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Details on page 18

Doyle creates new way for Subway

By B.C. Manion

bcmation@cnewspubs.com

James Doyle was scanning an online discussion board on Slickdeals.net when he saw a posting about the Build Your Own Virtual Subway Global Challenge.

Being both a fan of Subway sandwiches and of online challenges, Doyle decided to put his skills to the test.

So the Wesley Chapel 24-year-old got busy building his own virtual Subway store, calling his marketing concept "Fastview."

"It involves rebranding some of the Subway stores they have now, and also creating new Subway stores and using the brand, Fastview," Doyle said. Fastview is "eating fast food with a view."

For his "virtual" location, Doyle chose the St. Petersburg Pier — which was still open

when the contest was running. However, Doyle said his concept could work anywhere where there's a great view.

Normally, places that offer a good view are too pricey for restaurants offering an inexpensive dining option. But there are deals to be had in this challenging economy, and there may be some great sites available, said

See SUBWAY, page 12

The secret to 60 years of marriage: Love and Jesus

By Michael Hinman

mhinman@cnewspubs.com

Ask Jack Bailey to open his wallet, and he'll show you a picture of his wife Pat, beautifully adorned in the wedding dress her mother made.

It was taken the day Jack and Pat Bailey were married on Aug. 14, 1953. When Dwight D. Eisenhower was president. When the No. 1 song on the charts was "Vaya con Dios (May God Be With You)" from Les Paul and Mary Ford. And the same day a father created a light plastic ball for his 12-year-old son, and called it a Wiffle ball.

Yet, this photo, perfectly preserved in his wallet, is the only picture Jack has from that special day 60 years ago. A flash flood in the mid-1970s claimed the couple's wedding mementos, taking away both pictures and the dress Pat's mom made for her trip down the aisle.

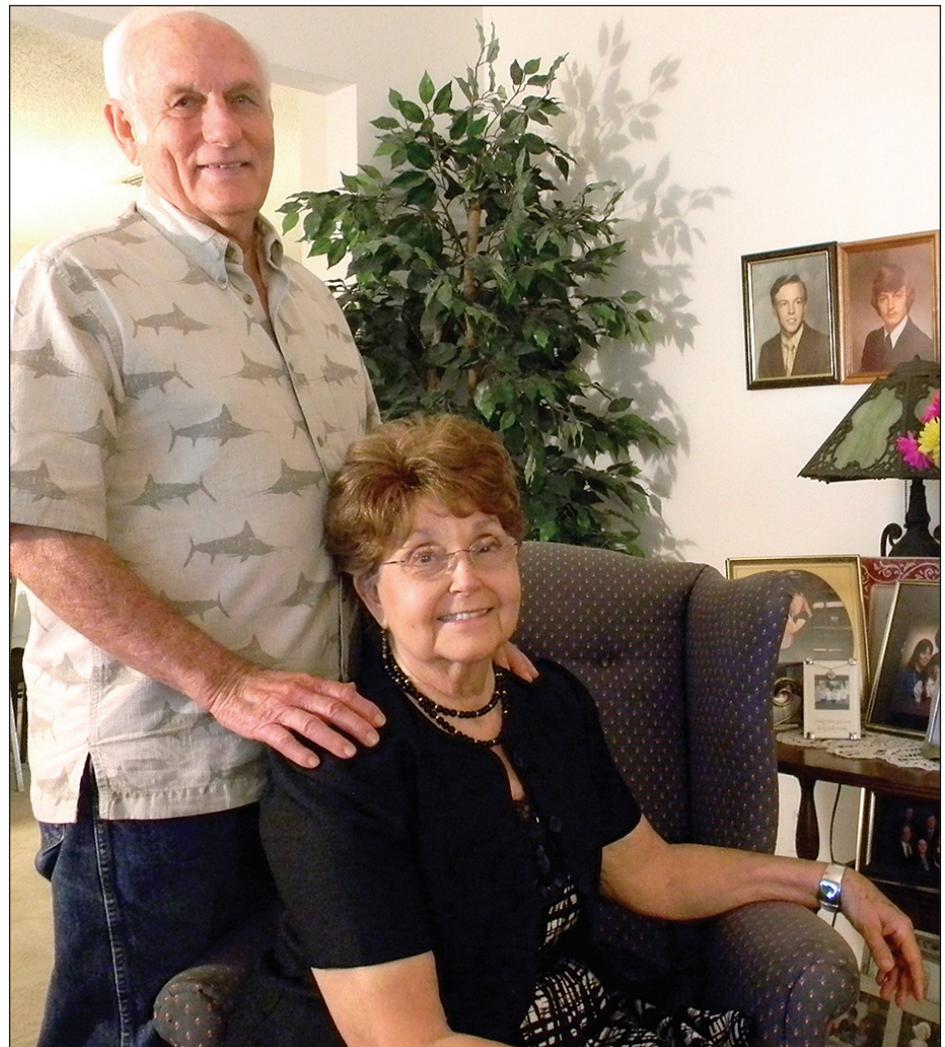
But as beautiful as Pat was on her wedding day, Jack says she's even more beautiful now as they celebrate their diamond anniversary.

"I love her to death," Jack said, without taking his eyes off Pat, sitting just across the living room in their Wesley Chapel home. "For a woman who is 79-and-a-half, she is one of the most attractive women in the world."

A small smile cracks through Pat's tough exterior, but then she waves him off.

"He is going to get every last month in there until I turn 80," she said. "But I guess as I always say, you hit middle age at 93."

The Bailey home is filled with everything they love — pictures of their two children,



Jack and Pat Bailey accomplished what less than a handful of couples ever do — reaching the 60-year milestone of wedded bliss. They credit their faith, their family, and their unwavering love, for the longevity of their relationship. (Photo by Michael Hinman)

four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. And pieces of Scripture they hold dear from The Holy Bible.

"Jesus Christ is our savior," Jack said. "He is the leader of our home, and for the last 20 years, he has been No. 1 in our relationship. I just wish every couple could have what we got."

Jack said he made a promise to Christ

when he was 12 years old and growing up in Tampa. While other boys were praying for pickup trucks, all he wanted was a good wife and a good son.

Two years later, he would meet Pat for the first time.

"We lived about two blocks apart," Pat

See MARRIAGE, page 12

Florida Medical Clinic opens new Carrollwood location

By Michael Hinman

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Florida Medical Clinic has found a lot of success in pulling all kinds of providers into a single location, making it a one-stop haven for patients.

Locations on SR 56 in Land O' Lakes and US 301 in Zephyrhills have done just that for years, and now North Tampa is getting the same thing with its North Dale Mabry Highway location.

Florida Medical Clinic is finally bringing all of its Carrollwood providers together under one roof, recycling a former Borders

location at 12500 N. Dale Mabry Highway.

"The project in Carrollwood is a natural extension of our practices," said Joe Delatorre, chief executive officer of Florida Medical Clinic. "We are only growing contiguously, and we want to keep that multi-specialty group concept where people can access as many systems as possible. And that just made sense for us on Dale Mabry."

The doors have already opened for the Carrollwood office, and by the end of September, patients should have access to 27 providers from 12 different specialties. It will range from internal medicine, orthope-

dics and gastroenterology, to facial plastics, pulmonology and cardiology.

"People want to get in, get what they need done, and get out of there as quickly as they can," Delatorre said. "We understand that, so we've made it efficient without sacrificing any of our quality."

Expansion efforts for Florida Medical are not just stopping there. The company has partnered with DaVita Healthcare Partners Inc. in building a 12,000-square-foot facility on Eiland Boulevard in Zephyrhills that will serve as both a dialysis center and additional

See MEDICAL, page 12

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ONE on ONE LEARNING AT HOME

Maintenance costs could drown Hercules pool for good

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@cnewspubs.com

Another summer without the Hercules Aquatic Center is coming to a close, and yet the future of this once vibrant public swimming pool park is still dried up.

Pasco County Schools, which owns the nearly 16 acres, wants to figure it out, and they've enlisted the Zephyrhills City Council to help them. But coming to a consensus may prove more difficult than either side realized.

"We do have to be realistic," Council President Lance Smith said during the council's regular Aug. 26 meeting. "It's a loser — financially — but it does provide a service that is needed. And the question is, at what cost do we feel that we can provide it?"

Pasco County leased the property from the school district for nearly two decades, maintaining a large public swimming pool there. However, budget cuts in 2009 forced the county out, threatening to close the park, which is located on the corner of US 301 and CR 54.

The Zephyrhills Police Athletic League kept Hercules open in 2010, but didn't return after that. The main problem was the cost to maintain the facilities, estimated at just north of \$100,000.

Even if Zephyrhills decided to lease the property from the school board and reopen the park, there are some other obstacles in the way.

First, the county has plans to widen CR 54, which is going to force both the park and its immediate neighbor to the east, Zephyrhills High School, to give up some land. That means the school's baseball fields and some of the parking lot to its outdoor athletics complex would need to be reconfigured, possibly taking some of the land where Hercules is now.

On top of that, the school board wants to cash in on part of the land, namely the piece that sits directly on the corner of US 301

and CR 54, which could be sold to build a potential gas station there.

"We are being asked to give up the most attractive and profitable piece of property and really push it to be a gas station," said Councilwoman Jodi Wilkeson. "But it's either that or do nothing, right?"



Jim Drumm

School district officials have mentioned turning Hercules into a maintenance facility for its area schools, and anything that happens to the westernmost piece of the property would still have to go in front of the council for rezoning, City Manager Jim Drumm said. If the city wanted to control that piece, it may have to cough up at least \$1.2 million, which is about \$1 million more than what the city even has on hand to deal with parks.

Allen Altman, who represents the Zephyrhills area on the Pasco County School Board, encouraged city officials to work with the school district on creating something the entire community can enjoy at Hercules Park.

"One of the things I have pushed for since I was elected was for us to participate with other governments as much as possible," Altman said. "It cuts down on replication and provides as much savings and benefits to the taxpayer as possible."

