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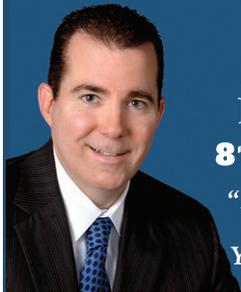
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Walk-Ins Welcome

Author provides message of faith

By Michael Murillo

mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

Writing a book is often a difficult process. Finishing one can be an exhausting, emotional ordeal for the author that becomes a real challenge to complete.

But it wasn't like that for Zephyrhills resident Nancy Carroll McEndree. It was much, much worse.

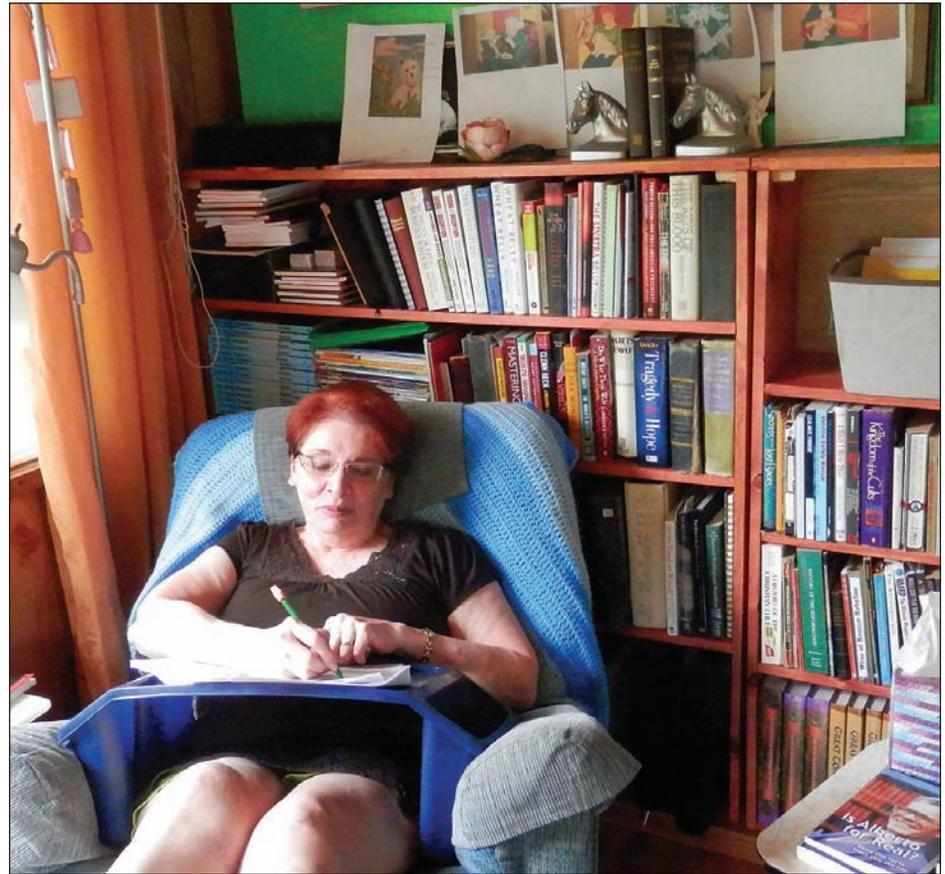
"I went into (post-traumatic stress disorder) every chapter I wrote," McEndree said. "I sat in my chair or in my office and I wept uncontrollably. I ended up in the hospital."

To write "Remembering Jim: From Violence, Abuse and Terror to Joy Everlasting" — a book chronicling her late brother's difficult upbringing, bottoming out as an absent husband and father, and eventual transformation to an active person of faith — McEndree had to go back to the beginning of their lives.

And that meant dealing with her own childhood, which was filled with memories of her mother and brothers dealing with constant physical abuse. McEndree also suffered severe mental abuse and neglect, and said she even had to spurn her father's sexual advances.

She would have been happy to leave those memories in the past, except they

See AUTHOR, page 14



MICHAEL MURILLO/STAFF PHOTO

Nancy Carroll McEndree writes her books sitting in a recliner in her Zephyrhills home. She writes longhand and husband Duane transcribes that work into their computer.

New community could create traffic chaos for Silver Lakes

By Michael Hinman

mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

While a development review committee headed by Pasco County administrator Michele Baker was focused on how fast boats should travel on a private lake, Bobbi Smith had a much bigger concern about a proposed new community near Caliente Resorts in Land O' Lakes.

"The thing is truly the safety issue of getting in and getting out," said Smith, who lives on a small rural road just off U.S. 41 in the community of Silver Lakes. That street, barely wide enough to hold a single car, could carry traffic from another 100 houses if Southern Crafted Homes is allowed to build on more than 68 acres around Curve Lake.

The land is owned by John and Theresa Edwards, and is filled with old orange groves at the gravel end of Fletch Road. About 40 homes are currently located near the lake on Fletch and Barcellona roads, which all exit to a busy, four-lane Land O' Lakes Boulevard. And even with the smaller number of homes, there's no traffic light, so cars typically back up on Barcellona as traffic looks to get out on the busy thoroughfare.

"There's no way you can have all those homes, and have just one road to get out," Smith said.

But if Southern Crafted Homes is going to build homes, they'll also have to build upgraded streets along Fletch and Barcellona that will accommodate higher traffic loads, Baker said during a recent development review meeting. Upgrades would include two distinct lanes of traffic, and even curbs.

The new community also could be required to consider building roads across neighboring properties, known as interconnects, which would link the new Edwards community to Caliente Boulevard to the northwest and Ehren Cutoff to the east.

However, those roads won't happen until neighboring parcels are developed into homes, and Smith and others already living in Silver Lakes say that development there could be decades off, if ever.

That brings the focus back to Fletch Road, which was partially paved in the late 1990s when the Silver Lakes community was built. A traffic analysis says Fletch is in good shape, county officials said, so Southern Crafted wouldn't have to do anything with the paved portion of the road.

Baker, however, was concerned that a 15-year-old road shouldn't be ignored in an upgrade, especially if traffic is going to in-

See TRAFFIC, page 14



COURTESY OF PENNY NICHOLS

This is the image that Trevor Nichols used to model the portrait he drew of Land O' Lakes High School coach Kris Keppel. See Trevor's winning drawing on page 14.

Local art student wins a trip to Washington

By B.C. Manion

bcmalion@lakerlutznews.com

There's a lot more to the portrait of Kris Keppel than meets the eye.

No doubt the pencil drawing is an excellent likeness of the Land O' Lakes coach, who has led the high school's track and cross-country teams for more than two decades.

The quality of the work is so good that a professional artist judging U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis' Congressional Art Competition deemed it best of show.

By winning the competition, Nichols will get to travel to Washington, D.C., with one of his parents. They'll get a tour of the White House and Capitol building, and will get to have lunch in the Congressional dining room. His art will be in the Capitol building

See ART, page 14



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTOS

Fletch and Barcellona roads are the only way Silver Lakes residents can get out onto Land O' Lakes Boulevard, a four-lane expressway without a traffic light. If another 100 homes are built, some existing residents fear the current streets won't be able to handle the increased traffic loads.



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New surgery option eases recovery for hysterectomy patients

By B.C. Manion

bcmajian@lakerlutznews.com

Dr. Pamela Twitty made history on April 30 at St. Joseph's Hospital-North by becoming the first surgeon in Tampa to perform a single-site robotics-assisted hysterectomy.

The type of surgery had been performed previously in Clearwater and St. Petersburg, but not in Tampa, Twitty said.

She used a da Vinci robotic system to perform the surgery, controlling instruments from a console in the operating room.

In traditional hysterectomy surgery, doctors make a five- to seven-inch incision in the woman's abdomen and remove the uterus through the laceration. That approach leaves noticeable scars and requires a month or two of recovery, Twitty said.

But with robotics-assisted surgery, recovery is quicker with less post-operative pain because it's less invasive, and it reduces scarring as well.

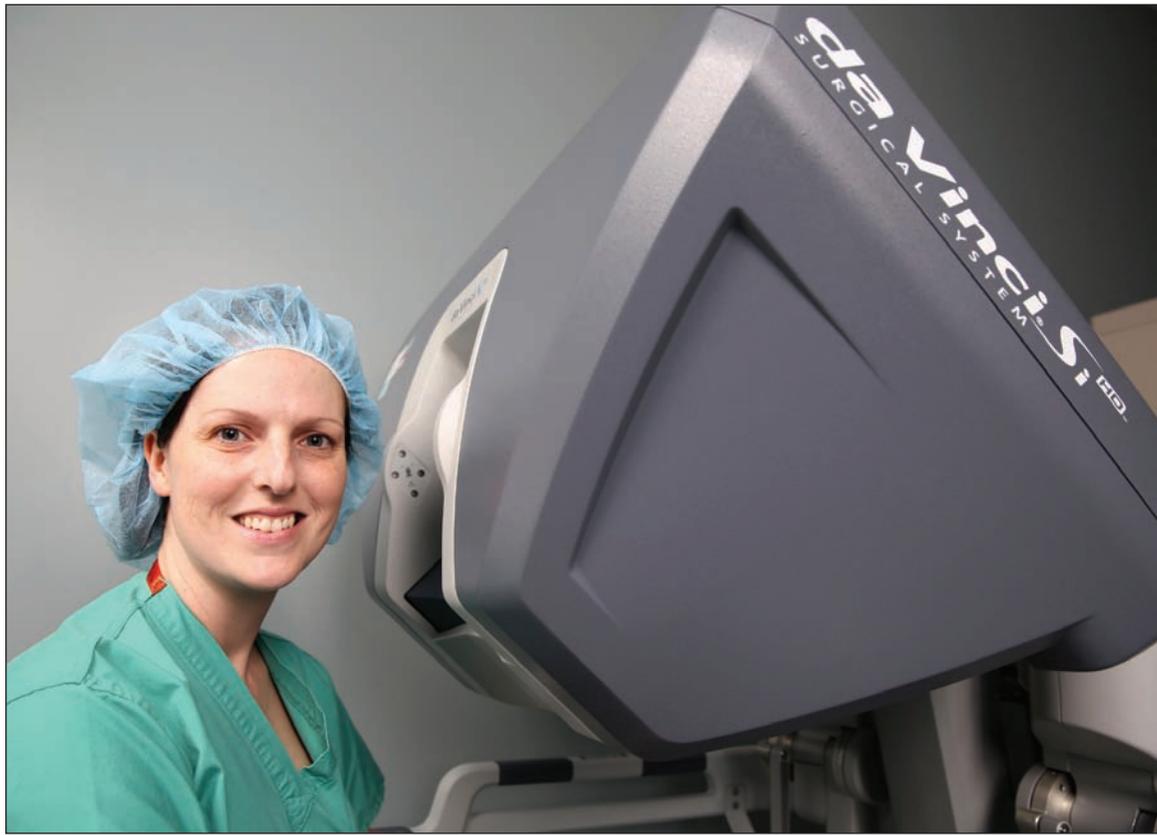
Twitty performed the surgery on Land O' Lakes resident Hollie Morris.

