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Union lodges complaint over PLC

By B.C. Manion

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Pasco County's teacher union has lodged a complaint with the Florida Public Employee Relations Commission over a dispute that involves teacher planning time.

The United School Employees of Pasco's

complaint alleges that teachers are spending so much time in meetings with their Professional Learning Communities that it is usurping time intended for individual planning.

The district contends that the time spent in the PLC meetings is planning time, but the union believes that time should be cate-

gorized as professional development, union president Lynne Webbe said.

During the PLC meetings, the teachers are being given work and assignments that are not relevant to what's currently happening in their classrooms, Webbe said. Instead,

See UNION, page 12



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTOS

Mike Bishop, co-founder and head brewer at Big Storm Brewing Co., displays some of the tanks used in producing four different brews of Big Storm beer from his Odessa location.

Big Storm offers big brew as beer operations ferment

By Michael Hinman

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It all started simple enough.

Mike Bishop and Clay Yarn wanted to escape their stuffy office jobs, so they leased some industrial space in Odessa with the hopes of brewing a little bit of beer, and sharing it with anyone who happened to discover their operation.

Instead, a 200-barrel operation exploded into a 5,000-barrel one in the span of two short years. And it might not be long before Big Storm Brewing Co. hits the 100,000-barrel mark.

"I never thought when we started that we would ever need anything more than this little shop," said Bishop, who lives in Land O' Lakes. "We just thought we would make boutique beers, and make enough to pay the bills and give us a little money on the side. But that was not our destiny. People just wanted our beers."

In a short time, Big Storm grew from two employees to 16. Once they find bigger quarters somewhere in central Pasco County — they are looking for up to 50,000 square feet — they could grow 50 to 75 em-

See BREW, page 12

Performers overcome challenges at 'Spotlight On Talent'

By Michael Murillo

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After hours of practice and auditioning before a panel of experts, a select number of singers, dancers and musicians were chosen to perform at the Heritage Arts Center Association's "Spotlight On Talent" event, now in its 31st year.

Getting there was the hard part. The event itself, held in two separate performances on March 29 at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High School, should have been easier. But the "Spotlight On Talent" finals brought their own challenges for the performers.

The early showcase, which featured younger performers, was hampered by inclement weather, including thunderstorms and tornado warnings that severely affected audience turnout, organizers said. And the later showcase was disrupted by an inadvertent fire alarm, which required a visit from the fire department and a full evacuation of the auditorium.

But according to Barbara Friedman, who produced the talent show and is a member of the organization's board of directors, those obstacles didn't prevent inspired performances by the finalists, well-deserved

recognition for the winners, and another successful talent showcase for young people in the area.

"The performances were fabulous," she said. "Truly, they are destined to go on to wonderful careers and go on with their talents."

All performers and judges made it to the early show despite bad weather, and the fire alarm didn't rattle the late show contestants, either. Attendance for both shows was around 400, with more than 120 performers representing more than 60 different acts, taking part in the shows.

Their ability to overcome unexpected events demonstrates that they've already successfully learned and implemented a "the show must go on" mentality, Friedman said.

Winners were recognized in several categories, and one also earned \$1,000 as the



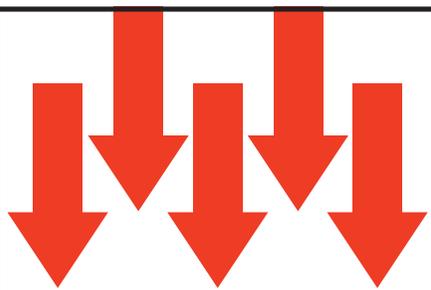
COURTESY OF THE HERITAGE ARTS CENTER ASSOCIATION

Riley Reardon won this year's \$1,000 Pasco Heritage Scholarship for his contemporary dance routine. The Land O'Lakes High School senior choreographed it as well.

recipient of the Pasco Heritage Scholarship, which is given to a Pasco graduating senior each year.

But even that winner didn't have an easy road to his victory. In fact, he made a mistake early into his contemporary dance routine.

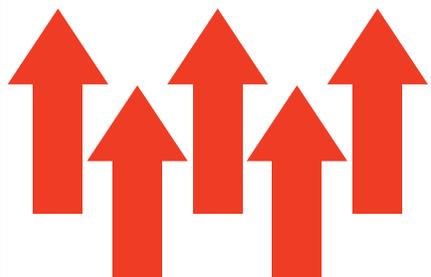
See TALENT, page 12



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Holocaust survivor shares his story at Land O' Lakes High

By B.C. Manion

bcmation@lakerlutznews.com

As the speaker wrapped up his talk, Land O' Lakes High School students streamed down to the front of the auditorium to shake his hand and pose with him for photos.

They wanted a personal encounter with Philip Gans, a man who survived the horrors of the Holocaust during World War II. Gans was at the high school to share his story, so others won't forget the atrocities committed by the Nazis.

"Your children will never have a chance to see a concentration camp survivor," Gans said, speaking to teachers and students from U.S. history, world history and several other classes.

Social studies teacher Whitney Miller arranged the visit, saying it's important for students to use the most primary source of information they can receive.

Gans, now 86, said his life in Amsterdam began as a happy one.

"We had a good life," he said. "Dad had his own business. We had people working for us. We had domestic help. We even had a car."

But Gans and his family were Jewish, so when the Nazis invaded they went into hiding beginning in August 1942, moving from place to place for nearly a year to avoid detection. On July 24, 1943 — the evening of his father's birthday — they were arrested. Gans was 15 at the time.

The family was taken to a detention camp, where they remained a month before being sent to Auschwitz III, a slave labor camp. They loaded more than 1,000 people into cattle cars and carted them to the concentration camp, jamming 50 to 60 people in each car, Gans recalled.

There were no bathrooms. Those who needed to relieve themselves were forced to do so in a pail, in full view of others, Gans said.

"They had no respect for humanity. As a



COURTESY OF WHITNEY MILLER

Philip Gans described the horrors of the Holocaust to several classes at Land O' Lakes High School. He urged students to erase hate and to avoid being bystanders when others are doing wrong.

matter of fact, they were savages. They were brutal," he said.

When they arrived at the camp, they separated the men and older boys from the women and children.

He never saw his mom, sister or grandmother again.

Once Gans he arrived at the camp, he was known as No. 139755. It's tattooed on his arm and on a replica of the shirt he wore at the concentration camp.

"The conditions were unbelievable," Gans said.

During his time of confinement he never saw a toothbrush or toothpaste. He showered about once every 10 days, he said.

Besides the physical hardships, prisoners endured mental abuse, he said.

"They did everything to make life miserable for you," Gans said. "They were brutal."

Workers kept trying to work, even when they were deathly ill, he said. They knew the consequences if they didn't.

"Everybody knows if you're too weak to work, you'd wind up in the gas chamber," Gans said.

Despite the hardships, Gans considers himself one of the lucky ones.

"I survived," he said. "There were many people who did not survive. My dad, for instance, he was the only (one) of the 21 members of his family that did not die in the gas chambers. He died in a death march April 1945, a month before the liberation."

Gans said he, too, walked in the death march — long brutal hikes used by the Nazis when moving prisoners from one concentration camp to another — before being liberated by the American Army on April 23, 1945. He was 17.

Besides using his message to remind people of the atrocities of the Holocaust, Gans also spreads another message. "Erase hate," he urged the audience.

"When you go home tonight, take out your dictionary and cross out the word 'hate.' Hate is corrosive," Gans said.

He also encouraged students to never give up hope and to take action when they witness something wrong going on.

"Don't hate and don't be a bystander, especially in this day and age when so many kids are being bullied and then the next day in the newspaper (you read) that kid committed suicide," Gans said.

Those who stand by idly and let the bullying happen, he said, "are partly to blame."

"If you see something that's being done wrong, even if you have no interest, speak up," Gans said.

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Lakerlutznews is our new 'handle'

By Diane Kortus
Publisher



Before reading my column this week, you may want to first read the other story on this page that explains that we've changed the ending on our email to make all of our digital addresses uniform.

Our goal is to make it easier to find us on the Web, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and other virtual forums that will become the next multimedia rage. Simply put, all of our addresses will now incorporate the phrase "lakerlutznews."

I think of "lakerlutznews" as the "handle" for our company. Remember those days not so long ago when people adopted the CB radio language of truckers and gave themselves "handles"?

CB radios were the precursor of cell phones and email, and provided an instant way to talk with friends and family while driving across town or cross-country. In many ways today's technologies are not that much different — just faster and more seamless.

Our new handle is easier to remember and say than "cnewspubs" — the abbreviation of our corporate name, Community News Publications, that we've used since we launched our first website in 2002.

While we want you to know about our new "handle" and expanded digital products, this does not mean we will be focusing less on the printed weekly newspaper you are holding in your hands.

In fact, now that our website and Facebook page have been redesigned and we're posting e-editions and daily photos and stories, we have more time than ever to focus on the newspaper itself. After all, there are 60,000 people who read The Laker and Lutz News every week, or 240,000 readers monthly. This compares to 18,000 monthly page views on our website and close to 2,000 likes on Facebook.

With numbers like this, there's no doubt that the printed newspaper is the way most of you prefer to get your local news. And you're no different than news-

paper readers nationwide.