Altman acknowledged that the school board was exploring all possibilities with the land, including a potential sale of a portion of it, but he's confident both governments can develop the best plan for both.

"It's a beautiful piece of property," Councilman Kenneth Compton said. "Talk about one of the best pieces of property, and that's it. Just see this beautifully treed area, and then I just envision a gas station. I don't know if I like that."

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Dogsledding in Florida? It's a pastime with some bite

By Marie Abramov

The Laker/Lutz News Correspondent

"Hike, Hike!" Peggy Wright loudly calls out to the group of dogs in front of her, spurring them to start running.

At her command, the dogs bolt, pulling a two-wheeled sled that she's standing on. As they move, each time she approaches a bend on the paved trail outlining the placid lake, Wright yells "Gee!" to direct the dogs right, or "Ha!" to send them to the left.

Boisterous, 6-year-old Kyra howls and barks as she sprints along with the rest of the pack, burning pent-up energy and thriving in the company of other huskies, malamutes, Akitas, and other sled dog breeds.

This isn't the harsh snows of the Arctic Circle. Instead, it's Freedom Lake Park on a Sunday afternoon in Florida, filled with plenty of trees, calm waters and grassy pastures.

Kyra is one of three Siberian huskies belonging to Carol Robinson, a massage therapist from Lutz, who is a member of the Sandy Paws Dog Sled Club in Pinellas Park.

"These dogs are strong and fast," said Robinson, who joined the club in 2011 and regularly attends its monthly meetings. "It's a little difficult sometimes to contain them because they get so excited, (but) they're working as a team."

Robinson and some of the other dog owners flank the pack, running about a mile with them around the lake. Without the owners at their side, the pack can run up to 20 miles an hour with a 150-pound sled and two people on it.

"Halt!" Wright booms. The command causes the dogs to come to a complete stop after their first lap. Before taking their second or even third cycle on the trail, the dogs



Peggy Wright, foreground, leashes her two huskies, Minka on the left and Bear on the right, prepping them for a sled run in Freedom Lake Park. Behind them, Matt Aamold is with his female husky mix, Bianca. (Photo courtesy of Peggy Wright)

and their owners take a break to mingle, rest and drink lots of water.

Wright started the dog sled club about four years ago with four of her friends. All five had Siberian huskies. Northern dogs like these huskies are naturally very active, and they can be destructive if they're not strenuously engaged.

"By having this group, we're able to teach people how to keep their dogs out of trouble," Wright said. "When dogs are disciplined and correctly exercised, they are much happier and healthier."

Wright and her friends wanted to open the club to everyone with Siberian huskies

and similar breeds, so they created a website and used social networking sites like Meetup and Facebook. The club went from five to more than 170 members from all over the Tampa Bay area.

The sledding get-togethers happen monthly, except during the summer when it's too hot for the dogs to run. Wright said the gatherings generally draw about 30 to 50 members at a time. The club gives her a chance to meet with other dog owners, while the dogs themselves play with each other.

"When we're all together in a group, we can share stories or ideas," Robinson said.

"What's the best brush to get that undercoat out? What food are you using to keep their coat?"

Robinson also likes to spread the word about pet adoptions because of her involvement with a dog rescue center.

"Sometimes we bring some of our dogs there and say if anyone's looking to adopt, we have this one or that one," she said. "We've had some successful adoptions through just networking."

While Robinson greets and talks with the other owners, Kyra, with her pale blue eyes and soft thick black-and-white fur, joins in with her fellow dogs. Before they get ready to pull a sled, the dogs socialize by howling, sniffing and jumping on each other.

But because of their high energy levels, their owners keep them leashed.

Siberian huskies like Kyra were initially bred in the Arctic climates of northeastern Asia — mainly to serve as transportation for nomadic tribes, which didn't have horses, donkeys and camels to rely on.

"For the original tribes, they would load up the sled with all their personal belongings," Robinson said. "They were putting their housing, their tents, their blankets — everything went on these sleds. It was the dog's job to pull it to the next location."

Huskies have built-in stamina, lots of energy and strong stocky bodies. They were bred to run long distances in cold weather, and they also love to be around other dogs and people.

The dog sled club outings serve as an outlet for all their natural inclinations.

The club's next outing is Sept. 22 at Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St. in Pinellas Park, for the group's first real sledding event since last May.

For more information on the group, visit sandypawssleddogclub.com.

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Gulfside Hospice open house

Gulfside Regional Hospice is having an open house to rededicate its Bereavement and Community Outreach Center on Sept. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 6224-6230 Lafayette St. in downtown New Port Richey. Visitors can view the updates to the former Hospice House and Bereavement Center, as well as attend the ribbon cutting. For information, visit www.GRHospice.org.

Chatterboxes meeting

The Medical Center of Trinity will host a

Chatterboxes meeting on Sept. 5 at 3 p.m. This is a support group to assist individuals suffering from communication deficits as a result of a cerebral vascular accident or other neurological disorders. Caregivers and spouses can attend. The center is at 9330 SR 54 in Trinity. For information, call (727) 845-0757.

Childbirth superprep

The obstetrics program at Medical Center of Trinity is offering a Childbirth Superprep class on Sept. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is a one-day accelerator/refresher course. The cost is \$50 per person. Seating is limited and reservations are required. The center is at 9330 SR 54 in Trinity. For information or to register, call (727) 834-5630.

Atrial Fibrillation lecture

The Heart Institute at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point is presenting a free lecture by Dr. N.S. Rattehalli, cardiac sur-

geon, on Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. on the topic of "Atrial Fibrillation: Treatment for Irregular Heart Rhythm." A-fib is the most common heart rhythm disturbance affecting more than 2.3 million Americans. Minimally invasive options will be discussed. Refreshments will be served. Seating is limited. Reservations are required. For information, call (727) 869-5498.

Monthly MS support

The Medical Center of Trinity is offering a multiple sclerosis support group on Sept. 10 from noon to 2 p.m. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The center is at 9330 SR 54. For information, call (727) 834-5630.

Pasco Aging Network meets

The Pasco Aging Network will meet on Sept. 11 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Consulate Healthcare of New Port Richey, 8417 Old

County Line Road. The guest speaker will be James Simms, Toastmaster area governor and former community director of Youth and Family Alternatives. The topic will be "The Day the Ambulances Returned Empty." A free breakfast will be provided. To register, call Wendy Morrison at (727) 457-2302.

Spirituality and healing

Florida Cancer Affiliates is forming a new spirituality and healing support group to meet once a month on Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 5500 Little Road in New Port Richey. The next meeting is on Sept. 11. The goal of the group is to explore and share ideas and questions about a greater power than ourselves. There will be dialogue, prayer, meditation, music, art, and healing, in the journey with cancer and the divine. Light refreshments will be served. Membership is free. For information, call (727) 372-9159.



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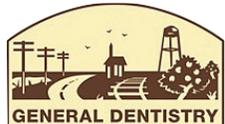
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Dennis Realty: 40 years of putting customers first

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@cnewspubs.com

Juanita Dennis had a vision of bringing all her real estate agents together in one place. And in 1994, the co-owner of Dennis Realty did just that, opening what would become a landmark on Land O' Lakes Boulevard and County Line Road.

It was a family philosophy both Dennis, and her husband Robert, had stood by since Dennis Realty was founded 40 years ago in 1973. And it's that philosophy that has helped the business continue to thrive through the rollercoaster ride of the housing market, and be on top of its game today.

"We're the big fish in the small pond, but we've learned from experience how to stay strong, no matter what the market throws at us," said Carl Stratton, the broker and general manager at Dennis Realty, who first joined the company in 1999. "There are very few offices where you can walk in the front door, and have your choice of agents already there waiting for you."

There have been several housing bubbles since Dennis Realty first opened its doors, but none were as devastating as the most recent one that burst in late 2006, not long after Stratton was promoted to general manager.

Everyone suffered, especially Realtors. Dennis Realty went from a peak of selling 120 homes in a month, to just eight. The company also closed a pair of satellite offices, and centralized all of its operations back in Lutz.

"Even when we were losing money, the one thing we did do was keep our advertising up," Stratton said. "Our agents have been through this cycle before, and we knew at some point it would come back up. The agents that stayed in the business and kept their marketing going, they are the ones who are finding success right now."

Dennis Realty now partners with 85 full-



Pat Germino remembers when she had to answer phones at the old Dennis Realty location just down the road from its current site on Land O' Lakes Boulevard and County Line Road. Germino, who gets a helping hand from broker and general manager Carl Stratton, has been with Dennis Realty for most of its 40 years. (Photo by Michael Hinman)

time agents, but does more than just sell homes. During the last decade or so, the company has expanded to include a title company, property management, insurance and more.

And all of it is in the two-story building that brought the first commercial elevator to Lutz.

"We have traditional values, and we adhere to those values," Stratton said. "There are a lot of companies out there who think they have a better way of doing things, like discount brokers. But there is a lot of sacrifice in discounting — something has to give."

Home values are on the rise. This past

spring, the average sales price of a home jumped nearly 12 percent compared to the year before, according to Florida Realtors. And the number of days a home is sitting on the market is now less than two months, compared to nearly three months in spring 2011.

Yet many homes are not on the market, but are still in the middle of foreclosure. And many homes bought as investments are still finding plenty of people willing to rent.

"I don't have a statistic, but I think people renting homes is at an all-time historic high in America," Stratton said. "The fact is there are a lot of folks who lost their homes and are now renting houses because they are not able to buy homes. There's just a big base of renters right now."

That has promoted Dennis Realty to expand its efforts to help investors manage those properties, since no landlord is looking forward to that call in the middle of the night for an emergency repair.

In 2009, Dennis Realty managed the rentals of just 50 homes. Today, it's 550. And it continues to grow.