"I was pretty excited about it," the 35-year-old said.

Morris didn't have any misgivings about being Twitty's first patient for this procedure because she had an established relationship with the doctor.

"I love Dr. Twitty. I trust her completely," Morris said.

When Twitty explained the procedure, Morris said she could sense the doctor's excitement about performing a surgery such as this. At the same time, Twitty wanted to make sure Morris was completely comfort-



Dr. Pamela Twitty made history on April 30 at St. Joseph's Hospital-North by becoming the first surgeon in Tampa to perform a single-site robotics-assisted hysterectomy.

COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL-NORTH

able with the approach.

Morris found the prospect appealing for numerous reasons, she said. For one thing, since she has children, it was important for her to recover quickly and get back to the business of daily life. Secondly, she'd prefer not to have a large scar.

The surgery is done with a small cut in the navel.

"You can't even see it," Morris said.

Although she has felt some soreness, Morris said she's sure she would have felt

more pain if she'd had additional cuts.

"The day after surgery, I was up walking around," Morris said.

In traditional hysterectomies, the size of the scar can vary based upon the surgical procedure that is used, the patient's anatomy, and what needs to be done, Twitty said. The single-site option may be especially appealing to women in Florida, where swimming and going to the beach are popular pastimes.

"A lot of our patients in this area and in

surrounding areas are interested in still being able to wear their swimsuits and their bikinis," Twitty said. They want to be able to be out in the sun without any sign of their surgery.

The less invasive procedure also typically means less time in the hospital, Twitty said.

With a traditional hysterectomy, the hospital stay is two to four days. With the new surgery, it is often an overnight stay, or in some cases, they can leave the same day.

"And, healing and post-operative pain is typically less," Twitty said. "You have a much smaller incision. It's in a location where there's less tension on the incision. There's an expedited return to daily life because there's less recuperation time, less pain."

Twitty believes this type of surgery will become more commonly used as doctors are trained in using the technology and more patients become aware of it.

"I've already started talking to a number of my patients about this technology and being able to offer it," Twitty said. "They are absolutely excited about it."

Although robotic surgery itself has been around for about a decade, single-site technology — where one incision is made through the belly button — is a process that's only been around for the past couple years or so, Twitty said.

"Initially, it was available for general surgeons," she said. But there has been an expansion of the use by doctors in various specialties and more procedures have been approved.

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Elevated road plans collapse, but battle not over

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Jason Amerson was caught flat-footed when he first learned that a private company planned to build an estimated \$2.2 billion elevated toll road in front of his Stonegate home.

He vowed to stop the road before the first surveys could even be done. And over the weekend, Amerson finally had a chance to celebrate when Florida Department of Transportation secretary Ananth Prasad officially killed the project.

But as vocal as Amerson's group, Pasco Fiasco, had become to protest the project, it was actually International Infrastructure Partners who hastened its own demise when it shifted gears and started to ask FDOT for taxpayer assistance to fund the project. That was just too much for Prasad to hear, especially with public sentiment against the road growing.

"He came to the conclusion that the project does not look very promising," FDOT spokesman Dick Kane said last week. "The reason, he said, was that when they looked into the financials of the unsolicited proposal, it was not what we were initially led to believe."

When Kane shared Prasad's thoughts, the toll road project was not dead, but it was dying. Pasco Fiasco moved forward with a planned rally at Sunlake High School for next Monday. The door had been left open for more negotiations, but all of it came to an abrupt end last Friday.

"The department was unable to reach an agreement with International Infrastructure Partners LLC on a framework of financing and various design concepts for the corridor that would be acceptable to all parties and address the concerns of the local community," Prasad said in a release Friday. "In absence of this framework, advancing this project would not make any sense."



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO
Carlos Saenz and Michele Sakalian plant signs for a planned Pasco Fiasco rally that was supposed to take place next week at Sunlake High School. The rally, however, was indefinitely postponed after the Florida Department of Transportation killed the private elevated toll road proposal for the State Road 54/56 corridor.

That decision forced Pasco Fiasco to make one of its own, indefinitely postponing the planned rally, which was being funded from the pockets of its members. Even if the rally had gone forward, it would've been money well spent, Amerson said.

"We all are finding that with every dollar we spend, we're going to get a return of 10 times that in home value savings," Amerson said. "I'd rather spend \$200 now than \$40,000 to \$50,000 in home value losses later."

International Infrastructure Partners, or

IIP, first expressed an interest in building what would've been Florida's first private toll road in June 2013. It submitted a proposal to FDOT, which controls the rights of way along the State Road 54/56 corridor between Zephyrhills and New Port Richey, where it would build a 33-mile expressway similar to the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway in Tampa. Using private money, IIP would collect tolls from travelers to help pay for the cost. All they needed was FDOT to give up the rights of way along the corridor to make it happen.

Yet, throughout the process, FDOT made it clear they would not move forward without the blessing of Pasco County, although it didn't officially need it. County commissioners gave a blessing late last year to study the proposal more, but in February, Commissioner Henry Wilson came out against the project. He was joined in April by commission chair Jack Mariano.

However, this might not be the end for Pasco Fiasco.

"We're not high-fiving each other or doing our end zone victory dances just yet," Amerson said.

County administrator Michele Baker said even with the elevated toll road gone, something is going to have to be done with the corridor as more and more cars look to go east and west through southern Pasco.

"Pasco County will continue to engage the public and move forward with its analyses and studies in order to determine how to manage future congestion on the State Road 54/56 corridor," Baker said in a statement last week.

That means taking a close look at the long-range transportation plan, which is set for adoption in December.

Richard Connors, one of the founders of Pasco Fiasco, says that means there's more work ahead of them.

"It's a victory," he said. "But we still have a long way to go."

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Joel and his partner, Eric Robinson, have been working with Pasco and Hillsborough homeowners for more than 10 years. They know firsthand the problems lawns develop in this area and know how to treat these conditions so that lawns grow beautifully and become the envy of a neighborhood.

"Most homeowners start thinking about their lawn service in the spring. By May, it's critical you have a plan in place to ward off brown spots, chinch bugs, mole crickets and fungus," says Joel. "This is also a good time to make sure your irrigation system is working properly so you don't overwater during the summer rainy season."

Most lawn failures occur because the lawn service company does not pay attention to the big picture and is treating symptoms instead of providing a long-term solution.

"If a lawn has a problem, there's a reason why," says co-owner Eric.

"We are experts at finding that reason and developing a plan to correct the problem permanently."

"It's always easier and less expensive to prevent a problem than it is to cure it," adds Joel. "We save our customers money by being pro-active and taking action as soon as we can."

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Most of McGuire's customers live in middle income to affluent neighborhoods with deed restrictions and high levels of landscaping in Lutz, Land O' Lakes and Wesley Chapel.

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Area Odyssey of the Mind teams qualify for world competition

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

An Odyssey of the Mind team from Pine View Middle School will head to the OM World competition in Ames, Iowa, at the end of May.

Another OM team from Land O' Lakes High School also qualified for the international competition, but is not going because of the competition's timing. All of the members on that team are graduating seniors and are busy with senior year activities.

A total of six of the 57 Pasco County teams that competed at the state level qualified for the international contest. The other qualifying teams are Mitchell and Gulf high schools, Deer Park Elementary and Seven Springs Middle schools.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international program that encourages youths to work together as teams to use their creative and analytical skills to solve problems.

The Pine View team, which placed second in its division, tackled a problem called "Not So Haunted House."

The Pine View team — made up of Cameron Mitchell, Zachery Dahm, Tristan Wiles, Cody Schwartz, Caleb Leeb and Timmy Heuser — is psyched about competing at worlds. They'll battle 67 teams from such places as Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mexico, India, Russia and Great Britain.

Some team members think they have a pretty good shot for a good showing at worlds. Others aren't so sure. "It's not necessarily about if we're in the top or in the bottom. We made it to worlds. That says something," said Tristan Wiles, whose mother, Stacy Wiles, coaches the team.

Schwartz is looking forward to the experience, no matter how the team does.

"I get to meet people from around the world," he said.

When it came to solving the problem at state, the team had no trouble figuring out

their theme, Heuser said. But agreeing to the approach to use was more challenging.

"Everybody wanted to do their own thing, and then nobody understood what the other person was saying," Heuser said.

Leeb agreed, joking: "Success is 1 percent inspiration, 99 percent perspiration and 100 percent bickering."

But they worked through it, Stacy Wiles noted.

"It was not an easy process and that's what makes it so cool," the coach said.

It's a balancing act, Tristan Wiles said.

"We all have to come together to create a solution," Tristan Wiles said. "We all have to be one team, in order to solve the problem. That's the whole point of this. You need to learn how to work well with each other. You need to learn to listen to each other."

The coach has confidence in them because they are funny, creative, resourceful and kind, Stacy Wiles said.

Each team member brings different strengths. Mitchell and Dahm are good at tackling logistics and engineering. Tristan Wiles is artistic. Schwartz places a key role in writing the script. Heuser helps keep things rolling and does considerable backstage work.

The team must cover its own expenses for the trip, but Pine View's PTSA and Pasco County Schools both contributed \$1,000 each to help cover the costs, the coach said.

Although the Land O' Lakes team isn't traveling to worlds, team members — Rachel Granruth, Victoria Arriaga, Dalton Sihite, Blake Lash, Raelynn Lewis, Taylore Presta, and Jenny Huynh — are delighted that they qualified.

They used an out-of-this-world approach to tackling their challenge, which was called "Driver's Test." The vehicle they made traveled through space, in their imaginary world.

Their skit included alien beings that worshipped Beyoncé and channeled Justin



COURTESY OF JENNY HUYNH

This Odyssey of the Mind team from Land O' Lakes High School placed second at a state competition to qualify for the World OM competition, but they won't attend because of scheduling conflicts. Shown here, from left are Blake Lash, Raelynn Lewis, Jenny Huynh, Taylore Presta, Victoria Arriaga and Rachel Granruth. Dalton Sihite is kneeling on the ground in front of the group.

Bieber. They adapted songs from stage musicals such as "The Book of Mormon" and "Hairspray," and they incorporated solar flares and shooting stars in their story line.

In short, they had a blast coming up with ideas and executing them.

They also spent a lot of time working together to prepare for the state competition.

"You learn some practical skills. I know how to sew now," Sihite said.

"I know how to use power tools," Huynh said.

"Everyone is good at something," Arriaga said. "You build on each other's ideas."

Lewis thinks more students should get involved in OM.

"It's a really interesting mix of sciences and arts," she said.

Many members of the team have been doing OM for years, Lash said. He was even coached by Stacy Wiles when he attended Pine View.

Lash has been involved, he said, because it's fun. Other teammates agreed.

Andrew Southwick, the OM sponsor for the Land O' Lakes team, is a former OM competitor. He was impressed by the team's performance.

"Their personalities are a little bit intense," Southwick said, but they worked well together. "It's good to see that creativity isn't dead."

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Pepin Academies expands reach into Pasco County

By B.C. Manion
bcmation@lakerlutznews.com

Pepin Academies, an institution that educates students with learning disabilities, is accepting applications for its new charter school location in Pasco County.

