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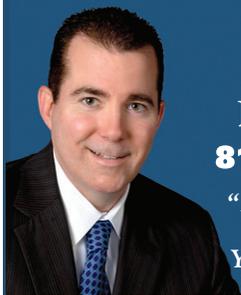
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Lowe's, Marshalls bring new jobs

By Michael Hinman

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Plans for a home improvement store left for dead three years ago is now being resurrected as Lowe's gets ready to finally come to Land O' Lakes.

Crews are now clearing trees and other foliage from a 42-acre tract of land on State Road 54 just east of Land O' Lakes Boulevard where they expect to have a 152,000-square-foot Lowe's by winter, according to company spokeswoman Natalie Turner.

The store will bring 125 jobs, and the hir-

ing process could begin later in the year.

"We're excited as all get-up," said Dennis Esber, president of the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce, and owner of Point to Point Printing. "What's happening is that people are starting to recognize that the Lutz and Land O' Lakes area is a great area to be in."

The North Carolina company purchased the land between Winter Quarters Pasco RV Park and the Pasco County fire station there in 2005 for \$2.7 million, and had hoped to

See JOBS, page 12



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Marshalls will open this summer with space at Village Lakes Shopping Center that used to be home for Walmart.

Saint Leo grads to learn something new from speakers

By Michael Hinman

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Last year, Huntington Ingalls Industries earned more than \$6.8 billion.

Chances are, you've never heard of this Virginia-based company. But you should definitely be familiar with its products — nuclear-powered aircraft carriers that are more than 1,000 feet long and weigh 100,000 tons — and you may even know its president and chief executive officer.

C. Michael Petters has led Huntington Ingalls since before it was spun off from Northrop Grumman. Petters is a preeminent shipbuilder who learned his skills through the U.S. Naval Academy and the College of William and Mary, but the foundation of his success goes back even further — all the way to the small German Catholic St. Joseph community in Pasco County.

There, Petters and his siblings worked hard on the family's orange groves, but still remained focused on education and service. So it's no surprise that not only has Petters been invited to speak at upcoming commencement exercises at Saint Leo University, but so has his sister — U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Susan Davison.

The Class of 2014 graduation marks a milestone in the Petters' family history — it's 60 years after their father graduated



COURTESY OF CHRIS OXLEY

Huntington Ingalls Industries president and chief executive C. Michael Petters, right, shakes hands with employee Timothy Madden at the yard at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia. Petters hails from Pasco County, and he and sister Susan Davidson will speak May 3 at Saint Leo University commencement ceremonies.

from what was then Saint Leo Prep School.

"My parents were committed," Petters said. "They were committed to the farm and their business and to their acquaintances and all that, but the one thing that they held out there more than anything else was education."

Petters' grandfather said each person

should strive to learn something new every day. That prompted a daily question from his own father, asking what he'd learned.

"If you said 'nothing,' that wasn't a good answer," Petters said. "It didn't matter to my parents whether it was classroom training

See SAINT LEO, page 12

Teacher uses technology to open new worlds of learning

By B.C. Manion

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There's no doubt about it. Language arts teacher Aimee Nadow is tech-savvy.

On any given day, the Academy at the Lakes teacher uses technology to help her students enhance their reading, writing and creativity. On one day, for instance, she'll set them loose on AutoCAD computer design software to create the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet." On another day, students use PicMonkey photo editor to design book covers for the manuscripts they're writing.

They're also frequent users of Pinterest to digitally "pin up" work that they've done, and they know how to edit digital clips.

Harnessing technical tools in her classes is all in a day's work for Nadow, whose mother was a children's librarian, and her father always was ahead of the crowd when it came to technology.



B.C. MANION/STAFF PHOTOS

Aimee Nadow uses a combination of technical skills and a personal touch to make her classes engaging.

Nadow has a deep appreciation for the power of language, and a clear understanding of how traditional and modern tools can enliven lessons. She sees the value of being able to skim information, but also knows the importance of being able to delve deeply into subjects to gain knowledge.

The independent private school where she teaches has long understood the quality of Nadow's teaching skills, middle division director John Pitcairn said. And, Academy at the Lakes is delighted that Nadow has received national recognition.

The middle division teacher recently was named a 2014 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovator. It's a distinction bestowed to just 100 educators nationwide.

As a member of that select group, the Land O' Lakes woman will take part in a yearlong professional development pro-

See TEACHER, page 12

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Swiftmud offers tips to conserve water at home

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Southwest Florida Water Management District — more commonly known as Swiftmud — continues its campaign to encourage water conservation year-round, and is offering tips that can help achieve those goals.

April is Water Conservation Month, and it also is traditionally one of the driest months of the year in Florida, Swiftmud officials said.

When indoors:

- Only run washing machines and dishwashers when they are full.
- Use the shortest clothes washing cycle for lightly soiled loads, since normal and permanent press wash cycles use more water.
- Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave, not under running water.
- Scrape, don't rinse, dishes before loading in the dishwasher.
- Install high-efficiency showerheads, faucets and toilets.

When outdoors:

- Check a home's irrigation system for leaks to save up to 6,300 gallons of water per month.
- Turn off a home's irrigation system, and only water as needed. This could save up to 2,000 gallons each time a watering

day is skipped.

- Don't leave sprinklers unattended. Use a kitchen timer to remind when to turn them off.
- Use a hose with a shutoff nozzle when washing the car to save around 40 gallons of water per wash.
- Consider installing a rain barrel with a drip irrigation system for watering landscapes. Rainwater is free and better for plants, because it doesn't contain hard minerals.

Leaks are the biggest water waster, Swiftmud officials said, both inside and outside of a home. A water meter can be used to check for leaks.

To do that, turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, and make sure no one is using water during the testing period. Make sure the hot water heater is refilled, and ice cube makers are done, as well as water softeners regenerated.

Then go to the water meter and record the current reading. Wait 30 minutes, without using any water, and then read the meter again.

If the reading has changed, there is a leak.

For information about water conservation, visit WaterMatters.org/Conservation.

De-annexing Lake Jovita could create mess on St. Leo commission

By Michael Hinman

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The results of a recent election in the town of Saint Leo and a bill making its way through the Legislature could be on a collision course that may result in a town commissioner resigning, a special election or an appointment to the commission by Gov. Rick Scott.

All of these scenarios are possible.

It all boils down to the fact that the town's commission may soon lack a quorum.

The purpose of a quorum is to ensure elected representatives are actually representing the people who elected them by typically requiring more than half of those representatives to be present at a meeting.

It's a concept nearly as old as organized meetings themselves, and prevents a leader from having more power than he should. Without a quorum, decisions can't be made, governing virtually comes to a complete halt, and nothing gets done.

St. Leo's government requires three of its five commissioners to be present to create a quorum.

However, a bill making its way through Tallahassee is expected to pass and once it gets the governor's signature, three of those five St. Leo commissioners will be removed from office. Thus, there won't be a quorum available with the remaining two to fix it.

It's something that could keep attorneys up at night, but not St. Leo town attorney Patricia Petruff. That's because she has a plan.

"We're going to have three commissioners (from Lake Jovita) as of May, and if one of them does not resign, we'll have a little bit of a pickle on our hands," Petruff said.

With the Florida House back in session this week, work once again begins on H.B. 1401, introduced by Rep. Amanda Murphy, D-New Port Richey, that would remove part of the Lake Jovita subdivision from the St. Leo town limits, and have it join the rest of that community in unincorporated Pasco County.

When there's a vacancy on the commission, the mayor — with the consent of his fellow commissioners — can appoint a replacement. In fact, that happened in 2005 when Commissioner John Fantone decided not to seek re-election, and no one ran to replace him. Then-mayor James Hallett appointed Bill Hamilton, the son of a former St. Leo mayor, to the seat.

That couldn't happen this time, because in order for the commission to consent to an appointment, there has to be an actual commission, which doesn't exist without the three-member quorum.

The battle to de-annex has been ongoing for years, especially as Lake Jovita residents have slowly moved into commission seats. Right now, commissioners James Wells and Robert Inslee as well as Mayor John Gardner hail from Lake Jovita. Gardner chose not to seek re-election, but Ray Davis defeated longtime commissioner Donna DeWitt on April 8, and with that, kept the Lake Jovita



Patricia Petruff

majority on the commission.

Whether H.B. 1401 is signed into law before the new commission is seated in mid-May or after, an immediate de-annexation of St. Leo is going to leave three empty

seats and a complicated process to fill it. In fact, it could be up to Gov. Rick Scott to appoint at least one member to the commission so that they can order a special election. But Petruff hopes it doesn't get that far.

In fact, there's an even easier solution: resign.

"If we have only two members who are from the area impacted by (H.B.) 1401, then after the new commission is seated in May, we would only lose two members, and the mayor could appoint to fill the spots," Petruff said.

That would mean some trust on behalf of the Lake Jovita residents on the commission, as the mayor would need to appoint someone outside that subdivision to fill the seat, giving non-Lake Jovita residents the majority.

The commission has scheduled meetings already for April 28 and May 5, depending on how far H.B. 1401 has moved in the House.