"We focus on individuals who own homes, and not big corporations that might have hundreds of them," Stratton said. "These are people who are upside-down on their house, and don't want to short-sell or let their house go. We are offering ways to help."

Sadly, Juanita Dennis died in 2001, but Robert keeps things moving, and staying close to the original philosophy.

The next 40 years should be an interesting time for Dennis Realty. But if history has any say, the company is ready for whatever the housing market might throw at it.

"We are a marketing company, and if you're not out there marketing, then what are you doing? You're out of business," Stratton said. "It's all about paying attention to the client, and giving good service. That's what has always carried us through."

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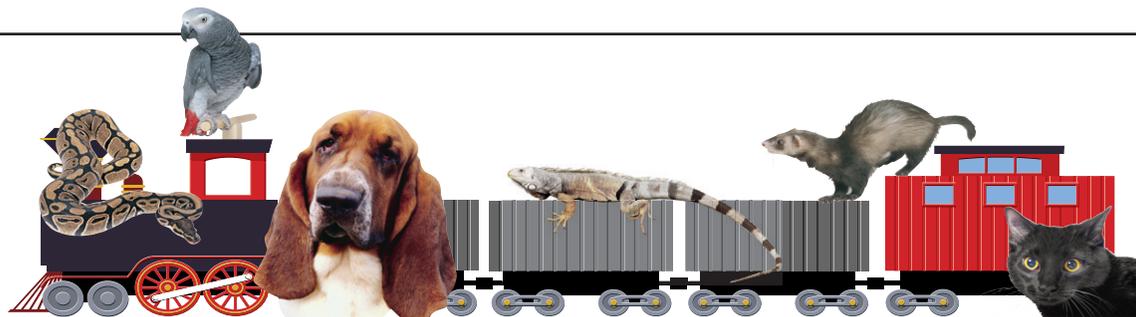
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Pasco County Animal Services is offering "Dollar Dog Days of Summer" through Sept. 28. Select dogs are waiting for a home for only a \$1 adoption fee, plus a license fee of \$10. The dogs have been vetted, micro chipped, and spayed or neutered. Find your next pet at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes. For information, call (813) 929-1212.

MUSEUM 'SWAPTEMBER'

MOSI pass holders will be admitted free to the Florida Aquarium and the Lowry Park Zoo throughout the entire month of September. MOSI members must present valid membership documentation along with a photo ID for admission into the zoo. Some restrictions may apply. To confirm offer before a scheduled visit, call MOSI at (813) 987-6000, the aquarium at (813) 273-4000, or the zoo at (813) 935-8552.

AQUARIUM OFFER FROM GOODWILL

During September, anyone dropping off clothes or household items at a Goodwill Industries-Suncoast donation site will receive a coupon good for a buy-one, get-one free admission to The Florida Aquarium. The coupon is good for up to three free tickets, one for each paid adult admission. The offer is redeemable until Nov. 30. For Goodwill donation sites, visit www.goodwill-suncoast.org.

GARDEN CLUB

The Orange Blossom Garden Club of Lutz will meet in the recreation building in Lutz, across from the library, on Sept. 4 at 10 a.m. Guest speakers include a representative from the sheriff's office and a Belk's Lancome cosmetologist. Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting. For information, contact Lee Brown at ncmine376@verizon.net or (813) 949-1301.

FIRST UNITED BIBLE STUDY

First United Methodist Church of Land O' Lakes is hosting an interdenominational Bible study for women on Thursdays, starting Sept. 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The church is at 6209 Land O' Lakes Blvd. Children are welcome. For information, contact Jeanine Coris at (813) 910-7670 or ejcoris@live.com.

GREYHOUND DOGS

Greyhound Rescue and Adoptions of Tampa Bay will host a meet and greet with greyhounds and their adoptive or foster parents on Sept. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wesley Chapel Petco, 1231 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. For information, call (813) 971-4732 or visit great-greyhound.org.

CHEER TEAM RUMMAGE SALE

Diamond Elite Cheer All-Stars will have a rummage sale on Sept. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Dance and Gymnastics Academy of Tampa parking lot, 23633 Venezia Drive in Land O' Lakes. All proceeds benefit the All-Stars. The cheerleaders will sell doughnuts, coffee and other refreshments.



One of the winning photos for the 2013 calendar was this one by Albert Depoutot Jr. of Tarpon Springs. (Photo courtesy of Gulfside Hospice)

GULFSIDE HOSPICE PHOTO CONTEST

Gulfside Regional Hospice is having its annual photo contest for its 2014 calendar. The organization is looking for 13 photos to showcase Pasco County's natural beauty, wildlife and special events. All photos submitted must be shot in Pasco County. Each photographer can submit as many photos as they want. Deadline for submissions is Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. Those with a winning entry will be notified by Sept. 20. Winners will each receive five calendars, as well as a gift certificate from Gulfside Regional Hospice Thrift Shoppe. Winning photos will also appear throughout 2014 on Gulfside's Facebook page. For guidelines and instructions, contact Ashley Juno at (727) 845-5707 or info@grhospice.org.

RUN FOR THE FALLEN

The 2013 Run for the Fallen, an event to honor military men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice, will take place Sept. 7 and Sept. 8 at Veterans Memorial Park, 3602 US 301 N in Tampa. Participants can walk or run, volunteer, wave flags, cheer the runners, buy a shirt, attend a candlelight ceremony, eat at the cookout, make a donation, or view the Florida Fallen Memorial, which will be on display from Sept. 1-8. For a complete schedule or to register for the run, visit www.usmcfamilysupport.org.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Connerton Court Assisted Living & Memory Care will host a 1950s Classic Car Show to benefit the Alzheimer's Association on Sept. 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at 21021 Betel Palm Lane in Land O' Lakes. The event includes music from the '50s, food and prizes to celebrate Grandparent's Day. For information, call Aaron Stover at (813) 996-9919.

FALL KICKOFF AT GRACE

Grace Community Church will kick off its fall season of ministry on Sept. 8 at 10:30 a.m. with a worship service at Wiregrass Ranch High School, 2909 Mansfield Blvd. in Wesley Chapel. The event will include a spoken message entitled "Don't Waste Your Life," as well as an interactive program for kids. There will be ice cream sundaes, games and gifts for guests. For information, visit www.exploregrace.com.

TEST DRIVE FOR WIREGRASS

Wiregrass Ranch High School will host "Drive One 4UR School" on Sept. 9 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at its campus, 2909 Mansfield Blvd. in Wesley Chapel. Parks Ford of Wesley Chapel will have a large selection of vehicles to test drive and will donate \$20 to the school for each test drive. During the

event, a PTSA general meeting will take place in the cafeteria at 5:15 p.m. For information, visit wiregrassptsa.org.

EMBROIDERS GUILD

The Gulfview Chapter of The Embroiders Guild of America will meet on Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. at The Lakeside Club & Pool Assoc. clubhouse, 12606 Shadow Ridge Blvd. in Hudson. After a short business meeting, there will be a class called "Beading Teneriffe Lace Flower." Beginning to advanced stitchers are invited. For information, call Betty Brandt at (727) 856-3643.

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT

Join WEDU for a free community movie night preview screening of the movie "Too Close to Home" at the Tampa Theatre on Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. The nonfiction film takes an in-depth look at Tampa's human trafficking crisis. There will be a Q&A session after the film with human trafficking survivors, law enforcement and service providers. To RSVP, visit weduhumantrafficking-eorg.eventbrite.com.



'STAND DOWN' FOR VETERANS

Pasco County's "Stand Down, No One Left Behind" event for veterans will take place at Veterans Memorial Park on Sept. 13 and Sept. 14. The event is open to all who have served in the military. Veterans and their families who are living on the streets or do not have permanent housing will have access to hot meals, showers, haircuts, court

services, health and dental services, job counseling, recovery meetings and more. Transportation will be provided for those who preregister. The park is at 14333 Hicks Road in Hudson. To register, call (727) 375-8801, ext. 2232, or visit www.pascostanddown.org/registration-form.

COASTAL CLEANUP

The annual Central Pasco Coastal & Waterways Cleanup is looking for volunteers to help clean up the Land O' Lakes area, including school grounds, parks and roads. The annual cleanup is Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. to noon starting at SunTrust Bank, at the corner of SR 54 and Osprey Lane in Land O' Lakes. Participants can reserve a territory when their team is registered. Volunteers need to preregister online at pasco.ifas.ufl.edu/fcs, by clicking on "Coastal Cleanup 2013." For information, call Betsy Crisp at (813) 929-2725 or Kurt Conover at (727) 861-5141.

HISTORY OF MEXICAN ART

The Tampa Museum of Art will present "Faded Elegance: Photographs of Havana" by Michael Eastman through Sept. 15. The exhibition explores Havana's changing cultural landscape through Eastman's images of the city's architecture and plush interiors. The museum is at 120 Gasparilla Plaza in Tampa. For information, call (813) 274-8130. For tickets, call (813) 421-8380.

FIVE BY FIVE ARTISTS NEEDED

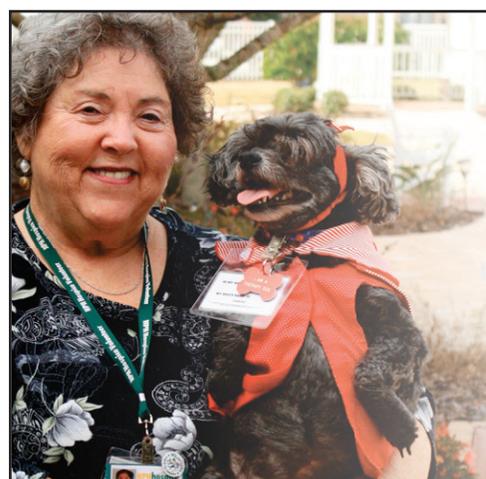
The Arts Council of Hillsborough County's Artists Advisory Committee is seeking artists for the Five by Five 2013 competition. The Five by Five exhibit, featuring 5-by-5-inch artwork made and donated by international and local artists, will be presented on Oct. 18 at 8 p.m. at the Tampa Museum of Art. The exhibit is open to any visual artist 18 years and older worldwide. Entries will be accepted Sept. 16-20. For instructions and rules, visit fivebyfivetampabay.com.