The school, which will begin classes Aug. 18, serves students who have learning or learning-related disabilities.

The Pepin Academies Inc. of Pasco County has been receiving applications from all over Pasco County, and is open to students from outside Pasco County as well, if the parents receive the necessary "out-of-county" paperwork from the district where their child lives.

The school, which was founded in 1999, already has two locations in Hillsborough County — one on Hillsborough Avenue in Tampa, and the other in Riverview.

Principal Celeste Keller, an educator with decades of experience, will lead the school. She's been at Pepin for more than nine years, serving as director of the school's elementary school in Hillsborough, director of its transition school for 18-to-22 year-olds, and most recently, as director of student services.

The Pasco County School Board approved a 15-year charter contract with Pepin Academies, based on its nonprofit status, its track record in Hillsborough, and its intention to secure funding for a permanent building. If substantial progress isn't made to secure the funding for the school building, the school board could reduce the term of the charter to a maximum of five years, according to a board action taken Feb. 18.

Patty O' Brien of Zephyrhills said her daughter Paige, 14, has attended Pepin's school in Hillsborough, but will make the switch to the Pasco location.

"I'm looking forward to this for her because she's very excited about this new school," O'Brien said. "I'm very happy with Pepin."

O'Brien noted the school concentrates on what her daughter is able to do and builds on that. That wasn't true in St. Louis, where the family used to live, she added.

By acknowledging her daughter's strengths, the school has helped her daughter build a sense of self-confidence, O'Brien said, noting her daughter has many challenges. She's hearing impaired, has autism and has attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity.

The tuition-free charter school in Pasco initially will operate out of a leased space at 9750 Little Road in New Port Richey. That building has a maximum capacity for 325 students. The school will serve students in third through 10th grade. It will add additional years as it continues operations, but has no current plans to teach children younger than third grade.

The school does not provide transportation, but it will help parents arrange carpools.

In Hillsborough, the school works with Ozzie Saez with Kids Door to Door. Saez currently provides pick-up and drop-off services for some parents. There is a fee, and the family contacts Saez directly to set it up.

Students attending Pepin must have a learning disability which may include: Asperger syndrome, attention deficit disorder, attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity, educable mentally handicapped, pervasive development delay, or a medical condition that affects learning, such as Tourette syndrome.

Pepin offers students an opportunity to seek a standard or special diploma.

The school's philosophy focuses education not only on students' academic needs, but also on their social and emotional needs. Besides accepting student applications, it also is accepting for teaching and staff positions.

To find out more, check Pepin's website at PepinAcademies.com.

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Health insurance services

Premier Community HealthCare is offering outreach and enrollment services for those that need help with Access, Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Plan applications.

There will be an information table at the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, on Thursdays in May from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The information also is available at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, 3032 Collier Parkway, Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For information, call (352) 518-2000, ext. 9238.

Alzheimer's presentation

Nancy Parente of The Alzheimer's Association will present "The Basics of Alzheimer's" May 15 at 7 p.m., at Arden Courts, 14950 Casey Road in Tampa.

This is a free education seminar. Seating is limited, but reservations are required.

Care will be provided for loved ones during the session.

For information, call (813) 963-6100.

Communications deficits

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will host the Chatterboxes support group May 15 at 3 p.m.

The group is to assist individuals suffer-



COURTESY OF REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Asaro and D'Amario are volunteers of the year

Dominc Asaro and Collen D'Amario have been named the Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point's 2013 Volunteers of the Year. Asaro has more than 10 years of service and 12,750 hours of dedication. D'Amario joined the volunteers in 2009 and has more than 16,000 hours of service.

ing from communication deficits as a result of a cerebral vascular accident, or other neurological disorders.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

Huntington's disease

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is hosting a monthly support group for anyone whose life is affected by Huntington's disease.

The group meets the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is May 15.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

Proud to report more readers than ever before

By Diane Kortus

Publisher



About this time every year, I write a column about our annual circulation and readership audit. I use this audit to talk about the number of papers we print and deliver, and more importantly, how many people regularly read The Laker or Lutz News.

In the free newspaper industry, Circulation Verification Council has been verifying circulation and readership since 1992. Today it audits more than 2,000 publications with more than 55 million in circulation, including The Laker and Lutz News.

Well, it's audit time again, and our numbers are even better than they were a year ago. Our circulation has increased by 3.8 percent to 42,600, and our readership grew by 3 percent to give us 79 percent household penetration.

Most newspapers would be thrilled with 60 percent household penetration — a percentage most publishers have not seen since before the Internet explosion of news. For our papers to be at 79 percent household penetration is enviable, and one we're very proud to report.

To put our circulation growth in perspective, earlier this month most daily newspapers in Florida reported circulation drops by the auditing company they use. Close to home, the Tampa Bay Times reported its mid-week circulation was down 7 percent, while The Tampa Tribune showed no growth after accounting for the circulation gain of a weekly paper it bought in Clearwater April 2013.

As proud as we are about our audit and the gains we've made this past year, I realize you may think these numbers a bit

boastful and not really relevant to your life.

It probably doesn't matter to you whether we throw 10,000 papers or 50,000, just as long as your paper is thrown in your driveway or dropped at your newsstand every Wednesday. You get to decide each week if you want to take the time to read the stories and look at the ads from local businesses.

It's our job to make sure your paper has stories and information that are relevant and you find interesting to read. And it's our job to make sure you can count on your paper to be delivered every week so reading it becomes a habit.

In addition to circulation verification, the audit gives us demographical information about our readers, which we use to choose the stories we write.

We know that 57 percent of our readers are women, that 42 percent are between the ages of 35 and 54, and another 41 percent are over 55. Our readers are well educated (74 percent have attended or graduated from college) and affluent (30 percent have household incomes above \$100,000, and another 20 percent above \$75,000).

The audit also surveys readers and asks what types of stories they want to read. That's why we write a lot about growth and development, things to do and stories about people and organizations in our communities. We've worked hard this past year to bring you more stories about topics that interest you.

This year's audit is, as they say, proof in the pudding that we've improved. It's independent confirmation that we're doing a good job, and that the changes we've made in our news coverage this past year have resulted in increased readership.

And this is tremendously gratifying to my staff and I because we love what we do. Nothing is more emotionally satisfying than to know that our hard work is appreciated, and that we make a difference in the community where we work and live.

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Cub Scouts partner with Rasmussen College

Cub Scouts Pack 366 of Land O' Lakes planted a tree on the Rasmussen College campus in Land O' Lakes, dedicating it to the college's support for the Pack. Rasmussen has helped the Cubs increase their membership, and purchase shirts and supplies. The pack is open to boys in kindergarten through fifth grade, and meets on Wednesdays at Rasmussen. Joining in the tree planting with the Cubs are pack leaders Jim Karr and Joshua Taylor, along with campus director Steve Knobl.

Find more at online at www.facebook.com/LakerLutzNews
You'll find stories, things to do, specials, community photos and more.

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Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano, right, was recently recognized as a 'Patriotic Employer,' after he welcomed Hartz Hartzell, center, back to work after his third tour of combat duty with U.S. Army Reserve Unit, 320 Military Police Company. Hartzell, with office manager Kathy Reilly, left, has worked for the tax collector since 2011, but has been a soldier for 18 years.

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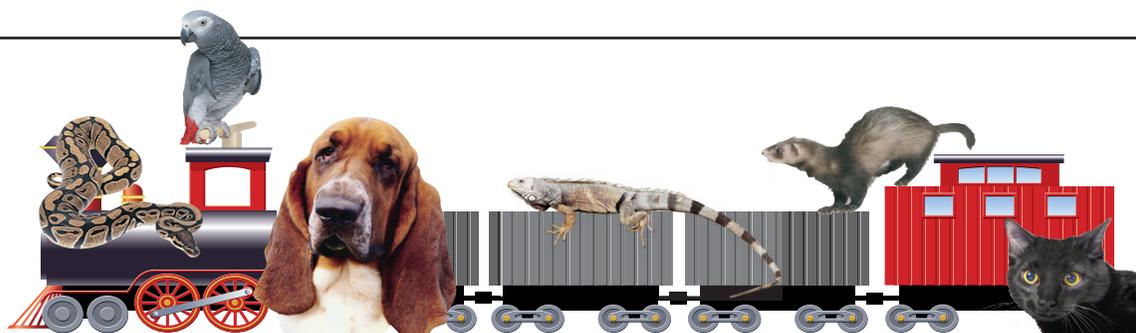
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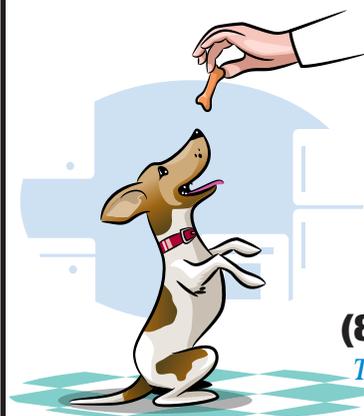


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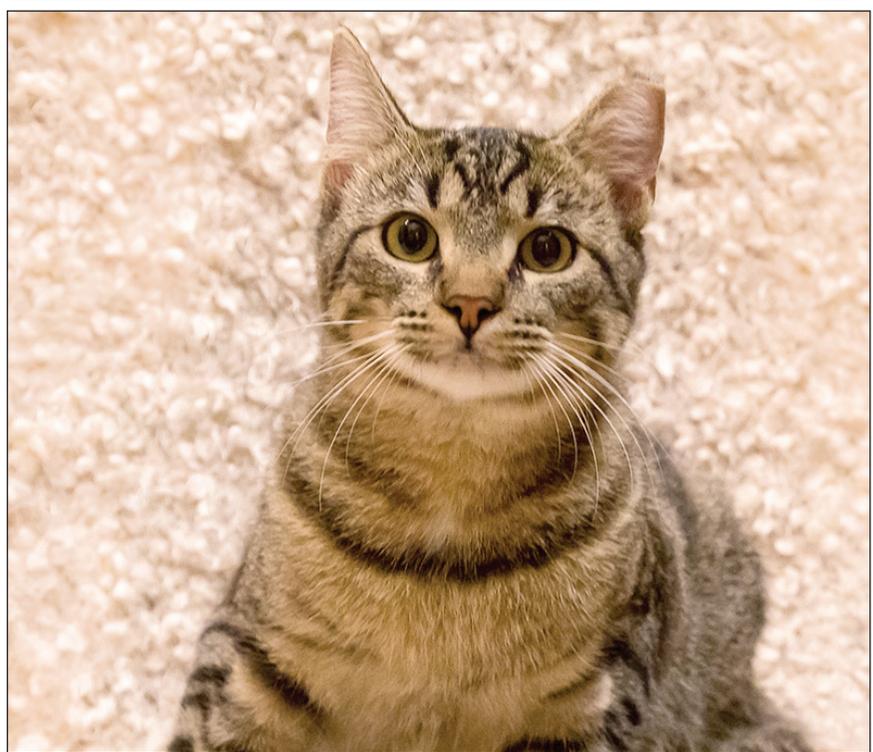
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HILLSBOROUGH SUMMER CAMPS

The Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department is offering a variety of summer camps for children ages 6 to 16, during a series of two-week camps from June 16 through Aug. 8. Camps are on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at various locations. Online registration is now open at HillsboroughCounty.org/SummerCamps.