"I think the plan is that one of them will resign, but nobody has told me that for sure," Petruff said. "And none of them have come up and said that."

One person who probably won't hand in his resignation if this situation continues past mid-May is Davis, who beat DeWitt by just four votes to win her seat. Davis told The Laker/Lutz News after the election his goal was to be insurance in case H.B. 1401 failed.

"They call me 'Plan B,'" he said. "You never know what's going to happen."

Davis himself said he didn't want to speculate, but DeWitt feared they could keep a move to dissolve the 123-year-old town in their back pocket just in case.

Petruff, however, isn't focused on that. She is expecting H.B. 1401 to clear both the House and Senate, and find itself under Scott's pen in the near future. But just in case no one resigns, and there are just two commissioners in the St. Leo Town Hall once that happens? Petruff said she wants the current commission to give her and Town Clerk Joan Miller the power right now to organize and conduct a special election and get the empty seats filled. The two would also run the town until a quorum once again exists.

"We talked a little bit about whether or not the sitting commission could give direction in the event that this happens," Petruff said, noting no final decision has been made yet.

But those decisions will have to be made soon.

"Timing is critical," she said. "That's why we're watching this very closely."

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Pasco wants to turn pennies into jobs

By Michael Hinman
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Penny for Pasco starts a new round of funding in January, using an extra 1 percent sales tax to provide nearly \$50 million in additional annual funding for Pasco County projects over the next decade.

But how should the money be spent? In the past, dollars have been dedicated to the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, road construction and maintenance, and purchasing land for conservation.

This time, however, nearly 10 percent of funds — or \$4.5 million — has been earmarked toward economic development. And if spent the right way, leaders from the independent Pasco Economic Development Council say the impact of those funds could be tremendous, bringing new commercial parks and maybe even a convention center to Pasco County.

"It should create jobs and it should grow the economy," PEDC president and chief executive John Hagen recently told Pasco County commissioners during a workshop. "If it doesn't do that, then it's not economic development. That means attracting businesses that actually bring money into the community."

Of course, \$4.5 million each year might not be the best way to accomplish that goal, Hagen said. But \$36 million all up front? That can go a long way.

"We think it's important to use leverage," he said. "We'd rather get some of that revenue upfront now, so that we can get more of an impact over the 10-year period, rather than wait. We need jobs and we need economic development now."

That could mean borrowing up to 80 percent of the projected revenue over the next 10 years, and using revenue from those projects — or simply funds from Penny for Pasco itself — to pay it back.

If commissioners were to take that route,



FILE PHOTO

Commercial building has ramped up in Pasco County, especially in the Lutz area at ComPark. Gov. Rick Scott, left, joined developers Larry Morgan and Ross Kirk during a recent groundbreaking last February that marked the first major commercial construction in the county since the start of the economic recession. But now county officials may use Penny for Pasco to stimulate more.

the county could take the lead in attracting new businesses to Pasco, instead of losing them to neighbors like Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. That starts with a business park project, assembling land together somewhere in the county and earmarking all of it for commercial use.

It continues with speculation building — helping developers construct commercial space in hopes it will attract tenants once completed.

And it would be topped off with a convention center, possibly built in conjunction with a hotel, that could provide even more reasons to bring people into Pasco County.

"We have a very pressing need to develop some real estate product, and by that I don't mean residential," Hagen said. "I mean office and industrial flex space, something we need to put a significant amount of

money into because we're experiencing the loss of opportunities right now because we don't have the product" to offer potential relocations.

Commissioners appeared receptive to the concepts, and even saw it as a chance to jump ahead of its neighbors.

"I think Pinellas County's whole economic development budget is \$1.2 million, and we've got such an advantage with this penny," Commissioner Kathryn Starkey said. "I am excited. I like the idea of planning ahead like this so that we know where we need to go."

Although borrowing to support economic development projects would increase the county's current debt, Hagen said it could actually save Pasco money in the long run. Construction costs will undoubtedly go up between now and 2025, and if interest rates

Penny for Pasco by the numbers

Although its numbers are meant to show examples, this is how the Pasco Economic Development Council says it can spend part of Penny for Pasco revenues.

\$7.5 million

Added to an existing \$2.5 million fund used as an incentive to bring large employers to Pasco County.

\$20.6 million

Assembling land and promoting speculation building through the development of a business park. Also, construction of a convention center.

\$12.7 million

Earmarked for business loans, business investment fund and business incubation.

\$3.7 million

Marketing and branding campaign to promote what Pasco County has to offer.

\$500,000

Workforce training, enhancing more than \$4.5 million from state and federal sources.

rise, it will cost more just to borrow in the future compared to today.

Having the right plan and the money to implement it has the potential to put Pasco on the map, county planning and development administrator Richard Gehring said. Places like Triangle Park in North Carolina were created from strong planning and the funding to make it happen. Nothing is stopping Pasco from looking to reach similar heights.

"There is not an upper limit for what we could shoot for," he said. "The potential for the access and land position is tremendous."

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Rediscovering the Old Lutz School



Presenting the Past

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH R. MACMANUS AND SUSAN A. MACMANUS
The Old Lutz School back when it wasn't so old, as featured in the book 'Going, Going, Almost Gone: Lutz-Land O' Lakes Pioneers Share Their Precious Memories.'



MICHAEL MURILLO/STAFF PHOTO

And this is the school today. Not much difference, is there?

When you meet a child, you might ask them what school they attend. There are several elementary schools in the area, so you'd have no way of knowing unless you asked.

But if you lived in Lutz around 80 years ago, you'd never have to ask that question. You'd know exactly what school they attended, and you'd know exactly where it was. That's because there was just one school and everyone went there.

The Old Lutz School was a two-story brick structure on North U.S. 41 — and actually, it still is. You've probably driven by it at some point, and it might even be part of the view on your daily commute.

It's kind of hard to miss, since it doesn't look like anything else. It's not a school anymore, of course. But it is in the National Register of Historic Places, and it looks awfully good for a building that's older than FM radio and the ballpoint pen.

OK, it was built in the 1920s, so you know it's old. For decades it was where local children went until they grew up and went to work, or war, or wherever life sent them.

They all had that one building in common. But when does a location go from just being some old building to a community treasure? For the Old Lutz School, it was around 1977.

A couple years earlier, it had stopped functioning as an actual school after nearly 50 years in service, and was a candidate to

be torn down. The school board saw an old building: Something that required maintenance and resources when money was tight and actual schools (and their students) needed those funds.

But longtime residents — Lutz is still one of those places where you can actually find longtime residents — saw a community treasure, and stepped up to save it. They worked out an arrangement where the building would stay, but the maintenance and upkeep wouldn't burden the county.

Today, the county owns the building, but leases it to a group called Citizens for the Old Lutz School Building for a token sum, and they keep it looking pretty much the way it's always looked.

It does have an unusual look. Its architecture is textbook Georgian Revival. If that doesn't mean much to you, don't feel bad. I had to look it up myself.

Back when the school was built, it was popular to emulate the American Colonial style that was used often back in the 1700s. So, this historic school was actually designed as a "modern" tribute to an even older style.

Typically, that means a two-story building with evenly spaced windows in the front. And if you drive by the Old Lutz School today, that's exactly what you'll see.

And when it was built, the school was pretty modern. It has indoor plumbing, after all. And there were no water pumps; it had a fancy water tower instead. There wasn't any air conditioning, of course, but it had a prime location right by the dirt road that we now know as North U.S. 41.

That is a state-of-the-art facility, my friends.

Or it was, anyway. We know all that sounds quaint by today's standards. So why go to the trouble of saving an old school, anyway? Schools pop up all the time. What's one more or less?

Well, it has to do with the school, but also the people who live here. Lutz is proud of its heritage. Its history means something, and it's important to protect it. So with some effort and community support, that's what they did.

By the way, the Citizens for the Old Lutz School Building really is just that: A small group of citizens who care about the school and the area's history. It's not a well-funded organization with a large staff dedicated to overseeing this historical landmark.

In reality, it's maybe 10 regular volunteers who find creative ways of keeping this building looking nice. And it's not cheap, either. Utilities can run in the hundreds per month, insurance in the thousands each

year, and larger maintenance tasks can only be done in sections. But they do a great job.

If you look at an older photo and compare it to a modern one (like, say, the photos that accompany this story), you'll see many more similarities than differences. That's pretty impressive.

Usually you have to seek out local history, and spend a few hours in a museum or go out of your way to see a historic building. But not this one. You can see it every day.

You could get in your car and go there right now if you wanted. I'd prefer you finish reading this story first, though, because I spent a lot of time on it. I even stood in the median to take the photo, and I'm still not completely sure that's legal.

But the school is probably just minutes away from you. Lutz history is right there, not far from a cellular phone store and right in front of three lanes of paved asphalt going in either direction.

Maybe you've seen it, but didn't know what it was. Or maybe you know all about it, but you're busy and don't really notice it anymore. My advice is to pay attention to it when you can. And when they have events, attend them and support the school's maintenance. They just had one last weekend, but they'll have more.