SPONSOR THE JINGLE BELL RUN

The Pasco County Sheriff's office will host its third annual Jingle Bell Run beginning at 8 a.m. on Dec. 8. The event features a 5k race, a one-mile fun run and family activities. It begins and ends at the New Port Richey Rec Center. The event benefits Toys for Tots. Sponsorships begin at \$100. For information and to register, visit PascoSheriffCharities.com/JBellRun.html or email gucchiara@pascosheriff.org.

DANCING WITH OUR STARS

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its annual Dancing With Our Stars on Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. at The Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. Community business leaders will perform with local dance professionals in a ballroom competition. Proceeds benefit the promotion of the art of dance in the community, as well as the Chamber. Tickets can be purchased online at www.biddingforgood.com/CPCC. Sponsorships are still available. For information, contact Suzanne Beauchaine at sbeauchaine@cnewspubs.com.



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Plantation Palms finds new trouble, with Swiftmud

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@cnewspubs.com

Golfers are making their way back to Plantation Palms Golf Club after a brief closing in August. But now there's another sand trap in the way.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District, better known as Swiftmud, is expected to file a lawsuit against the golf course owners, saying they overpumped nearly double the amount of water they were permitted to use to irrigate the course.

A call Friday to one of the golf course's owners, Jason Ray, was not returned.

MJS Golf Group LLC, which owns Plantation Palms' golf course, was using 144,500 gallons of water per day on average over the summer, despite the fact they were permitted to use just a little more than 76,600 gallons. That was 89 percent more than the golf course was supposed to use, according to Swiftmud. That's enough water to nearly fill four standard swimming pools.

This complaint comes after the golf course was notified in 2011 that it was using more than 117,000 gallons per day, 54 percent more than was permitted.

Swiftmud penalized MJS just under \$12,000 for the overpumping, adding another \$1,000 for its enforcement costs. However, MJS didn't respond to the order, and that might force Swiftmud to take the golf course owner to court.

While Swiftmud is in charge of enforcing the amount of water commercial properties extract from the ground, it's not very often the government organization is forced to go to court, said Swiftmud spokeswoman Terri Behling said.

Swiftmud "is hopeful we can still resolve the compliance issue through a consent order, but if that is not successful, the dis-



The Southwest Florida Water Management District is accusing the Plantation Palms Golf Club of pumping far too much water to irrigate its greens, penalizing the owners nearly \$12,000. (File photo)

trict would then issue an administrative complaint," Behling said. "If a compliance issue arises, it is usually resolved by our regulatory staff, and very few compliance matters are referred to our legal department for enforcement. Of those compliance matters that are referred to our legal department, a very small number must be resolved through litigation."

Plantation Palms Golf Club got some unwanted attention last month when the golf course closed for nearly a week. Ray, who co-owns the course with Mitch Osceola and Steve McDonald, told The Laker/Lutz News the temporary closure was because of the economy and the summer.

"It's been too hot, and it's been raining, and the culmination of all that just resulted in not a lot of people playing golf," Ray said at the time. "Summertime is always tough for all the golf courses."

MJS purchased the course in May 2011 through a \$2.18 million mortgage through Native American Bank of Denver. It features 18 holes, a driving range, clubhouse and a lounge.

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Public has chance to weigh in on taxes

By B.C. Manion
bcmalion@cnewspubs.com

The public will have a chance to tell Pasco County commissioners what they think about a proposed property tax hike and a nickel-a-gallon gas tax at a public hearing on Sept. 10.

Commissioners are likely to get an earful. The county's proposed property tax rate is 7.49 mills, up from last year's rate of 6.86 mills. Its proposed municipal fire rate is 1.71 mills, up from 1.54 mills last year.

Each mill is equal to \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable value. That means the owner of a \$100,000 house, assuming a \$50,000 homestead exemption, would pay \$33 a year more.

The 5-cent tax would affect anyone who buys gas in Pasco County.

Commission Chairman Ted Schrader and commissioners Pat Mulieri, Kathryn Starkey and Jack Mariano voted in favor of advertising the proposed tax rate in July. Commissioner Henry Wilson voted against it, and said recently that he was still trying to find places to cut the budget.

The proposed property tax hike has

drawn criticism from taxpayers who think the county should cut its spending, as well as pleadings from people who don't want commissioners to cut their programs.

Commissioners have also heard from opponents to the proposed gas tax hike.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Chris Nocco has not given up on his bid to seek more money in his budget. On Aug. 27, however, commissioners passed a resolution allowing a portion of the Penny for Pasco to be spent on unmarked detective cars and other vehicles for the Sheriff's office. They took that action because the language included in the Penny for Pasco referenced marked cars, but did not specify unmarked cars could be purchased with the tax proceeds.

Commissioners are set to have their public hearing on the taxes at their 6:30 p.m. meeting on Sept. 10 at the Dade City Historic Courthouse, 37918 Meridian Ave. in Dade City.

The board will cast its final vote on the property tax rate at its 6:30 p.m. meeting on Sept. 24 at the government center in New Port Richey, 8731 Citizens Drive in New Port Richey.

It's award season across Pasco

The Laker/Lutz News staff report

It's that time of year when entrepreneurs across Pasco County find out how they fared among their peers.

The Pasco Economic Development Council will kick off the slate of awards celebrations in September with its annual banquet on Sept. 4 at the Saddlebrook Resort Grand Pavilion, 5700 Saddlebrook Way, Wesley Chapel.

A trade show and networking will begin a 5 p.m. and will be followed by dinner and awards at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$75.

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce will have its awards celebration on Sept. 14 at Hunters Green Country Club, 18101 Longwater Run Drive in Tampa.

The event will begin with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by an awards celebration at 7 p.m. Dinner and dancing begins at 8 p.m.

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will have its annual member appreciation and awards banquet on Sept. 19 at the Scotland Yard Golf Club, 9424 US 301 in Dade City. The event will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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Local artist makes a worldwide impression

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@cnewspubs.com

Long before Pat Weaver began pursuing her passion for art, she was known as a businesswoman and politician in Dade City.

"I had retail stores downtown. I had Tricia's. Then, I had Church Street Gallery. Then, I had Pat-e-cat's," said Weaver, who also served the community as both a city commissioner and later a mayor for Dade City.

She enjoyed politics and retailing, but was always drawn to art.

About four decades ago, Weaver began taking periodic trips to Scottsdale to take classes from accomplished artists.

"I would save up money and go out there and rent an apartment and stay two weeks at a time and study," Weaver said. "Then, I'd come home for a year or two and save up my money and go back again."

She stayed with retail, as she honed her artistic technique. Then, she began offering classes on the side.

"I started teaching locally, day classes and night classes," Weaver said. "I also traveled to Lakeland and Plant City. That's where I kind of cut my teeth on teaching."

Initially, she painted with oils. "About 20 years ago, I went into transparent watercolor. I just fell in love with the medium and decided I wanted to try it. It was an instant love affair with watercolor," said Weaver.

Since teaching herself watercolor, she has gone on to write books about the art form, and offers workshops around the country. In fact, "I am better known away from Dade City than I am here," said Weaver, whose book "Watercolor Simplified" is available through Amazon.com.

"I like to paint with a lot of energy and see things develop quickly," Weaver said. "Watercolor allows for that, much more than any other medium does."

Weaver teaches about 20 workshops a year, generally booked two to three years out. She's taught in Florida, the Carolinas, Georgia, San Diego and Arizona.

She's shared her knowledge in other countries, too.

"I've taught in the Bahamas and in Mexico, Italy, Spain, England, France," Weaver said. Most of the students in her international classes have traveled from the United States to take part.

She lines up most of the work through art associations, watercolor societies and other organizations that sponsor her workshops. She handles her own travel arrangements.

"It just evolved over many years," said Weaver, who has a home studio on the 36 acres she shares with her husband, Glenn.

Weaver said she gained considerable exposure about 15 years ago, when she was



Pat Weaver stands in front a picture window in her studio, surrounded by a few of her many works of art. (Photos by B.C. Manion)



Weaver loves to get so absorbed in her painting that she is oblivious to everything else. She enjoys doing commissioned paintings of dogs.



An overhead mirror shows Weaver at work on a watercolor of flowers.

elected president of the Florida Watercolor Society. But her love for art dates back to childhood. She credits her mother for nurturing her creative spirit.

"She's the one who instilled that desire in me to do art," Weaver said.

Her seventh-grade teacher, Myra O' Berry, was a positive influence, too.

"She would just assign me a special project and tell me to go down to the teachers' lounge to draw it," Weaver said. "She saw my gift."

She pays forward that encouragement to her students while challenging them at the same time.

"I want them to be knowledgeable," Weaver said.

They also need to know that excellence requires commitment, she said.

"The only way you can become good at

anything is by doing it over and over and over," Weaver said. "You have to be persistent and be willing to practice and apply what you learn. You can't go and take three days of lessons and then go home and not paint until you decide to go back and take another workshop. There are no shortcuts to getting there."

Weaver said she doesn't try to shape an artist's style or point-of-view, but she seeks to broaden their knowledge and help them improve their techniques.

When she's teaching or creating art, she's absorbed by the work.

"When you are really into painting, you're oblivious to anything else," Weaver said.

She has a spontaneous approach to painting. She completes her artworks in one sitting.

She said her favorite type of art tends to be whatever she's working on at the moment. But she does acknowledge a special fondness for doing commissioned portraits of dogs.

"As long as I get to paint, I'm happy," Weaver said.

On a typical day she heads out to her studio about 10 a.m. and paints until about 4 p.m., with a break for lunch. Her days go longer when she's on the road teaching.