A recent study by the Newspaper Association of America found that 55 percent of the U.S. newspaper audience — both daily and weekly papers like ours — only read their local newspaper in print and never read it online.

The NAA hired Scarborough Research to survey 150 U.S. media markets, including Tampa Bay. The study found that the digital-only newspaper audience (people who only read newspapers online, via mobile devices, or both) is very small.

Just 7 percent said they only read their local newspaper online, 3 percent said they only read it with a mobile device, and just 5 percent said they read it both online and with a mobile device.

That works out to 15 percent of the local newspaper audience who don't read the printed paper and instead only read the news online or with a mobile device.

So, to those who believe the printed newspaper is on its way to extinction, you are wrong. This NAA study is just the latest of many studies that dispels the belief that newspapers are dinosaurs and will not be around for our great-grandchildren to read.

While only 15 percent of newspaper readers get their news digitally today, it still represents a lot of readers, and that market will likely continue to grow. So, we will continue to make improvements to our online services and do our best to keep up with the ever-changing digital world.

But at the same time, we will never forget that the vast majority of our readers will always prefer the printed paper to stay abreast of local stories, photos and advertisements that are informative, relevant and uplifting to read.

The challenge that I have as publisher is to bridge the worlds of print and digital so that we remain accessible to all of our readers in the format they prefer, to enable us to continue to be a vital resource for everyone who is interested in their community.

And hopefully something as simple as consistently using our new "handle" of "lakerlutznews" will make it easier for you to do just that.

The Laker/Lutz News has new email addresses, digital offerings

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

There have been some exciting changes in recent weeks to how you can read The Laker/Lutz News, and how you can communicate with us as well.

The first change is in how you can reach the staff by email. For years, using @cnewspubs.com was the way to get to us. However, that is no longer the case, as we ask that you replace it with @lakerlutznews.com.

Typically, our email addresses are the first initial of our first name and then our full last name, followed by @lakerlutznews.com. The only exception to this is our community editor, B.C. Manion, who uses the address bmanion@lakerlutznews.com.

So why the change?

Well, first, @lakerlutznews.com is easier to remember and say than our old address. Giving our old email address over the phone, for example, could be clunky and complicated, especially since some letters sound like others.

Second, it communicates clearly that emails you receive from us are coming from your community newspaper. That includes The Laker, which has published since 1981, and the Lutz News, which has published since 1964.

Finally, it better reflects where you can find us online at LakerLutzNews.com. It's also a lot closer to our Facebook address as well, which is now Facebook.com/LakerLutzNews.

Another new feature available on our website is our e-edition. Sure, you can wait until Thursday afternoon each week to read our stories from the print edition on our website. But if you don't have access to our print publication, and would like to see the paper when it's delivered, then all you have to do is stop by our website every Wednesday.

At the top of our page is a link called "E-Editions." Hovering over that with a mouse will bring up a submenu featuring the different editions of The Laker and Lutz News, based on where you live.

This lets you read our newspapers not only on your computer, but on mobile devices as well. Just visit our website on your smartphone or tablet, click on "E-Editions," and you're on your way.

"We appreciate you continuing to make The Laker/Lutz News your community newspaper, and hope you will take advantage of our new digital offerings while still enjoying our printed edition here in your hands," news editor Michael Hinman said.

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Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE



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The 2014 Tampa Bay Parade of Homes opened on Saturday, April 5th and will continue through Saturday, April 19th. Connerton is proud to showcase all 4 quality builders, Ryland Homes, M/I Homes, Taylor Morrison and Homes by WestBay. Six decorated models are available for viewing, with varied home styles for buyers of all ages.

Connerton is located in central Pasco County, away from the hustle and bustle of crowded highways and bumper-to-bumper traffic. Over 125 families have made the decision to call Connerton home since the community reopened in May 2013.

What makes Connerton unique? Connerton has been given a "New Town" designation awarded by the State and County for master-planned, urban communities designed to be self-sufficient. A New Town possesses its own housing, education and government facilities, retail, commerce and recreation. Currently, there are only 3 New Towns in the state of Florida, and Connerton is the only one that exists in West Florida. The other Florida New Towns are Seaside, located in the panhandle, and Celebration, situated just outside

of Orlando. Connerton's vibrant New Town live/work/play design, will unfold over the next decade and potentially make the community wholly self-sustaining. When complete, Connerton will be composed of 8,500 homes, 1.7 million square feet of retail space, 1.4 million square feet of office space a government center, multiple schools, and more than 1,000 acres of natural protected spaces. This is a plan, not just a dream!

As a Connerton resident, you can enjoy a world of amenities that include a state-of-the-art fitness center, miles of hiking and biking trails, a nature preserve filled with natural wonders, sporting fields, gardening, social gatherings, yoga classes and meditation, an outdoor amphitheater as well as an aquatic center overflowing with fun.

If you don't mind spending less for a home, you will find that Connerton is a naturally wise choice.

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Baldomero Lopez nursing home wins Florida TaxWatch award

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Florida TaxWatch and Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera recently honored Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home for its work in saving tax money over the past year.

The Prudential Productivity Awards were given to 432 individuals and state employee teams for creating and implementing innovative solutions and productivity improvements, which last year created \$558 million in cost savings, cost avoidances and increased revenue for state government.

"Florida is proud to use the Prudential Productivity Awards to recognize our employees with ingenuity who make the public sector more efficient for all Floridians," Lopez-Cantera said, in a release. "Our state employees continue to provide innovative solutions that save Florida families' hard-earned money, and make the Sunshine State a great place to live, work, and build their dreams."

The nursing home, located at 6919 Parkway Blvd., in Land O' Lakes — just off Ehren Cutoff — received a certificate for its efforts. It honored the team there of Marlies Sarrett, Sue Guthrie, Lyn Bodemann, Barbara Boudreau, Jackie Gorgen, Lucy Scibek and Joanne Burley.

The Prudential Productivity Awards program recognizes and rewards hard-working state employees who create and implement innovative cost-saving and efficiency im-

provements, Florida TaxWatch said. The program has honored the state's public servants since 1988.

"The Prudential Productivity Awards is a nationally unique program that brings the private sector together to honor the most productive and innovative employees in Florida state government," said Dominic Calabro, Florida TaxWatch's president and chief executive, in a release. "Each of the award winners are commended for their commitment to reducing costs for Florida's hard-working taxpayers while dramatically improving the services that each Floridian depends on."

The program also strives to encourage state agencies to work together to replicate the savings across state government. Since 1989, thousands of individuals, teams, work units and partnerships have produced \$8.7 billion worth of added value as a direct result of award winners' achievements, and the replication of those achievements.

Over the program's 26-year history, Florida TaxWatch has discovered more inter-agency cooperation and increased teamwork amongst award winners to bring savings to Floridians, the group said.

Recipients of the 195 cash and plaque awards will be honored during five statewide ceremonies beginning June 4 at Florida State University in Tallahassee, and then later in Jacksonville, Orlando and Miami, before wrapping up in Tampa on June 13.

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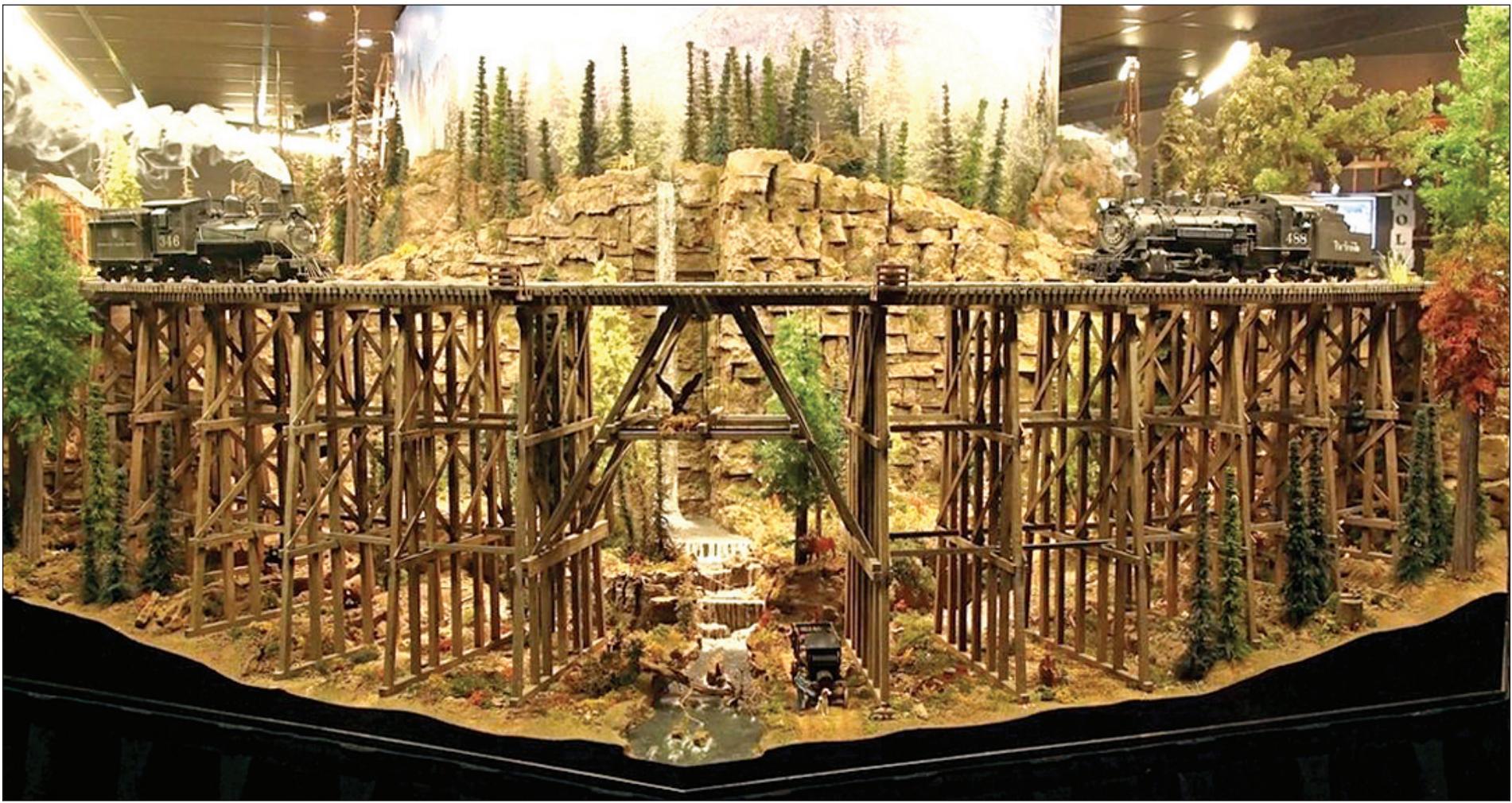
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUNCOAST CENTER FOR FINE SCALE MODELING

