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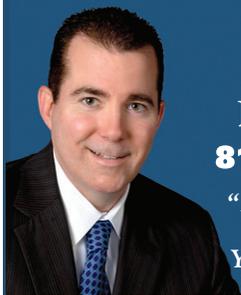
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Walk-Ins Welcome

Sheriff, others could lead tax hike

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County is losing deputies and command staff at an alarming rate, Sheriff Chris Nocco said. It's a crime he says can be solved only one way: more money.

About \$6 million more, to be exact, bringing the Pasco County Sheriff's Office closer than ever before to that \$100 million budget threshold.

The Pasco County Commission, however, might not be ready to surrender those dollars just yet. But Nocco believes commissioners can't wait any longer to get a handle on making salaries more competitive in his department with surrounding counties.

County may give Pasco EDC a back-seat to new Penny for Pasco dollars, **Page 7.**

"I got two more letters of resignation today," Nocco told commissioners in a meeting last week. "It is heartbreaking when you have people leaving, and they say it's about the money. I know it's a tough situation."

Salary increases alone would require an additional \$2.6 million in funding, and that's money the county doesn't really have — unless it raises taxes. But commissioners say they have other departments also express-



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco already commands more than half of the county's taxpayer dollars, but he's looking for more.

ing a legitimate need for more money.

"I know it's expensive for you to train your deputies and have them leave. It is very frustrating to see that happen," Commissioner Kathryn Starkey said. "But we

have increased demand on our staff with development picking up, and it's hard for us. We have to go out there in the market and

See SHERIFF, page 14

Lutz to sparkle for this year's July 4 celebration

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

Nobody can say Lutz ignores the Fourth of July.

A cake decorating contest, 5-kilometer run and a new Guv'na inauguration are just some of the events scheduled for July 4.

The Independence Day celebration also includes the annual parade, and this year's theme is a tribute to the Lutz Volunteer Fire Association, which ceased operations last year and officially went out of business in January. Hillsborough County now handles fire rescue services.

It was important to honor the fire association, said Phyllis Hoedt, who chairs the Fourth of July events. The group served the community for more than six decades.

"They're no longer in existence, and we

For more July 4 events, check out our What's Happening section on **Page 10.**

wanted to honor them," Hoedt said. "They were very good to our community."

The Fourth of July work actually begins on July 3, when volunteers set up for the parade from 10 a.m. until noon by the train depot, located at U.S. 41 and Lutz Lake Fern Road. While some people already are scheduled to be on-hand, more volunteers are needed to set up chairs, trashcans and other items for the expected crowd. Volunteers also will be needed for breakdown after the parade.

Participants in the cake and pie contest

See SPARKLE, page 14

Chef Rigberg is on the kitchen's cutting edge

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Around the Academy of Culinary Arts at Land O' Lakes High School, Michael Rigberg is known as Chef Rigberg.

In July, he'll be known as an inductee into the American Academy of Chefs.

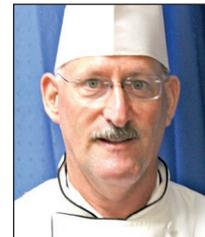
The induction will take place at the American Culinary Federation National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, where Rigberg will be included in a group of men and women who have distinguished themselves in the culinary arts.

It's an honor that requires recipients to meet rigorous requirements, and those attaining it are considered to represent the highest standards of professionalism in the organization, society and industry.

That honor will follow another distinction that Rigberg received in April at the American Culinary Federation's Southeastern Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. He was among four chefs receiving Cutting Edge awards from the federation.

Those awards, bestowed by regional vice president Michael Diehl, recognize leadership and service to the culinary profession.

Rigberg, who is president of the Tampa Bay Culinary Association, said he had no idea he was being considered for that



Michael Rigberg

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FILE PHOTO

Numerous antique fire trucks were included in the Fourth of July parade last year in Lutz, and just as many are expected this year.

See CHEF, page 14

Trip to Thailand yields insights for local college student

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

When Hunter Rasmussen was a 10th grader at Berean Academy in Lutz, he began learning biblical Greek — and that changed his life.

“I just loved it. I thought it was the most incredible thing,” said Rasmussen, now a 20-year-old student at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. “That made me excited not just about biblical languages, but language in general. I just felt so convinced that this is what I am supposed to do.”

Rasmussen now takes linguistics classes at Covenant, where he majors in biblical studies with minors in missions and linguistics.

He began looking around last year for an opportunity to do a mission trip, an internship or to take linguistics classes during the summer. When representatives from Wycliffe Bible Translators USA came to Covenant to talk to students about an opportunity to work in Thailand, Rasmussen felt called to pursue it.

Wycliffe is an international organization that has worked for more than 70 years to translate the Bible into every language in the world. This Orlando-based nonprofit organization is named after John Wycliffe, who first translated the Bible into English in the late 1300s.

After hearing about Wycliffe’s Get Global program for college students, Rasmussen began seeking contributions to help him come up with the \$4,000 he needed for the trip.

“I just shared with people in different communities that I’m associated with and in my churches, both home and here, and with people at school,” said Rasmussen, who is a member of First United Methodist Church of Lutz. “Lots of family and lots of church members and even some of my peers provided for me.”

Rasmussen spent three weeks in May in Thailand. He seized the opportunity to go to the Asian country, and said the trip yielded valuable insights.

“I think I got the affirmation out of it that God can use me in cross-cultural ministry,” he said. “It’s something I’m able to do.”

Rasmussen spent much of his time immersing himself in the culture of a Thailand village that’s so small, the people there go only by their first names.

When he and his team arrived to the rural village in a pickup truck, Rasmussen noticed many traditional wood homes built on stilts. There were more modern ones, too, with concrete foundations, such as the one where he stayed.

The food was spicy.

“The people group that we stayed with is known for having food that’s even spicier than Thai food (is generally). It was pretty hot, but it was also delicious,” he said. “I loved the food. God really blessed us because nobody on the team got sick at all, or were unable to handle it.”

The villagers there abide by the concept of eating locally produced foods.

“When it’s dinnertime, they’ll go and pick some mangoes from a tree, or grab some leaves from a bush, or pick off some roots, and you have dinner right there,” Rasmussen said. “There was a lot of fish and a lot of chicken.”

They also often gave people nicknames that were associated with food, added Rasmussen, who was given the nickname “Sticky Rice.”

“They named somebody else in our



COURTESY OF HUNTER RASMUSSEN
Hunter Rasmussen’s village ‘sister’ Khwan presents him with some traditional fabric that was woven by hand.

Minority languages often are considered inferior by the nation at large, he explained. “So, by learning their language we show that their language is valuable and created by God,” Rasmussen said. “To be able to do Bible translation, you have to know a tongue.”

The college student said his trip to Thailand didn’t shatter any previously held misconceptions. He had been prepped well by the team leading the trip, he said, where they were told, “When you’re doing cross-cultural living and ministry, don’t expect anything.”

He followed their advice.

“I really tried not to expect anything and just to learn,” he said.

Rasmussen is interested in pursuing a future involved in Bible translation.

“Bible translation is what enables any other ministry,” he said. “That involves not only church planting, but literacy work. Then that opens the way for people to be able to improve their situation, like know more about health care and know more how to nourish themselves correctly

and how to do agriculture better.

“Bible translation is also again affirming that God knows even these little languages that are only spoken by a few thousand people, and he values them as much as English, spoken by millions upon millions, or Thai, that’s spoken by the nation at large.”

Rasmussen intends to complete his degree at Covenant and pursue a master’s in linguistics, although he’s not sure where.

“I thought that I would be going to the Graduate Institute for Applied Linguistics, which is in Dallas, part of the International Linguistics Center,” he said.

That path is less certain now.

“Through this trip, I’ve learned there are other ways you can do linguistics schooling and also transition onto the field,” Rasmussen said.

He plans to find out more about those possibilities.

group, ‘Watermelon,’” Rasmussen added.

He noticed a big difference between the American way of life and the village culture when it came to how work is completed.

“They would definitely do work, and we helped them plow fields and catch fish and do things,” Rasmussen said. “But they do them as they need to be done. They don’t follow a strict work schedule.”

In general, he found the people of the village to be laid back and to esteem the values of comfort, convenience and fun.

As a student of linguistics, Rasmussen was fascinated by the fact that the villagers spoke a different language than mainland Thailand.

“Part of the trip is learning and realizing that language-learning and cultural-learning is not only foundational for Bible translations and foundational of ministry, but that language learning is itself a ministry,” he said.

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Already a local inspiration, Keppel takes national stage

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Brooks Sports Inc., is known for its running shoes and apparel. But once a year, the Seattle-based company gives people a chance to choose among 25 high school coaches across the nation they feel is the most inspiring.

One of the coaches making the cut is none other than Land O' Lakes High School cross-country coach Kris Keppel. And now his team — and the school — is depending on everyone to get to Facebook and vote for him in the 2014 Brooks Inspiring Coaches Award before the end of July.

"I opened up my email on the first day of my treatment this cycle, and I was just kind of blown away," Keppel said. "I didn't think this was real."

The treatment Keppel is talking about is chemotherapy, which he's undergoing to battle pancreatic cancer. He was diagnosed late last year, but still made it out to as many practices and meets as he could muster.

Enduring a new round of chemo hasn't stopped Keppel from moving forward with summer practices, waking up as the sun rises to get that little bit of cool air typically found only in the mornings during Florida summers.

That's the kind of effort that really motivates his runners, like incoming senior Noah Thomas.

"He's just one of the strongest men I've ever met," the 17-year-old said. "All throughout this, he's still been there for us, and he's still pushing us hard, and we push back for him."

It's the runners, his fellow coaches like Karen DeHaas, and the parents that motivate him to get up and tackle each day with fresh energy, Keppel's wife Dar said.

"I think cross-country has been a god-



Karen DeHaas, who coaches the girls cross-country team, nominated Kris Keppel for the Brooks 2014 Inspiring Coaches Award, which has earned the Land O' Lakes High School team \$5,000 in equipment.



Coach Kris Keppel, right, warms up with his Land O' Lakes High School cross-country team during summer training at Pine View Middle School last week. Keppel is up for a national coaching award based on how he inspires his runners.

send," she said. "It has monopolized our life, and I was jealous of it at times. But I think if he didn't have cross-country, he wouldn't be in the mindset that he's in. And that is something that is a great outlet."

For just being named a finalist, the Land O' Lakes team has won \$5,000 in running shoes, apparel and accessories from Brooks, as well as \$500 in cash for team expenses.

The coach chosen as the most inspiring on Facebook will win an additional \$5,000 in Brooks apparel, plus \$2,000 more in cash to the school's athletic department.

DeHaas, who Keppel recruited some years back to coach the girls cross-country team, did the initial work to get her colleague nominated. But it was a nomination that almost didn't happen.

"I spent a couple hours writing up every-

thing online, and then when I went to go get a picture, I came back, and what I wrote wasn't there anymore," said DeHaas, who runners affectionately refer to as "Mima."

"I had some good ideas there, too, and so I had to think of it all again so that I could write it a second time," she said.

Keppel spent years as a media specialist at Land O' Lakes High, but moved into the American history department after those positions were cut last year. Yet, he still finds a way to connect with students, even off the track.

"He's a model for so many kids," DeHaas said. "He has helped so many kids get into colleges, and wrote letters — you wouldn't believe how many. Anyone who came to him for help, he would help them, whether it was something to do with sports, or something to do with academics. He is just a wealth of information."

To vote for Coach Kris Keppel in the Brooks 2014 Inspiring Coaches Award, visit tinyurl.com/KeppelInspire.

Keppel and his wife are heading to Seattle to learn who will win among the 25 coaches in August. For someone as well-traveled as Keppel is, this is the first time he's ever been to Washington, and he's looking forward to it.

However, he's also looking to not have too many distractions as he prepares his runners for what Keppel hopes will be another successful season, both as a team, and as individual athletes.