MASONIC LODGE FISH FRY

J.F. Swartzel Masonic Lodge, 3109 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road in Lutz, will host its monthly fish fry May 16 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$10 for eat-in, and \$8 for carry-out.

GARDEN FEST AT CONNERTON

Connerton Assisted Living and Memory Care, 21021 Betel Palm Lane in Land O' Lakes, will host its Garden Fest May 15 at 2 p.m. There will be a release of 30 butterflies, cake, and flowers to beautify the garden in honor of loved ones. For information, email nina.irvine@hotmail.com.

MASS OF HEALING

St. James the Apostle Church Chapel, 8400 Monarch Drive in Port Richey, will host a Morning of Hope and Healing & Mass of Remembrance May 17 at 10 a.m., for those who have suffered a pregnancy loss due to miscarriage, stillbirth, early infant death, invitro loss or abortion. Participants will receive a flower to represent each loss. To register, call (813) 924-4173 or (727) 534-5729.

STEINBRENNER RELAY FOR LIFE

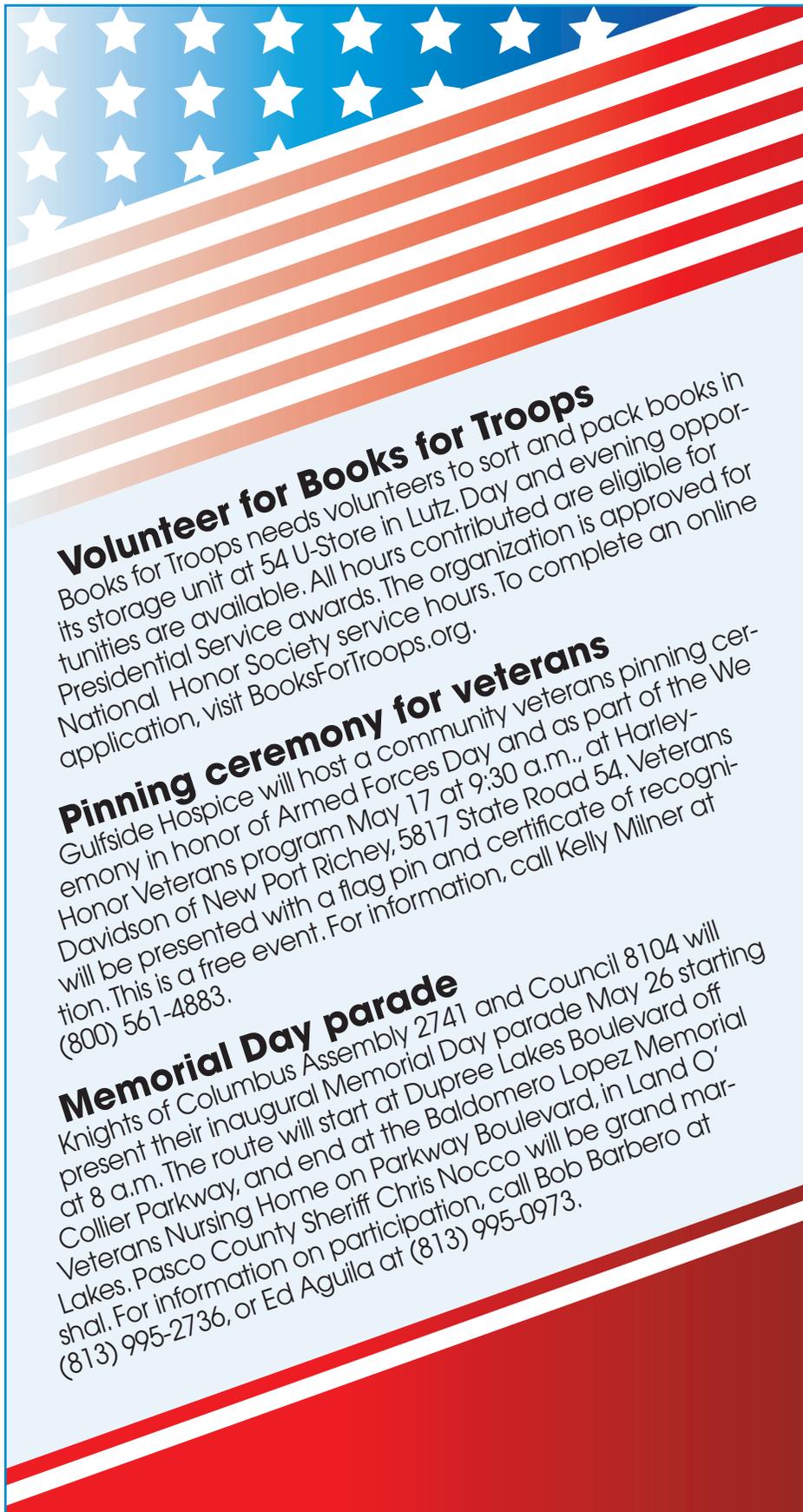
Steinbrenner High School, 5575 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road in Lutz, will host the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life May 17-18, beginning with opening ceremonies on the first day at 2 p.m. To form a team or to volunteer, email melody.bancroft@cancer.org. To register as a survivor or caregiver, call Lilly Fontanez at (813) 770-4354. For information, visit RelayForLife.org/lutzfl.

SEUSSICAL AUDITIONS

New Tampa Players is hosting auditions for "Seussical: The Musical" May 17 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., May 18 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and May 19 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at CrossPointe Church of the Nazarene, 919 Dubuel Road in Lutz. Performances are in August. For information and character descriptions, email production@newtampaplayers.org, or visit NewTampaPlayers.org.

THEATER AUDITIONS

Dreamhouse Theatre, a live theater in Wesley Chapel, will host auditions for its inaugural season May 20 at 7 p.m., at Bridgeway Church, 30660 Wells Road. Participants should prepare a one-minute monologue and 30 seconds of a song. Bring resume and head shot. For information, call Bryan D'Onofrio at (813) 997-7146, or email thedreamhousetheatre@gmail.com.



Volunteer for Books for Troops
Books for Troops needs volunteers to sort and pack books in its storage unit at 54 U-Store in Lutz. Day and evening opportunities are available. All hours contributed are eligible for Presidential Service awards. The organization is approved for National Honor Society service hours. To complete an online application, visit BooksForTroops.org.

Pinning ceremony for veterans
Gulfside Hospice will host a community veterans pinning ceremony in honor of Armed Forces Day and as part of the We Honor Veterans program May 17 at 9:30 a.m., at Harley-Davidson of New Port Richey, 5817 State Road 54. Veterans will be presented with a flag pin and certificate of recognition. This is a free event. For information, call Kelly Milner at (800) 561-4883.

Memorial Day parade
Knights of Columbus Assembly 2741 and Council 8104 will present their inaugural Memorial Day parade May 26 starting at 8 a.m. The route will start at Dupree Lakes Boulevard off Collier Parkway, and end at the Baldomero Lopez Memorial Veterans Nursing Home on Parkway Boulevard, in Land O' Lakes. Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco will be grand marshal. For information on participation, call Bob Barbero at (813) 995-2736, or Ed Aguila at (813) 995-0973.

'I CHOOSE' LIBRARY PRESENTATION

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, will host Suzin Carr as she shares her books "I Choose" and "I Choose Too!" with a message of empowerment May 20 at 6 p.m. The event is for ages 15 and older. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

DONATE TO LIBRARY FRIENDS

The Friends of the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, are looking for new members and gently used books. Books can be donated at the library Tuesday through Saturday. New member applications can be

filled out at the library. The group's next meeting is May 21 at 2:30 p.m. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

SWIFTMUD OPEN HOUSE

The Southwest Florida Water Management District is hosting an open house May 22 starting at 4 p.m., at Wesley Chapel High School, 30651 Wells Road, to gather information from residents living in the New River/Upper Hillsborough River watersheds. The goal is to improve identification of flood-prone areas. For information, call (352) 796-7211, ext. 4297, or visit WaterMatters.org/FloodRisk.

FREE SCRAPBOOK DAY

Myrtle Lake Baptist Church, 2017 Reigler Road in Land O' Lakes, will host a free scrapbook day May 24 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Participants are asked to bring their own supplies, lunch and snacks. Space is limited. For information, call Jo Anne Shaffer at (813) 996-1185, or Penny Benitez at (813) 323-1867.

GULFSIDE'S SPOTLIGHT ON PASCO

Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care will host its second annual Spotlight on Pasco May 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Gulf View Square, 9409 U.S. 19 in Port Richey. The event will promote safety for senior citizens, and will include self-defense demonstrations, an Elvis impersonator, door prizes, vendors and guest presenters. For information, call Scherei Hart at (727) 992-7449.

GOODWILL AND DINOSAURS

Donors who drop off clothing or household items at any Goodwill Industries-Suncoast donation site before May 31 will receive a coupon good for two free children's tickets to Dinosaur World, 5145 Harvey Tew Road in Plant City, with paid adult admissions, while supplies last. Coupons can be redeemed through July 31. For a list of donation sites, visit Goodwill-Suncoast.org.

BONSAI DEMONSTRATIONS

Eve's Garden Gifts, 5602 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes will host free bonsai tree demonstrations every Saturday in May from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants can learn to pot, trim and shape their bonsai tree. For information, call (813) 996-5012.

COBB'S FREE KIDS SHOWS

Grove 16 Cobb Theatres, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel will begin its free summer kids shows at 10 a.m., every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, starting with Turbo (PG) and Walking with Dinosaurs (PG) on June 17, 18 and 19. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Schools, groups and camps are welcome. Same day ticketing only. For information, call (813) 948-5444.

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.

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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Chalk Talk

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LOLCS STUDENTS SHINE AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

Three Land O' Lakes Christian School students received national honors at the 37th Annual American Association of Christian Schools National Competition at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, earlier this month.

Students representing nearly 200 Christian high schools competed in 77 categories in the basic areas of The Bible, music, speech, art and academics.

Local students recognized were:

- Vickie Frazier, senior, first place in oil painting
- Abigail Del Monte, senior, second place in Spanish academic testing
- Tommy Campbell, sophomore, second place in topical preaching

RYAN NECE FOUNDATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Ryan Nece Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2014 Power of Giving Student Service Program, designed to mentor the next generation of servant leaders in the community.

The program includes monthly meetings, community service projects, paying it for-

ward, an international service trip, and peer mentoring.

Applications are open to any student in Hillsborough or Pinellas counties currently completing his or her sophomore year of high school.

Deadline for application submission is May 16 at 5 p.m. Those selected for the program will be notified by May 26. The first meeting will be May 29.

For information and the online application, visit tinyurl.com/RyanNece.

FORMER LAKER EDITOR NETS TEACHING AWARD

Joe Humphrey, a 10-year teacher who advises Hillsborough High School's yearbook, newspaper, broadcast and online news programs, was named Morty Schaap Teacher of the Year at the Florida Scholastic Press Association's 2014 state convention in Orlando.

Humphrey completed two terms as president of FSPA last year, and currently serves as its evaluations/critique services coordinator.