The trees, the tracks and the waterfall give this model train railroad layout a feeling of authenticity.

This exhibit will thrill train lovers, model makers



Worth the Trip

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

From the outside, the squat warehouse building housing the Suncoast Center for Fine Scale Modeling is no showstopper.

Step inside, though, and it's an entirely different story.

The center is a showcase of the kind of artistry that can be achieved in the world of model making. It has several exhibits, but the centerpiece of the collection is called the Sundance Central, a fine scale modular railroad.

The display was created by a group of model-makers who are obsessive in their attention to detail. They've spent thousands of hours over several years working to create a railroad environment that looks and sounds like it's from a period between the 1890s and 1920s.

Smoke billows from a locomotive as it chugs along a hand-laid track. The sounds of trains, speeding up and slowing down with the calls of birds in the background, provide an added air of authenticity.

Tiny people populate the display. Some wait at a train station. Others work at a gas

The Suncoast Center for Fine Scale Modeling

WHAT: An impressive collection of artistically crafted models, which recreate the feel for an authentic railroad, along with other models depicting Civil War scenes, fighter pilots, and the Band of Brothers.

WHERE: 2645 Success Drive, Odessa

WHEN: The third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., from October to June

COST: Admission is \$7 for adults, and free for children 12 and younger

INFO: Visit: www.finescalemodeling.org

station. Some labor in the rail yards. There's a multitude of scenes along the route, including a lumberyard, a salvage shop and a train maintenance facility.

Trains make their way through a terrain that's been painstakingly landscaped with handmade grass and trees. The locomotives run across elevated tracks, with a sculpted waterfall and images of majestic mountains arranged to serve as a backdrop.

Besides the Sundance Central, the center has Civil War military models, a tribute to the Band of Brothers, a fighter pilot in a F-15 Eagle cockpit and other displays. For train lovers, there are two other model railroad displays that were created and donated by groups from Australia. And, there's the Silverton Central, a layout created by Jon Addison, a modeler in the center's group.



This train is pulling out of a facility into the area where a turntable is turned manually, which allows trains to change tracks.

"There's so many things in here for you to see," said Dale MacKeown, another member on the Sundance team. "People who come in here typically spend two, two-and-a-half hours. We have people who come in here every time."

One guy, around 95, came with six members of his family, and they spent the whole day there, MacKeown said.

Because of its modular nature, the Sundance Central can be taken apart and transported to train shows and conferences elsewhere. It is so large, disassembling it is a gargantuan task, and it requires a semitrailer to move it.

The display is not widely known to the general public, but is popular among train enthusiasts and modelers, MacKeown said.

"It's been to all four corners of the United States in the last 10 years," he said. "People from all over the world hear about us."

In September, it will be the centerpiece of the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The Sundance Central got its start about 15 years ago when some group members became acquainted with each other through the Florida Garden Railway Society, MacKeown said. They decided it would be neat to build a modular train layout they could carry in the trunks of their cars to

train shows.

They moved into the center's current home, at 2645 Success Drive in Odessa, three years ago.

The modelers are sticklers for detail. They use foam rubber to create fake rock face. They use rope fiber to make artificial grass. They use wax to make imitation cow pies.

Some people wonder why the men are so involved in creating the models, said Jim Hopes, another member of the Sundance team.

"It's because we love doing it. Once you start to create something that looks pretty good, you can't stop," he said.

"Everybody loves trains at some point in their life. Some people, like us, never get over it," said Hopes, who built his first model train when he was 10 or 11.

"My father got me my first Lionel (train) when I was 5," MacKeown said.

That was nearly 70 years ago.

In his Silverton Central railroad layout, Addison has created a setting that includes a harbor, a produce market, a village and other features.

Some train enthusiasts simply want to operate them and are not too particular about the setting behind them, Addison said.

"We care about making things look real. We kind of look at it as an art," Addison said.



The modelers involved in the Suncoast Center for Fine Scale Modeling are, from left, Richard Schmitt, Jim Hopes, Dale MacKeown, Frank Palmer, Keith Wolfe and David Revelia.



SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC:

Call for appointment: Subject to \$3 medical, infectious & records fee. (Includes pre-anesthetic exam, anesthesia, pain & antibiotic pre-medication)

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34 - 66 lbs	\$60	23 - 44 lbs	\$65
67 - 88 lbs	\$75	45 - 66 lbs	\$75
89 - 132 lbs	\$90	67 - 88 lbs	\$95
		89 - 132 lbs	\$110

Weekend Vaccine Clinics

SAT., APRIL 12TH 1:00 to 2:00 pm HOLLOWAYS 3036 Land O' Lakes Blvd LAND O' LAKES	SAT., APRIL 26TH 1:00 to 2:00 pm PET CITY 2119 Collier Pkwy LAND O' LAKES	SAT., APRIL 26TH 2:30 to 3:30 pm MIDWAY FARM & RANCH 19211 SR 52 LAND O' LAKES
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PET of the WEEK



Peanut keeps everyone hopping

Please meet Peanut. The runt of five puppies, Peanut was born Jan. 17. She is very playful, and keeps her parents, Tiny and Coco, active by chasing after them and playing with them. Peanut loves to bring in presents from outside like pine bark, frogs, etc. She is a delight and keeps everyone hopping. Her owners are Michael and Wendy Hoffman of Wesley Chapel.

Send us a picture and information on your favorite pet!

Write a short paragraph about why your pet is special along with a photo and mail to: **Pet of the Week**, c/o The Laker, P.O. Box 479, Lutz, FL 33548 or email to kwelton@lakerlutznews.com, ATTN: Pet of the Week

PLEASE NOTE: OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS MUST BE INCLUDED FOR YOUR PET TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION.



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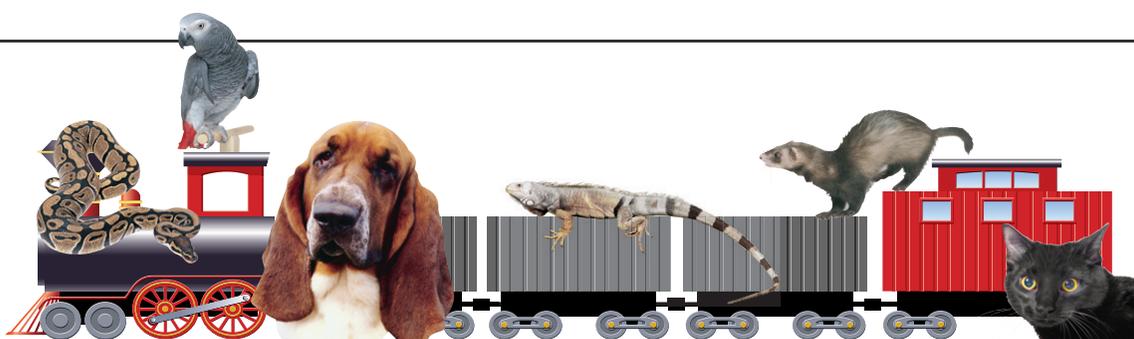
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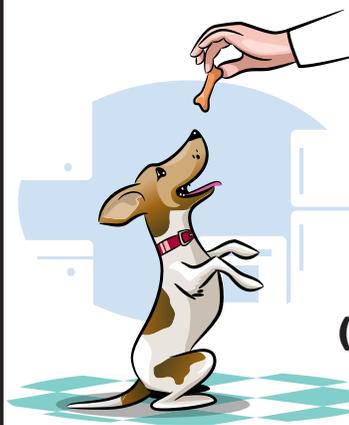
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What's Happening

Your Community Calendar • Submit 2 weeks in advance to: news@lakerlutznews.com • All listings free of charge

BELLAMY BROTHERS CONCERT

The Bellamy Brothers will perform April 11 at 7 p.m., at Pasco High School, 36850 State Road 52 in Dade City. To buy tickets online, visit SellingTicket.com/pasco.