"The true gratification of a coach is to see the transformation of a kid who just ran a couple miles to a kid who can run a half-marathon by the end of summer," Keppel said.

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Chalk Talk

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PRIDE FOR SCHOOLS SHINES THROUGH

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce honored students at the 15th Annual Pride Awards Breakfast in recognition of their school pride, community involvement and athletic excellence.

The 2014 recipients from Wesley Chapel High School were Abby Devisfruto, Ethan Taylor, Jordan Hardin, Helena Polansky, Matthew Quiles and Ashley St. Charles.

Those honored from Wiregrass Ranch High School were Savannah Goode, Bryce Wilson, Matthew Bradshaw, Matthew Menendez, Selyne Smith and Briana Swain.

ODESSA STUDENTS MAKE THE GRADE

Three students from Odessa were honored for scholastic achievement for the Spring 2014 semester.

Samantha Nicole Cuffe and Stephanie Leeanne Erickson were named to the President's List at Clemson University in South Carolina.

Gabriel Selochan was named to the Dean's List at Georgia Southwestern State University.

PHSC HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

Pasco-Hernando State College is hosting an open house at its Porter Campus at

Wiregrass Ranch, 2727 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel July 10 from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., in Building B.

Guests can learn about the certificate and associate's degree programs, as well as the new bachelor's degree programs.

There will be a campus tour and information on admissions, financial aid, scholarships, and clubs and organizations.

To RSVP, visit PHSC.edu/rsvp.

NEW OFFICERS SELECTED FOR PHSC FOUNDATION

The Foundation Board of Directors at Pasco-Hernando State College recently selected new officers to serve volunteer, two-year terms.

Frank Rygiel of Wesley Chapel was appointed chair of the board, and George "Skip" Miller, also of Wesley Chapel, was selected as vice chair.

Rygiel, a senior project manager for Batson-Cook Construction, became a board member in 2008. Miller, a senior vice president for SunTrust Bank, joined the board in 2012.

Mickey Smith, chief operating officer for Oak Hill Hospital, and Leonard Sossamon, county administrator for Hernando County, each will serve three-year terms as new directors.

TEEN DRIVER SAFETY FRONT AND CENTER AT WIREGRASS

Wiregrass Ranch High School recently hosted the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility's "I Know Everything" teen driver safety program for more than 100 students.

The program highlights the issues of



COURTESY OF LONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Math team scores first place

Long Middle School's seventh-grade advanced math team won first place in the 2014 Pasco County District Middle School Mathematics Contest in May at Saint Leo University. Celebrating the win are, from left, math coach Diana Lister and team members Justin King, Ethan Kuss and Andrew Arnold. King and Arnold also respectively placed first and second for individual awards.

drunk driving and distracted driving, and reiterates that parents have the most influence on their teen's driving behaviors.

The students answered questions using handheld devices, and the results will be part of a nationwide survey of high school teen drivers from across the United States. Topics included drinking alcohol underage and driving, late-night driving, speeding, number of passengers, and license restrictions.

KINDERGARTEN CAMP

Double Branch Elementary School, 31500 Chancey Road in Wesley Chapel, will host a kindergarten camp July 29-31

from 9 a.m. to noon.

Incoming kindergarteners will have an opportunity to meet teachers and become familiar with the school.

Cost is \$40.

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TAMPA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

The Tampa Catholic High School Class of 1974 will celebrate its 40th reunion Aug. 22-24 at Tradewinds Island Resort in St. Pete Beach.

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Creativity wins local kids trip to Washington, D.C.

By B.C. Manion

bcmajian@lakerlutznews.com

The trio jetted to Washington, D.C., to meet with a member of Congress, to hear remarks from the chief executive of an international company, and to take part in television interviews. And they are all still in elementary school.

Joey Santana, Sophia Nobles and Catie Tomasello recently returned from a trip to the nation's capital, and a whirlwind of appearances there. The Countryside Montessori Charter School students took the trip to receive their second-place honors in their age division in the 22nd annual Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision STEM competition, provided by the electronics company and the National Science Teachers Association. STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The team, coached by Lorna Cohen, finished among the top eight in the country. The contest itself drew more than 4,900 entries, representing nearly 15,300 students and 550 schools across the United States and Canada, according to the contest website.

It is the world's largest science and technology competition for students from kindergarten through 12th grade. It encourages them to develop problem-solving, critical thinking and collaboration skills.

Contestants are asked to imagine what technology might be like in 20 years. They work in teams to propose ideas for innovative future technology based on what already exists. They simulate scientific research to outline how they plan to test their idea, and they build websites to further illustrate and communicate their concepts.

For their entry, the Countryside Montessori students envisioned WaterRenew, a concept that uses the technology of Wave Wings — which are wings that sway back



Sophia Nobles, left, Catie Tomasello and Joey Santana have their picture taken with U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson while visiting the nation's capital. The kids won the trip by placing second nationally in the 22nd annual Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision STEM competition.

COURTESY OF HEATHER TOMASELLO

and forth in the ocean, creating mechanical energy that can be converted to electricity. That electricity would then be used to power a leading edge desalination plant, which in turn creates clean drinking water for homes and businesses.

Florida's water shortages inspired the team to search for a solution, Nobles and Tomasello said. The team began meeting in September, and team members spent at least a couple of hours each week working on the project.

The team worked well together because they are friends and they respect each other, the girls said. The team divided the project into pieces, and each team member became an "expert" on one part of the project.

Nobles also noted that the team benefited from the help of Lee Marcum, of Clean and Green Enterprises, who took the time to talk to the team about his invention, the Wave Wing.

While in Washington D.C., team members met with U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, and went a tour of the Capitol Building led by staff members of U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis. Santana's family also dropped by the office of U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, where they posed for photos.

The kids also took part in two television interviews with Bill Nye the Science Guy, and they participated in a science showcase. Other highlights included hearing remarks from Atsutoshi Nishida, chairman of Toshiba Corp., and doing some sightseeing.

Other winners in the competition also proposed creative solutions to challenging issues, according to the competition website. Third-grade students from Merion Station, Pennsylvania, developed a system designed to save people who are stuck in rip currents.

An entry from second-graders from Edmond, Oklahoma, aimed to save lives of babies, toddlers and animals left accidentally in a car. A team of fifth-graders from Locust Valley, New York, created an innovative plant power de-icing system for planes, while 10th graders from Toronto created a new technology that uses light signals to boost optical computing.

Besides the expenses-paid trip, the young students also each received a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond.

Since its inception in 1992, more than 330,000 students have participated in the ExploraVision program.

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Send business news to
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SCHOOL DISTRICT JOB FAIR

The Pasco County school district is partnering with county agencies and local chambers of commerce to host a job fair July 9 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Land O' Lakes High School.

The event will include representatives from the school district, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Pasco County government, the clerk of court, tax collector, United Way, the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce.

Some of the positions being sought include clerical and administrative support, accounting and finance, bus drivers and assistants, information services, food services, law enforcement and corrections, maintenance and skilled trades, and instructional and childcare.

The high school is located at 20325 Gator Lane, Land O' Lakes.

For information, visit PascoSchools.org.

LUTZ, ODESSA ATTORNEYS HONORED FOR 50 YEARS

Daniel N. Burton and Thomas Ayers Smith are among more than 200 attorneys honored by The Florida Bar for 50 years of law dedication on June 27.

Burton is a retired partner with Foley & Lardner in Tampa, and focused primarily on health law. He graduated from Stetson Law School in 1964, after getting his undergraduate degree from Rollins College in Winter Park.

Smith, who maintains a practice on Woodstock Road in Odessa, is a graduate of Harvard Law School.

The ceremony is sponsored by The Florida Bar's young lawyers division, and will be June 27 in Boca Raton.

GOIN' POSTAL DADE CITY HAS NEW OWNERS

Chris and Ailisa Starnes are the new owners of Goin' Postal Dade City, located at 14247 Seventh St.

It is a franchise of the Zephyrhills-based Goin' Postal, which now operates 250 stores.

Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PASCO EDC WINS AWARDS

The Pasco Economic Development Council has received three promotional and marketing awards from the Florida Economic Development Council during its

annual conference in June.

Pasco EDC won for best email campaign, best annual report design and best special event. These awards join six others the organization has received at the state and national level over the past four years.

"Marketing Pasco County to the business community locally, regionally and nationally is a big part of what we do, and it is wonderful to see our efforts recognized on a state level," said John Hagen, president and chief executive of Pasco EC, in a release.

Monday Cup O' News is Pasco EDC's first and most successful email campaign, sending out a collection of news each week to nearly 1,300 people.

The Pasco EDC also was recognized for its annual report, designed to be a key part of the organization's branding, as well as for its 12th annual NetFest, which provided an opportunity for business and community leaders to meet and get to know each other in an informal environment.

The Florida Economic Development Conference is the premier professional development event attended by economic, work force and community developers from Florida's 67 counties, 400 cities, 24 work force regions, 12 universities and 28 community colleges.

EMERALD HOMES COMES TO THE CHAMPIONS CLUB

Bringing homes that begin in the \$800,000-range, Emerald Homes is coming to The Champions Club in Trinity.

The Texas-based luxury homebuilder is looking to construct homes from just over 3,800 square feet, to a little more than 4,400 square feet, with the first model home expected in the fall.

LOCAL CAREERSOURCE OFFICE WINS INCENTIVE

After Gov. Rick Scott and CareerSource Florida challenged the state's work force boards to double employer penetration rate in an effort to connect more people to jobs, the people with CareerSource Pasco Hernando knew they were going to succeed. And they did just that, earning more than \$120,000 in incentives as a result.

"The governor's support in our work force endeavors have helped job seekers and employers in Pasco and Hernando counties get back to work," said Jerome Salatino, chief executive of CareerSource Pasco Hernando, in a release. The challenge sought work force boards like the local one to provide services to just under 3,200 employers. CareerSource Pasco Hernando did that and more, making 3,663 employer contacts, and exceeding the goal by more than 115 percent. But even when the challenge ended, the local work force group didn't stop, reaching out to an additional 485 employers.

For more information on the services offered by the group, visit them at CareerSourcePascoHernando.com, or call (727) 484-3400.

I finally picked up the phone and called instead of just reading about Samantha's program.

Chris Williams
in her
mid 50's



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Tax collector looking for organ donors

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Pasco County tax collector's office is recognizing the need to add more names to the organ donor list in June with a special focus on license plates featuring the LifeLink Foundation/Donate Life.

One of the responsibilities of the tax collector is to help identify organ donors when they get their driver's license or identification card, according to a release, but there's always need to add more organ and tissue donors.

Right now, nearly 5,000 Floridians are on a waiting list for life-saving transplants. On a national scale, 117,000 Americans are waiting for the proper organ needed to continue living. Those interested in becoming an organ donor can visit the tax collector's office, or visit DonateLifeFlorida.org.

Those who wish to support the LifeLink Foundation/Donate Life fund can check off

the box on their license renewal or auto registration forms to contribute at least \$1 to an education fund. The tax collector's office also will accept cash donations.

"With more than 900 patients currently listed for lifesaving organ transplants at Tampa General Hospital, donation is a critical issue throughout the Tampa Bay area," said Betsy Edwards, senior public affairs coordinator with LifeLink, in a release.

"Whether it is becoming an organ donor, or making a contribution to the fund, your help will go a long way towards saving the lives of people both locally and throughout our state," Tax Collector Mike Fasano said, in a release.

Contributions can be made at all the tax collector's offices in Pasco, including Land O' Lakes and Dade City.

For more information, call (727) 847-8179, or visit PascoTaxes.com.

Commissioners might tackle redevelopment without PEDC

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

The Pasco Economic Development Council might have plans on how the county can spend new revenue from the Penny for Pasco tax. But the group itself might have to take a back seat in how that money is used.