She enjoys sharing what she knows.

"I love to see people learn and get excited about what they are doing," she said. "They begin to see things differently than they ever saw them before."

"Most people don't pay any attention to the light outdoors, or the colors, or the values. When you start painting, you become very aware of things."

One of the things she loves about painting is that people can do it at any age.

"As long as your eyes are good and your hands are pretty steady, you can paint into late years. It's a wonderful thing to be able to do," she said.

Over the years, being an artist has had its satisfactions and its setbacks. Not every painting comes out the way she would like, but when they don't, she just picks up another piece of watercolor paper and gets busy again.

That approach has yielded a rich life, filled with wonderful experiences and good friends, Weaver said.

"It's taken me a very, very long time to get to the point that I am now," she said. "But I've enjoyed the journey."

To learn more about Pat Weaver and her art, visit www.patweaver.net.

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SUBWAY, from page 1

Doyle, an information technology graduate of University of South Florida who minted in entrepreneurship.

The judges liked his marketing idea, said Doyle, who also credited his experience as an online entrepreneur for helping him to be one of five grand-prize winners in the competition. That was out of 1,600 contestants from 90 countries around the globe.

Doyle was the sole U.S. winner. Other winners were a Ph.D. candidate from Austria, a social media consultant from India, an industrial design student from Brazil, and an architect and Internet entrepreneur from Greece.

"My whole goal was to get traffic to my site," Doyle said. "I've been an entrepreneur online for awhile. I know how to get my links out there."

Doyle has been buying and selling domain names, and was also a high-volume seller on eBay in his teens. His online know-how helped him earn and save enough money to buy the house he owns in Wesley Chapel.

For the Subway challenge, he racked up more than \$100,000 in virtual sales, with some of those sales reflecting rewards he received for successfully completing business challenges. The rest was for selling "virtual" sandwiches, he said.

Although he was at the top of the leaderboard in terms of sales, Doyle said that was just one of the criteria that judges used to select winners.

"They wanted different ideas, different concepts. They wanted something creative," he said.

By being in the top five, Doyle won a trip to New York City and Washington, D.C., where he saw such sites as Ground Zero, the Empire State Building, the Lincoln Memorial and the White House. He even saw President Barack Obama's motorcade pass by.

He also made a daylong visit to Milford,



James Doyle stands in front of a placard featuring his photo as one of the grand-prize winners in the Build Your Own Virtual Subway Global Challenge. (Photo courtesy of Subway)

Conn., the headquarters of Subway, where they had the chance to meet company executives, learn how Subway's franchise operation works, see how the stores are designed and even visit the test kitchen.

There's one company perk that Doyle said he knows he'd enjoy.

"At lunch time, they have a free lunch for everyone, all of the time, every day," Doyle said. "You can just fix your own sub. They have all the meats laid out. They have different bread."

He typically eats a Subway sandwich once or twice a week. It's always a ham foot-long, with all of the fixings but the peppers.

When he wants to switch things up, he varies the bread and the sauces.

Winning the competition and visiting Subway's headquarters gave Doyle a new appreciation for the company.

"Beforehand, I knew I loved their subs," he said. "Did I know any of the background behind Subway? Not so much."

He was impressed, especially, by the people he met.

"It was more family-oriented than I expected," Doyle said. "Everyone there was so warm and welcoming."

MARRIAGE, from page 1

said. "It was impossible for us to miss each other."

Jack said he was intrigued by the fact she never wore shorts, and never enticed the boys to look at her.

"She was with her mother and two sisters visiting someone across the street from me, and I saw her for the first time," Jack said. "That memory is embedded in my head. I can't bring up in my mind what happened yesterday, but that image will never leave me."

The two started to date, but the relationship was hardly storybook perfect. In fact, over their three-year courtship, they did nothing but fight. However, after Jack served his country in the U.S. Navy, he returned home and proposed to Pat. And when they were married soon after, Jack discovered a pleasant surprise.

"She pulled a total reverse on me," he said. "She was 100 percent wife, and when she said, 'I do,' she meant it."

Jack and Pat started their family immediately, staying in Tampa. Pat took on a job at the American Can Co. on 22nd Street, and Jack found himself going into business with his father, starting a company that would become Florida Boiler Sales & Service, which his son Jack Bailey Jr. — or Denny Bailey to his friends — still runs today. The company serviced steam generators primarily, which help create power.

Jack himself didn't retire until four years ago. And while he misses the work, he doesn't miss spending more time with Pat, and the congregation they've frequented for the last two decades, Faith Baptist Church of Seffner.

Jack is the associate pastor there, serving under Pastor J.W. Carr, who founded the church more than 50 years ago. Jack devotes his life to his faith, always acknowledging the 20-year period in his life when he strayed from the church before suffering a heart attack in the early 1990s.

It took that brush with death — when he was just 60 — to remind him the promise he made at 12. Jesus had held up his part of the bargain, and Jack realized he was not



A flash flood robbed Jack and Pat Bailey of all their wedding memories, including pictures and Pat's white gown. (Photo courtesy of Jack and Pat Bailey)

holding up his.

He cites the popular biblical story of Abraham ready to sacrifice his son Isaac simply because God asked him. It was a test of Abraham's devotion, but not to prove it to God, but instead to prove it to Abraham himself, Jack said.

"God already knows all things, and here this was God telling Abraham that 'now I know that you know,' and that makes all the difference in the world," Jack said. Turning to Pat, "I know how much she loves me, and I don't have to worry about that. The love is strong, and it will carry us through everything in life."

"And she also knows that I love her, and I would defend her with my last breath. And that is what makes life so good."

Family and friends from the present and past gathered to celebrate Jack and Pat Bailey's anniversary last month with a special dinner and party. They did stop to remember those who had joined them a decade before for their Golden Anniversary, but were no longer with them to celebrate this one.

And despite their vitality, Jack and Pat know the odds are against them to be doing it all again for their 70th anniversary in 2023.

But that doesn't faze them.

"I tell her I'm going to die tomorrow all the time, just to make sure she's going to miss me," Jack said. "And there is no doubt."

MEDICAL, from page 1

doctor offices.

"Patients will absolutely love this location," Delatorre said. "We took it off the main road a bit, but it's easy to get to, will have nice parking, and it'll have a lot of room."

When the facility opens in November, it will replace a much smaller dialysis center at Florida Medical's primary Zephyrhills campus on US 301 just north of CR 54. This new location is just a few miles away, and dialysis patients will now have a chance to avoid some of the wintertime congestion that plagues US 301.

Florida Medical bought the vacant 1.5 acres of land in May for \$35,000. It's the first time the clinic has purchased land in Zephyrhills that is not part of its main campus, which is quickly running out of space. Space is at a premium at the former home of Kmart and Publix in Zephyrhills, especially once Florida Medical completes a \$5 million expansion of its urgent care facility.

"It's already on an outparcel in front of the property, and it's perfectly located for

easy access for our patients," Delatorre said.

Urgent care is a fast-growing industry, especially as people look for medical resources that are both cost-effective and convenient. The expanded facility — which will double in size to 7,000 square feet — will be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

What separates Florida Medical Clinic's urgent care facility from others is the fact that doctors will have full access to each patient's electronic medical records, Delatorre said. These records detail everything a patient has had done with any Florida Medical Clinic provider, eliminating the need to duplicate tests, and give an urgent care doctor the full medical picture he or she needs.

"You can't always get to your existing primary care physician, so we're providing a quality alternative that still has all the services available, and the overall experience you're accustomed to with us," Delatorre said.

The growth of Florida Medical Clinic has been brisk in recent years, first opening a location in Dade City, and then turning its sights south toward Tampa.

The company opened up in Wesley



Florida Medical Clinic chief executive officer Joe Delatorre and marketing director Janet Wing peruse blueprints of the company's new Carrollwood facility, located in the former Borders location at 12500 N. Dale Mabry Highway.

Chapel in 2001, and by 2003, Florida Medical had made significant strides into north Tampa.

Although the Florida Medical Clinic customer service model hasn't changed, the medical industry has. If a practice isn't attuned to what's happening with federal healthcare reform, for example, they may be left struggling to keep up.

"You have to adapt to what's going on in the marketplace," Delatorre said. "The reality of it is the Affordable Care Act provides a solution to make sure everyone has basic health insurance. Patients will now have that funding mechanism, and that is a good thing for us. It means more people will want to access our services, and because of that, we can stay in the business of taking care of people."

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to mhinman@cnewspubs.com

WESLEY CHAPEL CHAMBER MIXER

The Laker/Lutz News is partnering with the Tampa North Flight Center to host the September business mixer for the Greater Wesley Chamber of Commerce.

The event will be on Sept. 12 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Tampa North Flight Center, 4241 Birdsong Blvd. in Lutz.

The event will feature food, fun and networking, and will give people a chance to check out the flight center's new food and beverage area, The Happy Hangar Café.

ZEPHYRHILLS CHAMBER BREAKFAST

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will have a chamber business breakfast Sept. 5 from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., at

the Golden Corral, 6855 Gall Blvd. It is sponsored by Florida Hospital Zephyrhills.

Networking is from 7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., followed by a \$7 breakfast buffet.

DANCING WITH OUR STARS

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring "Dancing with our Stars 2013," with proceeds to benefit the art of dance in Central Pasco and the chamber.

This year's event is set for Sept. 21.

Go to www.biddingforgood.com/CPCC to provide an auction item, bid on an item, purchase tickets or make a donation.

BIG LOTS UNVEILS REMODELED STORES

Closeout retailer Big Lots has remodeled 15 of its stores, including its location in Land O' Lakes and another in North Tampa.

The Land O' Lakes store is at 2414 Land O' Lakes Blvd., while the North Tampa store is at 14948 N. Florida Ave. in Tampa.

Big Lots also has a location in Zephyrhills at 4840 Allen Road.