Before becoming a high school teacher and adjunct professor at the University of Tampa, Humphrey was a reporter for the Florida Times-Union and The Tampa Tribune. He also was editor of Community News Publications, which included The Laker and Lutz News.

HOME-SCHOOLER HELPS 'MAKE CHANGE'

Maximus Karafilis, 9, from Land O' Lakes, participated in his first fundraiser May 3 at the Children's Gala at the Museum of Science & Industry, raising \$248.11.



COURTESY OF HAZEL ROBLES

Special delivery for special needs students

GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club member Hazel Robles hand-delivered Easter baskets to the autism class at Pizzo Elementary School in Tampa, and spent the day visiting with and reading to the children. The baskets were filled with items such as plastic eggs, bunnies, coloring books, markers, bubbles and art supplies provided by the woman's club.

Children were given piggy banks to "collect change to make a change," raising money to send 400 children to MOSI's summer camps.

Karafilis takes home-school classes at MOSI, and also attends a science class and a math club there.

CPA 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, awarded for a maximum of two semesters.

Applications must be postmarked by June 1.

For information, visit online at MyFloridaLicense.com/CPAScholarship.

WRHS PTSA MEETS

The Wiregrass Ranch High School PTSA will meet May 22 at 5:15 p.m., in the cafeteria, 2909 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

Senior night awards will follow the meeting in the gym at 6 p.m.

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New building signals bright future at Saint Leo University

By B.C. Manion

bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Imagine, if you will, a place where students learning how to become teachers could work with avatars, to simulate real-life teaching challenges.

Sound far-fetched and futuristic?

Well, that's exactly the scenario that will begin playing out when a new \$14 million academic building on the campus of Saint Leo University is completed.

The avatars are actually created by actors in a program developed by the University of Central Florida. The avatars are used to help prepare teachers for situations that may arise in classrooms, said Maribeth Durst, vice president of academic affairs at Saint Leo University.

It's a great way to practice dealing with situations in an entirely safe environment, Durst noted.

And, that's just one example of the new ways the university believes its new academic building will broaden opportunities for its students to prepare for their professional lives.

The university had a celebration May 2 to mark the official groundbreaking on the four-story, 48,000-square-foot building. It will have 16 classrooms and 24 faculty offices.



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Saint Leo University had a ceremony May 2 to mark the beginning of construction of a four-story building that will greatly expand the university's academic space.

The larger quarters will house liberal arts, education, criminal justice and social work classes, as well as graduate-level classes for continuing professional education. It was designed to foster greater opportunities for students to work together and mingle,

Durst said. For instance, instead of long, narrow corridors that tend to separate people, there are gathering spaces to bring them together.

Some highlights include an area to allow simulations of classroom situations and a

21st century classroom for kindergarten through 12th grade education students and others to use.

The fourth floor of the building will be a shell, initially, until there's a need to build it out.

Creative Contractors Inc., is constructing the structure, with an expected completion date of July 2015. Gould Evans of Tampa is the building's architect.

Beverly Frank, the project architect, said the design seeks to embody Saint Leo's core values of excellence, community, respect, personal development, responsible stewardship and integrity.

"The culture at Saint Leo is very inspirational," Frank said.

The entire design, from how the building was sited to its color palette, drew on the university's desire to create a welcoming environment, and to create a sense of connection. That connection applies both to people within the building and to the building's relationship with other places on campus.

The building uses energy-efficient systems and follows the standards of the U.S. Green Building Council, Frank said.

Saint Leo University is a regionally accredited, liberal arts institution at 33701 State Road 52 in St. Leo.

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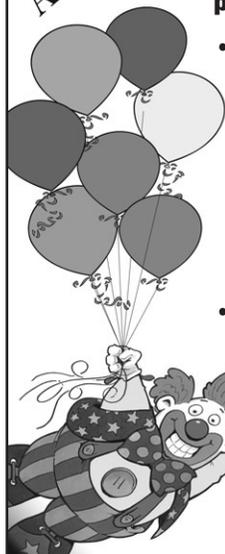
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AUTHOR, from page 1

were necessary to tell her brother's story of redemption. The only thing worse than re-visiting her childhood would be to leave his story untold, McEndree said.

Jim started the book himself, but was unable to continue, so McEndree promised him that she would finish it.

Last October, seven years after his death, "Remembering Jim" was released on WestBow Press.

McEndree recalls the close bond she shared with Jim, while they were growing up in New Hampshire, in frightening and degrading circumstances.

"We were buddies all through our lives, because we lived in a very dysfunctional and violent environment," she said.

As his life deteriorated, however, they grew apart.

After a football injury derailed a potential athletic future, he had trouble holding jobs and couldn't stay faithful in his marriages.

He abandoned his wife and children and ended up on the street, surviving on food from soup kitchens, and bathing in restaurant bathrooms, McEndree said.

When McEndree reached out to him, Jim was living in a halfway house. The brother she loved rebuffed her.

"What he said to me was, 'Nancy, you've got your life and I've got mine. Don't ever call me again. I'll never see you,'" she recalled.

Over time, he eventually found God and was able to reverse his life's fortunes, becoming a Pentecostal preacher.

McEndree had already survived her abusive past and became a devout Seventh-day Adventist. She did medical missionary work, wrote several books, and had a radio show with her longtime husband, Duane.

But she still missed her brother.

Then one day he reached out, with a desire to reconnect. But he also had some tragic news: He was dying from leukemia and he needed her help.

"I just found him and I'm going to lose him again," she thought when they spoke.

Jim moved in with McEndree and her husband, and the final years of his life were spent in a healthy family environment, prayer, and an ability to touch the lives of those he met in a positive way.

Jim also was able to reconnect with some of his children, and expressed a desire to put his story to paper.

While she was relieved to finish the book and is pleased with the result, her husband of 23 years was worried it was too taxing on her.

McEndree, 71, has her own health issues, and her husband didn't want her to jeopardize her health for the project.

"I know it was very traumatic for her," Duane McEndree said. "Nancy has heart problems, and several times during the writing process, she went into arrhythmia because of the trauma that she was going through. I was very concerned."

Still, the stress she endured writing "Remembering Jim" hasn't soured her on writing.

McEndree also has written a series of chil-

dren's books, and she's currently working on another book dealing with the world's problems and offering solutions to them.

Her work is done lounging in a recliner located in a room with plenty of sunlight, and their house is on property that also includes the home of some of her children and grandchildren.

McEndree's writing sessions can last several hours, and usually produce several handwritten pages that Duane puts into their computer.

Now that the book has been released, McEndree is excited about the opportunity to help others with a positive message. Regardless of someone's upbringing or how far they've fallen, she believes her brother's story proves it's never too late to put their life on a better path.

"This is a 'victory in Jesus' book," she said. "I believe this book is going to touch the hearts of many people that need to hear that there's hope and that God loves them."

"Remembering Jim" is available at tinyurl.com/RememberingJim.

TRAFFIC, from page 1

crease significantly on it.

"That is going to be their only access point," Baker said during the development review meeting.

When the road does require repaving, Silver Lakes residents would have to carry the cost burden and not the new community, she added.

Southern Crafted already would be responsible for upgrading roads at no cost to the existing residents, so they would pay their fair share, assistant county attorney David Goldstein said.

The development is "paying to bring the entire road" up to standards, he said. Silver Lakes residents are "getting a new road basically for free from these people, so why

should they have to pay more in the future when they are paying to upgrade it now?"

How that would be resolved will have to wait until the next step in the review process, however. Baker and the rest of her development review committee agreed to pass that issue to the construction plan review committee, which would consider the proposal if the county commission approves rezoning to allow the new community.

Smith, who attended the meeting, said she'll be back to address her traffic concerns again.

"The community has a right to safety and transportation in and out, otherwise none of this would be a big deal," Smith said. "Everyone has the right to build, but we also have a right to come and go safely."

ART, from page 1

for the next year.

Nichols, who is a senior at Land O' Lakes High, is pleased by the recognition, and excited about getting to see Washington. When he began drawing the portrait, however, he had another goal in mind.

"I really wanted to give my coach something as a gift, something he could have to remind him of me," said Nichols, who, along with his twin brother Travis, has been on Keppel's track team for four years and his cross-country team almost as long.

The coach also is a neighbor of the Nichols, and a family friend.

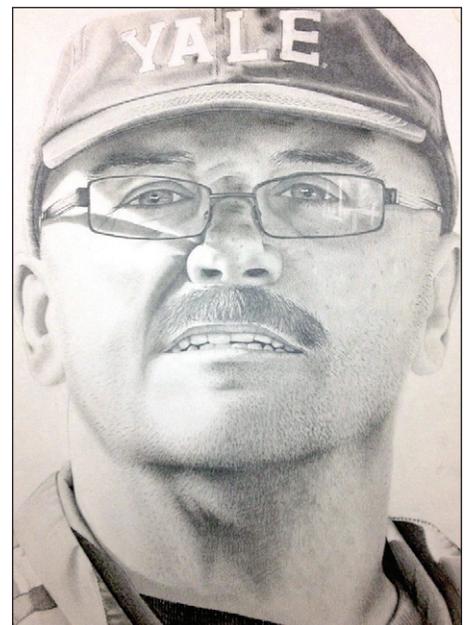
The gesture is particularly poignant because Keppel has been battling pancreatic cancer, a fact that has inspired athletes and friends to rally behind him.

"After everything he's been going through with the cancer, I thought it was something I should do," said Nichols, who based his portrait on a photograph that his mom took at the state track meet in Tallahassee.

Nichols credits his art teacher, Cynthia Smith, for helping him develop his ideas and pushing him to keep him on track.

Keppel was flattered by the portrait and impressed by the amount of detail. He said it's not the first time that Nichols has used his artistic talents on behalf of others, noting the youth has designed two T-shirts used by the team.

Keppel is recovering from a surgery known as the Whipple procedure, which involved cutting into his stomach, taking out his gallbladder, and removing about one-



COURTESY OF U.S. REP. GUS BILIRAKIS

Trevor Nichols won Best of Show in Gus Bilirakis' Congressional Art Competition for this pencil drawing of Land O' Lakes High School coach Kris Keppel.

third of his pancreas.

He knows the survival statistics are grim for patients with pancreatic cancer, but he's keeping an optimistic attitude.

"Remaining positive is the most important thing," Keppel said.

Nichols is the son of Lynn and Penny Nichols. He plans to attend the University of South Florida and pursue a degree in architecture.



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HUD gives \$225,000 for Pasco public housing

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Pasco County was awarded \$225,000 in March by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to make large-scale improvements to its public housing units.

The money is part of a \$48.4 million award to Florida, and \$1.8 billion nationwide through HUD's Capital Fund Program, which provides annual funding to approximately 3,100 public housing authorities to build, repair, renovate and modernize public housing in their communities.

Those housing authorities, according to a release, use the funding to do large-scale improvements such as replacing roofs or make energy-efficient upgrades to replace old plumbing and electrical systems.

"This funding is critically important to public housing agencies as they work to provide the best housing possible for their

residents," HUD secretary Shaun Donovan said in a release.