"We've been entrusted by the public to spend \$5 million a year over the next 10



Ted Schrader

years, and the Pasco Economic Development Council has asked to participate in that spend with us," county administrator Michele Baker told Pasco County commissioners at a recent meeting. "Instead of being buried in planning and development, it needs to be in a place where it is clearly transparent. And nothing against PEDC, but I'm not comfortable with handing over that money. They are not subject to the same oversight as we are."

The Pasco EDC, a private organization that works to market the county to businesses and industry, had proposed to the commission last April that it borrow against the Penny for Pasco tax. They could then use the funds for projects like assembling land, constructing offices and warehouses on speculation, and even possibly considering a convention center, all to help attract outside business to the county.

"We'd rather get some of that revenue up-front now, so that we can get more of an impact over the 10-year period, rather than wait," Pasco EDC president and chief executive John Hagen told commissioners at the time. "We need jobs, and we need economic development now."

Baker did agree with one of the primary recommendations Hagen made: the county needs to act sooner rather than later. Even with nearly \$5 million sitting in the bank right now from projects yet to get underway like from Raymond James Financial and T. Rowe Price, those funds are for small players, Baker said, and not enough for something "big and impactful."

For the county to take command, however, commissioners need to beef up the development staff, Commissioner Kathryn Starkey said. Melanie Kendrick has been a one-woman show when it has come to such projects in the past, but it's too much for just a single person to handle.

"To me, this is one of the most important things we can do," Starkey said. "This is how we lift our county up and become that premier county and be attractive to those kind of companies that we want to bring here."

Money to add people to the payroll is going to have to come from somewhere, however, and commissioners may have to look at ways to accomplish it, either by raising development fees — which are by far some of the lowest in the state — or possibly even by raising taxes.

If property owners paid the same amount of taxes they did last year, the county would increase its overall revenue by \$3.4 million — fueled primarily by new construction. If Pasco decided to keep the same millage as last year, at 7.3441 mills, taxes for typical homeowners could go up by as much as \$12.40 each year. But it would generate an additional \$5.87 million in revenue, with new construction once again contributing, as well as rising property values.

Even those dollars, however, might not be enough to pay for everything commissioners want to budget — like a 3 percent pay increase for county employees, across the board.

"We would like to have an increase in salary," Commissioner Ted Schrader said. "But that is going to eat up the \$5.8 million to get that done, so we know where we're starting."

With road improvements still needed, there's a strong possibility that part of those funds will come from an additional increase in property taxes, something Schrader has said he opposes. If that were to happen, it would generate approximately \$5 million in additional revenue, but cost typical homeowners an additional \$24 in property taxes each year.

Commissioners have yet to be presented with next year's budget, but could start seeing early drafts as soon as next month.

USDA committing \$31.5M to citrus greening disease

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

More than \$31 million in funding for research and Cooperative Extension Service projects to fight citrus greening disease is being released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Most of the funding for the research comes from the 2014 Farm Bill passed by Congress this past spring, with an additional \$6.5 million coming from the USDA budget, officials said.

It's spearheaded for research to combat huanglongbing, commonly known as citrus greening disease. HLB is a pathogen that is transmitted by insects that causes fruit to yellow and become bitter.

Although it was first recognized in the 1920s, HLB wasn't found in Florida until the late 1990s, according to published reports.

"USDA is committed to the fight against citrus greening, including making major research investments to counter this destructive disease," said USDA secretary Tom Vilsack, in a release. "The citrus industry and the thousands of jobs it supports are depending on groundbreaking research to neutralize this threat."

Because there are wide differences in the occurrence and progression of HLB among

the states, there are regional as well as national priorities for the Citrus Disease Research and Education Program, which will disperse research funds. Projects that are multistate, multi-institutional or trans-disciplinary will be considered first, officials said.

Along with the research, the USDA's HLB Multi-Agency Coordination Group said it was funding three new projects to combat citrus greening.

The first will commit \$2 million to field test antimicrobials that have shown promise in combating HLB in laboratory and greenhouse studies.

The second, also funded up to \$2 million, will support the deployment of large-scale thermotherapy, since studies have shown heating a tree to 120 degrees Fahrenheit for approximately 48 hours can kill the HLB bacterium in the upper tree. That allows the tree to regain productivity, officials said.

A third project will use \$2.5 million to establish several model groves in cooperation with Florida Citrus Health Management Areas that would include systematic surveys, timely chemical treatments, new planting strategies, and the removal of dead and abandoned groves.

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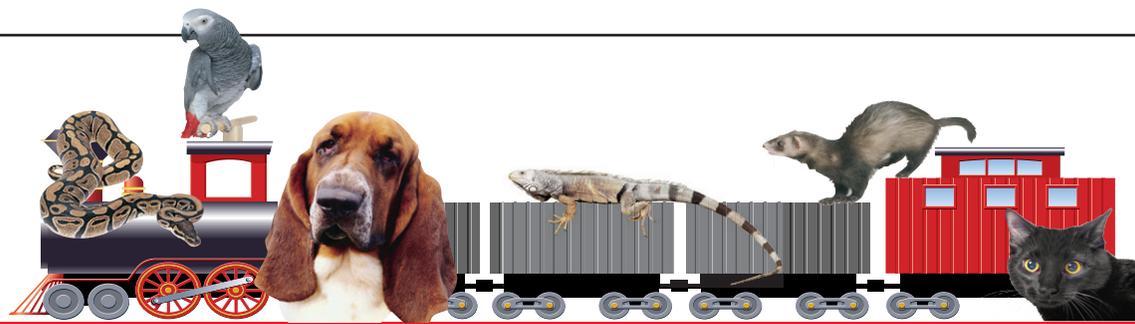


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New ways to solve cat behavior problems

Special to The Laker/Lutz News

From inappropriate marking to excessive meowing to scratching, a misbehaving cat can cause disruption to a home.

Unfortunately, behavior problems are the No. 1 reason for pet euthanasia, resulting in the death of approximately 15 million pets annually, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

But not all of these bad behaviors are a pet's fault. Stress, caused by a variety of factors, can contribute to these issues. After visiting a veterinarian to rule out any physical causes for a feline's follies, animal owners are urged to take steps to encourage good behavior and decrease stress in a cat's life.

"You don't need to resort to drastic measures to stop a cat's behavioral issues," said Caryn Stichler, vice president of marketing for Sergeant's Pet Care Products. "There are a number of ways to create a calm, stress-free environment for your pet, including using pheromone-based products."

If a cat's stress is causing an owner stress, here are a few steps that might help change the pet's behavior:

- **Litter box:** Is a cat's use of his litter box unreliable? Keep it clean and the litter changed on a regular basis. Don't relocate the box. Animals, like people, form habits, and can be stressed out by change.

- **Noise:** Loud noises and a room full of strangers can add stress to a pet's life. Take steps to limit the burden by never blasting music, and ensuring pets have access to water, a litter box and food in the less-trafficked areas of a home.

- **Be proactive:** More than 2 million cat owners have used a calming product on their pet. If a pet's behavioral problems are triggered by travel, thunderstorms, fireworks or new social situations, consider a collar



COURTESY OF RAMONESPELT-FOTOLIA.COM

Cats can get themselves into trouble, but there are ways to reduce those instances before trouble starts.

that can reduce or eliminate such behaviors, like those that might mimic pheromones that the mother cat produces to calm and reassure kittens.

- **Comfortable space:** Make sure a cat's living space is not just a place to survive, but a place to thrive. Cats love to observe the world around them, so be sure he has access to windows. Provide a cat with plenty of toys, and spend some quality time together each day, as mental and physical stimulation are important.

Behavioral problems for cats aren't seasonal. They affect pets year round.

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Winner of 6-Week Contest loses 27.2 pounds



Donna Diven of Springhill recently won \$500 cash and a beautiful crystal award for being the top loser in Samantha Taylor's 6 Week Body Transformation Contest.

It was a combination of inches, weight and percentage of body weight lost that earned Donna top honors. In six weeks, she proudly lost 27.2 lbs., 35 inches and 12.2 percentage of her body weight — the best results of 121 women who competed in the contest.

Donna almost didn't enter until Samantha gave her a pep talk while she was on the treadmill.

"I remember telling her that she needed to join our contest because I knew she would get great results," recalls Samantha, owner of Pure Health & Fitness Studios in Land O' Lakes.

"When Donna started resisting, I told her no excuses, just do it! And I'm so glad she took me up on the challenge because her results were amazing."



Donna Diven before and after

One of Samantha's most important roles as a personal trainer is motivating people.

"Some women have such a hard time investing in themselves and believing that they can accomplish great things," said Samantha. "Often, all it takes is a little encouragement, and look what happens. I am so proud of Donna and all the women who competed in our contest."

Other top winners in the 6 Week Body Transformation Contest was Terry Zeleznock of

Zephyrhills, who took second and won an iPad Mini; and Michelle Kelly of Tampa, who took third and won \$300 spa pampering from Hand & Stone Massage & Facial Spa.

Samantha's well-known fitness center has trained over 4000 local women and helped them lose over 60 tons of fat.



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COBB'S FREE KIDS SHOWS

Grove 16 Cobb Theatres, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel is hosting its free summer kids shows at 10 a.m., every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Upcoming shows are "Epic" and "Free Birds" on June 25-26, and "The Croods" and "Shark Tale" July 1-3. All movies are rated PG. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Schools, groups and camps are welcome. Same-day ticketing only. For information, call (813) 948-5444.

TEACH AND TASTE WINE EVENT

Time for Wine will host its "Passport to Spain" Teach & Taste Event, for ages 21 and older, June 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Dash of Salt N' Pepper, 10353 Cross Creek Blvd., Suite G/H, in Tampa. There will be food and wine pairings, appetizer samples, recipes, and a cruise presentation. Cost is \$15 per person, or \$25 per couple. For information, call (813) 664-1430 or (813) 447-0781.

GULFSIDE THRIFT SHOP SALES

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppes will offer a 25 percent storewide discount at its five locations, on the 25th of each month throughout the year. Upcoming dates are June 25 and July 25. All stores are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For information, visit [Facebook.com/ghthriftshoppes](https://www.facebook.com/ghthriftshoppes).

LUTZ GUV'NA FUNDRAISERS

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club is supporting Jay Muffly for Lutz Guv'na, and will sponsor two events at the Lutz Civic Center. There will be a crockpot luncheon June 26 from 10 a.m. to noon for \$6, and a spaghetti dinner June 27 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., for \$6. For information, call Sharon Bard at (813) 996-4909.

CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING

Pasco County's Continuum of Care will meet June 26 at 9 a.m., at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 2348 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes. Anyone interested in ending homelessness is invited. Topics include strategic planning, establishing housing options and committee work.

SENIOR GAMES AT LIBRARY

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host Senior Games June 26 at 10 a.m. There will be card, board and challenging video games. For information, call (813) 929-1214, or visit PascoLibraries.org.

LOCAL AARP CHAPTER MEETING

The Land O' Lakes AARP Chapter 4764 will meet June 27 at 10:30 a.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. Guest speaker is Brian MacNeel on people protecting themselves from carjacking, home invasions, purse snatching and more. A potluck lunch will be provided. Adults age 50 and older are invited. For information, call (813) 996-1361.

BUILD RUBBER BAND RACECAR

Barnes & Noble at The Shops at Wiregrass is hosting a free hands-on learning event for



Connerton fireworks

The Connerton community, located on U.S. 41 seven miles north of State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes, is hosting a free old-fashioned Independence Day celebration July 5 starting at 5 p.m. The event will include live music, games, prizes and face painting. Guests should bring blankets and chairs. Food trucks and refreshments will be available. Model homes will be open for tours. Fireworks begin at 9 p.m.

Freedom Festival

The third annual Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel Freedom Festival will be July 3 at The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Drive in Wesley Chapel. The celebration begins at 5 p.m., and concludes with fireworks at 9 p.m. There will be a watermelon-eating contest, bicycle decorating contest, and Little Miss and Mr. Firecracker Pageant. For information, visit TheShopsAtWiregrass.com.