FISH FRY DINNERS AT OLOR

The Knights of Columbus Council 8104 at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 2348 Collier Parkway, is hosting its last Lenten fish fry dinner April 11 in the Parish Hall. Dinners are served from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 12 and younger, and \$25 for the family special. Take-out is available. For information, call (813) 949-4565.

TASTE OF PASCO FUNDRAISER

Leadership Pasco is hosting its Fourth Annual Taste of Pasco April 12 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Rotary Pavilion at the Concourse, 15323 State Road 52 in Land O' Lakes. The event will benefit the West Pasco Pregnancy Center and Runaway Alternatives Project House. The event includes sample foods, silent auction, live music, K-9 unit demonstrations, and an All Kids Zone. Tickets start at \$25. Kids younger than 12 are free. For information, visit TasteOfPasco2014.eventbrite.com.

SPRING CELEBRATION

Hillsborough County's Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department is hosting a Keystone Spring Celebration April 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Keystone Park, 17928 Gunn Highway in Odessa. This community event will assist local 4-H and the Keystone Civic Association. For information, call Paul Russo at (813) 264-3819.

Easter celebrations

The following churches will host a variety of Easter celebrations April 13:

- **Benedictine Sisters of Florida**, Saint Leo University, 33201 State Road 52 in St. Leo: Mass and Blessing of Palms at 10:30 a.m. Call (352) 588-8320.
- **Church of the Lakes**, 2530 Wilson Road in Land O' Lakes: Performing arts drama "A Savior, My Savior, Your Savior" at 7:30 p.m. Call (813) 948-4358.
- **First United Methodist Church of Lutz**, 960 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road: Choirs, soloists and instrumentalists at 8 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Call (813) 949-1751.
- **Grace Community**, 30243 Wells Road, Wesley Chapel: Interactive kids program Grace Harbor at 10:30 a.m. Call (813) 994-9363.
- **Heritage Church**, 1854 Oak Grove Blvd., Lutz: Live drama "The Last Supper" at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Call (813) 909-4080.
- **Keystone Community Church**, 21010 State Road 54 in Lutz: Palm Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. Call (813) 948-4522.
- **Messiah Lutheran Church and Preschool**, 14920 Hutchison Road in Tampa: Palm Sunday services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Call (813) 961-2182.



Richey, will host an authentic Passover Seder April 14 at 8 p.m. Cost is \$36 per adult, and \$25 per child. For information or to RSVP, call (727) 376-3366.

HCC JOB FAIR

Hillsborough Community College will host a job fair April 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at its Dale Mabry Campus gym, 4001 W. Tampa Bay Blvd., in Tampa. For information, email icanalejo@hccfl.edu.

WHOLE FOODS EGGS-TRA FUN

Whole Foods Market, 3802 Northdale Blvd., in Carrollwood, will host a Kid's Club Egg-stravaganza April 15 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 to benefit the Whole Kids Foundation. This is a craft class to make an edible Easter egg basket. Preregistration is required. For information, call (813) 264-3600.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING DOCUMENTARY

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 2648 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, will show the WEDU documentary "Human Trafficking in Tampa Bay" April 16 at 7 p.m., in Immaculata Hall. A discussion of the film will follow the presentation. For information, call (813) 949-4565.

HAIKU EXHIBIT

In recognition of National Poetry Month, the Pasco Arts Council will present the exhibit "Expressions" through April 30 at the art center, 5744 Moog Road in Holiday. The exhibit includes an original haiku and artwork. The center is open Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call (727) 845-7322.

USF PLANT FESTIVAL

USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive in Tampa, will host its Spring Plant Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 12, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 13. Admission is \$5. Children younger than 12 and garden members are free. For information, call (813) 974-2329, or visit Gardens.usf.edu.

AVALON FAMILY FUN

Avalon Park West, 5227 Autumn Ridge Drive in Wesley Chapel, will host Absolutely Avalon April 12 at 5 p.m. This free event includes bounce park, glow-in-the-dark Easter egg hunt, Easter bunny pictures, community performances, and a laser light show at 9 p.m. For information, call (813) 783-1515, or visit AvalonParkWest.com.

ECOFEST 2014

EcoFest 2014 will be April 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Lowry Park Bandshell, 7525 N. Boulevard in Tampa. The event will feature local green vendors, green living demos, a farmer's market, kids' zone and more. This is a free family event. For information, visit LearningGate.org/ecofest.

EASTER EGGS-TRAVAGANZA

Saint Leo University, 33701 State Road 52 in St. Leo, will host an Easter Eggs-travaganza April 12 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There will be an egg toss, egg race, egg hunts, and arts and crafts. Radio Disney will be at the event. A food truck will be on-site. For information, call Jennifer Garcia at (352) 588-8499, or email jennifer.garcia@saintleo.edu.

PASSOVER SEDER

Chabad Jewish Center, 10733 Maple Creek Drive, Suite 101, in New Port

CRAFT, SALE VENDORS NEEDED

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 2348 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, is looking for craft and yard sale vendors for its parking lot sale May 3 from 8 a.m. to noon. Spaces are \$10 each. Proceeds will go to the youth building fund. Vendors must bring their own tables and chairs. For information, call Coleen Ward at (813) 997-0917, or Doreen Ward at (813) 997-1045.

VOLUNTEER AT FEEDING AMERICA

Feeding America Tampa Bay-Suncoast Branch, 5829 Ehren Cutoff in Land O' Lakes, is looking for volunteers. Parents must accompany volunteers younger than 16. Volunteer hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, as well as two Saturdays per month. After-school hours are offered for students to acquire Bright Future credits. For information, call (813) 929-0200.

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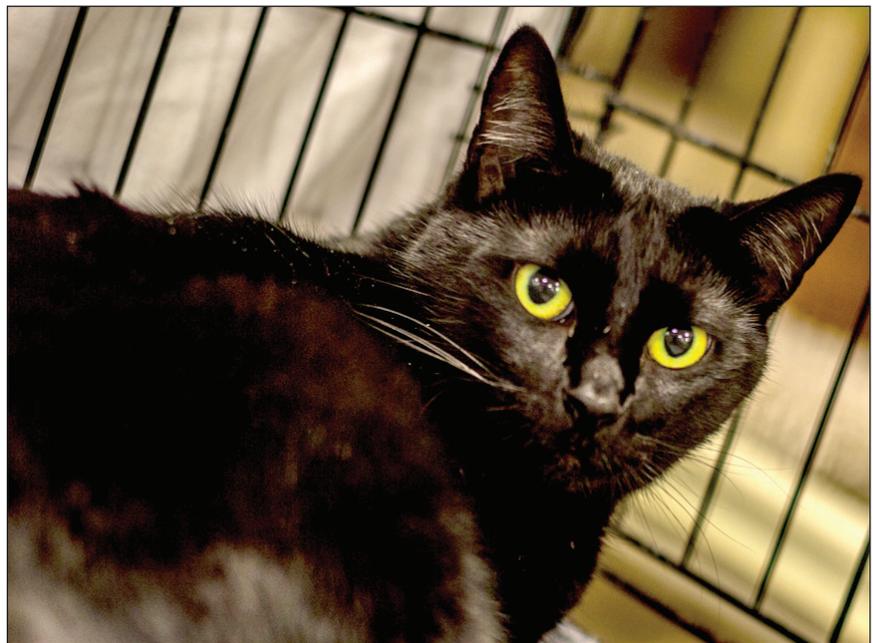
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If you would like to invite Emma into your family, email **Cat Crusaders** at adopt@tampacatcrusaders.org. For more information about other adoptable cats, visit TampaCatCrusaders.org.

J. Joseph Salon Introduces New Pureology System For Damaged Hair

J. Joseph Salon in Land O' Lakes was one of just five salons in the world asked to host an exclusive, in-salon event to introduce Pureology's new product line that restores strength and velvety softness to micro-scarred and damaged, color-treated hair.

At the March 22 evening affair, J. Joseph's guests received Pureology's new Strength Cure System, including a luxurious shampoo, restorative mask, nourishing conditioner and a beautiful blow dry finish using Fabulous Lengths Protector and Split End Salve Healer on the end of their hair.

"We had a lot of fun with a Pureology artist consultant who brought along an interactive microscope that allowed us see the before and after affects of the Strength Cure System," said Linda



Linda Boyington of J. Joseph Salon treats a guest with Pureology's new product line that restores strength and velvety softness to color-damaged hair.

Boyington, chief operating officer at J. Joseph Salon.

"It was fascinating to look through a microscope at damaged hair and witness how the Strength Cure System resulted in a remarkable 97 percent improvement in hair strength after just one treatment using its new shampoo, conditioner and split end salve."

To encourage woman with damaged hair to benefit from Pureology's Strength Cure system, J. Joseph's Salon is offering a 20 percent discount on Strength Cure products in April.



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Do you know if your healthcare decisions will be honored? Start the conversation by completing your advance directives this April 16 during National Healthcare Decisions Day. Free living wills and information will be available at:

- The Hook Law Group, 4918 Floramar Terrace in New Port Richey, from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care Corporate Resource Center, 2061 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Gulfside Center for Hospice Care, 5760 Dean Dairy Rd. in Zephyrhills, from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Have your wishes known by completing these important documents this April 16!