"While the funding we announce today will never be enough to meet the tremendous backlog of capital needs, HUD will be working closely with Congress to expand efforts to generate approximately \$6 billion in private investment for the recapitalization of public housing."

The nation loses 10,000 public housing units each year, primarily due to disrepair. A 2011 study estimated that 1.1 million public housing stock in the United States are facing an estimated \$25.6 billion in large-scale repairs.

Unlike routine maintenance, capital needs are extensive improvements required to make housing decent and economically sustainable, according to a release, such as replacing roofs or updating plumbing and electrical systems to increase energy efficiency.



COURTESY OF PAT SERIO

A little elbow grease and soap

Members of the GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club showed up wielding mops, brooms, hoses and cleaning supplies to assist the Friends of Old Lutz School with a heavy-duty spring cleaning. The women felt it was time to give back for the privilege of using this historic building and grounds for their annual flea market. Among those participating in the cleanup were, from left, Donna Losch, Lucy Kraemer, Lois Cohen, Marcy Edmondson, Jo Anne Mason, Kay Taylor, Janet Hard and Amy Pressel.

Show us what you've got!

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Send high quality photos to news@lakerlutznews.com

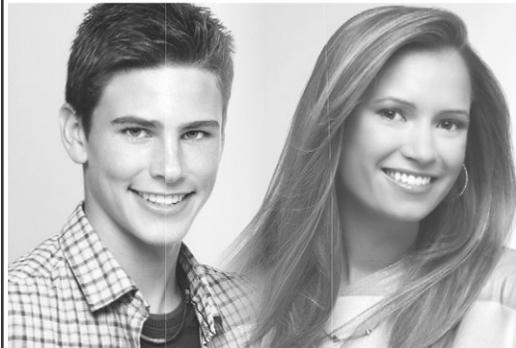
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Guv'na hopefuls kick off campaigns at annual 'debate'

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

The candidates to become the next Lutz Guv'na are all a bunch of sellouts.

At the annual Guv'na debate May 10 at the Old Lutz School, the five hopefuls for the ceremonial title were doing whatever they could to raise cash: Selling cookies, brownies and even specialty popcorn. They had raffles and drawings. They even announced yard sales and other fundraisers scheduled for the next couple months.

But unlike a traditional political campaign, the money raised doesn't go toward buttons, bumper stickers or negative attack ads. It goes to local schools, civic organizations and other groups that benefit from the Lutz Guv'na event, which names the winner solely by how much money they raise for charity. Last year the candidates as a group raised nearly \$12,000, most of that coming from the winner and current Guv'na, Suzin Carr.

The debate was an opportunity for the candidates to kick off their campaigns with smiles, handshakes and outrageous promises if "elected" to office. One vowed to rid the area of pesky mosquitoes. Another promised a five-day weekend. And they participated in contests to show their ability to handle the



MICHAEL MURILLO/STAFF PHOTOS

The candidates to become the next Lutz Guv'na sat at a table together and addressed a crowd of supporters at the Old Lutz School May 10. The winner, determined by who raises the most money for charity over the next couple of months, will be announced July 4.

job, such as watermelon eating and knitting. If it all sounds a little strange, Carr said that's exactly how it's supposed to be.

"It's a silly, community spirit, wonderful thing for Lutz," she said. "It's supposed to be tacky. It's supposed to be off-the-cuff crazy."

Having a campaign for an honorary title is the kind of event that keeps Lutz's small-town appeal intact. The fact that the money goes directly to organizations that need it

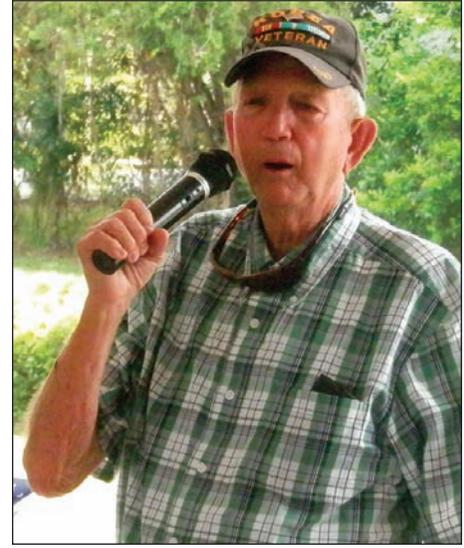
makes the Lutz Guv'na race a positive force in the community, Carr explained. Scout troops, the Civil Air Patrol, Friends of the Library and the Old Lutz School itself are just some of the groups who will benefit from the money candidates raise.

This year's crop of candidates seemed eager to kick off their campaigns. Liane Caruso is the founder and chief marketing officer of Limelight Marketing. She has a strong knowledge of social media and a love of tacos going for her.

Susan Gulash is the owner and creative force behind Gulash Graphics. She couldn't attend the debate, but was well represented with her team both at the booth and the podium.

"Papa" Jay Muffly was the longtime president of the Lutz Volunteer Fire Association. He's the choice of the Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club, and had plenty of supporters in attendance.

Dr. Cindy Perkins is the owner of the Back in Health Wellness Center. She came to the debate armed with cupcakes for sale



Lester 'Boddie' Osteen, a Lutz resident since 1936, took a few moments to share his memories of the area and its history with the crowd. 'You're privileged to live in this community,' he said.

and a pink tutu to wear while on the panel.

Jerome Smalls is the director of operations at Soccer Gemz, a sports program for younger children. His program is so positive-oriented that when asked to showcase his "mean coach" voice, he only shouted encouragement.

Carr, the only two-time Lutz Guv'na, loves wearing the sash that designates her as current title-holder. But she knows her term will come to an end soon, and she has some advice for those who want her job: Enjoy the race, and the title that might come with it.

"Have fun. Put yourself out there," she said. "For me, when I ran, it wasn't as Suzin Carr. I was in a character. The Guv'na to me is a character."

"Nobody believes that at home I'm really a private person. But when I'm in the public eye like this, you just go with it."



Unlike most political debates, the Lutz Guv'na hopefuls had to demonstrate their knitting skills at the event.

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Carroll repeats as state pole vault champ

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

When you're an athlete in your junior year of high school, there are few titles better than "state champion."

But "two-time state champion" is one of them.

Land O' Lakes resident Nikki Carroll earned that designation by claiming her second straight Class 2A pole vaulting title earlier this month at the state meet, on the University of North Florida campus in Jacksonville. She cleared an even 12 feet to best her closest competition by six inches.

"It feels amazing doing it twice," Carroll said. "I really wanted to win it again and I knew that a lot of people were expecting me to win. It was definitely my goal to win again and to jump 12 feet."

That mark — a full foot better than last year's winning height — not only gave the Tampa Catholic High School junior a second state title, but a new personal best as well.

While it was the perfect ending to another year of track and field for Carroll, it didn't happen under perfect circumstances. Pole vaulting, is the kind of competition where the weather can make or break an athlete's day. Since participants are using a long pole to propel themselves above and beyond a set bar, anything that makes it harder to run, set and grip can mean the end of the competition.

So when it was raining on the day of the meet, and didn't stop when she had to perform, Carroll had every right to be concerned. But her coach told her that holding the pole lower makes it less likely that an athlete will slip, and Carroll naturally has a lower grip than many pole vaulters.

While it wouldn't help in good weather, she said the lower grip might have helped succeed in the rain.

But Carroll had to overcome her own miscues as well, and the pressure that came with them. A pole vaulter has three chances



COURTESY OF CAROL CARROLL

Land O' Lakes resident Nikki Carroll won her second state pole vault title as a junior by clearing 12 feet — her personal best. She's already eyeing a shot at a third title next year.

to clear each height. After the third miss, they're out of the competition — and, in this case, the running for the state title.

Twice in Jacksonville, Carroll found herself down to her last try.

"I was on my third attempt at 10 feet, 6 inches and at 11 feet, so that definitely freaked me out a little bit because I was almost out," she said.

But Carroll was able to stay focused,

keep her grip and clear the hurdle both times to stay alive in the competition and eventually claim the title.

Successfully clearing a certain height and being successful at pole vaulting in general is harder than it looks, Carroll said. On television, such as during the Olympic Games, the athletes make it look easy. But it takes a lot of training and practice to get it right.

As a state champion, Carroll definitely puts in the time to be the best. She does gymnastics every day (a sport she's been doing for several years) except Sundays, and said the skills she hones at those practices are a natural fit with pole vaulting.

But Sundays aren't a day of rest. She travels across the state to Melbourne, where she practices at Pole Vault City to stay prepared for the actual competitions.

Bobby Haeck, co-owner and head instructor of Pole Vault City, said Carroll's skills give her an immediate advantage over the competition.

"It's speed and tremendous gymnastics," he said. "If you put those two things together, you get a really good pole vaulter."

Height also can be important for an athlete, he said. While Carroll isn't tall, her quickness and ability to clear the bar more than compensates for a lack of height.

Haeck, who has trained pole vaulters for nearly 15 years, was there to see Carroll defend her title, and he was impressed with her ability to succeed in the rain and convert her third attempts. He believes she has a bright future continuing the sport in college.

Carroll said she'd like to continue pole vaulting after she graduates high school, and will pursue a pre-med course load in college in order to become a doctor. But before any of that happens, she still has her senior year ahead of her. And that means another chance to defend her title.

"Not a lot of people can win it back-to-back, and then even less can win it three times," she said. "I'm definitely going to go for three."

CHECK THIS OUT

SEND SPORTS NEWS TO MMURILLO@LAKEKUTZNEWS.COM

Summer camps at Lake Jovita

Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club, 12900 Lake Jovita Blvd., in Dade City, will host three camps this summer.

Two general summer camps will include golf, tennis and swimming, and one will be golf-specific that focuses on rules, swing techniques and sportsmanship.

The general summer camps will be June 24-27 and July 22-25, and the golf-specific camp will be Aug. 12-15.

Each camp costs \$300 per attendee.

For information, call (352) 588-9200, or e-mail rweber@lakejovita.com.

Senior Sports looking for participants

Senior Sports is looking for interested tennis, volleyball, golf and bowling players who live in Pasco County.

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

Wharton 5k/fun run May 17

Wharton High School's Navy Junior ROTC and cross-country teams will sponsor a 5-kilometer and a one-mile fun run May 17 at the high school's track, 20150 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in Tampa.

The event begins at 8:30 a.m., and is open to males and females of all ages, including children.

For information, visit Active.com and search for "Wharton run."

GTBFC soccer tryouts start May 19

Greater Tampa Bay Football Club will host its annual competitive soccer tryouts May 19-20 for Under-8 through Under-12 players, and May 27-31 for all players.

The club is expanding to 24 teams, and tryouts will be at the fields at 3032 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

There is no cost to try out, but interested players should register at GTBFC.com.

For information, call (813) 466-4326, or e-mail execdirector@gtbfc.com.

PFRCW golf outing June 8

The Pasco Federated Republican Women's Club will host its inaugural golf outing on June 8 at The Groves Golf & Country Club, 7924 Melogold Circle in Land O' Lakes.

The group will donate half of the event's profits to the Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay.

The golf outing begins with a shotgun scramble at 9:30 a.m. There also will be a putting contest, drawings and prizes.