Sparklebration

The annual Sparklebration festivities at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 State Road 52 in Dade City, will be July 4. Gates open at noon. The event includes hot dog and watermelon eating contests, bounce houses, water slides, face painting, and an Elvis tribute. Fireworks are scheduled for 9:15 p.m. Admission is \$5. Children younger than 12 are free. For information, call (352) 567-6678, or visit Sparklebration.com.

Free admission to history center

The Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water St., in Tampa, is offering free admission and extended hours July 4. There will be uniformed re-enactors, and visitors can watch the Channelside fireworks from Cotanchobee Park. The center opens at 10 a.m. For information, call (813) 228-0097, or visit TampaBayHistoryCenter.org.

Independence Day Festival

Avalon Park West, 5227 Autumn Ridge Drive in Wesley Chapel, will host its free Independence Day Festival July 5. There will be bounce houses, food trucks, vendors, giveaways, community performances, and a fireworks show at 9 p.m. For information, call (813) 482-5361.

children ages 7 and older to learn the physics of toys by building a rubber band racecar June 27 at 11 a.m. Kids will make and experiment with a wind-up toy car and race to see which car is the fastest. Kids will take their cars home. Space is limited. To reserve a spot, call (813) 907-7739.

YARD SALE, CAR WASH

The Social Ministry of Messiah Lutheran Church & Preschool, 14920 Hutchison Road in Tampa, will have a Granny's Attic Yard Sale and Car Wash June 28 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call (813) 265-0806.

BICYCLE HELMET GIVEAWAY

Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation of Florida will have a bicycle helmet giveaway for children who are hard of hearing June 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the foundation's office, 4443 Rowan Road in New Port Richey.

There will be helmet fitting, and the giveaway is limited to 75 helmets. For information, call (727) 834-5479.

GREAT AMERICAN CAMPOUT

The National Wildlife Federation is encouraging families to unplug and head outside for the Great American Backyard Campout June 28. The event promotes camping in backyards to reconnect with nature. The federation's campout website offers packing lists, recipes, nocturnal wildlife guides, exploration activities, nature games and more. For information, visit BackyardCampout.org.

PATRIOTIC SERVICE

Keystone Community Church, 21010 State Road 54 in Lutz, will host a patriotic service led by the music and drama ministries June 30 at 10:30 a.m., to honor all those who have sacrificed for the nation's freedom. There will

be food and fellowship following the service. Nursery care will be provided. For information, call (813) 948-4522.

TWO-FOR-ONE CAT ADOPTIONS

Hillsborough County's Pet Resources Division is celebrating Adopt-a-Cat Month by offering a 2-for-1 adoption special in June. Any two cats or kittens, any age, breed or color, can be adopted for a \$10 fee, which includes vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and pet registration. For information, call (813) 744-5660.

COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED JULY 4

Pasco County government offices, including constitutional offices and courts, will be closed July 4 for Independence Day, and will reopen July 7. Also closed will be the tax collector's office, libraries, parks and recreation centers, animal services, and public transportation. For complete information, visit PascoCountyFL.net.

CAKE & PIE CONTEST

The GFWC Lutz Land O' Lakes Woman's Club is looking for entries for the cake and pie contest to follow the Fourth of July parade. Entries can be dropped off from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., July 3, or by 7:30 a.m. July 4, at the Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W. For information, call Marilyn Wannamaker at (813) 949-1482.

TAMPA THEATRE FUNDRAISER

The Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., in downtown Tampa, will host its "Beer and Loathing in Las Vegas" fundraiser July 12. Premium sampling begins at 7 p.m., and tickets are \$70 in advance. Grand sampling begins at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$45. Theater members save \$5 off advance tickets. Guests are invited to dress as their favorite character, or come in a "Loathing"-inspired costume. For information, visit TampaTheatre.org.

FREE SUMMER BOWLING

AMF University Lanes, 13109 N. 56th St., in Temple Terrace, is offering free bowling for kids this summer when their parents register them online. Kids can bowl three free games every weekday from opening to 6 p.m., until Labor Day. For information or to register, visit AMF.com/university-lanes-fl.

VOLUNTEER FOR A GOOD CAUSE

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.

KIDS EARN A FREE BOOK

Children in a reading level up to sixth grade can earn a free book through Barnes & Noble by reading any eight books and completing a reading log. The summer program runs through Sept. 2 at participating locations. Offer is good while supplies last. Limit is one free book per customer.

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COURTESY OF LONNA VIZZARI

Woman's club gets 'handy' for veterans

GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club chair Donna Losch, left, and her committee recently delivered hand-knitted quilts to the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes as part of the club's ongoing sewing projects for local nursing homes. In the past, the woman's club has supported the Lopez home with bake sales, bingo games and other events for the veteran residents. Joining Losch to show one of the handmade quilts is Joann Burley.

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Tips offered to survive new 'pollen vortex'

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Allergy sufferers hoping to survive a perfect storm of elevated tree and grass pollen — better known as the “pollen vortex” — will need to prepare for a second wave of overlapping allergens coming later this summer.

“Nobody’s talking about this yet, but based on the way the climate has been behaving, we’re likely to experience a second pollen vortex when the grass pollen and the ragweed pollen begin to overlap, starting late July and August,” immunologist Dr. Joan Lehach said, in a release. Lehach is an integrative medicine physician specializing in allergy, asthma and clinical immunology at Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

“Because ragweed pollen creates such a strong allergic reaction, many people are going to get really sick, much worse than with Pollen Vortex 1, when these two pollens overlap,” Lehach added.

There are some ways that people can breathe a little easier as the summer gets started, offered by Lehach:

- For those who live in a suburban area, keep grass short and have someone else mow it. Anyone wanting to do yard duty should wear a well-fitting allergy mask.

- Do not hand wash to dry outside, because pollen bonds to fabric, and that fabric will have people in the house sneezing and wheezing all day and all night.

- Pollen counts are the highest very early in the morning, usually between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. Try to do outdoor activities like jogging in the evening, or at least after 10 a.m.

- Pollen tends to stick to hair, so wash it more frequently during pollen season.

- Keep car windows and home windows closed, and turn on the air-conditioner. Use the “re-circulate” button on the air-conditioner so that air — and pollen — from the outside, is not brought in.

- Beware of fruit. Because the proteins are similar, the body can mistake fruit for pollen and create some mild local reactions.

“I tell those who are allergic to trees to avoid apples, peaches and pears,” Lehach said. “I tell those with an allergy to grass to avoid melons, celery and kiwis, because they can trigger an itchy mouth and throat.”

“Eating an apple is not going to kill anyone,” Lehach said. “But people will get itchy mouths and they will be constantly clearing the back of their throat.”

For more information on Dr. Joan Lehach, visit JoanLehachMD.com.

MILITARY



Devine graduates basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Allison M. Devine graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, in San Antonio, Texas.

Devine completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic

warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate’s degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Devine earned distinction as an honor graduate. She is the daughter of Leanne Devine of Land O’ Lakes.

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Pasco and Hillsborough students improve test scores

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Students across Florida, as well as in Pasco and Hillsborough counties posted gains on statewide end-of-course, or EOC, exams.

Scores improved in all of the assessment areas in Florida, with the biggest gain being a 10 percent improvement in U.S. History.

Pasco has one of 13 school districts in the state that posted gains in all four EOC assessments, with its biggest improvement being an 8-point increase on the U.S. History assessment, Florida Education commissioner Pam Stewart reported.

The passing rate for Pasco students taking the test for the first time improved on all four assessments, improving by 2 percent in Algebra I; 2 percent in biology; 3 percent in geometry and 8 percent in U.S. History.

Hillsborough's scores improved in two of the four assessment areas, with a 14 percent percentage gain in U.S. History and a 4 percent gain in Algebra I.

Passing rates, 2014 compared to 2013

Algebra I

Statewide: 65 percent, up 1 percent
Pasco: 65 percent, up 3 percent increase
Hillsborough: 60 percent, up 4 percent

U.S. History

Statewide: 66 percent, up 10 percent
Pasco: 72 percent, up 8 percent
Hillsborough: 74 percent, up 14 percent

Pasco students outperformed the state in the percentage of students achieving a passing score or higher in 2014, except for Algebra I.

Some notable scores from Pasco schools include a 5-percent bump in the passing rate on the Algebra I assessment at Land O' Lakes High School, a 7-percent gain by Wiregrass Ranch High School students on

Geometry

Statewide: 64 percent, up 1 percent
Pasco: 67 percent, up 3 percent
Hillsborough: 64 percent, down 3 percent

Biology I

Statewide: 68 percent, up 2 percent
Pasco: 70 percent, up 3 percent
Hillsborough: 63 percent, no change

the Biology I assessment, and an 8-percent improvement on the same assessment at Zephyrhills High School.

Both Wesley Chapel and Wiregrass also posted big improvements in the passing rate on the geometry assessment. Wesley Chapel's passing rate improved by 22 percent. Wiregrass Ranch boosted its passing rate by 13 percent. Students at both

Zephyrhills and Sunlake high schools improved their passing rate by 6 percent, with Sunlake achieving a 73 percent passing rate and Zephyrhills boosting its passing rate to 60 percent.

Wesley Chapel principal Carin Nettles was delighted with her school's results.

"I am thrilled about our scores," she said. "We are very proud of the work our math department has done."

The principal credits collaboration among faculty members during professional learning community meetings. Teachers are sharing "the best common lessons and assessments for our students," she said. Teachers also have provided tutoring to help their students succeed.

Superintendent Kurt Browning said in a release that because the scores "reflect what we are teaching in the classroom, end-of-course exams present a much more accurate picture of our students' learning during this time of transition than do high-stakes tests" like the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.



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SPARKLE, from page 1

can drop off their entries on Thursday between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave. N.W. The final cake registration opportunity is July 4 between 6 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.

On Friday, the 5K and one-mile runs kick off the festivities at the Lutz Community Center, 101 First Ave. N. The 5K begins at 8 a.m., with the fun run and family walk starting at 8:45 a.m.

Male and female awards will be given out for the 5K run in overall categories as well as age groups. The one-mile event will recognize overall male and female winners, and all finishers will receive a ribbon.

Following the races, a flag-raising ceremony with the Boy Scouts and the Civil Air Patrol will commence at the front of the Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road.

After the flag raising is completed, the various 5K and fun run race winners across age and gender categories will receive trophies. Then the parade starts, with around 100 floats, cars and pedestrians taking part in the route, which begins near Lutz Lake Fern Road and ends on First Avenue S.W.

While participants don't need to do anything fancy for the parade — which is free to enter — there always are a number of them who turn heads with their eye-catching floats, said Shirley Simmons, one of the parade organizers.

"I think that, for the most part, they're very original. They spend lots of time thinking about it and putting it together," Simmons said. "It's just amazing to me how original some of them are."

When the parade concludes around 11 a.m., float winners will receive their awards and the cake auction will begin. The money raised, which is usually several hundred dollars, will help fund next year's event. The cake and pie competition is sponsored by the GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club.

Finally, the new Lutz Guv'na will be inaugurated, concluding several weeks of "campaigning," where each candidate raises money for local organizations. The candidate

who raises the most money earns the ceremonial title.

Five candidates are vying to replace current Guv'na Suzin Carr: Jerome Smalls, Cindy Perkins, Susan Gulash, "Papa" Jay Muffly and Liane Caruso.

Throughout the morning, the Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club, the Boy Scouts and a variety of other vendors will sell food, arts and crafts and other items. Around 45 vendor booths are expected for the event, and will be accessible near the train depot and the dog park.

Booths will cost \$20, or \$25 with access to electricity.