BARB CONRAD JOINS COOPER FINANCIAL SERVICES

Insurance specialist Barb Conrad has joined the staff of Cooper Financial Services.

Conrad specializes in long-term care insurance, life insurance and disability insurance.

Cooper Financial Services has offered financial planning, insurance and investment services in the Tampa Bay area since 1994.

For more information about its services, visit www.cooper-financial.com, or call (813) 996-6100.

LENNAR PROMOTES SMITH

Lennar's Central Florida division has promoted Randall Smith to director of construction in the Tampa region.

Smith, who has 30 years of experience, joined Lennar last year as a construction manager. Before that, he was a vice president for another construction company.

In his new role, he will work with the construction team on schedules, prioritizing work activities, maintaining customer and trade partner relations, inspection of home for quality compliance, construction documents, recruiting hiring, and supervising the construction staff.

FLORIDA FISHING INDUSTRY IS BOON TO STATE ECONOMY

The Florida fishing industry contributes an estimated \$5 billion to the state economy, according to the latest economics

commentary report from Florida TaxWatch, an independent taxpayer research institute.

More than 1.2 million visitors to Florida fished during 2013, according to TaxWatch.

Besides attracting anglers from around the globe, the state also hosts boating and fishing expositions throughout the year, which draws visitors and their money to the state.

"Florida's unique location and variety of fishing opportunities position the state as the world leader in sport fishing tourism," said Dominic M. Calabro, president and chief executive officer of Florida TaxWatch, in a release.

EAST PASCO NETWORKING GROUP

The East Pasco Networking Group has scheduled several speakers for the coming months. The group meets every other week at the Village Inn at 5214 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills. Networking begins at 8 a.m., with the meeting starting at 8:30 a.m.

—Sept. 10: Faith Knight, chief operations officer for Apollo Group

—Sept. 24: Maureen Moore, director of communications for Saint Leo University

—Oct. 8: Danny Burgess, mayor of Zephyrhills, and Minerva "Minnie" Diaz, candidate for the District 38 state House of Representatives seat.

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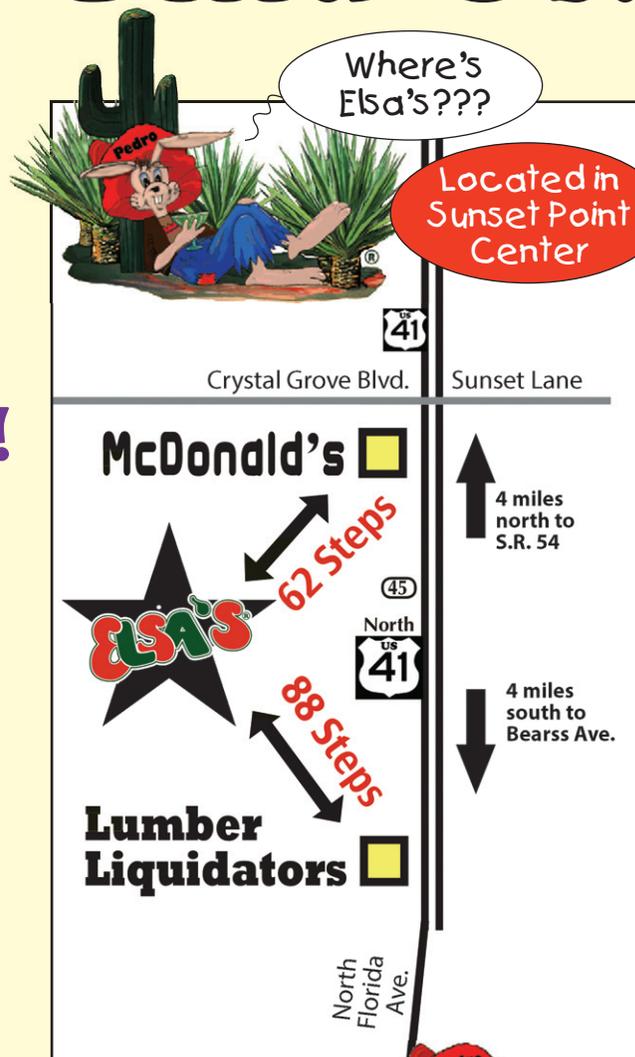
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How much is that doggie in the window? \$1

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@cnewspubs.com

The holding area for the more than 130 dogs residing at the Pasco County Animal Services shelter in Land O' Lakes erupts with barking every time someone walks in.

Cage after cage is filled with large dogs, some weighing as much as 90 pounds or more. And many of them have some sort of pit bull in them.

"Sadly, 70 to 80 percent of the dogs we get are pit bulls," said Judy Tate Gregory, education coordinator for the shelter. "Most people come in looking for smaller dogs, and they are just more coveted. The larger dogs? Not so much."

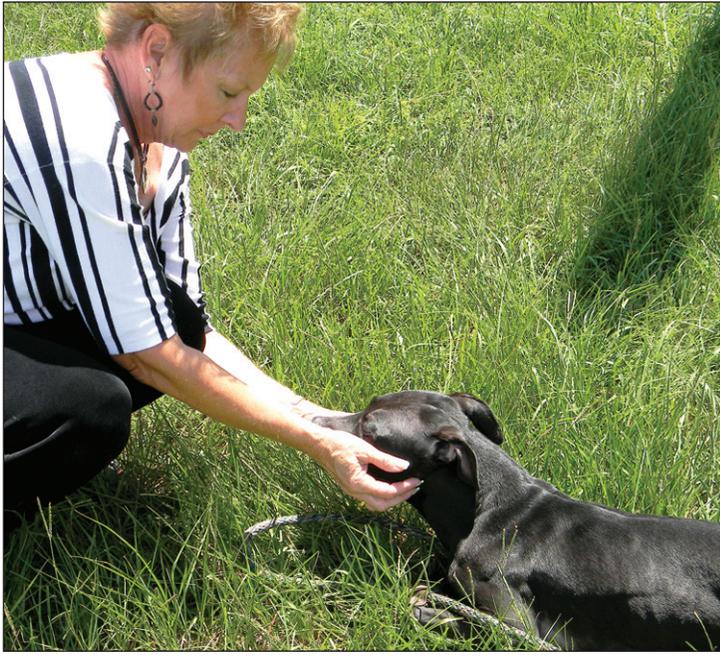
And even with a policy designed to save as much as 90 percent of the dogs and cats the shelter receives, there's a good chance many dogs with names like Jazzy, Flo and Luthes, will never again get to see outside the shelter.

That's why the shelter is offering dog adoptions for just a buck through Sept. 28. Called the "Dollar Dog Days of Summer," most of the dogs are available to good homes for a \$1 adoption fee, plus a license fee of \$10.

Each dog has been examined by a veterinarian, implanted with a microchip, and spayed or neutered — work that normally costs around \$400. The total \$11 charge is much lower than the normal \$70 adoption fee for a dog, and a program that should make it easier for loving families to take home a new friend.

"Our goal is to save lives here," Gregory said. "We like to find the best homes we can for them."

The shelter is typically only required to hold dogs and cats without identifying information for 72 hours, according to county ordinances. However, the shelter tends to



Gretal plays with Pasco County Animal Services division education coordinator Judy Tate Gregory at the shelter on Dogpatch Lane. (Photos by Michael Hinman)



Jazzy is one of the nearly 150 dogs currently housed at the Pasco County Animal Services shelter in Land O' Lakes.

hold on to animals longer, doing everything possible to find someone to adopt. But it's not easy.

"It's hard to see all the animals in the shelter," Gregory said. "It's not a gloomy place here, and it is better than where a lot of them came from. But no matter what we do to make our shelter more comfortable, these animals really just want a forever home."

In recent months, the shelter has implemented several programs to help get many of its animals on the right path. A foster program, launched in February, helps animals that are too young to be adopted, but are also without their mother. These foster families feed them, vaccinate them, and help them learn what their mother would've taught them otherwise.

Volunteers, of course, have always been the lifeblood of the shelter. They have to be

willing to offer at least four hours a month, and be at least 15, Gregory said. Volunteers do everything from walking, grooming, cleaning, and even provide education outreach.

Adoption specials in September aren't just limited to dogs. In honor of the late Philip Runnels, who volunteered many hours with those of the feline persuasion, Animal Services also is offering cats for a \$5 adoption fee, instead of the normal \$40.

"Kittens are cute, but adult cats don't need to be taught a lot, and are very low maintenance," Gregory said. "They need homes, too."

To learn more about the "Dollar Dog Days of Summer" and also how to adopt a cat for \$5, visit the shelter at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, or call (813) 929-1212.



Volunteer Joanie Slana shows some love to Fiona, a cat currently up for adoption for \$5 through the end of September.

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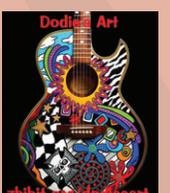
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MINI ESTATE; almost 5700 sq.ft. of living area on 1.4 Acres; 7/5.5ba, 3+ car garage, huge kitchen w/ island induction range, scrnd 17X38 heated in-grnd pool + spa w/ balcony overlook from 2nd floor. \$699,000. Call Helen Grantham 813-949-1845 or 813-767-4899

2004 3/2.5/3 LUXURIOUS POOL HOME in gated community on 1/2 acre! The kitchen has stainless appliances, stone counter tops and pull-out shelves. There are built in cabinets in the laundry room. Gorgeous dark wood floors. Fresh Paint on the Exterior. Call Faith Garcia 813-503-6610 today!

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Community Sports

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Land O' Lakes runners race toward lofty goals

By Michael Murillo

The Laker/Lutz News Correspondent

Coaches don't usually like to tip their hand before a season starts, and Kris Keppel has coached cross-country at Land O' Lakes High School for enough years to have seen almost everything.

But as the Gators prepare to start their season, he can't hide his optimism.

"This will be my 20th year coaching, and this is the best team I've ever coached," Keppel said. "To me, it would be kind of a disappointment if we don't finish sixth or higher."