For information, call Fran Scerbo at (727) 597-3727, or email her at fmscerbo@yahoo.com; or call Meg Merritt at (813) 428-6541, or email her at megmerritt3@gmail.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.

Cheer clinic at Sunlake

The state champion Sunlake High School cheerleading team will host a Little Seahawk Cheer Clinic over four days in July. The event is targeted toward students of Oakstead, Lake Myrtle, Denham Oaks, Odessa and Rushe middle schools.

The clinic will be July 21-23 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$25 per student and includes a T-shirt and an opportunity to cheer with the varsity team at a game.

For information, email coach Penny Garcia at pgarcia@pasco.k12.fl.us.

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.

New date for Zephyrhills Scramble

The ninth annual Zephyrhills Scramble has been moved to May 16 at 1 p.m.

It will still be at the Silverado Golf & Country Club, 36841 Clubhouse Drive in Zephyrhills.

The event benefits programs such as Z-Kids and Student Citizen of the Month. The cost is \$100 per golfer, or \$500 for a corpo-

rate team.

Player registration runs through May 15.

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

Volleyball camps in June and July

Gaither High School, 16200 N. Dale Mabry Highway, will host volleyball camps twice weekly this summer.

The middle school camp runs from June 9 through July 16 on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the high school camp will run from June 10 through July 17 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All camp sessions will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The cost is \$75 per person.

For information, call (813) 975-7340, or email tim.boylan@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

Steinbrenner golf tourney May 17

The Steinbrenner High School football team will have 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.

Senior Slo Pitch registration

The Slo Pitch Softball League, geared toward players older than 60, hosts 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.

POLITICAL AGENDA

SEND POLITICAL NEWS TO MHINMAN@LAKERLUTZNEWS.COM

BURGESS QUALIFIES FOR PRIMARY, EARNS ENDORSEMENT

Republican state House candidate Danny Burgess has officially qualified for the upcoming House District 38 primary after his campaign collected enough signatures through the petition process.

The qualifying came just days before Burgess received an endorsement from the man he's trying to replace in Tallahassee, state Rep. Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel.

"From serving as the mayor of Zephyrhills to serving in the U.S. Army Reserve, Danny has a distinguished record of public service," Weatherford said, in a statement. "Danny possesses the courage of his conservative convictions coupled with a temperament that enables him to work and find common ground."

Burgess faces Minnie Diaz in the Republican primary in August, with the winner set to face Democrat Beverly Ledbetter in November, assuming no one else files to run.

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES QUALIFY

U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, is officially defending his Congressional seat against former television reporter Alan Cohn after both wrote checks to qualify for the November election.

Both candidates chose to spend a little more than \$10,000 each from their campaign coffers to qualify, instead of collecting signatures like U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Palm Harbor. Bilirakis will return to Congress un-

opposed after collecting the needed 2,298 signatures to qualify.

Ross has raised \$718,000 for his re-election campaign through the end of March, while Cohn has collected \$160,000.

ALTMAN SEEKS THIRD TERM ON SCHOOL BOARD

The District 1 seat for the Pasco County School Board finally has a candidate ... and it's the incumbent, Allen Altman.

Altman, whose district includes primarily schools in eastern Pasco County — including Zephyrhills, Wesley Chapel and Pasco high schools — made his re-election campaign official Wednesday.

Three school board seats are up for grabs this election cycle, with Cynthia Armstrong the lone candidate for her District 3 seat, and Marc Yacht challenging Steve Luikart for his district on the west side of the county.

Altman ran unopposed four years ago, raising \$22,000. He originally won the seat in 2006, beating Cathi Compton and Willie Broner Jr., out-raising both \$112,000 to \$36,000.

Altman is an agent with Pasco County Farm Bureau Insurance, which maintains a local office at U.S. 301 in Dade City.

Candidates have until June 20 to qualify.

REPUBLICAN BRUNCH IN TRINITY

The West Pasco Republican Club will host a candidate brunch May 17 beginning at 10 a.m., at Heritage Springs Country Club, 11345 Robert Trent Jones Parkway in Trinity.

The event will include Republican candidates seeking office in the upcoming election cycle. Cost is \$15. To RSVP, call Anne Corona at (727) 514-1120.

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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 Do we have fluoridated water in Florida? How much is in the water?

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MARSHALLS GRAND OPENING SET FOR MAY 15

Marshalls is set to open its newest store in Land O' Lakes May 15 at the Village Lakes Shopping Center. The 24,000-square-foot store will be one of more than 900 in 43 states and Puerto Rico. The first day, which runs from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., will include giveaways and gift card prizes, according to a release.

The regular hours for the store will run Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. It will bring approximately 60 full- and part-time jobs to the area, as well as more than 10,000 new items added to the inventory weekly. Marshalls also is planning to donate \$5,000 to Feeding America Tampa Bay as part of its opening festivities during a ribbon cutting May 15 at 7:30 a.m.

RPE WINS SOFTWARE AWARD

Retail Process Engineering, a Land O' Lakes-based retail consulting firm, has received the Global Alliance Leadership Award from JDA Software for the fourth year in a row.

Companies like RPE who use JDA services are eligible for the award. The company received the award at the annual JDA Focus global conference recently in Las Vegas.

RPE moved to Pasco County last year, bringing 16 jobs with an average annual salary of \$105,000 with it. The company is located in the Offices of Devonwood, located just off State Road 54 west of Land O' Lakes Boulevard.

SAINT LEO FINDS VP OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Eric Weekes has been appointed vice president of business affairs at Saint Leo University.

Weekes comes from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he was senior executive vice president and chief financial officer. At Saint Leo, Weekes will be responsible for all financial and operational areas of the university, human resources, leadership development, construction and auxiliary services, management, legal services, and information technology.



Eric Weekes

Weekes hold an MBA in finance from New York University, and a bachelor's degree in business management from New York Institute of Technology.

HILLSBOROUGH HIRES NEW COMMUNICATIONS CHIEF

Liana Lopez has been hired as the new chief communications administrator for Hillsborough County.

In her new job, Lopez will integrate communications, community affairs and customer service areas. The hiring requires approval by the Hillsborough County Commission, but once it happens, her salary will be \$165,000, according to a release.

Lopez most recently serves as director of communications for Visit Tampa Bay. Before that, she spent eight years as director of public affairs for Tampa mayor Pam Iorio.

LITTLE GREEK RESTAURANT GETS MICROLOAN

Ervin Dhima became the 12th recipient of Pasco Economic Development Council's microloan program for his franchise of the Little Greek Restaurant. Located in Mitchell Ranch Plaza in

Trinity, Dhima says his restaurant has been "very busy since we opened."

The microloan fund was established to help local entrepreneurs who cannot obtain traditional financing to grow their business and create jobs. Borrowers have to show they have the experience and resources to be successful business operators. Proceeds can be used for working capital, inventory, supplies, furniture, fixtures, and machinery and equipment. However, it cannot be used to purchase real estate or pay down existing debt.

Dhima joined Little Greek Restaurant in 2008, and helped the company open franchises in Texas and Florida. His new franchise employs nine people.

For information on the microloan program, visit PascoEDC.com, or call (813) 926-0827.

FAMILIES FED, THANKS TO FIFTH THIRD

Fifth Third Bank recently wrapped up its month-long Feeding Families campaign, collecting more than 242 barrels of food.

A little less than half of them were donated to Metropolitan Ministries, which helps hungry children and families in the four-county Tampa Bay region, and another 125 barrels were donated to the Agape Food Bank in Lakeland.

The items were collected throughout April at all 48 Fifth Third locations in Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas and Polk counties.

More than 50 Fifth Third employees and their families volunteered, sorting food items, preparing meals, serving residents, and cleaning rooms at the new Emergency Care Center at Metropolitan Ministries in downtown Tampa.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORKING SEEKS MEMBERS

The Catholic Business Networking group is looking for Catholic business owners, employees and supporters interested in joining it for regular meetings every Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 2348 Collier Parkway, Land O' Lakes.

The group has annual dues of \$50, and there is a minimum attendance requirement of two meetings per month.

For information, call (813) 842-7064, or visit CBNTampa.com.

BUSINESS LINK AVAILABLE MONTHLY

Business Link, a monthly small business gathering hosted by the San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union, meets the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The meeting is designed to provide a networking and information-sharing platform for the business community.

For locations, details and to reserve a seat, email rgaddis@sacfcu.org, or call (352) 588-2732, ext. 1237.

EAST PASCO NETWORKING GROUP

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

Upcoming speakers include:

- Mike Moore, Pasco County Commission candidate, May 27.

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.

For information, visit online at MyFloridaLicense.com/CPAScholarship.

Girl Power found at local hair salon

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

It's still a pretty new program, but one local business didn't waste any time taking part in the Junior League of Tampa's Girl Power project.

J. Joseph Salon & Spa on Land O' Lakes Blvd., recently provided beauty tips and did makeovers on 15 girls from Joshua House. The team there volunteered their time and services not only providing new hair styles, but also provided tips on how to take care of their hair, skin and nails, as well as personal hygiene.

J. Joseph provided a relaxed event to give the girls an opportunity to be pampered and feel good about themselves, according to a release. The salon's goal was to help the girls realize their potential, and the opportunities available to them in the beauty industry.

Each girl received a gift bag containing hair products from Pureology, as well as personal dental hygiene products donated by Bernier Dental of Land O' Lakes.

The goal of the Girl Power project is to promote literacy, scholarship, nutrition and positive self-image to young women in foster care.

Joshua House is part of Children's Home Society of Florida, which provides a home for children who need it. The Gulf Coast region of the organization, which includes the Lutz-based Joshua House, helps more than 1,500 children and families, according to the group's website.

For information on how to contribute to the organization, visit CHSFL.org.

J. Joseph Salon & Spa is located at 5132 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Suite 103, in Land O' Lakes.



COURTESY OF LINDA BOYINGTON

Rosetta Bell, left, and Jeremy Bisano, right, give a young girl from Joshua House a makeover during a Girl Power event at J. Joseph Salon & Spa in Land O' Lakes. Looking on are Brittani Hales, and in the background, Roy Naccour and Julia Solkin.