Help your neighbors keep it looking nice. And if you have a skill or some time to donate, give them a call. They're not picky, and they could use the help.

You can reach them by calling Suzin Carr (our current Guv'na) at (813) 453-5256. They also have a Facebook page (after all, what self-respecting historical landmark built in the 1920s doesn't have a healthy social media presence?). Just look up the group's name.

So reach out and help if you can, but either way, you should take note of it as you drive by. Even though it hasn't been an actual school for nearly 40 years, there's a history lesson waiting for you there.

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POLITICAL AGENDA



CORCORAN CAMPAIGN SPENDING DROPS

Since January 2013, state Rep. Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, was spending more than \$9,000 a month on a campaign without an opponent — a statistic shared in the March 20 edition of The Laker/Lutz News. But now that spending has slowed significantly.

In March, Corcoran spent just \$1,550 — a fraction of the nearly \$16,500 expended the month before, and an 83 percent drop from his average, according to state election records.

Corcoran's biggest bill in March was to his accounting firm, which he paid \$1,050. He also attended and bought advertising at an event hosted by LifeChoices Women's Care in Lutz.

Corcoran defended the fact that he's spent more money than any other candidate in House races — including those with opponents — because it gives him a chance to connect with constituents.

"If there's any chance you get where you can communicate with the voters and get their input, we do it," Corcoran said in March. "Anytime you get input from the voters, that just makes you much more effective."

Corcoran's fundraising has not slowed down, however. He raised \$21,000 in March, well ahead of his \$14,500 monthly average. Some \$7,500 of it came from out-of-state, including \$1,000 from Pepsico, and \$1,000 each from DirecTV LLC and Dish.

Through March, Corcoran has raised just under \$207,500, with \$87,000 in the bank.

CLAY SHOOT FOR MIKE MOORE

Mike Moore is looking to raise more money for his Pasco County Commission campaign with a clay shoot June 21. It will take place at Tampa Bay Sporting

Clays, 10514 Ehren Cutoff in Land O' Lakes, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. The cost would be \$125 per person, or \$500 per team of four. All payments would be considered political donations.

For more information, email mike@mike-moore2014.com.

MACMANUS TO SPEAK AT PFRWC LUNCHEON

University of South Florida professor Susan MacManus is the guest speaker at the Pasco Federated Republican Women's Club monthly luncheon, May 2 at 11:30 a.m., at the Fox Hollow Golf Club, 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway in Trinity.

Cost is \$15.

For reservations, call Fran Scerbo at (727) 597-3727.

AGING GROUP GIVES BILIRAKIS AWARD

The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas Inc. has given its Distinguished Leadership Award to U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Palm Harbor.

The nonprofit group coordinates services and care for senior citizens, the disabled and caregivers throughout the two-county area.

"I am humbled and inspired by this honor, and remain committed to ensuring older Americans are treated with the dignity they deserve," Bilirakis said in a release.

Bilirakis, who represents District 12 in Washington, D.C., faces James Denton Jr. in the August primary, and recently pulled another challenger in the form of Lois Duncan, who has no party affiliation.

Coffee with Burgess fundraiser

Danny Burgess, who is seeking to succeed Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, in state House District 38, is hosting a coffee fundraiser April 29 at 9 a.m., at Rose's Café, 38426 Fifth Ave., in Zephyrhills.

Suggested political donation is \$20.

For more information, visit online at VoteDannyBurgess.com.

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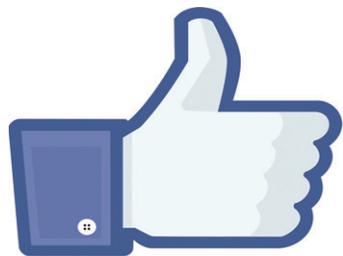
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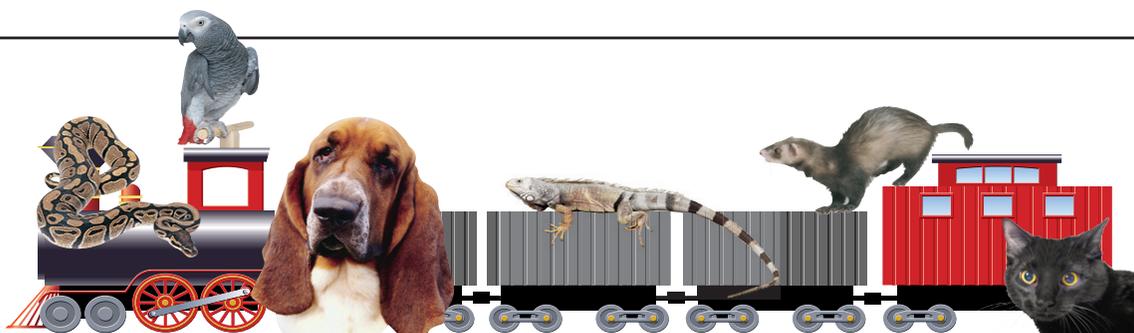


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What's Happening

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VISIT WC CIVIL AIR PATROL

Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron of Civil Air Patrol, located at the North Tampa Aero Park just off State Road 54, meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., next to the airport hangar. Cadets range from 12 to 21 years old, and senior members are 18 and older. For information and a schedule of activities, visit WesleyChapelCAP.com.

WOMAN'S CLUB MEETING

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club will meet April 24 at 9:30 a.m., at the Lutz Community Center. There will be coffee and fellowship, a business meeting, and a guest speaker. For information, visit GFWCLutzLandOLakesWomansClub.org.

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Pasco County's Fourth Annual Blueberry Festival will be April 25 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., April 26 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and April 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Rotary Pavilion at The Concourse, off State Road 52 in Hudson. The event will feature food, vendors and entertainment. Admission is free. Parking is \$5 or one day, or \$10 for all three days. For information, call Faith United Methodist Church, at (727) 856-5000.

GULFSIDE'S ANNIVERSARY SALE

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Gulfside Hospice is having a 25 percent off storewide sale at all of its thrift shops on the 25th of each month throughout 2014. When the 25th falls on a Sunday, the sale will be on Saturday. Upcoming dates are April 25, May 24, June 25 and July 25. For all shop locations, visit GHPPC.org.

AARP CHAPTER MEETING

The Land O' Lakes AARP Chapter 4764 will meet April 25 at 10:30 a.m., at the Land O' Lakes

Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The Fraud Watch Program will be featured. A potluck lunch will be available. Guests older than 50 are invited. For information, call (813) 996-1361, or email pebross@verizon.net.

FOOD TRUCK MADNESS

The Museum of Science & Industry, 4801 E. Fowler Ave., will host its Food Truck Madness event featuring "Mythbusters After Dark" April 25 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission to Food Truck Madness is free. Additional fees apply for Mythbusters and Sky Trail. General exhibits will be available for \$5. For advance tickets, call (813) 987-6000. For information, visit MOSI.org.

'URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL'

Community School of the Arts will present "Urinetown: The Musical" at 7 p.m. on April 25 and April 26, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on April 27. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Performances are at Corbett Prep, 12015 Orange Grove Drive in Tampa. Parental guidance for the show is suggested. For information, call Kim Rostick at (813) 961-3087.

ROCK THE RUNWAY FASHION

Hillsborough County's Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department is sponsoring its Rock the Runway Fashion Show April 26 at 6:30 p.m., at University Area Community Complex, 14013 N. 22nd St., in Tampa. Models are from the county's Rec2Six Fine Arts program. For information, call Kisha Perry at (813) 903-3480.

NATURE'S CLASSROOM OPEN HOUSE

Nature's Classroom is hosting its annual Woods, Water and Wildlife open house April 26 and April 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 13100 Verges

Road in Thonotosassa. The event will feature student nature art displays, live music, children's activities, animal handling and environmental exhibits. Cost is \$5 per vehicle. For information, call (813) 987-6969.

LEXINGTON OAKS SPRING BAZAAR

The Lexington Oaks Women's Club is hosting its annual fundraising spring bazaar April 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 26304 Lexington Oaks Blvd., in Wesley Chapel. The event includes hot dogs, baked goods, community yard sale and vendors. For information, call Mary Hanchar at (813) 746-1405.

LOBSTER FEST IN LOL

Jarrett Ford will present Sunrise of Pasco's 10th Annual Lobster Fest April 26 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 29, 4220 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. The event includes food, a chance auction, raffle and more. Tickets are \$65 per person, or \$100 a pair. For information, call (352) 521-3358, or email events@sunrisepasco.org.

PASCOW PLOP FUNDRAISER

The Rotary Club of Trinity is hosting its second annual PasCow Plop to benefit club programs April 29 at 6 p.m., at the Rotary Pavilion at The Concourse, 15323 State Road 52 in Land O' Lakes. Grass squares are \$20 each. The first square a cow "plops" on will win the lucky ticket holder \$1,000. Tickets include dinner, non-alcoholic drinks and karaoke. For information, call (727) 505-3467, or email pascowplop@gmail.com.