800-561-4883

For more information: www.GHPPC.org

BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

ANIMAL HOSPITAL, GYM SET TO MOVE

Wesley Chapel continues to grow along the State Road 56 corridor between Interstate 75 and Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, with members of the Pasco County Development Review Committee set to give its blessing this week on a 22,600-square-foot shopping center.

Tentatively known as the Dr. Reddy Commerce Center, it will be located at 27029 State Road 566, east of Mansfield Boulevard. The center is slated to become home to an animal hospital, a martial arts center, and the new home for CrossFit 14, which right now is located just down the road at 27233 State Road 56.

The commerce center will be two buildings located on just under 3 acres of land purchased by Sree Reddy DMV PA last June for \$795,000. Dr. Sree Reddy runs Seven Oaks Pet Hospital, also located just blocks away.

Reddy's animal hospital is only expected to take up 4,500 square feet, while CrossFit 14 will need more than 12,000, according to documents filed with Pasco County.

The development review committee is set to make a final decision on the preliminary site plan when it meets April 10.

HOUSING RECOVERY PROVEN BY CONNERTON SUCCESS

Connerton is trumpeting evidence of a housing recovery in Florida after selling 70 new homes in the past year, and projecting to do 120 more in 2014.

The reason for its success has come from moves its developer, Hayman Woods, did during the housing crisis, according to a release. And it started with protecting the investments of the 300 families already living there, while at the same time preparing for new buyers.

Among the things the Dallas-based developer did was:

- Pay subsidies to the homeowners association, which allowed club amenities to continue to operate at a high level throughout the downturn.
- Made what it called a substantial investment in the community development district to make sure landscaping, security and infrastructure were maintained.
- Provided incentives to bring quality homebuilders into the community and restart construction in early 2013. Those companies include Ryland Homes, M/I Homes, Taylor Morrison, and Homes by

WestBay. There are six furnished models available from these builders.

Houses at Connerton are priced between \$192,000 and \$525,000. The community is located at U.S. 41 in Land O' Lakes, and features two miles of nature trails, a 10,000-square-foot clubhouse and miles of winding roads and walkways.

PHSC HOSTS MANUFACTURING JOBS EVENTS

Pasco-Hernando State College and Career Source will host two manufacturing events, which includes opportunities for on-the-job training programs.

The first event takes place April 9 at Alumi-Guard, 2401 Corporate Blvd., in Brooksville, beginning at 8 a.m. The second takes place April 16, also at 8 a.m., at the SmartStart Dade City Incubator, 15000 Citrus Country Drive, Suite 103, in Dade City.

For information, email Margie Burnham at burnham@phsc.edu, or call (727) 816-3227.

LAWN DOCTOR OPENS IN LUTZ

Jonathan Player and Rodney McClain are the newest franchise owners of Lawn Doctor, opening their business for the North Tampa-Lutz area as well as Northeast Tampa area.

The two, according to a release, plan to continue expanding their business to all the open areas of the region, heading south toward Bradenton.

Lawn Doctor is a lawn care company founded in 1967 that works through more than 450 franchises across the country.

For information, call (813) 433-1222, or visit LawnDoctorNorthTampa-Lutz.com.

WOMEN-N-CHARGE MEET IN MAY

The next meeting for Women-n-Charge takes place May 2 beginning at 11:30 a.m., at Pebble Creek Country Club, 10550 Regents Park Drive in Tampa.

The meeting includes lunch, speaker Kelly Mothershead from A Focus on Fitness, and time to network.

Cost is \$15 for members, and \$18 for guests and those who don't pre-register by April 29.

For information, call (813) 600-9848, or visit Women-n-Charge.com.

SEMINARS TO PROVIDE INFO ON TRUSTS

Two free seminars will take place in April discussing trusts and how the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 will affect it.

The first seminar takes place April 22 beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Independent Financial Services, 20635 Amberfield Drive, Suite 102, in Land O' Lakes. The second will take place April 24 at 5:30 p.m., at First National Bank of Pasco, 13315 U.S. 301, Dade City.

To register in advance, call (813) 908-2701.

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- Session 2: June 24 - July 3 (13-18 year olds)
- Session 3: July 8 - July 17 (6-12 year olds)
- Session 4: July 22 - July 31 (13-18 year olds)
- Session 5: Aug 5 - Aug 14 (6-12 year olds)

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 Summer at the Lakes



Brewer's assistant Tyler Schafer tests one of the newest batches of beer produced by Big Storm Brewing Co. Head Brewer Mike Bishop says his team's attention to quality is what's helped his Odessa-based beer company explode on the market.



Big Storm Brewing Co. is the first micro-brewery of its kind in Pasco County, and in less than two years, has grown from hundreds of barrels a year to 5,000, now opening up a new market in South Florida.



Sarah Reed opens the taproom at Big Storm Brewing Co., what co-founder Mike Bishop calls one of Pasco County's best secrets. Here, anyone can stop by and try the different brews offered by Big Storm literally feet away from the machinery and team that produces it.

BREW, from page 1

ployees.

Big Storm already is available in many bars around the state, recently expanding into South Florida where brews like Wavemaker Amber Ale, Palmbender Pale Ale and Arcus IPA are sold as drafts. This week, Big Storm becomes available for the first time in Orlando.

Big Storm doesn't necessarily compete with big names in beer like Budweiser or Coors, but instead with other craft beers — many brewed in Florida — looking to get a foothold on the market.

"None of them want to admit that we're competing against each other, and they talk

about our craft beer community and how tight it is," Bishop said. "Nobody wants to talk about the dirty word of competition, but we put people on the street and we believe in relationships. Otherwise, we keep our heads down and focus on our product, and let the consumer decide."

Bishop also listens to what customers have to say, especially those who come right into the brewery. Big Storm has a taproom open every evening where anyone who can find it off State Road 54 can stop in and drink a mug or two, or maybe three.

Many of those customers come in through a bay door, and sit literally feet away from large brewing tanks that make the very product they're sipping.

"We are an approachable, friendly brew-

ery, and we're happy that locals come up here and have a pretty good time," Bishop said. "It's a cool hangout in the middle of an industrial park right inside a garage."

Unlike many bars, the taproom is designed to be social. There are no televisions, and the music is just low enough to keep conversations flowing.

Beyond needing larger space and more employees, Bishop has a lot to focus on, including plans to start putting Big Storm in cans to sell in stores.

It's not exactly what he had envisioned just two years ago when the doors to Big Storm Brewing Co. first opened, but that's perfectly fine with Bishop.

"I don't have much time anymore to be excited, but I am very fortunate," he said.

"I've made a profession that I have a passion for and that I enjoy. And I'm proud that I have employees that feel the exact same way."

The taproom is open at 4 p.m. on weekdays, 2 p.m. on Saturdays, and 1 p.m. on Sundays. The brewery is located at 2438 Merchant Ave., in Odessa.

To learn more, visit them online at BigStormBrewery.com.

TALENT, from page 1

"In the beginning, I was supposed to do this leap and then roll to the ground. But I leapt, and when I put my foot down I missed the floor and landed on my back," recalled Riley Reardon, a senior at Land O' Lakes High School. "But then I just kept on going because I was supposed to go to the floor so a lot of people didn't even notice. Right then I was like, 'Wow, I already messed this up and I'm only at the beginning of the dance.'"

Reardon was able to recover, impress the judges throughout the rest of his dance, and capture the scholarship. And it probably helped that he knew the routine so well: Reardon choreographed the dance himself, and even choreographed a duet dance for his sister, Devin, for her performance at the "Spotlight On Talent."

Dance is a big part of Reardon's life. He practices for hours each weekday at Broadway Dancesations, a dance studio in Lutz. While it requires considerable practice and focus, he said it's a creative break from

the challenging course load he takes as part of his school's International Baccalaureate program.

Choreography also is a fun activity for him, since he gets to match up a dancer's strengths with routines that showcase their abilities. Reardon said that watching others succeed with dances he creates can be more rewarding than actually performing them himself.

But he won the scholarship with his own performance, and he found the victory satisfying for multiple reasons. He's been performing at the "Spotlight On Talent" for a few years, and it was nice to be recognized in his senior year.

The money is a welcome prize, too. Reardon is looking at a few schools, and while he hasn't made a final decision yet, it looks like his choice will probably take him out of state, which means higher tuition costs and additional living expenses.

Wherever he attends school, he said the money would come in handy.

"I'm really excited. College is super-expensive, so just having a little bit of help really does go a long way."

UNION, from page 1

they are focusing on strategies for preparing students for future requirements.

Teachers are feeling "very, very uptight," Webbe said. "They're feeling that they are shortchanging their students because they don't have time."

The complaint filed with PERC notes that the union has hosted meetings between teachers and school board representatives, including Superintendent Kurt Browning, to talk about "teachers' frustrations with the amount of work and time commitment for the new PLC meetings."

Before lodging the complaint, the union asked the school district to limit PLC team meetings to 40 minutes per week.

The union claims that the district is using time intended for planning for professional development, so it has asked PERC to declare that the district has committed an unfair labor practice.

"I think there is a solution, if the district is willing to sit down and work on it," Webbe said.

Browning has a different take on the issue.