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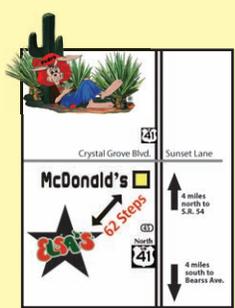
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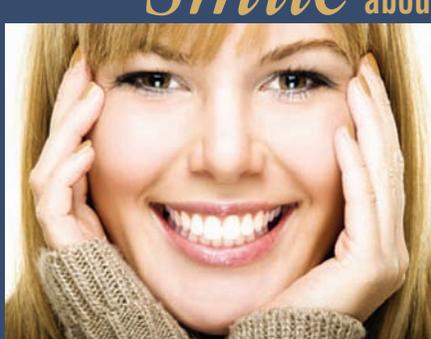
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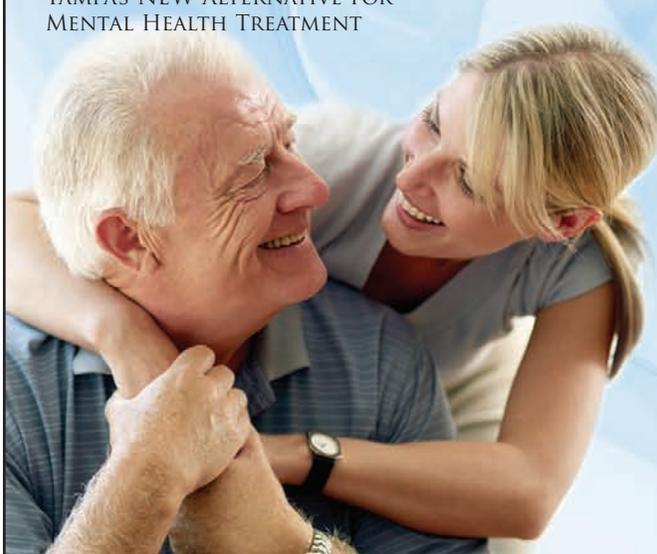
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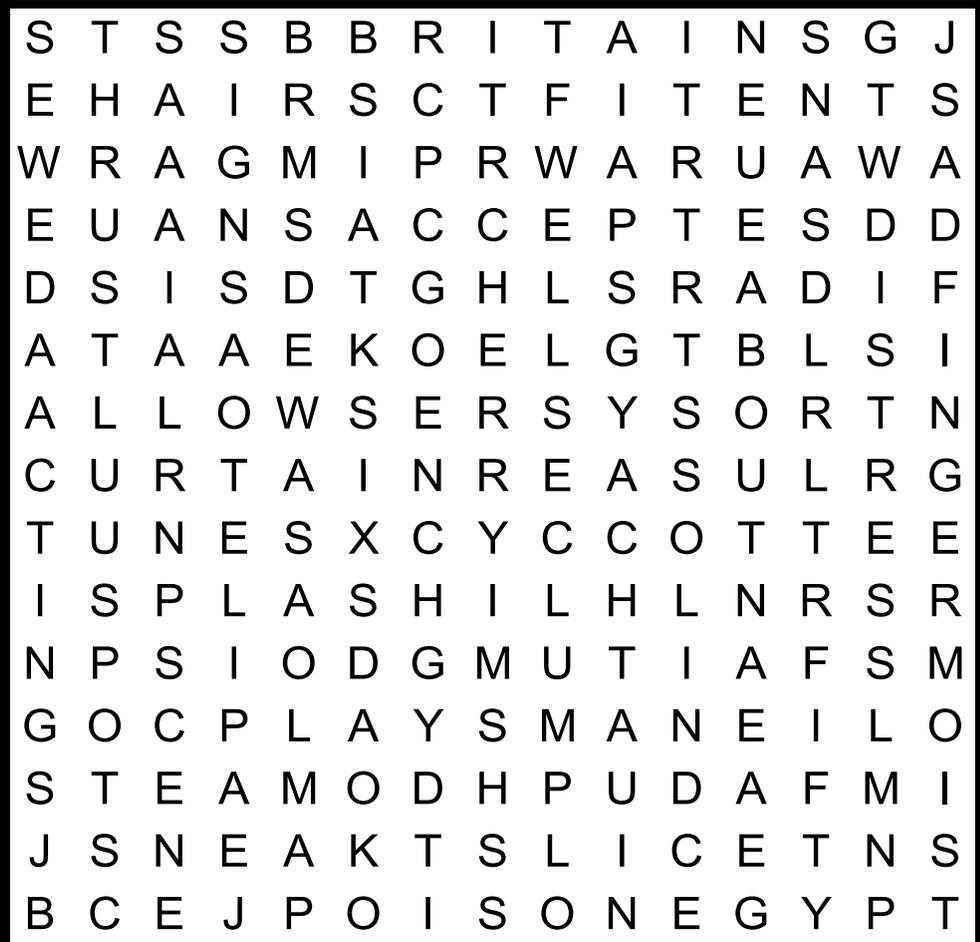
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I started my ad in The Best in Small Business Directory this past October. Not only have my calls doubled, but lately, it seems like EVERY call I get comes from my ad in The Laker & Lutz News! Don't change a thing!

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Owner, Kasten Handyman
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The LAKER / Lutz NEWS

Community News Publications

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1.6 MILES NORTH OF STATE ROAD 54

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The LAKER / Lutz NEWS
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Yard Sales

GARAGE / YARD SALES

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE
Friday & Saturday, May 16 & 17
3565 Universal Plaza, New Port Richey,
FL 34652, Moog Rd & US 19

SALE! 5/17, 8AM-2PM, off SR54 E of 41,
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Furniture, Temperpedic Bed, Misc, & more



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3 lines of text, with 35 characters and spaces per line, FOR FREE*!

Call Rachel at 813.909.2800

Ask about discounts for community garage sales & display ads!

Local Employment

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IN HOME CAREGIVERS NEEDED

for developmentally disabled children & adults

- No certification necessary
- 1-2 years experience preferred
- Immediate employment opportunities
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exceptionalcareoftampa@gmail.com

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20+ years experience. Former employee of The Laker/Lutz News.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE

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773.565.7242
metahargrett@yahoo.com

Receptionist Wanted

Are you a positive, happy person who likes people? Good at multi-asking? Want to work close to home in a caring, family-owned business?

Cornerstone A/C & Plumbing needs a full-time receptionist who also assists with customer service. Excellent phone and clerical skills are required. Experience in an office setting is a plus.



Call Dana at 949-4445

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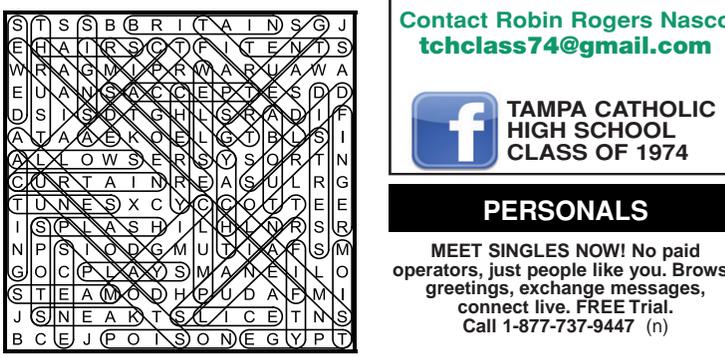
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



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As your loving, trustful child I ask this favor...Obtain for me as well, a pure heart, that my entire life may give glory to God.

Amen.

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M.J.B. & M.D.B.

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Contact Kimberly Stinson **727-822-7212 • kstinson1@tampabay.rr.com**

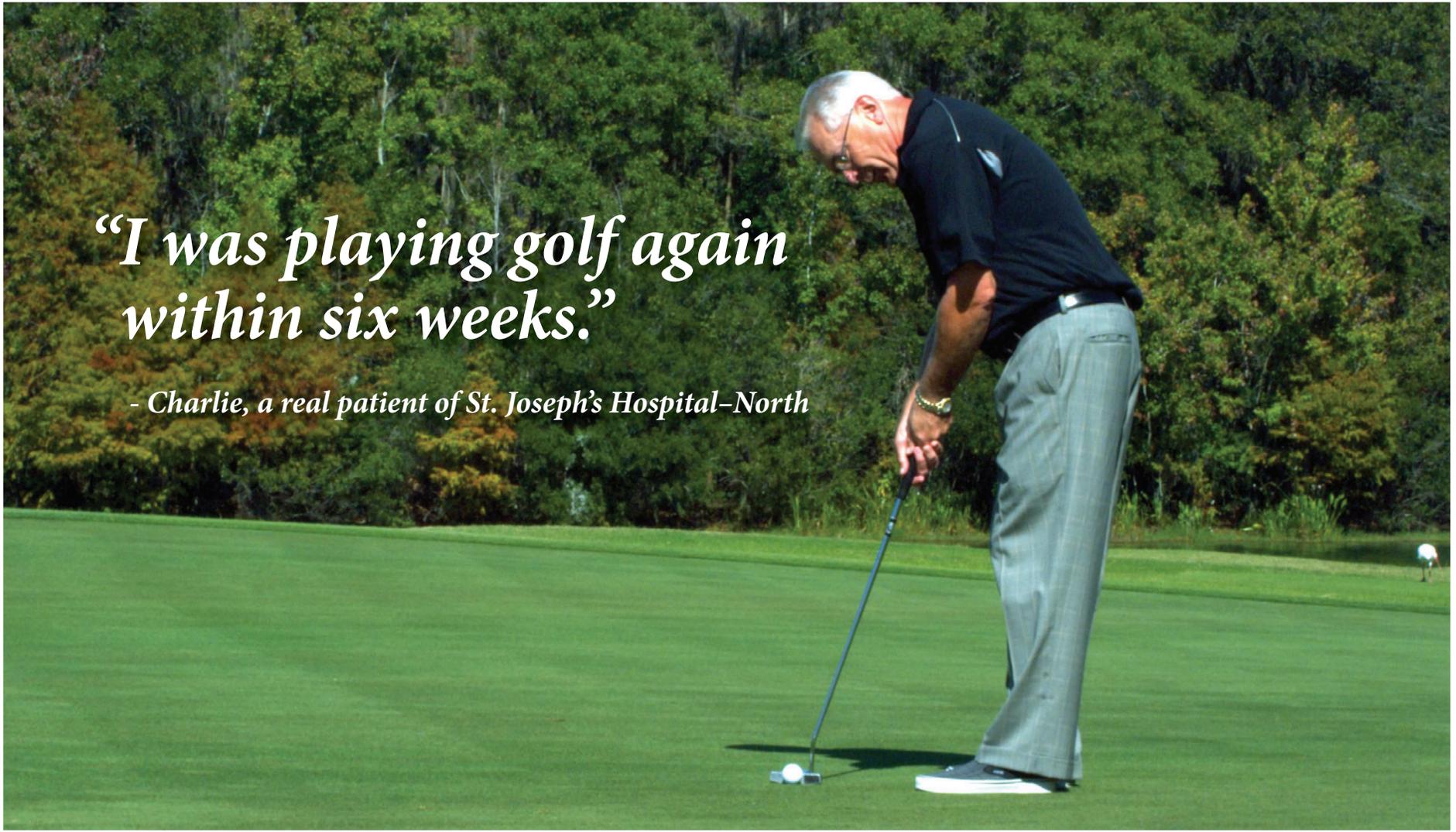


Joint Replacement Surgery

Community Education Seminar

*“I was playing golf again
within six weeks.”*

- Charlie, a real patient of St. Joseph's Hospital-North



Wednesday, May 21, 6pm

Join orthopedic surgeon Dr. Dennis Jones for an interactive discussion regarding the latest advances in joint replacement surgery, and learn whether joint replacement surgery is right for you.

A question and answer session will follow the seminar.

FREE SEMINAR | FREE PARKING | REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

 **BayCare** | **St. Joseph's Hospital-North**



Dennis Jones, MD | Orthopedic Surgeon

**St. Joseph's Hospital-North
Garden Lobby Classroom
4211 Van Dyke Road | Lutz**

**Reserve your space:
(813) 644-6772
StJosephsNorth.org/Events**