WC RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay For Life of Wesley Chapel/Wiregrass will have its fundraiser May 2 starting at 6 p.m., at the Wiregrass Ranch High School track, 2909 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel. There will be

bounce houses, basket raffles, and a carnival-like atmosphere. Cancer survivors will receive a free T-shirt, dinner and gift bag. To preregister, call (813) 949-0291, or visit RelayForLife.org/wesleychapelFL.

MARVEL CHARACTER BREAKFAST

Cobb Grove 16 & Cinebistro, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, will host a Marvel Character Breakfast May 3 at 10 a.m. There will be a meet and greet with Marvel characters. Cost is \$10 per adult, and \$5 per child. For information, call (813) 948-5444.

SPRING FLING AT MEADOW POINTE

There will be a spring fling at the Meadow Pointe II clubhouse in Wesley Chapel May 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature music, food, games and vendors, and performances by the Merrymakers throughout the festival. For information, call Edith Ledee-Finnerty at (813) 929-7403.

HIGH SCHOOL YARD SALE

Land O' Lakes High School's National FFA Organization will have a yard sale May 3 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the corner of Ehren Cutoff and U.S. 41 in Land O' Lakes. Proceeds will buy saplings to donate back to the community and local businesses. For information, call (813) 469-5133.

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.



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Regional planning council honors Pasco County

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Pasco County took home several awards March 31 during the Future of the Region Awards in St. Petersburg.

That included two major regional awards — The One Bay Award, and The Charles A. McIntosh Jr. Award for Distinction. Both were handed out at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park for the county's work on the west market redevelopment and infill plan for The Harbors.

The McIntosh award recognizes outstanding achievement in a community by saluting Charles McIntosh, a man who dedicated much of his time to improving the quality of life in the Tampa Bay region.

One Bay has drawn upon thousands of residents to create a shared regional vision to plan where future population and employment growth should occur based upon responsible land use, mobility, economic and environmental sustainability.

Also winning an award was former Pasco County Commissioner Anne Hildebrand, who earned the Herman W. Goldner Award for

Regional Leadership. This award is given to someone who exemplifies the spirit of regional cooperation, dedication to her community, and notable achievement in encouraging future vision.

The award is named after former St. Petersburg mayor and planning council founder Herman Goldner.

The county also won several other awards, which included:

- Second place and honorable mention in the community service category for The Beth Dillinger Foundation and the Hacienda Hotel community cleanup project through New Port Richey.

- Second place in the cultural, sports and recreation category for Starkey Ranch District Park.

- Second place in development and infrastructure for the Tri-County Trail Connection Study that linked the Pinellas trails to those of Starkey and Suncoast.

- An honorable mention in the "Going Green" category for New Port Richey's urban agricultural program.



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Can you see me now?

Saint Leo University students enrolled in the course 'Choosing Wellness' learned the dangers of impaired driving by navigating an obstacle course in a golf cart wearing 'drunk goggles.' The team chose to research personal safety and the ramifications of texting, alcohol consumption and sleep deprivation after driving.

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

CENTRAL PASCO CHAMBER ORIENTATION

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will host a new member orientation April 29 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Copperstone Executive Suites, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

The event is open to all new members, and any others who have not attended such a meeting in the past.

WESLEY CHAPEL CHAMBER HEADING TO TUSCANY

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce is planning a nine-day trip to Tuscany, Italy.

The trip is planned to begin Oct. 20, and space is limited.

For information, call (813) 994-8534, or email office@wesleychapelchamber.com.

CONNERTON OPENS NEW HOMES BY WESTBAY MODEL

Homes by WestBay has unveiled its Terracena II model in Connerton's Rose

Pointe in the Arbors neighborhood.

The nearly 4,900-square-foot home will offer five bedrooms, nearly as many bathrooms, theater, and both a two-car and separate one-car garage.

It's located at 20431 Lace Cascade Road in Land O' Lakes.

Homes by WestBay was founded in 2009 by Tampa bay-area homebuilders Roger Gatewood and Willy Nunn. Homes in the company's portfolio typically run from between \$150,000 and more than \$1 million.

For information, call (813) 438-3838, or visit HomesByWestBay.com.

PEDC LOOKING FOR INDUSTRY AWARDS NOMINEES

Pasco Economic Development Council is looking for outstanding companies that have made a contribution to the local economy as part of its Industry Awards.

These companies are recognized for job creation, increased capital investment, and for contributions to the community through civic involvement.

Categories include manufacturing, service and distribution, technology and entrepreneurship.

Nominations can be faxed or mailed to the Pasco EDC, but no later than April 30.

For information, call (813) 926-0827, ext. 227.

NEW LOCATION FOR ALL-TECH AIR

All-Tech Air & Filtration LLC is relocating to 35946 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills beginning May 1.

The air-conditioning and heating compa-

ny's phone number will remain the same at (813) 870-6934, as will its website at AllTechAir.com.

CPA STUDENTS SOUGHT FOR SCHOLARSHIP

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation is looking for minority accounting students across the state to apply for the Clay Ford scholarship.

It is awarded each year to minority students looking to become certified public accountants. The program has awarded more than \$1 million since it was first implemented in 1999.

A \$10 portion from each individual and firm license fee funds the scholarship. Applicants may be eligible for scholarships ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per semester, and awarded for a maximum of two semesters.

Applications must be postmarked by June 1. For information, visit online at MyFloridaLicense.com/CPAScholarship.

LUTZ COMPANY EARNS USF HONOR

ClearTrust of Lutz was recently recognized as one of the University of South Florida's Fast 56 — the fastest growing businesses in the world led or owned by a USF alumni.

Run by Juan Osorio and Kara Kennedy, ClearTrust is a leading stock transfer agent serving public and private companies globally, according to a release. To be considered for the list, an organization must have been in business for at least three years, with revenue

of \$250,000 or more for the most recent 12-month period.

CONNERTON LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Connerton has launched a new website designed to make it easier for prospective buyers to find various offerings in the community, and connect with the people they need to reach.

Some of the features include a complete database of all new homes available, information about builders and neighborhoods, an interactive trail map and Google area map, a community calendar, and others.

The site can be found at Connerton.com.

The community is located off U.S. 41 in north Land O' Lakes, and features two miles of nature trails, a clubhouse, and miles of winding roads and walkways.

LOTS OF VISITORS TO REGION LAST QUARTER

Visit Tampa Bay ended the second quarter of its fiscal year booking five major meetings and conventions, securing more than 43,700 room nights and an \$18 million economic impact, according to a release.

Those bookings included a three-year deal for the Florida State Thespian Society Annual Festival, which continues into 2021 that is expected to bring more than 22,000 room nights and an \$8.5 million economic impact.

Other bookings include the American Phytopathological Society, as well as Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Both combined for more than 20,000 room nights, and nearly \$10 million in economic impact.

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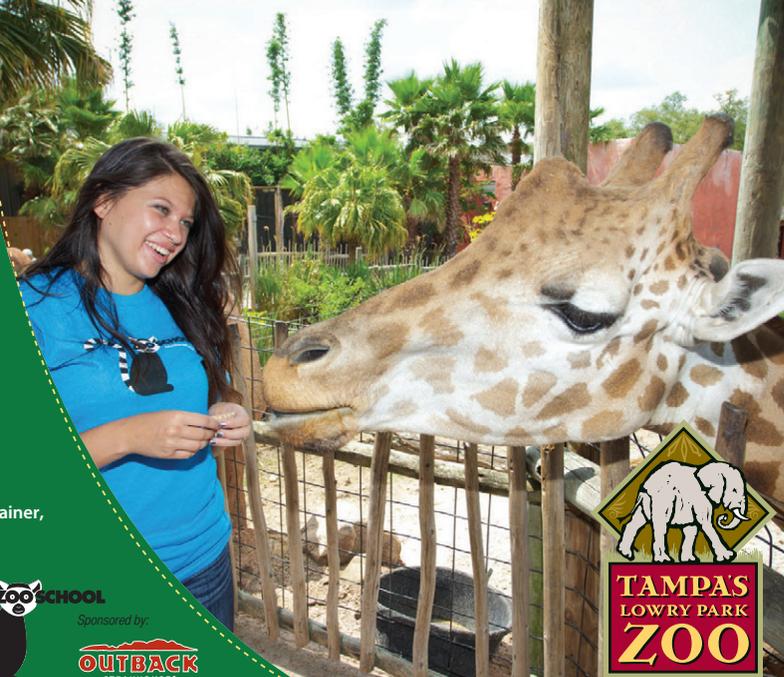
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Free vaccinations offered for sixth graders

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County Schools is teaming up with the Florida Department of Health to provide free Tdap vaccinations to current sixth graders at the county's middle schools on May 22.

Students entering seventh grade in Florida must provide proof of the Tdap vaccination — which stands for tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis — before they will be allowed to start school, according to state health officials.

Parents must sign a permission form before their child can be vaccinated, and must be submitted to the school their child attends by May 1.

The vaccinations are required because tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis can be very serious diseases, according to a fact sheet prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Tdap vaccine can provide protection.