"I think they're wrong. We've never, never, not once, said that professional learning communities, PLCs, were professional development," Browning said.

"It's collaborative planning," Browning said, adding that the district's track record demonstrates that it needs to change the

way it educates students if it wants to improve its performance.

The PLCs are intended to allow teachers to work together to improve student outcomes.

"In an elementary school, it may be more appropriate to do it by grade level. You may have the third-grade team," Browning said.

The team will be talking about how they're going to teach reading, mathematics and language arts, he said. At the high school and middle school levels, the teams might be organized by subject matter.

"The inherent purpose of the PLC was so that they could plan for better, more effective classroom instruction. That's it," Browning said. "These PLCs are teacher-driven. You can go to one elementary school and see a PLC work one way, and you can go to another elementary school and see a PLC work totally differently."

"If the union is hearing that teachers are taking homework home because of their PLC, then that must be a decision their PLC has made," Browning said.

Browning recently met with the principals from schools on the eastern and central portions of the county. During that meeting, Browning said he reminded them "that they need to guard the PLC time as planning time and not professional development time, if by chance that was happening."

"This is a year of transition," he said. "If we find situations, that we actually find a school that is using them for professional development and not planning, then shame on us — we need to fix that."

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Lakerlutznews is our new 'handle'

By Diane Kortus
Publisher



Before reading my column this week, you may want to first read the other story on this page that explains that we've changed the ending on our email to make all of our digital addresses uniform.

Our goal is to make it easier to find us on the Web, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and other virtual forums that will become the next multimedia rage. Simply put, all of our addresses will now incorporate the phrase "lakerlutznews."

I think of "lakerlutznews" as the "handle" for our company. Remember those days not so long ago when people adopted the CB radio language of truckers and gave themselves "handles"?

CB radios were the precursor of cell phones and email, and provided an instant way to talk with friends and family while driving across town or cross-country. In many ways today's technologies are not that much different — just faster and more seamless.

Our new handle is easier to remember and say than "cnewspubs" — the abbreviation of our corporate name, Community News Publications, that we've used since we launched our first website in 2002.

While we want you to know about our new "handle" and expanded digital products, this does not mean we will be focusing less on the printed weekly newspaper you are holding in your hands.

In fact, now that our website and Facebook page have been redesigned and we're posting e-editions and daily photos and stories, we have more time than ever to focus on the newspaper itself. After all, there are 60,000 people who read The Laker and Lutz News every week, or 240,000 readers monthly. This compares to 18,000 monthly page views on our website and close to 2,000 likes on Facebook.

With numbers like this, there's no doubt that the printed newspaper is the way most of you prefer to get your local news. And you're no different than news-

paper readers nationwide.

A recent study by the Newspaper Association of America found that 55 percent of the U.S. newspaper audience — both daily and weekly papers like ours — only read their local newspaper in print and never read it online.

The NAA hired Scarborough Research to survey 150 U.S. media markets, including Tampa Bay. The study found that the digital-only newspaper audience (people who only read newspapers online, via mobile devices, or both) is very small.

Just 7 percent said they only read their local newspaper online, 3 percent said they only read it with a mobile device, and just 5 percent said they read it both online and with a mobile device.

That works out to 15 percent of the local newspaper audience who don't read the printed paper and instead only read the news online or with a mobile device.

So, to those who believe the printed newspaper is on its way to extinction, you are wrong. This NAA study is just the latest of many studies that dispels the belief that newspapers are dinosaurs and will not be around for our great-grandchildren to read.

While only 15 percent of newspaper readers get their news digitally today, it still represents a lot of readers, and that market will likely continue to grow. So, we will continue to make improvements to our online services and do our best to keep up with the ever-changing digital world.

But at the same time, we will never forget that the vast majority of our readers will always prefer the printed paper to stay abreast of local stories, photos and advertisements that are informative, relevant and uplifting to read.

The challenge that I have as publisher is to bridge the worlds of print and digital so that we remain accessible to all of our readers in the format they prefer, to enable us to continue to be a vital resource for everyone who is interested in their community.

And hopefully something as simple as consistently using our new "handle" of "lakerlutznews" will make it easier for you to do just that.

The Laker/Lutz News has new email addresses, digital offerings

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

There have been some exciting changes in recent weeks to how you can read The Laker/Lutz News, and how you can communicate with us as well.

The first change is in how you can reach the staff by email. For years, using @cnewspubs.com was the way to get to us. However, that is no longer the case, as we ask that you replace it with @lakerlutznews.com.

Typically, our email addresses are the first initial of our first name and then our full last name, followed by @lakerlutznews.com. The only exception to this is our community editor, B.C. Manion, who uses the address bmanion@lakerlutznews.com.

So why the change?

Well, first, @lakerlutznews.com is easier to remember and say than our old address. Giving our old email address over the phone, for example, could be clunky and complicated, especially since some letters sound like others.

Second, it communicates clearly that emails you receive from us are coming from your community newspaper. That includes The Laker, which has published since 1981, and the Lutz News, which has published since 1964.

Finally, it better reflects where you can find us online at LakerLutzNews.com. It's also a lot closer to our Facebook address as well, which is now Facebook.com/LakerLutzNews.

Another new feature available on our website is our e-edition. Sure, you can wait until Thursday afternoon each week to read our stories from the print edition on our website. But if you don't have access to our print publication, and would like to see the paper when it's delivered, then all you have to do is stop by our website every Wednesday.

At the top of our page is a link called "E-Editions." Hovering over that with a mouse will bring up a submenu featuring the different editions of The Laker and Lutz News, based on where you live.

This lets you read our newspapers not only on your computer, but on mobile devices as well. Just visit our website on your smartphone or tablet, click on "E-Editions," and you're on your way.

"We appreciate you continuing to make The Laker/Lutz News your community newspaper, and hope you will take advantage of our new digital offerings while still enjoying our printed edition here in your hands," news editor Michael Hinman said.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS



Send health news to
news@lakerlutznews.com

Helping HANDS

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will host Helping HANDS, a support group for family members and friends impacted by autism, April 9 at 7 p.m.

There will be a guest presenter from the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida.

For information, call Jonica Chittum at (813) 402-9442, or email jonica.chittum@hca-healthcare.com.

Give blood, get gift card

OneBlood will host blood drives at the following Walgreens locations April 12 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.:

- 7925 Gunn Highway, Tampa
- 17511 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa
- 22829 State Road 54, Land O' Lakes

There will also be a blood drive on April 14 at 18511 U.S. 41 in Lutz.

All donors receive a wellness checkup, a cholesterol screening and a \$10 Walgreens gift card. Donors must be at least 16 years old and weigh 110 pounds.

For information, visit OneBlood.org.

Heart healthy nutrition

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is offering a class called Heart Healthy Nutrition: Eating for a Healthy Lifestyle April 15 at 10 a.m.

The class will review heart healthy eating to control blood pressure, weight and pro-

tect the heart. Participants will learn dietary balance, good and bad fats, controlling sodium intake, calorie balance, and the importance of dietary fiber.

To make a reservation, call (727) 834-5630. Seating is limited.

Female pelvic seminar

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is hosting a seminar entitled "Common Female Pelvic Problems: Essential Knowledge to Restore Your Lifestyle" April 16 at noon.

Guest speaker is Dr. Mona McCullough to discuss common pelvic issues facing women and the treatment options available.

Admission is free. A complimentary lunch will be served. Seating is limited and reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

Get copy of advance directive

National Health Care Decision Day is April 16 and HPH Hospice is offering a download of an advance directive at its homepage at HPH-Hospice.org.

Those interested can also have a packet mailed to them by calling (866) 940-0962.

An HPH staff representative also is available to meet one-on-one for guidance through the preparation of an advance directive.

Call Jane Freeman at (727) 863-7971 or (800) 486-8784.

Living will distribution

Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care and Hook Law Group are partnering to provide free living wills April 16 at these locations:

- Gulfside's Corporate Resource Center office, 2061 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, from 9 a.m. to noon

- Hook Law Group offices, 4918 Floramar Terrace in New Port Richey, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For information, call (727) 842-1001.



COURTESY OF REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Blankenship is employee of the month

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point has recognized Mark Blankenship, registered respiratory therapist and member of the respiratory care team, as its February Employee of the Month. Celebrating the honor are, from left, Chief Medical Officer Joseph Pino, Chief Executive Officer Shayne George, Mark Blankenship, Respiratory Therapy Director Melanie Schmitt, Chief Nursing Officer Tanya Simpson, Human Resources Vice President Geoff Washburn, and Chief Operating Officer Shalin Shah.

Parkinson's support group

The Parkinson's Support Group will meet April 16 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at Church of the Nazarene, 5902 Himes Ave., in Tampa.

Guest speaker is Emily Wilson of the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services.

Light refreshments will be provided.

For information, call Jane Lowry at (813) 908-6685, or Adele Ida Walter at (813) 932-6902.

Oak Hill fills residency program

Oak Hill Hospital in Spring Hill has filled all 10 of its internal medicine residency positions through its association with the National Resident Matching Program.

The program is accredited for 30 residents, with 10 residents starting July 2014.

This is a three-year training program, and an additional 10 residents will be added each year to total 30 residents at Oak Hill Hospital over the next three years.

Sibling classes

The obstetrics program at Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is offering a sibling class for children ages 2 to 6 years old April 16 at 5 p.m.