To participate in the 5K or one-mile events, preregistration forms are available by e-mailing ricdoor@hotmail.com and placing "Lutz I-Day Run Reg Form" in the subject line. Participants also can pick up registration forms in person by visiting Big Fred's Auto Repair, 19301 U.S. 41 in Lutz Monday through Friday during the day.

Until June 30, the cost for the 5K race is \$20, the one-mile event is \$10, and registration for both is \$22. After June 30, the cost increases to \$25, \$15 and \$27, respectively.

Same-day registration is available at the Lutz Community Center beginning at 6:30 a.m. All preregistered runners will receive a T-shirt, and later registrants will receive any remaining shirts on a first-come basis.

Attendees are encouraged not to park near the Lutz Community Center, as cars might not be able to leave before the end of the parade. Recommended parking areas include south of Lutz Lake Fern Road or east of U.S. 41. Those parking west of U.S. 41 are encouraged to park near the dog park instead of the community center.

For volunteer information, call Suzin Carr at (813) 453-5256. For general parade information, call Phyllis Hoedt at (813) 949-1937. For float information, call Shirley Simmons at (813) 949-7060.

For sponsorship and entry information for the 5K race, call Terry Donovan at (813) 949-6659.

For cake decorating contest information, call Terri Burgess at (813) 690-5790 or Marilyn Wannamaker at (813) 949-1482. For booth rental information, call Annie Fernandez at (813) 784-4471.

SHERIFF, from page 1

compete with the private sector."

Yet, it's not new hires the sheriff's office is watching depart, but instead people with experience, Nocco said.

"We are not losing the one- or two-year person to Pinellas, we're losing people with six to seven years experience," he said.

That may be enough for Starkey and other commissioners to warm up to the idea that a property tax increase may be needed to get everything paid for.

"I am for having a better-funded county government," she said. "Local government is not the same as our federal government, where I think there is a lot of waste. We have no hidden money, we have no extra money. We are all scraping by barely."

The amount of taxes collected equates to about \$420 per resident, which ranks Pasco above just 12 other counties, according to one study cited by Starkey.

"Our libraries, our parks, the quality of life, all at \$420 per person," she said. "It is pretty darn tough to have a premier county at that kind of level of taxes."

Commissioner Henry Wilson agreed.

"In 2010, when I ran for the first time, I said the millage rate was too low to sustain us, and I still agree to this day that the millage rate is too low," he said. "I would rather the sheriff's office be 55 percent of our budget than the tax collector or the supervi-

sor of elections. Our No. 1 goal is public safety."

All of that has created tremendous burdens on county employees from across various departments, burdens that many are looking to get lifted this budget cycle. But it could be difficult to accommodate everyone's requests.

"We want to continue to support public safety, but a lot of our other departments have suffered because of the financial constraints that we have been under," Commissioner Ted Schrader said. "The economy seems to be recovering ... so we're trying to facilitate that so that we can add tax base and continue to provide that funding."

Only part of the money Nocco seeks would go to pay raises. The sheriff also wants to earmark \$333,000 to overtime, and another \$300,000 for maintenance on the department's helicopter, and to purchase a \$94,000 night-vision infrared camera.

Nocco has worked to lower costs in his department, primarily through privatization. And he said he'll continue to look for ways to reduce costs as he moves forward as well.

"It's hard to compete," Nocco said. "We are not putting milk, bread and potatoes on the table for our families. When people are leaving to go to Pinellas, they are leaving strictly because of pay."

Commissioners could see a first draft budget for the next fiscal year in July.

CHEF, from page 1

award. So, when he heard the phrase, "This chef resides in Land O' Lakes, Florida," his ears perked up.

"I was shocked," Rigberg said.

Hundreds of chefs, cooks and foodservice professionals were at the conference in Charleston, and thousands will be at the national convention. Rigberg said he's not sure what he did to merit the award, but it was nice to receive recognition.

Performing well is important to Rigberg, and he strives to pass that ethic along to his students in the culinary program at Land O' Lakes High. His goal is to give students a solid foundation for a career in the culinary arts. He also wants them to have a good idea of what they will face in the field.

Along those lines, students have a chance to compete with students in other programs. They also have a chance to gain practical experience in the field, and they occasionally get to take part in special events.

When the Republican National Convention was in Tampa, for example, Rigberg worked out a deal to become part of the catering crew. He joined his teaching colleague, Jessica Cooper, at the Tampa Bay Times Forum while 26 students from their culinary arts program were there preparing food for the convention's hungry masses.

"That is something they will never forget," said Rigberg, who was influenced by

his son to become an instructor.

When his son graduated from high school in Hillsborough County, he was interested in becoming an architect. So, he enrolled at Tulane University, where he quickly became discouraged, Rigberg said.

During orientation, a dean told the incoming crop of 90 freshmen that if five made it, they'd be lucky.

"After one semester, he came back home," Rigberg said.

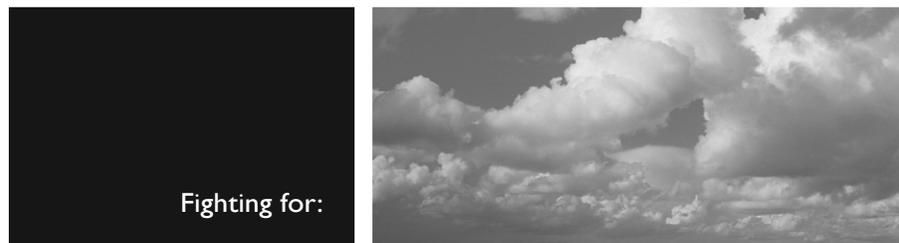
Instead of pursuing architecture, he went to Hillsborough Community College, then on to get a business degree at the University of South Florida. Rigberg's son would eventually earn a master's degree in mental health counseling.

Rigberg had already wanted to become a teacher, but after his son's experience, he decided to teach at the high school level rather than at a college. He wanted a chance to help shape a life, and he figured high school would be a better place to do that.

Rigberg tells his students that people with culinary skills are always in demand.

"Whether you're a mechanic, whether you're an electrician, whether you're a plumber, or whether you are a cook — you will always, in a trade, always have a job," he said.

In his program, Rigberg said he tries to instill a sense of devotion, a desire to succeed and a sense of urgency. When students graduate, he wants them to understand that "what they have gained or learned here is just the beginning."



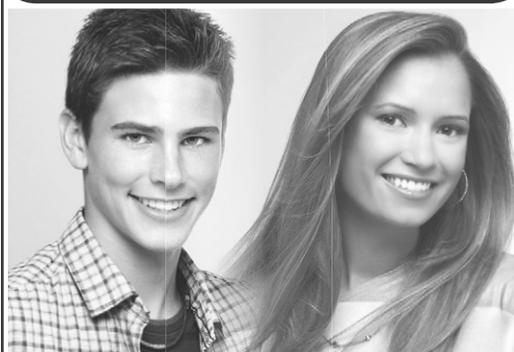
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WB6 - EXP. 7/31/14

Zephyrhills hospital delivers big changes, more babies

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

There is a baby boom hitting Florida Hospital Zephyrhills so large, even administrators are struggling to understand it.

Over the past six months, the hospital on U.S. 301 in Zephyrhills welcomed 258 babies into the world, well above projections of just 100 for this point. And they're not expecting it to let up anytime soon.

"There's a sense that we're doing a lot here at the hospital, and it's creating some excitement in the community," said Dr. Annette Williams, medical director for The Baby Place, the obstetrics unit at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills. "We're making a lot of positive changes, and that means people are staying right here in town, and are not going somewhere else instead."

Just a few weeks ago, The Baby Place moved out of its old unit home at the hospital and into temporary quarters on the second floor. That's because the maternity unit is getting a complete overhaul that includes significant equipment upgrades, new beds, and even an aesthetic refresh.

The finished product, expected to open in August, will increase the number of labor rooms from five to eight, and postpartum rooms from seven to nine. And even that might not be enough to handle the uptick in babies.

The Zephyrhills hospital did anticipate at least a small rise in births at the hospital after Bayfront Health Dade City announced last year it was closing its maternity unit. One of the contributing factors was a 33 percent decline in births at the hospital between 2008 and 2012, according to published reports.

The Baby Place got ready, however, by calling various doctor offices in the area, and trying to get a count of the number of expecting mothers who were likely to



Jennifer Wesolowski and Freddy Santiago welcomed their new son, Joseph Santiago, into the world at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills last week. Joseph, who was born in the late-night hours of June 18, is part of a boom of babies at the hospital.

choose Florida Hospital Zephyrhills. The results convinced the hospital to increase its maternity staff, but the baby census was actually on the low end.

"Even with all the calling we did, we had even more people come in than we thought we would," said Catalina Sierra, who manages The Baby Place with Williams. "We had a lot of people just walking in, saying they were supposed to go to Tampa, or they were supposed to go to Brooksville, but instead, 'Here I am.'"

The upgrades to The Baby Place also

gave the hospital a chance to centralize many of its women's health services, including mother/baby, gynecology, breast care, heart care, and health and wellness. At the same time, the hospital also changed how the department was managed, going to one led by a physician instead of the more traditional nurse-led department.

The biggest advantage to that is much stronger communication between the nursing staff, who work the front lines, and the physicians.

"There's always that gap between the physicians and the nurses, and it's difficult sometimes," Williams said. "By having a physician in charge, it's a lot easier to talk to the physician and make your case for the nurse. Communication is such an integral part of health care, and we're trying to make it easier for that communication to happen, and not put the stress on the nurses."

The difference in the new system has already been felt, Sierra said, and it's a positive one where she enjoys working with Williams.

"She's such a great doctor. She knows the physician's mind, and she knows the nurse's mind. That way, she can relate to the doctors and relate to the nurses, and that's just what we need."

The maternity market is highly competitive, especially as more and more hospitals open within driving distance of East Pasco County, creating plenty of choice for mothers.

While proximity might play a strong role in the selection of a hospital, other issues such as quality of care, level of equipment sophistication, and even how comfortable and calming the rooms are, are important considerations.

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills says it is experiencing an influx of moms, even before renovations are complete.

Serving women who are having babies is an excellent way to introduce the hospital to younger people, especially for many mothers who are spending their first night in one delivering a child.

"For a lot of women, this is their very first encounter with a hospital," said Cheryl Kennison, the marketing director at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills. "When people are choosing to stay here when they could've easily gone somewhere else, it says a lot about the team, and what everyone is doing here."



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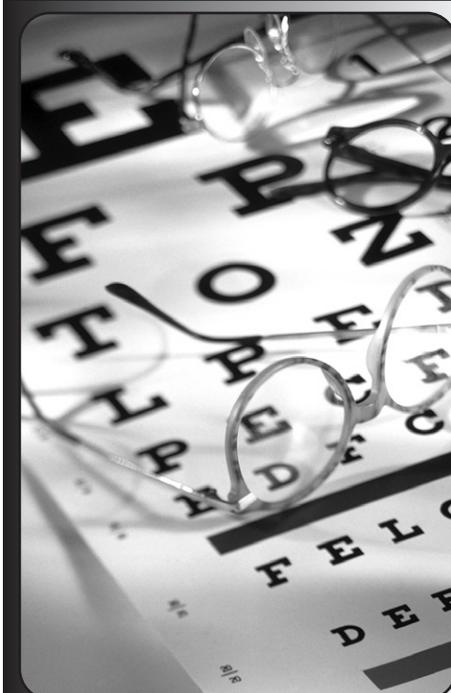


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Commission race an open primary, other local candidates qualify

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

A last-minute write-in candidate almost made the race for the Pasco County Commission District 4 race even more interesting than it already is. However, Grady Peeler Jr., pulled out of the race just as quickly as he entered last week.

That leaves just Commissioner Henry Wilson Jr., to defend his seat against Mike Wells Jr., during an open primary in August that will allow all voters — no matter what their party affiliation is — to decide between the two Republicans.