Tetanus also is known as lockjaw. It causes painful muscle tightening and stiffness, typically all over the body. It can lead to tightening of muscles in the head and neck, and make it difficult or impossible for someone to open his or her mouth, to swallow, or even to breathe.

It is fatal for about one in five people who are infected, according to the CDC.

Diphtheria can cause a thick coating to form in the back of the throat. It can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and death.

Pertussis also is known as whooping

cough. It causes severe coughing spells, which can cause difficulty breathing, vomiting and sleep disruptions. It can lead to weight loss, incontinence and rib fractures. As many as two in 100 adolescents and five in 100 adults are hospitalized or have complications, which could include pneumonia or death.

Diphtheria and pertussis are spread from person to person through coughing or sneezing, according to the CDC. Tetanus enters the body through cuts, scratches or wounds.

Before vaccines, there were as many as 200,000 cases of diphtheria and pertussis a year, and hundreds of cases of tetanus. Since vaccination began, tetanus and diphtheria have dropped by about 99 percent, and pertussis by about 80 percent, the CDC said.

The health department has scheduled when the vaccinations will be given at each of the district's middle schools. The schedule for the May 22 vaccinations locally is:

- Long Middle School: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Rushe Middle School: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Stewart Middle School: 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Centennial Middle School: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Weightman Middle School: Noon to 2 p.m.
- Pasco Middle School: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Pine View Middle School: 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For additional information, call the health department at (727) 861-5250, at either ext. 268 or ext. 224, or the school district's health services office at (727) 774-2360, (813) 794-2360, or (352) 524-2360.



COURTESY OF KARIN D'AMICO

Woman's club walks for hearing health

Members of the GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club recently partnered with Tampa Gem Sertoma and dual club members to form and sponsor a team for the recent Celebrate Sound Don't Walk in Silence 5-kilometer fundraiser at the University of South Florida. The fundraiser was in support of hearing health awareness. Team members were, standing from left, Boni Barton, Helen Fornino, Hazel Robles and Karin D'Amico. Seated are Nancy Fisher and JoAnne Moses.

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AL Summer at the Lakes

JOBS, from page 1

open the store by 2009. However, Lowe's abandoned those plans in 2011, with reports the company would try to sell the land.

The new Lowe's will have a 103,000-square-foot sales floor and a 31,300-square-foot garden center, according to the site plan submitted to Pasco County officials. It also would have enough parking for nearly 525 cars.

Its primary entrance would be on the east side of the property, creating an intersection with the Village Lakes Shopping Center across the street, where a new Marshalls location is just weeks away from opening.

Officials with the Framingham, Mass.-based discount clothing department store chain said they're not ready to release any details, but Marshalls stores are typically 31,000 square feet, and the newest location hosted a job fair for prospective employees last week in Port Richey.

Marshalls will now be in the same plaza

as one of its primary competitors, Ross Stores Inc., which operates a Ross Dress for Less there. The draw of all three stores, along with several others in Village Lakes and surrounding shopping centers, should continue to help draw more and more people to Central Pasco County. It's also a boon for Village Lakes, which suffered tremendously in the years after losing its Walmart anchor, only to bounce back and be a major player in the area's growth.

"The county had finally got involved to get things corrected in that little shopping center, and turned it into something real good," Esber said. "If you have an eyesore, people start grumbling and then start thinking the worst about the area. But now you see a nice change in people's mentality, and I like to see the positive atmosphere."

And that includes how people outside of Central Pasco think of the area.

"People have been negating this area for quite a long time, but that's really starting to change," Esber said. "They're finding out there is a lot more here, and a lot of history. And we're ready to keep growing."

SAINT LEO, from page 1

or not. It was learning, and it wasn't just words to them. They went the extra mile to make sure they could afford to send us to schools."

Yet, good schools cost money, something the Petters didn't necessarily have a lot of. So Mike Petters and his siblings would work their way through school, and even paused long enough to serve their country in the military. Petters would end up on the USS George Bancroft, a nuclear-powered submarine in the 1980s. And sister Susan Davidson would make her career in the military.

Davidson received her commission in 1983, but didn't begin active duty until 1986 after a short delay when she had to help replant the family orange grove that was damaged in a hard freeze.

Davidson served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in the 1990s, and later in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Two years ago, she assumed command of Defense Logistics Agency Distribution. But

they are not the only Petters children who have found success.

"The whole gang has been successful," Petters said. "We even have a rocket scientist and a helicopter pilot in there. And they've all been successful because they have taken this never-stop-learning approach, and made it the drumbeat of their lives."



C. Michael Petters

Commencement ceremonies are set for May 3, honoring the portion of Saint Leo's 16,000-student body who have finished this level of their education. However, if graduates walk away from anything after Petters' remarks, he hopes that it's with the understanding that education never ends.

"Where you're from is an asset," Petters said. "Everything you have done up to today prepares you for what you're going to be doing tomorrow."



Aimee Nadow explains how to use a software program that analyzes writing to identify issues.

TEACHER, from page 1

gram.

She is excited by the prospect of being able to learn from other educators who share her enthusiasm for using technical tools to enliven instruction. During a recent class, Nadow used a giant touch-screen television to display images and to foster discussion regarding a Holocaust art project the students will create.

They have been assigned to demonstrate their understanding of the book, "Night," by Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor. They'll show the teacher what the book means through an art project of their choosing, and they'll describe their artistic intentions in accompanying text.

Besides preparing students for that assignment, Nadow also guided them through software called ETS Criterion that analyzes writing to identify grammatical and sentence structure issues that should be addressed. As students navigated through the program, Nadow moved about the classroom, responding to their questions and helping them stay on track.

She offered extra help outside of class, if anyone needed it.

Nadow clearly is in command of her technical skills, but she also has an obvious rapport with students. She said she has a secret weapon: It's called respect.

On the first day of classes she tells her middle division students that she will treat them as adults, unless they behave as children — in which case, they'll face the consequences.

"I try to afford them as much dignity as possible, because I remember situations when I was in middle school and I would see a student that would be treated unfairly, or would be embarrassed in front of the classroom," Nadow said. "That is absolutely not the way to teach. You lose so much time

if you're focused on classroom management, rather than learning."

"Seventh and eighth grade is my perfect fit," she said. "I really enjoy their (students') sense of humor, their creativity, their willingness."

Nadow also appreciates their trust, and believes in using a personal touch with her students.

As they file into her classroom, she greets each student by name and shakes each hand. As the kids make their way to their places, there's a low-level rumble as they chat.

The teacher uses a simple routine to settle them down. She counts — 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 — and by the time she finishes, students are focused on her.

It's easy to see that Nadow strives to create an environment where students are engaged and want to learn. When she poses questions, they are eager to respond and share their ideas.

While she obviously is technically competent, Nadow also possesses other important skills that equip her to be effective, Pitcairn said.

"It's her enthusiasm, her positivity, her joy, her human qualities that are a critical part of making her the very valuable teacher that she is today," Pitcairn said.

Posters in her classroom reveal that Nadow has high standards, but a kind heart. One sets out the class rules. Of course, it has such things as "Always tell the truth. Work hard. Listen to your parents. Keep your promises."

But it also includes these instructions: "Laugh out loud. Be grateful. Use kind words. Try new things. Dream big."

Another poster offers this message from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Be silly. Be honest. Be kind."

Finally, a sign above the classroom door proclaims "Carpe diem," or "seize the day."

That seems to be Nadow's motto, and one she wants to pass along to her students.

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Hoedt works hard to keep local traditions alive

By B.C. Manion

bcmajian@lakerlutznews.com

Phyllis Hoedt quietly goes about helping to preserve a sense of community that residents cherish in Lutz.

Her activities on the evening of Dec. 17 offer a glimpse into the level of her involvement. It was then Hoedt was at the Christmas Card Lane celebration in downtown Lutz. The event featured over-sized Christmas cards made of plywood, representing local organizations and businesses. It also included a showcase of local talent.

The celebration attracted hundreds, and was the last in a series of special events the Lutz Centennial Committee planned.

After hanging out at Christmas Card Lane, Hoedt headed down U.S. 41 to Christmas House at the Old Lutz School. That free annual tradition draws friends and families to the historic school building to spend time together and enjoy the festive décor.

Long before the crowds arrive at Christmas House, Hoedt and other volunteers had spent weeks decking out the schoolhouse, inside and out, for the holidays.

On evenings the school is open to the public, Hoedt is there before spectators show up to get the coffee brewing and make sure things are in order, said Shirley Simmons, one of Hoedt's long-time friends and another committed community volunteer.

In addition to those activities, Hoedt has been involved in the GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club for 39 years.

She and Simmons are co-directors of the annual Lutz Arts & Crafts Festival, sponsored by the woman's club. The event, at Lake Park each December, includes hundreds of vendors and attracts crowds topping 100,000.

The Old Lutz School is another one of Hoedt's passions. She was involved early on in efforts to prevent the old school from being torn down or being used as a storage



B.C. MANION/STAFF PHOTO

Phyllis Hoedt uses her time and energy to help keep traditions alive in Lutz that cherishes its small-town feel.

building. She was a leading force in ensuring the Old Lutz School remained available for community use.

