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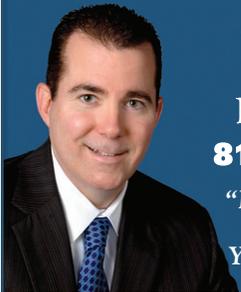
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## Patriotic cheer

Carrie Smith of Brooksville gets a big smile out of her granddaughter Kinley Ewell, 1, while sister Savannah, 4, looks on. Both were part of the Miss and Mr. Firecracker contest at The Shops at Wiregrass. To see more pictures from Fourth of July weekend, turn to pages 16 and 17.

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## Sheriff: This year's budget hikes are just the beginning

By Michael Hinman  
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Sheriff Chris Nocco knows the additional \$6 million he's asking for to fund the Pasco County Sheriff's office this year isn't a small amount. But it's just the beginning as local law enforcement starts to fall behind neighbors like Pinellas and Hillsborough counties, and even the much smaller Hernando County.

Nocco would prefer his additional funds not be part of any property tax increase, but no matter how the money is raised, his department desperately needs it.

"We're already preparing for next year, like how many more deputies we're going to need out on the street," Nocco told The

Laker last week. "Our biggest thing right now is that we have to stop losing members. It's hurting us, and it's coming at a very high cost."

In a workshop last month with the Pasco County Commission, which sets his budget, Nocco said many of his veteran deputies and managers are leaving for better salaries and benefits with neighboring counties. Despite the commission's attempt to raise salaries in recent years, there just hasn't been enough money to stop the talent bleed.

Even worse, he said, the technology used by the sheriff's office is quite outdated, and it's preventing deputies from providing the

See SHERIFF, page 14



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Cpl. Mary Guyer shares some recent crime statistics with Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco. The sheriff has requested an additional \$6 million this year, but could be asking for more in coming years, especially as he sets sights on a new district office in the Wesley Chapel/Land O' Lakes area.

## Don Porter's vision for Wiregrass Ranch area lives on

By B.C. Manion  
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Don Porter, whose vision helped transform ranch land into an urban center in Wesley Chapel, has died. He was 73.

Porter's family, which owns the sprawling Wiregrass Ranch, sold the land that is now occupied by The Shops at Wiregrass and Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel. The family also donated 60 acres of land for Pasco-Hernando State College's Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, which now occupies about 6 acres of that land.

There's also a high school in the community named after the Porter's Wiregrass Ranch.

While Porter had a hand in projects of a regional scale, that is not what meant the most to him, said his son, J.D. Porter.

"Out of all of the accomplishments, I think the thing that he was most proud of was his family," he said. "He wanted to see everyone do well."

Pasco County commissioner Pat Mulieri recalls when her colleagues were considering approval of The Shops at Wiregrass. She and Commissioner Jack Mariano supported the request, but they needed a third vote, which came from Commission Ted Schrader.

"I believe that Don's generous spirit and clear vision made a difference in the Wesley Chapel area, and set the tone for all future de-

velopment there," Mulieri said. "Don will be missed. He was a good steward of the land and a southern gentleman."

Greg Lenner, general manager of The Shops at Wiregrass, said it was easy to see that Porter was a highly respected man in the community.

"He will truly be missed," said Lenner, who oversees the main-street style shopping mall at the intersection of State Road 56 and Bruce B. Downs Boulevard.

The mall is a popular gathering spot and pulls shoppers and visitors from across the region, especially during the holidays and for

See PORTER, page 14

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# Don Porter's vision for Wiregrass Ranch area lives on

By B.C. Manion

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FILE PHOTOS

Members of the Porter family joined Pasco-Hernando State College president Katherine Johnson at the open house and dedication of Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch. From left are J.D. Porter, Bill Porter, Johnson, Don Porter and Quinn Miller.

pulls shoppers and visitors from across the region, especially during the holidays and for special events.

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel also issued a statement paying tribute to Porter's contributions.

"Don Porter's vision was to transform the Porter Ranch into a Wesley Chapel community centered around family ... a community with quality health care, education, and recreation services for its residents," hospital officials said. "It was wonderful to work with Don and his family to bring that vision to life. The entire Porter family has been very supportive of the hospital and our programs to improve the health and wellness of the entire community."

Katherine Johnson, president of Pasco-Hernando State College, recalled the first time she met Porter. It was her first day as the college's president, and she was being

introduced around the community. Those introductions included a lunch with Porter at Saddlebrook Resort.

Porter was approachable and she immediately felt at ease, Johnson recalled.

"We clicked. We just clicked," she said.

At that very first lunch, Porter told Johnson about his vision for higher educational opportunities for students living in the community. The family's later contribution of 60 acres for the campus played an instrumental role in making that vision come true, Johnson said.

"Clearly, we would not have been able to have a campus in Wesley Chapel without that family," she said. Beyond helping to bring that vision to life, Porter became a friend and mentor.

When Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch opened in January, it signaled the first time in Wesley Chapel history that a student could attend preschool through college



Don Porter, whose vision helped create the building blocks for community life in Wesley Chapel, died July 1.

## Don Porter memorial service

A memorial service for Don Porter has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on July 12 at the conference center at Pasco-Hernando State College's Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, 2727 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

without leaving the Wesley Chapel community.

