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Clearing the air

Tobacco scion speaks out about the dangers of smoking

 SCOTT CALLAHAN | Staff Writer
 scottcallahan@dailycommercial.com

The grandson of the man who created America's second largest tobacco company stunned his family in 1986 when he began speaking out against the dangers of smoking.

Talk about ingratitude. After all, Patrick Reynolds inherited \$2.5 million from his grandfather — company namesake R.J. Reynolds — when the young man turned 21 in 1969. And he made a ton of money 10 years later when he sold all his stock in the company that churns out billions of Winston and Camel cigarettes every year.

But Patrick Reynolds knew cigarette smoking had killed his father and brother. A smoker himself since his teens, Reynolds tried for five long years to kick the habit until finally succeeding in 1985, a year before he began speaking out on how he believes his family business has killed millions of people.

Reynolds will tell his story on July 14 at the Mission Inn in Howey-in-the-Hills as a fundraising speaker during the Florida D.A.R.E. Officers Association's annual conference.

"When my grandfather began manufacturing cigarettes at the turn of the century, he did not know that smoking causes lung disease, heart disease and cancer," Reynolds said. "Now that this has been absolutely proven, I want to help people wake up to how addictive and poisonous cigarettes are."

The conference is called "Keeping Our Kids Safe" and Reynolds has a strong message and strong credibility," Florida D.A.R.E. President Frederick Jones said.

"He is big-time, anti-smoking," he said. "He has been on CNN and Fox News. He's even been on the Senate floor."

Lake County Sheriff's Office Master Deputy Terry Allen, the group's treasurer, said he invited Reynolds to speak after watch-



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOBACCOFREE.ORG

Cigarette mogul R.J. Reynolds' grandson, Patrick, will speak July 14 at the Mission Inn in Howey-in-the-Hills as a fundraising speaker during the Florida D.A.R.E. Officers Association's annual conference. He has been an anti-smoking advocate since 1986.

I want to help people wake up to how addictive and poisonous cigarettes are.

— Patrick Reynolds

ing him on television.

"I actually saw him on CNN and he had such a story that I looked him up online and called him," Allen said. "And we worked it out for him to come to the conference."

The Florida D.A.R.E. Officers Association is a charitable organization devoted to providing its officers with the tools necessary to help keep Florida's children on the positive path of decision making. Reynolds will be the group's noon luncheon

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Florida D.A.R.E. Officers Association Annual Conference entitled "Keeping Our Kids Safe."

WHEN: Noon luncheon on July 14.

WHERE: Mission Inn, 10400 County Road 48, Howey-in-the-Hills.

COST: \$35 for the luncheon (group table sponsors needed).

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact group president Fred Jones at 352-267-3037 or Fred.Jones@lcsd.orgfdaa.net.

speaker on July 14, and tickets at \$35 each will help fund D.A.R.E. activities and programs like its scholarship fund. The luncheon is open to the public.

Also planned by D.A.R.E. from 9 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. on July 13 is a day of family fun at the Mission Inn marina with a clas-

sic car show, bounce house for kids and a visit by "Retro Bill," called the most in-demand K-12th grade motivational speaker in the United States.

"Retro Bill" also will host a D.A.R.E. fundraising bowling night from 8-10 p.m. on July 13 at Triangle Lanes, 1530 Eudora Road, Mount Dora. Cost for bowling, shoes, black lights and music is \$10 per person.

Reynolds, who founded TobaccoFree.org and regularly speaks out on behalf of the American Lung Association, has been called "one of the nation's most influential advocates of a smokefree America" by Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop.

SEE SMOKE | A2

County wants to help you green up

 SCOTT CALLAHAN | Staff Writer
 scottcallahan@dailycommercial.com

Thinking about a few improvements to your home or business, or maybe even a new appliance? Lake County has \$825,000 to help pay for them.

County commissioners on Wednesday launched their "GO GREEN GET GREEN" energy efficiency rebate program funded by an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG).

"We are very pleased to roll out this program for Lake County residents and small business owners," Commission Chairwoman Jennifer Hill said. "This is a great opportunity for homeowners and small businesses to increase their energy effi-

SEE GREEN | A2

MONEY IS AVAILABLE

Residential upgrade money available:

Clothes washer — \$350

Dishwasher — \$100

Refrigerator — \$200

Duct test and repair — \$70

Heat pump — 15% of total cost, up to \$500

Heat pump water heater — 25% of total cost, up to \$500

Programmable thermostat — \$50

Radiant barrier — 30 cents per square foot up to \$500

Solar water heater — \$600

Small business upgrades available:

Duct test and repair — \$70

Heat pump — 15% of total cost, up to \$500

High efficiency indoor lighting — \$30 per fixture, up to \$1,000

Occupancy sensor — \$20-\$50 per sensor, up to \$500

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HIGH 92 LOW 75

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