The Hillsborough County School Board gave the building to the county, and The Citizens for the Old Lutz School Building Inc. leases it from them.

"We leased it for five years and that expired," Hoedt said. "Then we leased it for 25 years and that expired. Now, we're back again. We got a new lease, renewed. They do it five years. They kind of automatically renew it every five years."

That building, which has become a community icon, is the setting for pioneer family reunions, Lutz Guv'na events, flea markets and other community gatherings.

Hoedt has her finger in many other pies, as well.

"She's a close friend to the library," said Suzin Carr, the current Lutz Guv'na. "She was right there for the centennial."

When Hoedt pitches in — with such events as the annual Fourth of July Parade, or the Christmas House, or the Arts & Crafts Festival — she's not looking for any personal gratification beyond the satisfaction that comes from knowing she's helped bring friends and family together, Carr said.

"She has no expectation other than hoping that the people who come out enjoy themselves," Carr said.

Simmons agreed. "She doesn't want any recognitions. She doesn't want any buttons."

Hoedt grew up in West Virginia, but her late husband William grew up in Florida.

They both moved to Florida in 1968 so William could set up his land surveying business. Hoedt worked with her husband, handling office duties.

The couple had two children, Wally and Sarah. Over time, the family grew to include a grandson and a great-grandchild.

The Hoedts were married for 54 years before William died on Nov. 5, 2011.

Hoedt traces her community involvement back to around the time when her husband and son got involved in the Lutz Volunteer Fire Department. Her husband also was very involved in efforts to preserve the Old Lutz School.

In her younger years, Hoedt said she was more heavily involved in her church, Tims Presbyterian Church.

Hoedt is knowledgeable and hardworking, Carr said.

"She has been such an active, important part of the Lutz community. She is a walking billboard of Lutz history," Carr said, noting she has benefited from working with Hoedt on various projects. "She has given me so much insight."

Friends describe Hoedt as kind and generous.

"She's got a heart that is so big, it encompasses all of Lutz," said another friend, Marilyn Wannamaker.

When something needs to be done, Wannamaker said, Hoedt responds by rolling up her sleeves and asking, "What can I do to help?"

Simmons said Hoedt and other community volunteers like her want to preserve the small-town feel that Lutz enjoys. That's why they continue to contribute their time and energy to community events and causes.

"That's what small-town America is all about, doing these small projects and keeping people together," Simmons said.

Group says pay raises for public lawyers will save taxpayer money

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

It's not too often a claim comes around that spending more money will ultimately save money.

But advocacy group Florida TaxWatch is saying just that after a review of income state attorneys and public defenders receive in the state. Their findings revealed that starting pay for those positions in the state are well below the national average, and are among the lowest in the country.

Because of that, there are high turnover

rates in both fields, which cause delays in the courts and far more taxpayer-funded investment to train new employees — estimated at more than \$15 million a year.

"If Florida expects our criminal justice system to deliver timely and effective justice, we must wisely invest in those who are responsible for carrying it out," said Dominic Calabro, president and chief executive of Florida TaxWatch, in a release. "Paying our assistant state attorneys and assistant public defenders closer to the rest of the nation

will ensure our tax dollars are not wasted on high turnover costs and lower productivity, and that our criminal justice system is in the best hands our state can find."

Pay shortages for state attorneys and public defenders range from \$30,000 to \$50,000 in the first three years of employment, which creates turnover rates that exceed 20 percent, the group said. Because the job duties are extensive and the demands difficult, it costs taxpayers more to recruit and retrain replacements than it would to just increase their salaries in the

first place.

For example, if pay raises were given to increase starting salary to \$50,000 for attorneys in those positions, it would only cost \$5.2 million annually. If that higher pay cut turnover in half, it would actually save taxpayers \$5 million, group leaders said.

Prosecutors and public defenders often incur sizable debt to complete law school, and must pass the Florida Bar examination before being eligible for appointment. Yet, their starting wages are typically around \$41,700 a year, which is \$20,000 less than the average starting annual salary or prosecutors and public defenders in states with comparable crime.

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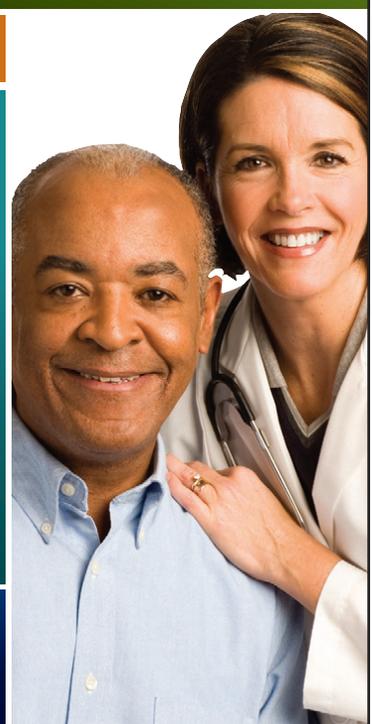
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Wiregrass Ranch's Handman ready for college lacrosse

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

If a high school athlete excels at their sport, it's not unusual for them to continue playing after they graduate.

Players do their best to find a place in the college ranks, perhaps even with a school affiliated with the National College Athletic Association. At local schools it happens with athletes in many sports, including football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer and others.

Wiregrass Ranch High School can now add lacrosse to that list.

Although the lacrosse program at the school is just four years old, Wiregrass Ranch now has its first player recruited by an NCAA school.

Senior Jeffrey Handman is a goalie for the Bulls' lacrosse team, and has committed to play for Lincoln Memorial University, a Division II school located in Harrogate, Tenn. He'll head up there with an athletic scholarship and a desire to be part of the new lacrosse program for the Railsplitters.

But if he had been a little better at a different sport, none of it would have happened.

"I decided that I wasn't good enough to play high school baseball, so I decided to give lacrosse a try," Handman said. "If I could hit a baseball I probably never would have played lacrosse."

Fortunately, he picked up a stick and eventually found himself defending the goal. Now he has a new favorite sport and a desire to make an impact at the next level.

Lacrosse, a sport where teammates use sticks to pass and catch a rubber ball while trying to score on the opponents' goal, is popular at the collegiate level and up north. It's also working its way into high schools and local clubs.



COURTESY OF ERIC HANDMAN

Jeffrey Handman only started playing lacrosse when Wiregrass Ranch High School started its program a few years ago, but his skills have earned him a scholarship with Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee.

Wiregrass Ranch began its own program back in 2011. That's the same year Handman first entered the school, picked up a lacrosse stick and gave a new sport a try. And at goalie, he found a position that makes the most of his talents and allows him to excel.

Handman isn't a boastful athlete. He takes honest stock of his abilities, and finds ways to maximize them on the field.

"Being a goalie, you have to be quick," Handman said. "I'm not fast. I'm not going to dazzle any one with a 40 (yard dash), but

I'm quick reaction-wise."

He might have been late to the game, but once he got involved with lacrosse, Handman enjoyed it so much he found other outlets where he could participate. He's a member of New Tampa Chill, a club league that participates in the Florida Gulf Coast Lacrosse League as part of New Tampa Lacrosse. He also referees lacrosse games for youth leagues in places like Wesley Chapel, South Tampa and New Tampa.

Handman eventually wants to coach the

sport when he's done playing, but before that happens, he'll test his skills against Division II competition.

It wasn't an easy path, however, going from being a first-time player to finding a spot with a college team. Unlike football, Central Florida isn't known as a magnet for lacrosse scouts.

"Florida's not a hotbed for the sport. Especially not Tampa," Handman said.

The sport is growing and the players are enthusiastic and talented, but even a good player can't afford to just sit back and wait for offers. And according to Wiregrass Ranch lacrosse coach Garrett Linquist, Handman isn't the type to be passive and hope things go his way.

Handman approached his coaches and asked what he should be doing to give himself a good chance to play at the next level.

"He's one of those kids who wanted to go and play in college," Linquist said. "He went to a lot of good recruiting camps, he played for Team Florida (where Linquist also coached), and that was a great opportunity. He had a little bit more drive to go through the process."

The process included filming his games, making a highlight video, and sending it to around 100 different coaches, Handman said. But his perseverance paid off, and he'll be both playing lacrosse and studying business at Lincoln Memorial.

While Handman is proud of his accomplishments, he didn't get this far by resting on his laurels. When he gets to college, he'll show up with the same drive he used to stand out when tackling a new sport.

"I actually put more pressure on myself than other people. Personally, I feel the pressure to succeed. That's my goal," Handman said. "I'm not going to play college athletics up in Tennessee to sit on the bench for four years or not try my hardest to compete."



Saint Leo baseball camp May 10

The Saint Leo baseball team will hold a one-day camp on May 10 for high school students. Campers will receive one-on-one instruction and evaluation in areas such as hitting, fielding and base-running.

The cost is \$100 per camper and includes lunch.

For information, call assistant baseball coach Lee Parks at (352) 588-8841, or e-mail lee.parks@saintleo.edu.