Keppel is setting the bar high for the team, which competes at Class 3A in the state's high school athletics program. None of his teams have ever finished better than seventh.

Yet the team's preseason rankings (sixth in Class 3A) bolstered his confidence. And it doesn't hurt his team returned three state qualifiers from last season — Tyler Stahl, Travis Nichols and Jake Poore.

Of course, as a veteran coach, Keppel is leaving nothing to chance. Those top runners have each logged around 1,000 miles in preparation for the season, and Keppel constantly challenges his team with a variety of courses around the Bay area, even going as far as San Antonio to find suitable terrain.

Keppel also keeps them focused with weekly and monthly goals, emphasizing the importance of training smart. "One of my quotes is 'The small things make a big difference,'" he said.

Stahl has seen the wisdom of Keppel's phrase during his years on the team (he's been a member throughout his high school career), and is taking it seriously heading into his senior season.

"This summer I have stretched more, worked out more, have eaten healthier and done more core training," Stahl said. "I definitely feel a difference when I run, and the



Tyler Stahl, left, and Travis Nichols are two returning state qualifiers for the Land O' Lakes High School cross-country team this season. Stahl got a good start this year by winning the Red Mule Labor Day 5-kilometer run on Aug. 26. Nichols has already logged more than 1,000 miles in preparation for this season, even heading to San Antonio for more challenging terrain. (Photos courtesy of Penny Nichols)

site of the district competitions on Oct. 24.

When asked about keys to the team's success, Stahl said that their depth will play a big role — specifically their No. 5 spot, which is up for grabs heading into the season.

"I'm pretty confident that our top four will race well this year, but we really don't have a definite fifth runner," Stahl said, adding that he believes one of the team's other 16 members will need to step into that spot and provide reliable performances.

"It rests in the hands of our fifth runner, whoever that may be," Nichols said. "The fifth spot is being fought for by six guys who aspire to be under 17 (minutes in the 5-kilometer competitions) by the end of the season."

Each runner will also have to make sure they get enough rest in order to have a successful year, since so many miles of running in practice and events can wear them down by the time they get to the state competitions.

As a result, their regimen includes eating right, getting rest and meeting specific goals for practices so they're not wearing themselves out before their competitions and can meet their challenges with fresh legs.

And even after nearly 20 years of cross-country coaching experience, Keppel is showing no signs of fatigue, either.

"It's just what I like to do. It's coaching," Keppel said. "There are some days that it's hot out there, but I just plug away because I know that when Saturday comes, when I wake up, I'm excited. I want to see my guys run well."

little things have definitely benefited me."

Those little things are already bearing fruit for the team: Stahl finished first at the Red Mule Labor Day 5k on Aug. 26. He also had familiar company at the top: Nichols (second) and Poore (third) ensured that

Land O' Lakes had a dominant showing and appear ready for that successful season Coach Keppel expects.

That showing is especially important for the team, since the location (McKethan Lake Park in Hernando County) is also the

CHECK THIS OUT

Tennis Day of Play

The Tennis 4 U/Tennis Para Ti of Dade city will host a U.S. Tennis Association free tennis play event in celebration of Nickelodeon's 10th annual Worldwide Day of Play on Sept. 15 beginning at 3:30 p.m. at Pasco High School, 36850 SR 52, Dade City.

The event is part of a nationwide effort to get kids active and involved in tennis during National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month in September.

For more information, visit www.youthtennis.com, or call Jeanette Marcus at (813) 417-0061.

Build houses, play golf

Hit the links with a favorite high school golfer and raise money for charity at the same time during the Habitat Business Challenge Charity Golf Tournament, slated for Sept. 20-21 at Silverado Golf & Country Club.

The country club is at 36841 Clubhouse Drive in Zephyrhills, just off Eiland Boulevard.

The tournament, which raises money for Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco County, as well as the golf organizations at Zephyrhills and Pasco high schools, teams a high school golfer with three other players as part of a four-person scramble. That golfer is "purchased" during a talent auction on Sept. 20, ready to play on Sept. 21.

CRay Inc., Bahr's Propane Gas & A/C and Silverado have teamed up to host the tournament. The entry fee is \$250 per business, and is limited to the first 30 business teams that sign up.

The fee includes Saturday golf, three dinner tickets to the Friday mixer and auction, cart,

lunch and swag bag. The mixer on Friday begins at 6 p.m., while the tournament itself starts Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Awards include a first-place business challenge trophy for net and gross, along with gross payouts and net prizes paid through pro shop credits. Silverado is also offering a \$10,000 hole-in-one prize.

To participate or sponsor, call Cliff Howell at CRay at (813) 277-8800, Sean Klotz at Silverado at (800) 853-4653, or Kevin Bahr at Bahr's Propane Gas & A/C at (813) 782-5013.

Senior softball league looks for players

The Senior Slo Pitch Softball League, which plays at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex in the fall, will have a registration drive on Sept. 20 at 8:30 a.m.

The recreation complex is located at 3932 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

The group, which caters to older residents, also offers golf, tennis and bowling throughout the year.

For more information, call Walt Bockmiller at (813) 527-8211.

Soccer league registration

The Greater Tampa Bay Football Club is hosting a fall and winter soccer registration online for players ages 4 through 19.

Practice begins at the end of September or early October with game days running between Oct. 19 and Feb. 22.

Games will be played at the Land O' Lakes Recreational Complex, 3032 Collier Parkway. Fees range between \$89 and \$159, and uni-

forms may be extra.

To register, go to www.gtbfcc.com and click on "register." For more information, visit the website, call Mike Pearson at (813) 748-2060, or email him at mpear3118@msn.com.



Zephyrhills '80s-style mud run

Hidden Creek in Zephyrhills has organized another 5-kilometer mud run event, this time with the theme of the 1980s, for Saturday, Sept. 21 at 3:30 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the local ROTC, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, who will all be helping out at the race.

Along with the '80s-style 5k mud run, there will be uphill slide climbs, slides and log crossing. After the run, music bands Hired Guns, the Ryman Fillmore Band and No Name Band will perform live. There will also be dancing, music and volleyball.

Each participant receives one free beer or water, a free T-shirt, a custom finisher's medal and free entry into the after party. The cost for registration starts at \$45, and up to \$90 the day of the event.

To register online, visit www.hidden-creekrecpark.com.

The event is free for spectators, but there is a \$10 parking fee.

For more information, call (813) 714-2528.

FAPA golf tournament

The Pasco County Foster Adoptive Parent Association is hosting its annual Fore Families golf tournament on Sept. 28 at 1 p.m. at the Lansbrook Golf and Country Club in Palm Harbor.

The cost is \$90 for each player, or \$320 for a foursome. All players must be 16 years or older.

Registration includes a box lunch, 18 holes of golf with shared cart, prizes and a special awards dinner following play. Team prizes will also be awarded for players finishing first, second, third and "Last but not least."

All players in the tournament are automatically entered in the Hole-in-One contest to win cash or a new car.

Nonplayers can also attend the dinner buffet for \$20 per person.

FAPA is a nonprofit organization based in Pasco County, which strives to provide foster and adoptive parents with the necessary resources to deal with the many challenges they face in raising our communities' children.

All donations are tax deductible.

For more information, email Christina Nunez at becharmed2@gmail.com.

Fly fishers invited to Crystal River

The Florida Council on the International Federation of Fly Fishers and the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers are hosting the 2013 Florida Fly Fishing Expo Oct. 18-19 on the grounds of Plantation on Crystal River, 9301 W. Fort Island Trail in Crystal River.

The expo will include clinics, workshops and programs from fly-fishing experts, writers, authors, fly-casting instructors, charter captains, and fly tiers.

Admission is \$10 for the two-day expo, with children 16 and younger admitted free.

For more information, call (850) 212-5396, or visit tinyurl.com/14t93h.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4

VOLLEYBALL

Anclote at Wiregrass Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
Ridgewood at Wesley Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Pasco vs. Mitchell, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 5

VOLLEYBALL

Tarpon Springs at Land O' Lakes, 6:30 p.m.
Weeki Wachee at Wesley Chapel, 7 p.m.
Gulf at Sunlake, 7:30 p.m.
Pasco at Zephyrhills, 7:30 p.m.

GOLF

Mitchell at Wiregrass, 3:30 p.m.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Indian Rocks Invitational, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6

FOOTBALL

Alonso at Steinbrenner, 7:30 p.m.
Fivay at Pasco, 7:30 p.m.
Freedom at Middleton, 7:30 p.m.
Hudson at Wiregrass Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
Land O' Lakes at Anclote, 7:30 p.m.
Sunlake at River Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Wesley Chapel at Lecanto, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton at Plant City, 7:30 p.m.
Zephyrhills at Gulf, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

CROSS-COUNTRY

Lecanto Panther Invitational, 8 a.m.
Newsome Wolves Invitational, 8 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 9

VOLLEYBALL

Riverview at Wharton, 7:30 p.m.
Steinbrenner at Robinson, 7:30 p.m.
Wiregrass Ranch at Freedom, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10

VOLLEYBALL

Pepin Academy at Academy at the Lakes, 6 p.m.
Pasco at Sunlake, 7 p.m.
Wesley Chapel at Central, 7 p.m.
Zephyrhills at Nature Coast Tech, 7 p.m.
Gulf at Wiregrass Ranch, 7:30 p.m.
Hudson at Land O' Lakes, 7:30 p.m.