Wilson is working hard to make sure history doesn't repeat itself. He was first elected to the commission in 2010 after a major upset of incumbent Michael Cox, and is trying to stop being on the wrong end of another incumbent defeat, this time at the hands of Wells, the son of county property appraiser and former county commissioner Mike Wells Sr.

Wells entered the race with a boom, showing he has the ability to raise a lot of money fast. In just two months of campaigning, Wells has raised \$45,600 compared to the just under \$24,000 from Wilson.

But money never worried Wilson too much. In his first race, Wilson raised just \$8,700 — pennies compared to the massive \$163,000 campaign war chest collected by Cox, who at the time was the one Democrat on the commission.

If Peeler had qualified for the race, Wilson and Wells would've still met Aug. 26, but only Republicans would've been able to vote. Instead, all voters will have a chance to decide between Wilson and Wells, the winner claiming the District 4 seat.

In the other county commission race for the District 2 seat currently held by Pat Mulieri, all three Republican candidates — Ken Littlefield, Mike Moore and Bob Robertson — have qualified. They will battle it out in the August primary among Republican voters, the winner facing Land O' Lakes resident Erika Remsberg, the only Democrat to file.

If Remsberg were to win, she would be the first Democrat on the commission since Cox departed in 2010.

Mike Fasano got a big vote of confidence from county residents as no one challenged him for his seat as the county tax collector. He will serve a two-year term, facing election again in 2016.

Also returning to their jobs without opposition are two school board members,

Allen Altman and Cynthia Armstrong. The District 5 seat will see incumbent Steve Luikart face challenger Marc Yacht.

At the state level, however, Minnie Diaz said she got a lesson in how not to run a campaign. The Pasco-Hernando State College adjunct professor failed to qualify in her race to succeed state Rep. Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, after misunderstanding when she was supposed to file her financial disclosure form.

"I assume full responsibility," Diaz said. "I did not fully grasp the process of qualifying week, and I did not understand what it truly meant. There was a certain amount of confusion on my part."

Diaz had filed most of her paperwork a year ago, and even collected the necessary 986 signatures before Christmas. However, she said she believed she had until July 1 to file her financial disclosure form, but later learned that was only for incumbents.

Diaz filed that form, but more than two hours too late.

Because of that, former Zephyrhills mayor Danny Burgess wins the Republican nomination, and won't have to go through a primary battle with Diaz. Instead, he can focus on his race in November against Democrat Beverly Ledbetter, who also qualified last Friday.

Returning to Tallahassee unopposed are Trilby Republican Wilton Simpson in the Senate, and both Land O' Lakes Republican Richard Corcoran and Tampa Democrat Janet Cruz in the House.

Rep. James Grant, R-Tampa, earned a primary challenger on the final day of qualifying from Miriam Steinberg, a quality engineer for Honeywell Aerospace. They both will fight in a closed primary because Daniel John Matthews of Tampa, who says he works for a company called Cats on Deck, earned a spot as a write-in candidate. That means only Republicans will likely choose who represents House District 64.

Dan Raulerson, R-Plant City, won't need a primary, but he will have to appear on the ballot after he received a write-in challenge from Jose Vazquez Figueroa, a self-employed Tampa resident.

Also getting a write-in challenge is Sen. Tom Lee, R-Brandon, who attracted two opponents, Brandon Thebeau and Steven Warren, although neither will be listed on the ballot.

Rep. Mark Danish, D-Tampa, qualified for his race against Republican challenger Shawn Harrison. Voters in House District 63 will choose between them in November.

POLITICAL AGENDA



SEND POLITICAL NEWS TO MHINMAN@LAKERLUTZNEWS.COM

BURGESS GETS ENDORSEMENT FROM SUCCESSOR

Zephyrhills mayor Gene Whitfield has endorsed his predecessor, Danny Burgess, for the Florida State House District 38.

"When you think of how and who you want to speak out for you, when you are looking for a person who cares about your well being, and when you feel that the well being of your family is at stake, you want someone you know, and who knows you," Whitfield said, in a release. "You want a lifelong, hometown friend to take on the task of speaking for you and addressing the issues that matter to you."

Burgess is up against Minnie Diaz in the Aug. 26 Republican primary, with the winner set to face Democrat Beverly Ledbetter in November.

Last month, Burgess raised \$7,905, bringing his campaign total to \$52,865. He received his largest donations from Janet Ross of Sarasota and the Citizens Alliance for Florida's Economy, which each wrote checks for \$1,000.

Diaz raised just \$470 in May, with most of the money coming from her own bank accounts.

Ledbetter, who has not drawn a primary

opponent, raised \$1,701 in May. Husband Michael Ledbetter led notable donors with \$535 this month, along with Marion Barnes of Dade City, who gave \$500.

MEET AND GREET FOR DIAZ

Minnie Diaz, who is challenging former Zephyrhills mayor Danny Burgess in the Republican primary for the state House District 38 seat, will host a meet and greet June 28 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at Island Breeze Cuban Café, 5518 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills.

She is looking to replace Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, who is stepping down because of term limits.

MACMANUS TO SPEAK AT REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Republican Club of Central Pasco will host University of South Florida professor and political analyst Susan MacManus June 25 at 6:30 p.m., at Copperstone Executive Suites, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

MacManus is a Land O' Lakes native, and has written two books on the history of the area, including "Citrus, Sawmills, Critters & Crackers" in 1998, and "Going, Going, Almost Gone: Lutz-Land O' Lakes Pioneers Share Their Precious Memories" in 2010.

For information, call Steve Graves at (813) 996-3011.

Legg, lawmakers build path to collegiate high schools

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

High schools have come a long way in preparing students for schools, with Florida especially hanging its hat on dual enrollment opportunities that allow many juniors and seniors to earn college credit before receiving their high school diploma.

State Sen. John Legg, R-Lutz, is celebrating a new law signed last week by Gov. Rick Scott that would expand those opportunities into collegiate high schools.

"Finally, every student in each of Florida's 67 school districts is afforded the opportunity for advancement through a collegiate high school, and is more adequately prepared for their future careers," Legg said, in a release.

S.B. 850, according to a committee analysis, requires districts to provide a pathway for high school students to earn a full year of college credit with funding and acceleration programs to offer 30 credit hours to juniors and seniors.

The collegiate high schools would be a joint venture between a school district and a nearby college or university. School districts can look beyond local universities if they both can't come to an agreement by the 2015-16 school year.

Scott signed 57 bills into law last Friday, including these from local lawmakers:

S.B. 424 – DISCRIMINATORY INSURANCE PRACTICES

Originally introduced by state Sen. Tom Lee, R-Brandon, this law makes it illegal for insurance companies to deny someone coverage, or raise their rates, based on their ownership of a firearm.

It doesn't stop the insurance company, however, from issuing a separate rider to a policy that would specifically insure a gun.

But it does prevent insurance companies from disclosing information about a gun ownership to others, especially third-party vendors.

The bill passed the Senate 36-3 in March, but had a little more opposition in the House in April, passing 74-44. Those voting against it included local lawmakers Rep. Mark Danish and Rep. Janet Cruz, both Democrats.

H.B. 513 – STATE POET LAUREATE

Florida has had various poet laureates over the last 100 years, but a new law originally introduced by Dan Raulerson, R-Plant City, will now make the position official.

The Florida Council on Arts and Culture will submit at least five nominees to the Florida secretary of state, each of whom are permanent Florida residents known for their poetry both inside and outside the state.

The secretary of state, in turn, will pare the list down to three, and submit those names to the governor, who makes the final decision.

H.B. 7035 – JUVENILE SENTENCING

Originally introduced by state Rep. James Grant, this law addresses the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court case *Graham v. Florida* that said the Constitution prevents courts from sentencing juvenile offenders who did not commit a murder to life.

After the decision, several past cases were brought back to courts for re-sentencing, where many had prison time drastically reduced.

This law gives judges an option to sentence a juvenile offender to 40 years instead of life, if he feels it's appropriate. It also provides the chance for someone convicted of a capital crime while a juvenile to have his sentence reviewed after 25 years.

DENTAL BITES

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

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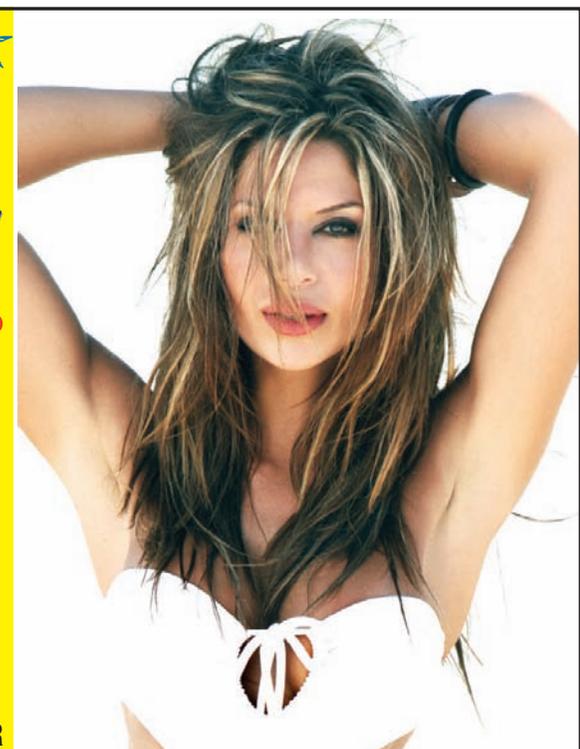
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Pay college athletes? Saint Leo poll says no

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

The topic of paying college athletes is a controversial one.

Yet a new poll by the Saint Leo Polling Institute suggests most people have already picked a side, and the answer is no.

The national poll, conducted between May 28 and June 4, asked 1,016 people — including 802 likely voters — about the subject of paying athletes, specifically football and basketball players at high-profile schools, an undetermined amount of money above and beyond traditional athletic scholarships. A strong majority, 66 percent, agreed with the statement “Giving athletic scholarships and the chance to earn a college degree for free is fair compensation for college athletes, and they should not be paid.”

Just 21 percent of respondents agreed with the statement “College athletes deserve to be paid for the time they spend practicing, traveling, and playing, above and beyond the value of any scholarships they might receive.” The remaining respondents, representing 13 percent, said they didn’t know or weren’t sure.

The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent along with a 95 percent confidence level, which represents the degree of likelihood that the results truly fall within the stated margin of error.

While the pollsters at Saint Leo are mainly concerned with creating a scientific poll, collecting the data and reporting their findings, even they weren’t expecting such a lopsided result.

“It was definitely surprising,” said Drew Gold, executive director of the Saint Leo Polling Institute. “I don’t think anybody expected it to be that overwhelmingly against paying the athletes.”

With the Olympics now utilizing professional athletes, college sports is one of the last true high-profile amateur competitions, and people seem to want to keep it that way, he said.

While it was a local school, Saint Leo, that created the poll, the results have had global appeal. In addition to being discussed in the



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Jerrel Harris, a guard with the Saint Leo University basketball team, attempts a free throw during a game last season. Like typical college athletes, Harris is not paid for his work, and a new survey says most people believe it should stay that way.

United States, the findings have been reported in countries such as France, Germany and India.

And even as the findings might surprise some people, Gold said the methodology is sound, and the institute stands behind the results.

Pasco-Hernando State College athletic director Steve Winterling wasn’t one of the people surveyed for the poll. But if he had been, he’d be part of the 66 percent against paying athletes.

“I’m definitely with the majority there. I just think you’re opening up a can of worms,” said Winterling, who also serves as the school’s baseball coach. “I’m in favor of them not getting paid.”

Getting a free education in exchange for athletic play is a good deal for students, he said.

And his philosophy doesn’t change when taking into account that some athletes generate a lot of revenue for their schools by playing popular sports in a big spotlight. In

fact, he believes athletes seek out those opportunities knowing that an education and a big stage is their compensation.

“They know what they’re getting into with that,” Winterling said. “Athletes know going in they’re just getting the scholarship.”