Steinbrenner basketball camps this summer

Steinbrenner High School, 5575 Lutz Lake Fern Road, will host two basketball camps this summer for boys and girls entering first through eighth grade. The first will be held June 16-19, and the second will be July 7-10.

Campers will receive instruction in fundamentals such as dribbling, passing and defense, and will participate in skill-related games. Awards will be given to group and gender winners during the camp.

The cost is \$90 per camper, with discounts given for multiple siblings. Same-day registration is \$100.

For information, call Steinbrenner coach J.R. Allen at (813) 792-5131, or e-mail warriorbasketballcamp@gmail.com.

Saint Leo swimmers earn honors

The College Swimming Coaches Association of America announced its NCAA Division II All-America teams for men's and women's swimming.

Four Saint Leo swimmers on the men's team — Matheus Assis, Patrick Cedia, Gabriel Keown and Milton Alberto-Requejo — joined Nicole Weber from the women's team in receiving All-America honors.

Additionally, Stephanie Martinez earned an All-America Honorable Mention.

Special Olympics golf tourney May 3

Special Olympics Florida-Pasco County will hold its 16th annual golf tournament on May 3 at Lexington Oaks Golf Club, 26133 Lexington Oaks Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

The cost is \$65 per person, and includes green fees, range balls, cart, gift bag, a raffle ticket and buffet dinner. The shotgun start is 1 p.m. Registration must be received by April 28. For information, visit SpecialOlympicsPasco.org.

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 WesleyChapelChamber.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@rockstar-baseball.com.

Steinbrenner golf tourney May 17

The Steinbrenner High School football team will hold its fifth annual golf tournament May 17 at the Heritage Harbor Golf Course, 19502 Heritage Harbor Parkway in Lutz.

The event, which benefits Warriors football, will include an auction with both live and silent bidding.

Registration begins in the clubhouse at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Sponsorships also are available. For information, visit TournEvents.com/2014Warriors.

Doubles tennis players sought

Tennis 4 u/Tennis Para Ti is looking for doubles tennis players for matches in Dade City. The organization also is offering private and group tennis lessons for players of all ages and skill levels. For information, call Jeanette Marcus at (813) 417-0061, or e-mail jmarcusddm@gmail.com.

Central Pasco Chamber golf tourney May 16

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will hold 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 pm.

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.

Zephyrhills Scramble May 2

The Ninth Annual Zephyrhills Scramble, hosted by the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce and the Noon Rotary Club of Zephyrhills, will be held May 2 at the Silverado Golf & Country Club, 36841 Clubhouse Drive. The cost is \$100 per golfer, or \$500 for a corporate team.

For information, call (813) 782-1913, or visit ZephyrhillsChamber.org.

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.

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.

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.

Saffore set to represent Sunlake at collegiate level

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

Sunlake High School has never had a premier volleyball team. Before this season, they had never won more than six games in a single campaign, and compiled a 15-91 record across six seasons.

While they played hard, they've never seen much success, and have never had a player continue their volleyball career in college.

But a lot can change in a year.

The Seahawks finished the 2013 season with a 16-10 record, tallying more wins in one season than in their entire history combined. They made the playoffs for the first time in school history. And now, also for the first time, a volleyball player will continue their career at the college level.

Senior Malika Saffore will attend school and play volleyball for Florida Southern College, an NCAA Division II school located in Lakeland. She signed a letter of intent last week and said she's excited about the opportunity to continue her athletic career.

"I'm so excited to play next season," she said. "I was definitely honored that I was the first person to get a scholarship who was on



COURTESY OF MALIKA SAFFORE

Saffore will head to Florida Southern later this year to play volleyball for the Mocs. She'll study nursing when she's not on the court.

the volleyball team."

While most people have seen volleyball in some form, Saffore said her sport isn't always understood as a complex one. Keeping the team motivated and working well together is just as important as hitting the ball hard.

"Volleyball is such a momentum-built sport. It depends on whether one team has more energy than the other, and I don't think people realize that," Saffore said.

A lot of the skill goes beyond physical ability, and includes thinking several moves

ahead and utilizing what she calls "volleyball intellect."

Saffore has no problem using her intellect both on and off the court. She'll actually attend Florida Southern on scholarships — both athletic and academic. When coupled with a 3.8 GPA, her dedication to volleyball means most of her time is spent working on school or sports.

Saffore spends about 15 hours a week practicing on the court, plus another five hours in the gym staying in shape. After allotting time for studying and homework, free time is scarce, but she's been able to find balance between the two priorities in her life.

In college, Saffore plans to study nursing, so her time will continue to be limited. But she said that the skills she's learned on the court often translate to success in the classroom.

"I think it gives me a sense of self-control," she said. "If I feel overwhelmed about the amount of homework I have or a test that's coming up, I collect myself and think, OK, I have to prepare myself in these different aspects and I follow that plan just like I do with volleyball."

Florida Southern was a good fit with

Saffore for several reasons, she said. She said she was immediately impressed with the campus and her new teammates, but she also was attracted to the idea of staying local. She's very close to her family and enjoys the Florida sunshine, so the opportunity to keep playing volleyball (including beach volleyball, which she enjoys) and stay close to home for a school she liked was too good to pass up.

And while she's proven her abilities and has earned a scholarship thanks to her volleyball talent, Saffore knows that this is the beginning of competition, not the end. The Moccasins — Mocs for short — are a good volleyball team, posting a 22-14 record last year, including a 10-6 record in the competitive Sunshine State Conference.

She'll have to continue proving herself to succeed at a school that's used to playing at a high level against top talent, and she's ready for that challenge.

"When you get to college, you have to actually compete for the position that you want to play," Saffore said. "I know I have to work 10 times harder than I do now, and compete not only on the court against the team we're going to play, but compete for a spot on the team to be on the court."

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Who's who

Meet

Sidharth (Sid) Panchamia, M.D.



Dr. Panchamia joined Florida Medical Clinic in February as its third pain management physician. Board certified in both pain management and anesthesiology, Dr. Panchamia brings a strong surgical aspect to the group with his anesthesiology background.

Dr. Panchamia received his medical degree in 2012 from New York Medical College in Valhalla, N.Y. He completed his anesthesiology residency at University of Miami/Jackson Health System in Miami and his interventional pain management fellowship at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, Washington.

He moved to Tampa in 2010 and worked at a physician group in south Tampa for three years before joining Florida Medical Clinic.

A native of New Jersey, Dr. Panchamia and his pharmacist wife, Nipi, have been married for six years and live on Harbour Island. The couple enjoys watching movies, sports, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Dr. Panchamia newest pain management doctor at FMC

Dr. Sid Panchamia is the most recently trained physician to join the pain management practice at Florida Medical Clinic's New Tampa office, joining the practice in February and bringing with him a hybrid experience of pain management and anesthesiology.

Board certified in both specialties, Dr. Panchamia, says most pain is manageable and believes by practicing in a multi-modal approach, pain does not have to rule a patient's life.

"Pain is very subjective and affects a patient physically, emotionally and mentally," said Dr. Panchamia. "I want my patients and their families to understand why there is pain, and then to work with them to develop a treatment plan to help patients do more with less medications."

The ultimate goal for every pain management patient at FMC is to help find a treatment plan that reduces pain and helps to achieve a reasonable quality of life and ability to function as normally as possible.

The most successful treatments plans involve the entire family, said Dr. Panchamia. "I always like to have family members at appointments because the support system is so important," he said.

Dr. Panchamia said the three most common types of pain that patients seek treatment for are:

- Lower back pain and sciatica (shooting pain going down the leg)
- Neck pain, especially that caused by an automobile accident, and often results in headaches and radiating pain in the arms
- Inflammation of joints, especially in the hips.

In addition to medication management, treatments prescribed by Dr. Panchamia include steroid injections, which are anti-inflammatory and last longer than cortisone, and nerve blocks.

When asked what one can do to live a life as pain free as possible, Dr. Panchamia has these three simple lifestyle suggestions that anyone can do.

"First, get a good night sleep. The body does most of its health problem solving when we sleep, and if we don't sleep enough, your body doesn't have time to make its natural repairs.

"Second, get the best mattress you can afford. A new mattress alone can make a world of difference in how you feel and help prevent back pain.

"Finally, never underestimate the value of ice and heat applications. These age-old treatments still work as well today as ever."

Dr. Panchamia is accepting new patients at his office in New Tampa. His special interests include low back pain, sciatica, neck pain, lumbar facet syndrome, spinal cord stimulation, neuropathic pain and cancer pain.

He has hospital privileges at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, Florida Hospital Tampa, Bayfront Health Dade City and Florida Medical Clinic's Ambulatory Surgery Centers.

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Hospital selects marketing director

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills has named Cheryl Kennison as its new director of marketing. Kennison served as marketing manager at Florida Hospital Tampa before coming to Zephyrhills.

She also has served as marketing and foundation director for Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach. Kennison resides in Wesley Chapel with her family.



Cheryl Kennison

support group at its New Port Richey center, 5500 Little Road.

The next meeting is April 30 at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are advised.

For information, call (727) 808-4818.