GOLF

Strawberry Crest at Freedom, 3 p.m.
Wharton at Gaither, 3 p.m.
Sunlake at Mitchell, 3:30 p.m.
Jesuit, Holy Names vs. Steinbrenner, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11

VOLLEYBALL

Zephyrhills at Anclote, 6 p.m.
Freedom at Sickles, 7:30 p.m.
Gaither at Steinbrenner, 7:30 p.m.
Ridgewood at Pasco, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton at Alonso, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Mitchell at Land O' Lakes, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 12

FOOTBALL

Ridgewood at Land O' Lakes, 7 p.m.
Steinbrenner at Spoto, 7 p.m.
Wharton at Freedom, 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Academy at the Lakes at Lakeland Christian, 5:30 p.m.
Pasco at Hernando, 6:30 p.m.
Nature Coast at Wesley Chapel, 7 p.m.
Sunlake at Dunedin, 7 p.m.
Central at Zephyrhills, 7:30 p.m.
Hudson at Wiregrass Ranch, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Sickles at Steinbrenner, 5 p.m.
Wharton, Blake at Tampa Bay Tech, 7 p.m.



Dr. David Scamard, the owner optometrist at The Eye Care Professionals, celebrates the grand opening of his new location at a recent ribbon cutting sponsored by the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce. The event raised over \$700 for troops supported through the USO.

Customers help celebrate grand opening of The Eye Care Professionals

Dr. David Scamard and his staff at The Eye Care Professionals recently celebrated their new name and location at a ribbon cutting celebration sponsored by the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce.

Close to 100 patients and friends attended the affair at the business' new Lutz location in Eagle Plaza. In addition to great food donated by Walmart and music by Los Dos, the event raised more than \$700 for veteran organizations supported by USO and Wounded Warriors.

"It was a fabulous day and a fabulous turn out," said Dr. Scamard. "The entire plaza got involved and it was fun putting together a party not only for Eye Care Professionals, but for all of the neighboring merchants."

Neighboring businesses participating in the ribbon cutting with donations of gifts and cash include: Amici Kids, Blo Hair Studio, Dance Art Center, Essenberg Chiropractic, Get A Grip Fitness, i-Style Hair Salon, John Prevatt Karate, Koss Music, Pet Point, and 10 to 10 Urgent Care.

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Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

Their hearts beat to the sound of the drum

By Mike Matthew
Special to The Laker/Lutz News



Bill Mink, left, manager of All Pro Percussion, and David Robinson, owner, each have more than 25 years experience playing drums and selling percussion instruments.

David Robinson, owner of All Pro Percussion, has been playing drums since he was 12. He played in middle school, high school, marching bands and garage bands all the way through college. Then he got married, got a job and settled into a more ordinary life.

The call of the drum inspired David 10 years later to open All Pro Percussion in 2007 to follow his passion for playing, teaching and selling quality percussion instruments.

David recently moved All Pro Percussion, which sells only quality percussion instruments, to Lutz on State Road 54 in the Canoe Commons Shopping Center.

"These are drums that will last a lifetime," said David. "Many of our manufacturers are family owned and managed American companies. Two of our manufacturers have been making drums for over 100 years and one of our cymbal manufacturers has been in business more than 300 years!"

All Pro Percussion sells acoustic drum sets, snare drums, hand drums, African djembe drums, Congo drums, cajon drums and electronic drums. Hand drums have become especially popular in recent years.

"Electronic drums are a great choice for apartments or when you want to play late at night without disturbing the family or the neighbors," said David. "Attach a set of headphones and you're the only one who'll hear the music."

One can also attach an iPod to play along with your favorite recordings. "Electronic drums can be programmed to give you the specific acoustic sound you're looking for," said David.

Private lessons are conducted using side-by-side electronic drum sets. Instructor Kevin Dennis teaches by example, playing the lesson on one set of drums while the student plays on the other. He emphasizes the importance of learning the fundamentals and reading music.

"We've found this to be an excellent way to teach because we control the volume," said David. "We can give the student instructions while they're playing. They wouldn't be able to hear the teacher if they were playing on acoustic drums."

Children have the dexterity to play drums by the age of 8. A number of students are active in middle school and high school bands and want some extra help. The staff at All Pro Percussion takes great pride in teaching their students to play their best.

"We have students who are in their 50s and 60s, both men and women," says David. "Some always wanted to play drums but never did, and now find they have the time. For others, it's a hobby and some of our students have even gone on to become professional drummers."

Playing drums does not require a large investment to get started.

"All you need is a set of sticks and a practice pad. It begins with learning hand techniques. With practice, a student can be playing rhythms in about a month," explains David.

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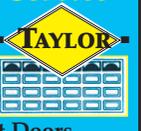
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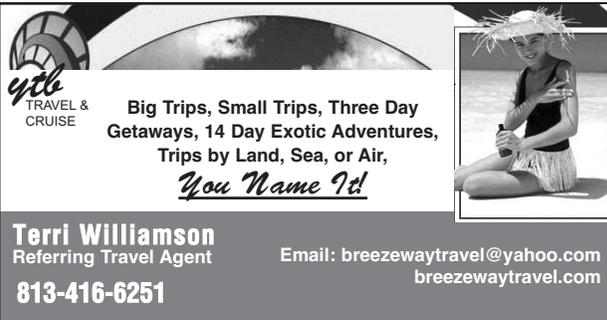
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What A Bargain in Carpenters Run! Don't miss out on this well maintained 3/2/2 home in a great location, lovingly cared for and updated through the year. New Roof in 2004, New A/C in 2009, wood laminate flooring in the great room & dining room. **\$140K.** (cop)



Penthouse Unit in Tampa! This 2/2 condo is directly across from the pool and club area, spacious open great room plan with vaulted ceilings and hardwood floors. Kitchen has custom cabinets, granite counter tops, and stainless steel appliances. **\$80K.** (pal)



Must See in Suncoast Meadows! This 4/2/2 home is located in a great area, with three major roads in and out (Suncoast Parkway, US41 & I-75), to get you just about anywhere in Florida. The area has highly rated schools and a community pool. **\$225K.** (whi)



Wilderness Lakes Preserve Pool Home! This 5/3/3 has wood floors in common areas, tile in wet areas, carpet in bedrooms, gourmet kitchen with a prep island & bar seating, granite counter tops, cherry cabinets, crown molding, and black appliances. **\$265K.** (der)



Sunlake Park in Lutz! This cute as button Two Bedroom, One Bath, One Car Attached Garage is well maintained on a quiet street. The kitchen includes dishwasher, range, refrigerator, an eat-in space and has a great room floor plan. **\$84.9K.** (ame)



Towers of Channelside Beauty! A welcoming 2/2 condo with updated kitchen in mint condition in the fantastic downtown location has an open floor plan that makes this unit perfect for entertaining, and has under building, assigned and secured parking! **\$299.9K.** (s12)



Oak Grove in Lutz! This 4/2/2 home has all new Kitchen appliances, gas range, double door side by side refrigerator with bottom drawer freezer, dishwasher, microwave and an eat-in kitchen, plus a formal dining room, and a new AC with gas heat. **\$199K.** (roy)



Four Bedroom in Lexington Oaks! Most popular floor plan loaded with the most asked for features. 4/2/2 split bedroom plan, wood floors in common areas, tile & carpet, full length hip roof transom screened lanai w/brick pavers overlooks scenic pond. **\$197.5K.** (war)



Wilderness Lake Preserve Pool Home! Four bedroom, two bath pool home in a wonderful location at the end of a cul-de-sac with salt water swimming pool and heated spa overlooking a beautiful pond and conservation complete with visiting deer. **\$235K.** (blu)



Move in Ready in Sable Ridge! Move in ready! 3/2/2 brand new wood floors, open floor plan, fantastic oversized kitchen with all appliances & eating area. Master suite with dual sink vanity, garden bath & walk in closet. Fenced yard in a great community! **\$159.9K.** (tai)

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CUSTOM ESTATE HOME IN AVILA! On and oversized corner lot. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with bonus room. Gourmet kitchen features cherry cabinetry, granite counter-tops, high end appliances and butler's pantry with wine cooler and dry wine storage. Formal living & dining rooms are great for entertaining. 4 car, side entry garage! This home is part of the exclusive community of Avila with many prestigious amenities. **\$899K.** (can)

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Manufactured Home on 1 Acre! 4/2 recently updated interior includes new tile and carpet. Very spacious home w/ fireplace and the kitchen is remarkable w/ center island. **\$1100/mo.** (mit)



Meadow Pointe Villa in Wesley Chapel! Mint condition 2/2/2 with spacious open great room plan, extra-large kitchen with custom cabinets and granite counter tops. **\$1300/mo.** (wri)



Four Bedroom in Lutz! Spacious 4/2 convenient to everything. Great room w/fireplace, separate dining room, family room, split bedroom plan, and, privacy fencing. **\$1200/mo.** (hic)



Hunters Green in New Tampa! Well maintained 3/2/2 is in immaculate condition and is available immediately for move-in. Gorgeous kitchen with stainless steel appliances. **\$1395/mo.** (woo)



Stunning 4 Bedroom in Oakstead! This home features 4/2/2, split floor plan, large kitchen, plenty of cabinets & counter space, breakfast nook and formal dining & living. **\$1495/mo.** (hav)



Beautiful Condo at Channelside! A 2/2 condo with updated kitchen in mint condition in the fantastic downtown location has an open floor plan that makes this unit perfect. **\$1900/mo.** (s12)



Cross Creek 5 Bedroom in Tampa! This 5/3/2 home sits on a huge corner lot. Yard is big enough for another home! Lawn care is included! Eat in kitchen space. **\$1795/mo.** (cyp)



Cypress Creek 4 Bedroom in Wimauma! This 4/2/2 home is only 3 years old. Gourmet kitchen has beautiful stone countertops and cabinets along with a breakfast bar. **\$1400/mo.** (ala)



Village on the Pond in Lutz! Excellent condition 3/2/2 on a quiet cul-de-sac with a huge fenced backyard. Spacious open great room floor plan with vaulted ceilings. **\$1200/mo.** (clo)



Ashe Creek in Land O'Lakes! Gorgeous 5/3/2 with 3060 Sq. Ft. home in a wonderful community. Formal living and dining have wood flooring, and tile in all the wet areas. **\$1700/mo.** (new)

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