Students often choose those schools so they can showcase skills at a program that gets wide media exposure and the possibility of playing for a championship, he said.

While PHSC is primarily a two-year college whose athletes play at the Division II level for the National Junior College Athletic Association, Winterling spent several years as an assistant baseball coach for Florida State University, and is familiar with its successful baseball and football programs.

Florida State’s athletes train in world class facilities, have access to top-rate medical staff, and travel in above-average accommodations, he said. In fact, baseball players from the school who went on to play professionally for Class A or Class AA Minor League Baseball teams told him how much better the school’s conditions were compared to their professional teams, from uniforms to locker rooms to equipment.

“One thing they always said when they came back was they didn’t realize they had it so good at Florida State,” Winterling said.

He believes paying players would create more disparity between bigger schools with popular programs and wealthy boosters. At the same time, however, Winterling said he understands smaller schools don’t generate as much revenue and that some athletes have trouble making ends meet while in college. He supports loosening college rules to allow students more freedom to hold jobs while they go to school and play sports.

The poll might not be used to actually affect policy, the National Collegiate Athletic Association could consider it strong evidence that most people don’t support paying players, Gold said.

In any case, the results show that while the topic generates interest and discussion, it’s not an evenly divided issue at this time.

“The public feels overwhelmingly that they should not be paid. That’s what the numbers tell you,” Gold said.

CHECK THIS OUT
SEND SPORTS NEWS TO MMURILLO@LAKEKLUTZNEWS.COM

FREE SOCCER SESSION JUNE 28

Free girls soccer training will be June 28 at 9 a.m., at the Land O’ Lakes Recreation Complex, 3032 Collier Parkway.

The training program is open to girls whose birthdays occur between Aug. 1, 2005 and July 31, 2008. There is no cost. Two more sessions will take place sometime in July.

Attendees should bring water, an inflated soccer ball and soccer equipment. Reservations are required.

To reserve a spot, e-mail heracademy@gmail.com.

FOOTBALL AND CHEER JAMBOREE AUG. 9

The Dade City Pirates, Pasco Police Athletic League and Lacochee Boys & Girls Club will have their 2014 football and cheer jamboree on Aug. 9 at John’s Burks Memorial Park, 13220 Gene Nelson Blvd., in Dade City.

Around 6,500 people are expected to attend.

Sponsorships are available, ranging from booths to business banners and announcer recognition.

For sponsorship information, e-mail ppalpirate@gmail.com.

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.

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 through June 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.

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.

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.

VOLLEYBALL CAMPS IN JULY

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

The middle school camp runs through July 16 on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the high school camp will run 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.

NEW TENNIS LEAGUE

The Tri-County Tennis League is looking for individuals, teams and facilities to begin league play. It will include age divisions from 40s and older.

League play also will feature ratings-only play regardless of age.

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

MOOSE CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC JULY 19

The Moose Charity Golf Classic will be July 19 at the River Ridge Golf Club, 11022 Tee Time Circle in Port Richey.

Registration is at noon, and the four-person scramble begins at 1 p.m.

There will be cash awards to the top three places, closest-to-the-pin winners, raffles and other prizes. There also will be a car prize for a hole-in-one on the 13th hole.

The cost is \$45 per player.

For information or to sponsor a hole, call Bob Farrell at (727) 534-2294.

VOLLEYBALL CAMP STARTS JULY 21

The No Name Reps volleyball camp will be July 21-24 at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School, 13651 Hays Road in Spring Hill.

The first session is for fourth through eighth grades, and runs from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$175 per player.

The second session is for high school players and runs from noon to 3 p.m. It costs \$200 per player.

For information, visit NoNameVBC.com, or e-mail douglas@s1team.com.

LIBRARIES

Land O' Lakes Branch Library

- Baby Storytime, 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., every Thursday
- Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., every Friday
- Preschool Storytime, 11:30 a.m., every Friday
- Reading Buddies, 10 a.m., every Saturday
- Gulfside Regional Hospice, 11 a.m., June 25
- Summer Reading Club - "Color Chaps," 2 p.m., June 25
- Pre-Teen SRC the Science of Being an Evil Genius, 2 p.m., June 27
- Japanese Class, 3 p.m., June 28
- Teen SRC - Anime Club and Ice Cream, 6 p.m., July 1
- Alzheimer's Association/Caregiver Support, 11 a.m., July 2
- Elementary Summer Reading Club - "Mechanical Fish", 2 p.m., July 2
- Closed July 4 for Independence Day
- Teen Volunteer Training, 5:15 p.m., July 8 and July 22
- Elementary Summer Reading Club - "Weather or Not," 2 p.m., July 9
- LOL Social Seniors, 10 a.m., July 10
- Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., July 11, July 18 and July 25
- Preschool Storytime, 11:30 a.m., July 11, July 18 and July 25
- Inbe-Tweeners Summer Reading Club - "Rocking Box Robots," 2 p.m., July 11
- Teen SRC - She Blinded Me with Gaming, 6

- p.m., July 11
 - Japanese Class, 3 p.m., July 12 and July 26
 - Elementary Summer Reading Club - "The Science of Taking Over the World," 2 p.m., July 16
 - Thursday Afternoon Movie, 1:15 p.m., July 17
 - Inbe-Tweeners Summer Reading Club - "Movie Madness," 2 p.m., July 18
- The library is closed Sundays and Mondays, and is located at 2818 Collier Parkway. It can be reached at (813) 929-1214.**

Lutz Branch Library

- Yoga & Dance, 11 a.m., June 25
- Family Game Time, 2 p.m., June 25
- Friday Movie Matinee, 2 p.m., June 27
- Musical Instrument Petting Zoo, 2 p.m., June 28
- Cooking For Two at Home - Fast, Frugal and Fun, 6:30 p.m., June 30
- Books We Love to Sing For Youngsters, 11:30 a.m., July 1 and July 22
- Closed July 4 for Independence Day
- Chess Do It at the Lutz Library, 1 p.m., July 5
- Online Genealogy - Message Board and Social Media, noon, July 7
- Puppet Show: "The Lorax," 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., July 8
- Book Discussion: "Who Asked You?" by Terry McMillian, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., July 8
- ABCs & 123s of Yoga, 11 a.m., July 9
- Puzzlemania, 2 p.m., July 9

- Baby Time, 10:15 a.m., July 10, July 17, July 24 and July 31
 - Toddler Time, 11 a.m. July 10, July 17, July 24 and July 31
 - Friday Movie Matinee, 2 p.m., July 11
 - Tail Waggin' Tutors, 2 p.m., July 12
 - You Can Manage Diabetes, 11 a.m., July 15, July 22 and July 29
 - Story Time, 11:30 a.m., July 15 and July 29
 - Astro Adventure, 2 p.m., July 15
 - Chair Yoga For All, 10:30 a.m., July 16 and July 30
 - Bingorama, 2 p.m., July 16
 - Friday Movie Matinee, 2 p.m., July 11 and July 18
- The library is located at 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, and can be reached at (813) 273-3652.**

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

- Storytime, 10:15 a.m., every Monday
- Books We Love to Sing for Youngsters, 11 a.m., June 25
- Interactive Food Movie, 2:30 p.m., June 25
- Health Starts Here, 7 p.m., June 25
- Computer and eBook Tutor, 2 p.m., June 26
- Zombie Love Movie Matinee, 6 p.m., June 26
- Vegetarian And Gluten-Free Cooking with Debbie DeGraaff, 6:30 p.m., June 26
- Gmail: Attachments and Address Book, 10:30 a.m., June 27
- Fritzy Brothers One-Man Circus, 2:30 p.m., June 27

- Baby Time, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., every Tuesday
 - English Practice @ Conversation Corner, 11 a.m., July 1, July 8, July 15 and July 22
 - Excel Introduction, 7 p.m., July 1
 - Toddler Time, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., July 2, July 9, July 16 and July 30
 - Intervention Movie Matinee, 2:30 p.m., July 2
 - eBooks and eReaders: An Introduction, 2 p.m., July 3
 - Closed July 4 for Independence Day
 - Excel Formatting, 7 p.m., July 8
 - Senior Interest Group, 10:30 a.m., July 9
 - Fizz, Boom, Pop, 2:30 p.m., July 9
 - Hoopla, 2 p.m., July 10
 - Spark A Reaction, 6 p.m., July 10
 - Raw Fusion: The Art of Delicious Nutrition, 6 p.m., July 10
 - Facebook, 10:30 a.m., July 11
 - Block Party, 6 p.m., July 10
 - Giving Tree Music Community Drum Circle, 2:30 p.m., July 11
 - Excel Basic Calculations, 7 p.m., July 15
 - It's Alive, 2:30 p.m., July 16
 - eBooks and eReaders: An Introduction, 2 p.m., July 17
 - Teen Advisory Board Meeting, 6 p.m., July 17
 - Introduction to Home Remedies, 6 p.m., July 17
 - Craigslist, 10:30 a.m., July 18
- The library is located at 2902 W. Bearss Ave., and can be reached at (813) 273-3652.**

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These islands offer a glimpse of paradise



Worth the Trip

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@cnewspubs.com

Located at the extreme west end of State Road 586 in Dunedin, there's a state park called Honeymoon Island, which draws more than 1.1 million visitors a year.

Beyond that, just a 20-minute ferryboat ride away, there's another place called Caladesi Island — rated as America's No. 1 Beach in 2008 by Stephen P. Leatherman, also known as Dr. Beach.

Both islands offer visitors plenty of opportunities to splash in the surf, search for shells and savor nature's splendor. There are boating, fishing and kayaking options too for those who enjoy being out on the water. There also are places to buy refreshments and shady picnic areas to gather with family and friends.

Though quite different, both islands offer their own glimpse of paradise.

Caladesi Island, for instance, is secluded. "You're away from it all when you're out there," said Pete Krulder, park manager for Honeymoon Island State Park. "It is a very special place for a lot of people."

Lots of tourists visit Caladesi because they've heard about its beach rating, Krulder said.

Honeymoon Island, on the other hand, draws substantial numbers of people from Florida, and from Tampa Bay in particular.

"We're the most-visited state park in the state of Florida," Krulder said. "We have folks who are in here twice a day. Caladesi is more of the occasional visitor. Honeymoon, you see the same visitor every day."

The busiest times at Honeymoon Island State Park are from March until right after Labor Day, Krulder said. There also is an annual uptick when winter residents arrive.

Caladesi's busy times mirror Honeymoon Island's, though it tends to draw more snowbirds when the weather is nice, Krulder said. Caladesi gets a fair amount of boat traffic on a regular basis, too.

On a recent day at Honeymoon Island, the parking lot was filled with cars, mostly from Florida. But there also were cars from Ohio, Illinois, Vermont, New Jersey, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Connecticut, North Carolina and Arkansas.

The top draw on both islands is the beach. Both islands also boast excellent shelling and beautiful nature trails, Krulder said. And at Caladesi, there's a marina.

There's also a kayak trail that traverses through the mangroves.

"There are spots where you can barely paddle, it's that narrow," Krulder said.

"Both Honeymoon and Caladesi have some of the few remaining virgin slash pine forests in the state of Florida," Krulder added, noting those forests have never been logged.



B.C. MANION/STAFF PHOTOS

This idyllic scene provides a glimpse of the tranquility and beauty awaiting visitors at Caladesi Island. You can get there on a 20-minute ferry ride from Honeymoon Island State Park, or walk about four miles north from Clearwater Beach.



Honeymoon Island State Park has places where people can enjoy the beach and also a pet beach for pets. People who enjoy being on the water can rent kayaks, too.



This family of ospreys is hanging out in a huge nest at the top of the tree on the edge of a nature trail at Honeymoon Island State Park.