New format for bereavement group

Gulfside Hospice's bereavement department offers bereavement groups with a set beginning and ending date so that participants can get to know each other and feel more comfortable sharing their feelings during the group sessions. Each new group will last approximately 10 weeks.

The next session in Land O' Lakes is May 1 to June 26 at 2 p.m., at Harvester United Methodist Church, 2432 Collier Parkway.

For information, call (800) 561-4883.

CoDA meets in Trinity

The Medical Center of Trinity will host the Co-Dependence Anonymous group every Thursday at 7 p.m., at 5637 Marine Parkway in New Port Richey.

Upcoming meetings are May 1, May 8, May 15, May 22 and May 29.

This group focuses on the common purpose of developing healthy relationships.

For information, call (727) 816-8678 or (727) 858-3013.

OLOR cancer network

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church Family Cancer Network meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month in Rosary Hall at the church, 2348 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, beginning at 7 p.m.

Cancer survivors and caregivers are welcome to attend.

For information, call (813) 949-4565.

—Health notes are run for free on a space-available basis. Please send all information at least two weeks before an event to news@lakerlutznews.com.

Foundation of Caring fundraiser

The Florida Medical Clinic Foundation of Caring is hosting "Night at the Copa" April 26 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., at TPepin's Hospitality Centre, 4121 N. 50th St., in Tampa.

Freddy Montes y Su Son will provide Cuban music in the atmosphere of Old Havana.

The fundraiser will support needy children and families in Hillsborough and Pasco counties.

For information and registration, call (813) 783-9932, or email foundation@floridamedicalclinic.org.

Food addicts program

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous meets at Seventh-day Adventist Church, 33420 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

The program is based on the 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

For information, visit FoodAddicts.org.

NAMI offers support

The Pasco County Chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness offers two monthly support group meetings at 7 p.m.

• Family & Friends Support Meetings: North Tampa Behavioral Health, 29910 State Road 56 in Wesley Chapel, first and third Tuesday of each month. This group is for family and friends of those with mental illness.

• NAMI Connections: NAMI Pasco Office, 6480 Jallo Plaza, 6480 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Land O' Lakes, every Tuesday. This group is for those living with mental illness.

For information, call (727) 992-9653.

Moffitt hosts caregivers

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute is hosting its Caring for the Caregiver program April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the Vincent A. Stabile Research Building, 12902 Magnolia Drive in Tampa.

This is a free program to provide educational sessions and peer support for caregivers of cancer patients.

A light breakfast and catered lunch will be provided. Free valet parking is available.

To register, call (813) 745-8407, or visit tinyurl.com/CFCG2014.

Give blood, get gift card

OneBlood and Walgreens are teaming up for a blood drive April 28 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at these Walgreens locations.

- 20741 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa
- 22829 State Road 54, Land O' Lakes

Donors must be 16 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds.

Each donor will receive a wellness checkup and a free \$10 Walgreens gift card.

For information, visit OneBlood.org.

Dementia care seminar

Senior Helpers of Spring Hill will host two seminars on dementia care education

April 29 at 9 a.m., and at 1 p.m., at The Residence at Timber Pines, 3140 Forest Road in Spring Hill.

Guest speakers are Glen Scharfeld of Senior Helpers, and Teepa Snow, a dementia care and education specialist.

The seminars are free.

To register, call (352) 683-9009.

His and hers health seminar

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will host the seminar "His and Hers: Vaccines, Screenings & Vitamins for Your Health" April 30 at noon.

Guest speakers will be Dr. Stephanie Eldridge and Dr. Amir Shirmohammad, both in family medicine.

Admission is free. A light complimentary lunch will be served. Seating is limited.

For reservations, call (727) 834-5630.

Gulfside volunteer orientation

Gulfside Hospice is hosting a volunteer orientation for new shop volunteers in Central Pasco April 30 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Lutz Thrift Shoppe, 1930 Land O' Lakes Blvd.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Space is limited.

For information or reservations, call Jennifer Ball or Tracey Thompson at (813) 780-1235.

Cancer support group

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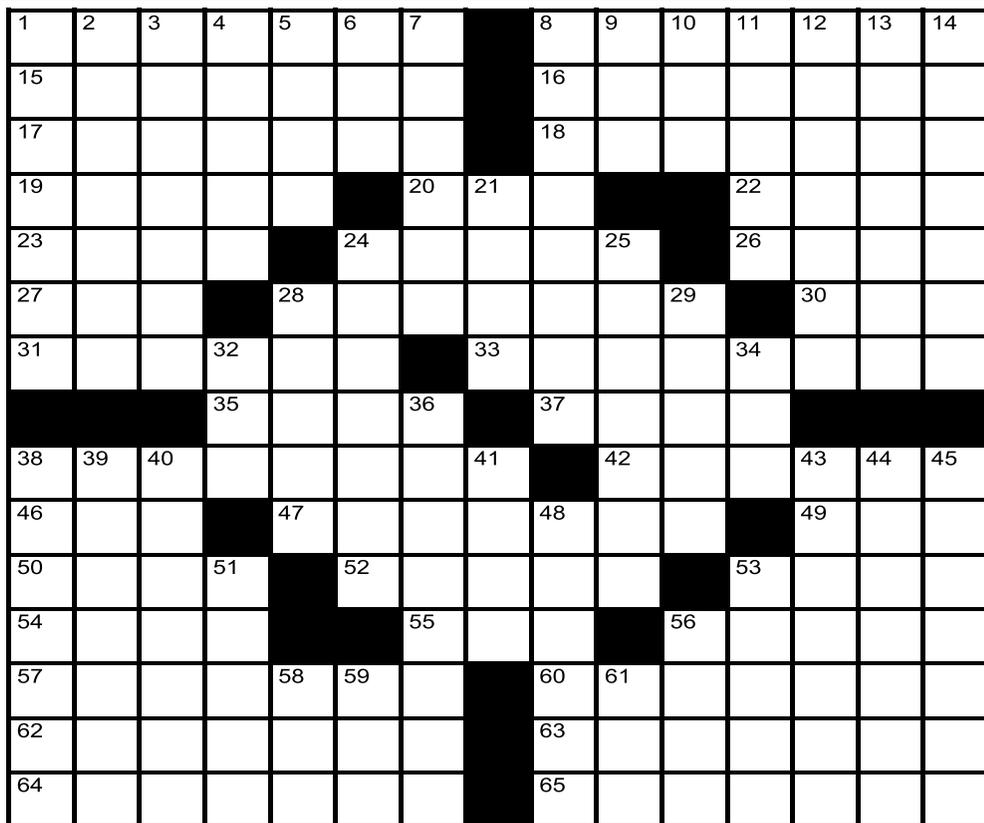
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ACROSS

- 1. More agile
- 8. Caribbean island country
- 15. Oily, poisonous liquid used to make dyes and plastics
- 16. The process of mountain formation
- 17. Put into words
- 18. Performances
- 19. Bank job
- 20. Bunk
- 22. "Let it stand"
- 23. Certain surgeon's "patient"
- 24. Newswoman Zahn
- 26. "The Adventures of ___ and Otis," film
- 27. ___ Master's Voice
- 28. Hansen's disease
- 30. Black gold
- 31. Come by
- 33. Wisdom
- 35. Contact, e.g.
- 37. Water barrier

DOWN

- 1. Petroleum distillate used as a solvent
- 2. Receive something specified in a will
- 3. Most swampy
- 4. Nonchalantly unconcerned
- 5. "Schindler's ___"
- 6. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
- 7. Railroad station porter
- 8. Slew
- 9. Parenthesis, essentially
- 10. All the rage
- 11. Discrimination against older people
- 12. Bring up
- 13. Really good
- 14. Part of a heartbeat
- 21. "One of ___" (Willa Cather novel)
- 24. Nautical flag
- 25. Ambitious person
- 28. Feudal lord
- 29. "Holy cow!"

DOWN

- 1. Petroleum distillate used as a solvent
- 2. Receive something specified in a will
- 3. Most swampy
- 4. Nonchalantly unconcerned
- 5. "Schindler's ___"
- 6. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
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- 14. Part of a heartbeat
- 21. "One of ___" (Willa Cather novel)
- 24. Nautical flag
- 25. Ambitious person
- 28. Feudal lord
- 29. "Holy cow!"

- 32. Matterhorn, e.g.
- 34. Moray, e.g.
- 36. 100 meter runner
- 38. Stayed in bed longer (2 wds)
- 39. Greek cafe
- 40. Dagger reference mark
- 41. "___ Like It Hot"
- 43. Period in history marked by tools and weapons (2 wds)
- 44. Movable personal property (law)
- 45. Horseshoes players
- 48. Lament
- 51. Steplike mine excavation
- 53. Distance runner
- 56. Bantu person inhabiting Rwanda and Burundi
- 58. Ceiling
- 59. "... ___ he drove out of sight"
- 61. Chain letters?

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 22

		8				9		2
	6		8	9		7	1	
						6	3	8
	5	1	2	7				
				5	1	3	8	
6	9	5						
	4	3		6	8		2	
1		2				5		

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