserve (4399 Winter Lake Road in Lakeland).

The public meeting is to encourage public discussion about the development of a system of interconnecting trails around and radiating outward from Lake Hancock. The multipurpose trails will potentially connect to Lakeland, Mulberry, Bartow, Winter Haven and Highland City.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting [tracymullins@polk-county.net](mailto:tracymullins@polk-county.net).



FILE PHOTO

## Alafia River Rendezvous 2-day festival returns this weekend

By CHARLES A. BAKER III  
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For decades, members of Florida Frontiersmen, Inc. have organized the Alafia River Rendezvous simply

because that is what they like to do. After Christmas each year, hundreds of Florida Frontiersmen gather in Homeland to set up camps and simulate life as it was between 1640-1840 in what is now called Polk

County — a life before electricity and other conveniences took over.

The annual event, which culminates in a two-day festival Jan. 22-23 that is open to the public,

ALAFIA | 4

## Construction continues on Bartow High School expansion project

By CATHY PALMER  
Contributing Writer

While new classrooms built a year ago are already in use — though limited by the pandemic, which has affected the number of students able to attend in-person instruction at the school — the construction beat goes on at Bartow High School, as the final \$42 million final phase of renovation moves toward ready status in the fall.

Principal Emilean Clemons says the final campus

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Construction on the primary additional classroom building being built at Bartow High is progressing "ahead of schedule" according to the builders, and will be ready for students next fall. CATHY PALMER

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