If you go

WHAT: Honeymoon Island State Park
WHERE: 1 Causeway Blvd., at the extreme west end of State Road 586 in Dunedin
WHEN: 8 a.m. until sundown, 365 days a year.
COST: Ranges from \$2 to \$8 for vehicles up to 8 people, pedestrians and bicyclists; Sunset fee is \$4 per vehicle, one hour before
INFO: Call (727) 469-5942

One tree, on the north end of Honeymoon Island's nature trail was core dated in 2007, and discovered to be at least 185 years old, he said. That means the tree would have sprouted during the second term of President James Monroe, the nation's fifth president.

Other interesting features along the

Honeymoon Island nature trail include osprey, bald eagle and great-horned owl nests.

Wildlife on the islands includes raccoons, snakes and gopher tortoises. While the Eastern Diamondback rattlesnake has been known to slither there, snake sightings are uncommon, Krulder said.

Island visitors who enjoy local history may find it interesting to learn that Honeymoon and Caladesi islands were both once part of a larger land mass called Hog Island, named after the hogs that roamed freely there. A hurricane struck that island in 1921, splitting it in two. The resulting water passage between the two islands is called Hurricane Pass.

Hog Island took on a new persona through a promotional campaign by its owner at the time, Clinton Washburn. Washburn and Life magazine in 1939 had a contest for newlyweds, with winners receiving a two-week stay on what became known as Honeymoon Isle.

Little cottages were constructed to house the honeymooners, who were flown on and off of the island. The palm-frond honeymoon huts had appropriate names, such as "Lover's Nook."

Pictures from 1940 at the Rotary Centennial Nature Center on Honeymoon Island depict some of those couples, hamming it up for cameras.

Krulder recently received a scrapbook and other memorabilia from the daughter of a couple who honeymooned at the island. He plans to have a special case built to display it.

Caladesi Island, which became a state park in 1967, also has a colorful history.

Ancient ceremonial and burial mounds show Native Americans occupied the island long before Europeans arrived, according to a historic sign there.

After the Spanish conquest of La Florida in the 1500s, the island was used for seasonal encampments and fish ranches. Tall ships moored offshore, and soldiers and sailors came ashore to hunt, fish and camp, the sign says.

No one seems to know the origin for Caladesi Island's name, Krulder said, but an entire book has been written about a homesteader who settled there in 1892.

In her book, "Yesteryear, I Lived in Paradise," Myrtle Scharrer Betz describes the idyllic life of growing up on Caladesi Island, a place where her father, Henry Scharrer, built a house.

When Betz was growing up, Krulder said, "She rowed a boat from the south end of Caladesi Island to Main Street in Dunedin. They say she very rarely missed a day of school."

The future of Honeymoon Island was threatened during the 1960s.

"There was an attempt to develop the island. What they wanted to do was make the island 10 times its natural size," Krulder said.

A developer envisioned thousands of residents moving onto the island. That effort, however, was thwarted and officials from both Dunedin and the state began acquiring the land for Honeymoon Island State Park, which opened in 1981.

Pete Krulder, park manager at Honeymoon Island State Park, displays a scrapbook of mementoes of a couple's honeymoon at the island.



HEALTH



WELLNESS

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MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT AT OLOR

The Mobile Medical Unit, sponsored by the Pasco County Public Defender's office, will be at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 2348 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, June 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pasco County residents that are uninsured or homeless can receive basic health care at no charge. Emergency services are not provided at the unit.

The unit offers treatment for a brief illness, treatment for high blood pressure and diabetes, treatment for temporary infections, wound and derma care, school physicals (with Social Security card and ID), pregnancy testing, flu shots, and some prescription voucher assistance.

No drugs are kept on board the unit.

GULFSIDE VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

Gulfside Hospice & Palliative Care is hosting a volunteer orientation for new thrift shop volunteers in Central Pasco County June 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Lutz Thrift Shoppe, 1930 Land O' Lakes Blvd.

Space is limited, and reservations are required.

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

CHATTERBOXES MEETING

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, hosts bi-weekly Chatterboxes support group meetings to assist individuals suffering from communication deficits as a result of a cerebral vascular accident or other neurological disorder.

The next meeting is June 26 at 3 p.m. For information, call (727) 834-5630.

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.

INFANT CARE PROGRAM

The obstetrics program at Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is offering an infant care class June 26 and July 3 at 6 p.m.

The class will provide parents with the knowledge and skills to make the transition into parenting smooth and comfortable.

For information or reservations, call (727) 834-5630.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

Florida Cancer Affiliates is hosting a breast cancer support group meeting July 3 at 6 p.m., at its New Port Richey center,



COURTESY OF KETH LUKE

'Safety first' with Cpl. Wilkett

Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care recently honored Cpl. Alan Wilkett of the Pasco County Sheriff's Office with a plaque to thank him for his help in educating Gulfside staff on safety measures. At the presentation were, from left, Sheena Thompson, Wilkett, Gulfside president and chief executive Linda Ward, and Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco.

5500 Little Road.

For information, call (727) 505-6379.

NUTRITION AND DIABETES

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is hosting a class on nutrition and diabetes July 3 at 10 a.m.

The class will teach the basic principles of nutrition; meal timing; how carbohydrates, proteins and fats can affect blood sugar; and how to make better food choices.

Seating is limited, and reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

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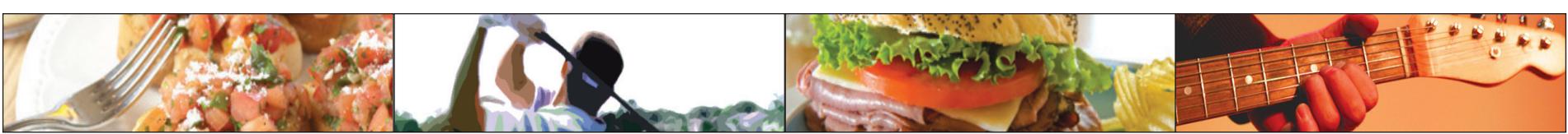


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LAST WEEK'S WINNER

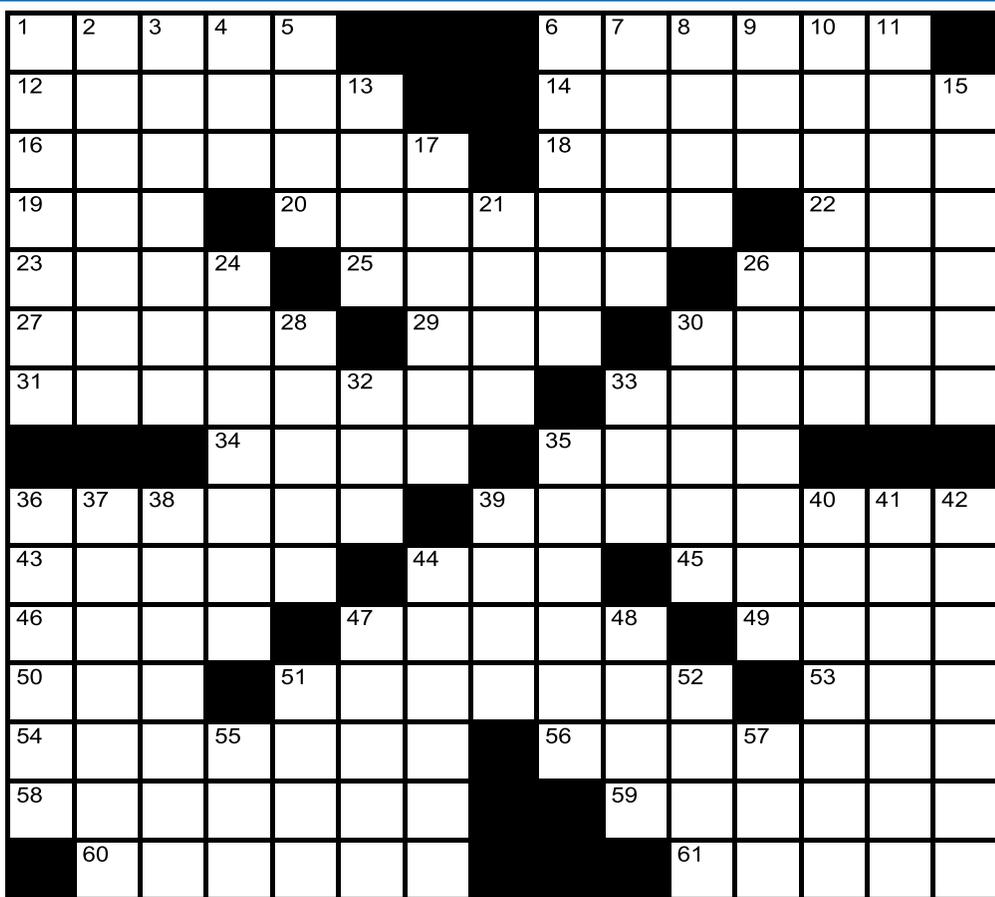
MICHAEL MANOUGIAN

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____



ACROSS

- 1. ___-ski
- 6. "Wheel of Fortune" category
- 12. Set beforehand
- 14. Unvarying procedure
- 16. Slips of paper with gummed backs
- 18. Magazine
- 19. A pint, maybe
- 20. Peevish
- 22. Australian runner
- 23. 100 dinars
- 25. Clear, as a disk
- 26. "I had no ___!"
- 27. Chips in
- 29. "... ___ he drove out of sight"
- 30. Artificial leg?
- 31. Precedent setter (2 wds)
- 33. Pressed milk curd
- 34. A little night

music

- 35. Fly high
- 36. Easy
- 39. Break
- 43. Bullying, e.g.
- 44. Car accessory
- 45. Aromatic solvent
- 46. Bills, e.g.
- 47. Couples
- 49. Cork's country
- 50. Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
- 51. Kneecap
- 53. Parenthesis, essentially
- 54. Anne Morrow Lindbergh, e.g., type of writer
- 56. A distinct component of something larger
- 58. Accord
- 59. Person of mixed ancestry

60. He's a real go-

- 61. Scottish landowner
- DOWN**
- 1. Power structure
 - 2. Nutty confection
 - 3. Repairs a broken chair
 - 4. "C'___ la vie!"
 - 5. Escape, in a way
 - 6. Commendation
 - 7. Trigger, for one
 - 8. Charge
 - 9. Absorbed, as a cost
 - 10. Without fixing a future meeting date (2 wds)
 - 11. Paints that dry to a hard, glossy finish
 - 13. Certain surgeon's "patient"
 - 15. Solution of solvent and dissolved matter
 - 17. Beat

- 21. Container weight
- 24. Pertaining to Latvians
- 26. Stress, in a way
- 28. Bathroom item
- 30. Cut
- 32. "Tarzan" extra
- 33. Bunk
- 35. Boxers' warnings
- 36. Pretense
- 37. Degrading
- 38. Having a pointed end
- 39. Ashtabula's lake
- 40. Dry, red table wine
- 41. Jack Russell, for one
- 42. Built
- 44. One up
- 47. Adhesive
- 48. Squalid section of a city
- 51. Four gills
- 52. Biblical shepherd
- 55. Abbr. after a name
- 57. ___ Today, daily newspaper

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 26

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



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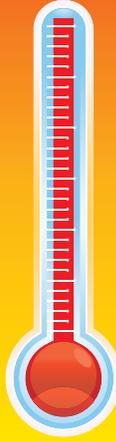
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9	7	5	8	4	3	2	6	1
4	1	6	2	7	9	3	5	8
2	8	3	1	5	6	4	9	7
3	2	1	9	6	8	5	7	4
5	9	7	4	3	1	8	2	6
6	4	8	7	2	5	1	3	9

A	P	R	E	S	P	H	R	A	S	I	E				
P	R	E	S	E	T	R	O	U	T	I	N	E			
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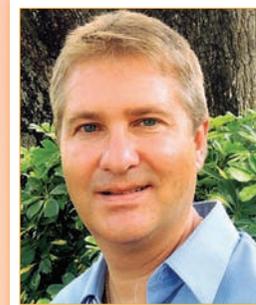
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