Topics include what a new baby looks like, how to become a big helper, and how to make friends with the new baby.

Cost is \$10 per child.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

Lymphedema support

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will host its monthly lymphedema support group April 17 at 3 p.m.

Lymphedema is a persistent swelling, usually an arm or leg, which can occur as a side effect of cancer treatment.

Seating is limited and reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

All The Laker / Lutz News emails are now
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DENTAL BITES

There have been so many changes in how dentistry is practiced since we opened our dental office 25 years ago in Land O' Lakes. We want to use this dedicated space in The Laker and Lutz News to answer questions we are frequently asked and to share with you information about new innovations that make dentistry pain free and affordable.

Q Does bleaching affect existing fillings and crowns?

A Teeth that have been filled with tooth colored fillings or have had porcelain crowns and bridges placed on them cannot be altered in color by bleaching. Consulting your dentist before starting a bleaching process will help identify what teeth may not bleach due to fillings or crowns and how that will affect the success of the outcome.



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POLITICAL AGENDA

SEND POLITICAL NEWS TO MHNMAN@LAKERLUTZNEWS.COM

WELLS CHALLENGES WILSON FOR COMMISSION SEAT

Mike Wells Jr. has a name that is quite familiar to Pasco County residents, thanks to his father, longtime property appraiser Mike Wells Sr.

And now the younger Wells wants to make a name of his own by challenging

Pasco County Commissioner Henry Wilson in the Republican primary. In making the announcement, Wells doesn't share a lot about his platform, except that he knows being a commissioner "demands hard work as well as leadership skills attuned to citizens' needs."

"With the blessing of my family and friends, I am committing myself to do all that is necessary to run a positive and informative campaign," Wells said, in a release. "For most of my life, I have seen government at work. I am now ready to participate in the democratic process by doing what it takes to earn the job of representing the citizens of District 4."

Wells will have to start by raising money, and lots of it. Wilson, who was first elected in 2010, already has a running start with more than \$17,000 raised and at least \$16,000 in the bank, according to election records, through the end of February. Wilson's biggest month was in January when he hauled in \$8,735, at least half of it coming from builders and developers.

Wells' father served on the county commission himself in the 1980s, and was elected the county's property appraiser in 1996. The younger Wells said he's been active in political campaigns since he was 12, and has worked in both sales and management for Enterprise Rent-A-Car for 17 years. Primary elections are set for Aug. 26.



Mike Wells Jr.

be looking for you.

Poll workers are needed for both the primary election Aug. 26 and the general election Nov. 4. Positions are paid, but potential candidates will need to be able to stand, bend, stoop, lift approximately 30 pounds, and have normal vision and manual and physical dexterity.

Applicants also need to write and read English, have an email address, and be able to work the entire day from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All positions receive mandatory paid training the month preceding both the primary and general elections.

For information, call (800) 851-8754, or visit PascoVotes.com.

ROSS WANTS TO CURB FEDERAL UNIONS

U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, is once again going after federal employees who spend work time conducting union business, asking the Personnel Management director in Washington for a report on such practices.

"Since taxpayers pay the salary of all federal employee, they have a right to know how much of their money is used for conducting union business while on the clock," Ross said in a release. "We are more than \$17 trillion in debt. I believe in fair representation. However, we must ensure that we are spending the people's hard-earned money wisely."

Federal employees spent roughly 3.4 million hours doing union work in 2012, according to Ross. Those lost hours cost \$155 million.

Groups like the National Federation of Federal Employees disagree, however. They say that federal unions exist solely to "address crucial workplace issues and defend employees from adverse actions."

If such meetings were moved to nights or weekends, it would still require managers and such, who would then have to be paid for additional time.

Ross is so far facing Democrat Alan Cohn.

BURGESS, DIAZ TO SPEAK AT REPUBLICAN CLUB

Republican Florida House candidates Danny Burgess and Minnie Diaz are set to speak at the Wesley Chapel Republican Club April 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m., at Wesley Chapel Hyundai, 27000 Wesley Chapel Blvd.

For information, email Mike Moore at wcrepublican@att.net.

U.S. CHAMBER ENDORSES ROSS

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce officially endorsed U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, and thanked him for his support of free enterprise and job creation.

"Too many of our neighbors are still unemployed and left suffering by our stagnant economy," Ross said in a release. "I'm committed to continuing the fight to get the federal government out of the way of business owners so they can create jobs and we can unleash the power of the American economy."

Ross is set to face Democratic challenger Alan Cohn in November.

HEALTH CARE GROUP SUPPORTS ROSS

Healthcare Leadership Council has named U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, a "Champion of Health Care Innovation."

The advocacy group is a collection of chief executives from various companies in the health care field. It said Ross was dedicated to new developments in health care technologies, treatments and practices.

"Innovation is a necessity, not an option, in addressing the challenges facing our health care system," said HLC president Mary Grealy, in a release. "We applaud Rep. Ross' leadership, dedication and vision in advancing the quality and cost-effectiveness of American health care."

Ross is set to face Democrat Alan Cohn in the November general election.

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LOL junior heads to state as district champ

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

When Land O' Lakes High School junior Kavya Avancha lost an individual tennis match against Wiregrass Ranch, she was disappointed.

She dropped the best-of-three match in three sets, and admits she didn't play her best tennis. It was her first — and ended up her only — loss in individual competition all season. And she was hoping for a rematch.

Avancha got that rematch, but the stakes were much higher: The district finals, with a spot in the state tournament on the line. Avancha had a chance to not only avenge her only loss this season, but also make up for a district finals loss the previous season.

This time the outcome went in her favor: A straight-set victory to make up for the previous loss, her first trip to state competition as an individual player, and Land O' Lakes' first ever state finals berth for an individual player in girls tennis.

"It feels great. I've been working really hard. I really wanted to make it to state this year, so I'm really happy about that," Avancha said.

She qualified for state last year in doubles competition, and to reach that level this year on her own — while dispatching the only player to beat her this year — was particularly satisfying.

Avancha wasn't the only one invested in the outcome. For Coach Karen Turman, who has taught tennis for 17 years and is a U.S.



COURTESY OF KAVYA AVANCHA

Kavya Avancha, a junior at Land O' Lakes High School, won her district finals matchup and became the first individual girls tennis player to advance to state competition in school history.

Professional Tennis Association-certified pro, it was a matchup that got her own competitive juices flowing.

"I wanted to play that match as much as Kavya," Turman said. "I got up out of my chair and had to take a walk. I went up to the umpire and I said to him, 'It's hard to watch because I'd rather be on the court.' You want to be out there in the competition yourself."

Turman's talents with a racket weren't needed, and she was proud of Avancha and excited to see the school send an individual player to state for the first time.

Getting to this level of success takes a lot of work, Avancha said. She practices a couple hours after school on most evenings, and that's often after the school's own tennis practice. She even works with her father, Srinivas, who coaches her.

Spending that much time on her game allows Avancha to not think about form or technique during an actual match. Her body already knows where to position itself and how to hit the ball, so her mind can focus on strategy during the competition, finding her opponent's weak points and exploiting them with her own strengths.

And her 11-1 record during the regular season shows that her method works on the court.

But according to Turman, Avancha's real strength lies in how she approaches the game and conducts herself during matches.

"Nothing frustrates her. You cannot tell if she's winning or losing by just her demeanor on the court, and that's what a true

champion does," Turman said. "They don't really show their emotion. They just have the guts to pull it out."

Avancha's focus is apparent off the court as well. As a member of Land O' Lakes High's International Baccalaureate program, she spends a lot of time on her rigorous course load and hours of homework almost every night. But the same determination that serves her well with a tennis racket gives her confidence in the classroom.

And Avancha admits that confidence isn't something she always had. But competing and succeeding in tennis has helped her overcome those issues.

"Before tennis, as a kid, I was actually very nervous and not very confident," she said. "But I've grown in my confidence. I can say what's on my mind and that's grown with the sport."

Avancha knows the players will be better and tougher to defeat in state competition, which will take place later this month. But she said that facing a higher caliber of player makes the game fun for her, and she's looking forward to seeing how she fares against the best in the state.

Before that happens, however, she'll go back to the regimen of hard work and practice that has helped get to this point.

"I'm probably going to put in a little bit more hours these next two weeks than I usually do so I get more practice," Avancha said. "But I'll probably do the same drills and work on some other things I need to improve."



Relay for Life in Dade City

The Relay for Life of Dade City/San Antonio will be April 12-13 at Dade City Historic Square, 37918 Meridian Ave.

The American Cancer Society event begins with the opening ceremony and Survivor's Lap & Celebration at noon on April 12.

The event includes contests, music, challenges, and other events designed to highlight cancer awareness and raise money to fight the disease. The Luminaria Ceremony at 9 p.m., pays tribute to those who lost their battle with cancer, supports those who are fighting, and honors those who have won.

Central Pasco Chamber golf tourney May 16

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will have its 28th Annual Golf Tournament May 16 at the Heritage Harbor Golf Course, 19502 Heritage Harbor Parkway in Lutz. The shotgun start is at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$70 for individuals or \$260 for a foursome. It includes greens fees, cart, range balls and a barbecue awards dinner. Sponsorships are still available.

For information, call (813) 909-2722, or e-mail office@centralpascochamber.com.

Drive 'Fore' Technology golf tourney

Seven Oaks Elementary School will host its Drive "Fore" Technology golf tournament May 17 at Lexington Oaks Golf Club, 26133 Lexington Oaks Blvd., in Wesley Chapel. Proceeds will be used to purchase technology items for the classroom.

Registration begins at 11 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$95 per player, or \$360 for a foursome.

There will be contests, prizes and a

catered dinner.

For information, e-mail Samantha Weitort at sweitort@pasco.k12.fl.us.

Saint Leo ranks high in Directors' Cup standings

The Saint Leo Lions are ranked 20th among Division II schools — and second in the Sunshine State Conference — in the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings.

The ranking, which takes into account a number of different sports when awarding points, has Saint Leo 20th out of 216 Division II schools with 316.5 points at the conclusion of the winter season.

New qualifiers for soccer league

The U.S. Youth Soccer National League has updated its table of qualifiers to reflect changes at the regional level. Additional regional league qualifications have led to an increase of spots at the national level.

This year, division champions and runners-up in the Under-15 age group will qualify, and the boys and girls Under-14 age groups will each have six regional league qualifications spots, up from two last season.

For a complete list of National League qualifiers, visit USYouthSoccer.org.

Soccer camp highlights Spanish style

Ejje Soccer Academy is accepting registrations for its Tiki-Taka Day Camps this summer at 3032 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

The camps are named for Spanish-style soccer that emphasizes short, crisp passing, and ball control. Coaches from Spain's soccer leagues will be on hand, and select attendees could be chosen to travel and showcase their talents in Spain.

The camps will be July 14-18 and July 21-25.

For information, call (813) 355-6671 or visit ProSoccerSpain.com.

Basketball camps at Saint Leo

The Saint Leo University men's basketball team will host three basketball camps in June for boys ranging from first grade

through high school.

A two-day shooting camp will be June 6-7, the camp of champions will be June 9-12, and the Nike overnight camp will be June 15-18.

All camps will be at the Marion Bowman Activities Center at the Saint Leo University campus, 33701 State Road 52.

For information, call (800) 334-5532, or visit SaintLeoLions.com.

Travel baseball tryouts on April 27

The Rockstar Rebels Travel Ball Academy will have tryouts for its fall baseball teams on April 27 from 1 to 4 p.m., at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School, 13651 Hays Road in Spring Hill.

The organization will field six teams for players ages 7 through 14.

The tryouts will be structured like a practice, with select players invited to take part in the summer training regimen.

For information, call Coach Ryan Pryor at (813) 992-1030, or e-mail ryan@rockstarbaseball.com.

Knights of Columbus golf tourney May 4

The Knights of Columbus will host its 22nd Annual Memorial Golf Tournament May 4 at Quail Hollow Golf Course, 6225 Old Pasco Road in Wesley Chapel.

The event, which begins with a four-person scramble at 1 p.m., also includes a putting contest. The entry fee is \$100 per golfer, and includes dinner and 15 raffle tickets. Anyone with a team of four pays \$80 per golfer.

The event benefits homeless children and military support efforts. Hole sponsorships also are available.

For information, call Joe Stanziani at (813) 907-6217, or visit KnightsLOL.org.

Tennis matches in Dade City

Adults in the Dade City area are invited to participate in weekly tennis match play.

The matches take place Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, and are organized by U.S. Professional Tennis Association coach Jeanette Marcus.

The cost is \$10 per person for doubles play. For information, email jmarcusddm@gmail.com, or call (813) 417-0061.

Oasis golf tourney at Sherman Hills

Oasis Pregnancy Care Centers will host a golf tournament April 26 at Sherman Hills Golf & Country Club, 31200 Eagle Falls Drive in Brooksville.

Oasis is a faith-based nonprofit in Land O' Lakes that offers support to women and families.

Registration is open, and sponsorships are available.

For information, call (813) 406-4965.

Senior Slo Pitch registration

The Slo Pitch Softball League, geared toward players older than 60, will host registration every Friday beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, 3932 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

Teams will be balanced, and play Friday mornings.

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

Wesley Chapel chamber golf tourney

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce will host its second annual golf tournament May 2. The four-person scramble will benefit the Lions Club of Wesley Chapel.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. An awards reception follows play.

For information, visit online at WesleyChapelChamber.com.

Little League needs sponsors

Dade City Little League is looking for businesses to help sponsor its 2014 season.

Sponsorships are available on a team basis, with the business name on the back of shirts, as well as website recognition. It's also available on an individual basis by paying for a child's registration fees.

Sign advertising at games also is available.

For information, call (352) 521-3335.

This week's Sunlake softball game benefits Wounded Warrior

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

The Sunlake softball team doesn't have a winning record. After their home finale against the Zephyrhills Bulldogs, the team won't be thinking about a state championship.

The game also won't affect the Class 5A-District 8 standings, where the Seahawks are near the bottom.

Still, the game on April 10 might be the most important one of the season.

Sunlake's game will not only feature two softball teams looking for a win, it will serve as a benefit for the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance and services to injured military service members. Attendees can support the organization by making a direct donation at the game, or by purchasing arts, crafts or T-shirts that will be on sale from a variety of booths.

A portion of those proceeds will go to the organization.

Coach Nelson Garcia, who organized the event with his wife Denise, isn't surprised that a team starting four freshman would endure some growing pains in the win-loss column. But he believes that supporting charitable organizations as a team — the Seahawks also had a Pink Out event earlier in the year to support breast cancer awareness — helps them grow in important ways that go beyond the playing field.



COURTESY OF NELSON GARCIA

The Sunlake Seahawks are closing out their home softball schedule with green camouflage shirts to commemorate their benefit for the Wounded Warrior Project on April 10. Their opponents, the Zephyrhills Bulldogs, also are participating with special shirts for the game.

"They're learning not only goals of softball, but in life and giving back to the community also," Garcia said. "They're very excited to do it. They can't wait."

Garcia spent 14 years with the fire department, so he understands the importance of serving the community. But while the team is eager to show support for the military and will wear special green camouflage shirts during the game (Zephyrhills also is participating, and will don orange camouflage shirts), the issue is particularly important for their coach and his family.

Garcia's son, Sgt. Anthony Michael Garcia, was wounded in 2011 during his first tour

in Afghanistan. He was approximately 15 feet away from an improvised explosive device, more commonly known as an IED, when it exploded.

Garcia's son recovered and is now serving in his second tour of the region. But he realizes that many members of the military have worse outcomes and often need support, and the organization helps with everything from prosthetics to post-traumatic stress disorders.

"It seems like people forget that they go over there and they're serving right now and they're getting wounded," Garcia said. "How many don't come back, or don't

come back all intact? The great thing about the Wounded Warrior Project is they help all the military personnel in all the branches to get their lives back together when they come back."

The event is open to the public and begins at 6 p.m., with the game starting at 7. There also will be giveaways, a hospitality tent for active and retired military, and a U.S. Army recruiting booth.

Sunlake High School is located at 3023 Sunlake Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

For information about the Wounded Warrior Project, visit online at WoundedWarriorProject.org.

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- 9. Fink
- 13. Reduce, as expenses
- 15. Harder to find
- 16. Burrow
- 17. Disembowel
- 19. A chip, maybe
- 20. Reverberate
- 21. System to reduce indoor temperature and humidity (shortened)
- 23. Goes after
- 24. Inquirer
- 25. "Harper Valley ____"
- 26. Those who select
- 29. Memory units
- 32. ____ Miller, big band musician
- 33. Oolong, for one
- 34. Knowledge gained through tradition

DOWN

- 35. They're entered in court
- 36. Numero uno
- 37. "____ we having fun yet?"
- 38. Archaeological find
- 39. Adhesive
- 40. Cooperative effort by a group
- 42. "Gee whiz!"
- 43. Angler's gear
- 44. Botches
- 48. Gunk
- 50. Medicated lozenge
- 51. "____ of the Flies"
- 52. Vexation
- 54. Biblical shepherd
- 55. Who "ever loved you more than I," in song (2 wds)
- 56. Absorbs, with "up"
- 57. ____ mortals
- 58. Ratty place
- 59. "Comprende?"

- 1. "Lohengrin," e.g.
- 2. Washes
- 3. Towels off
- 4. Anatomical ring
- 5. Nostrils
- 6. Alum
- 7. Undertake, with "out"
- 8. ____ Act of 1571, forbade criticism of the British monarchy
- 9. Round lot's 100
- 10. Coalesces
- 11. A chorus line
- 12. "____ here long?"
- 14. Coop flier
- 18. I.O.U.'s
- 22. Religious image: Var.
- 24. Up, in a way
- 26. Court employee
- 27. Medical advice, often
- 28. Fill
- 29. Make a harsh or

- raucous noise
- 30. Auld lang syne
- 31. Chief financial officer
- 32. Dirty look
- 35. Calls from radio listeners (hyphenated)
- 36. Outlaws
- 38. Draft
- 39. Ziti, e.g.
- 41. Be a busybody
- 42. Fellow
- 44. Acadia National Park locale
- 45. Hodgepodes
- 46. Run off to the chapel
- 47. Taste, e.g.
- 48. Brickbat
- 49. Brain area
- 50. Figurehead's place
- 53. ____ v. Wade

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 22

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