When the Porters moved to Wesley Chapel during the 1940s, there wasn't much development in the area. Over the years, the community has evolved, and Porter had a clear vision for the future, Johnson said.

When plans were being discussed for the Porter Campus, he envisioned a campus with multi-story buildings.

"He wanted an urban, corporate look," Johnson said.

Porter is survived by son, J.D., daughter, Quinn Miller and her husband, Matthew, as well as three grandchildren, Johannah, Cooper, and Lillian Jane, of Odessa; and his brother, William H. and his wife, Debby, of Dade City.

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# Horse rescue inspires Bavota to write, act in film

By Michael Hinman  
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

The fictionalized movie tale of a real dolphin helped make a Clearwater aquarium famous.

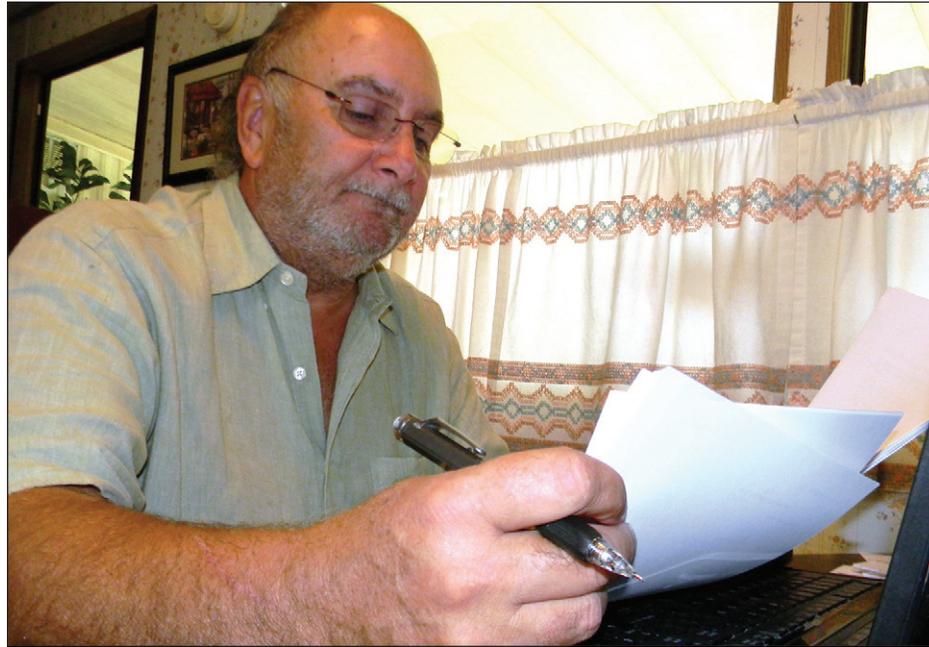
But can another animal-based film do the same for an actual horse rescue ranch near Orlando? Michael Bavota says yes, and he's not only the primary writer for the film "The DreamCatcher's Ranch," but he's one of the stars as well.

"We were completely inspired by the ranch," Bavota said of DreamCatcher Horse Ranch and Rescue, a large piece of property in Clermont that boards more than 60 rescued horses. "The director and executive producer, Ricky DiMaio, got this idea that he wanted to do a film about what life would be like on the ranch with fictional characters."

And DiMaio found Bavota, a retired seafood distributor now living in Zephyrhills, to craft that story. Bavota, in turn, drafted actress and writer Kaylea Grace, and the two spent more than 140 hours writing what would become the story of a family struggling to secure the future of their ranch that's directly in the way of a major highway project.

"We worked seven 20-hour days doing this," Bavota said. "We would stay at the director's house in Orlando, starting in the morning, and not finishing until the next morning at 5. We wrote day and night, and it just came out beautiful."

Bavota and Grace fell in love with two characters they created, Grandpa Jim and Kelly, and decided the film couldn't go forward unless they could play those roles — something DiMaio had no hesitation agreeing to. Yet, until a few years ago, Bavota never imagined himself ever working in



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Michael Bavota made his career in the seafood business, but has always nurtured a love for writing. The Zephyrhills retiree's words will finally come to life in a new independent film, "The DreamCatcher's Ranch," which he'll also star in as Grandpa Jim.

front of a camera lens.

While he was living in Boston, Bavota learned through a member of his church that a local production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" was casting.

"I had no experience, but I was told I should audition anyway," he said. Bavota's work impressed the stage director, who cast him not only as Lt. Rooney, but Mr. Gibbs as well.

It was working in film, however, that really appealed to Bavota. There was a freedom of not having to be at the theater each day, and only being allowed to focus on one project at a time. So he worked closely with

the Orlando film school Full Sail University, and has appeared in a number of other productions as well, such as "The Business Card," which appeared on the Christian Television Network.

The usually clean-cut Bavota is sporting stubble and long hair as he gets ready to start filming "The DreamCatcher's Ranch" this week. The entire production is budgeted for \$50,000, small even by independent film standards. But that's because the crew not only has full access to DreamCatcher Ranch, but many of the primary people — especially the actors — have different crew jobs as well.

"What we did is kind of unique," Bavota said. "Everybody on the film got a job to act, and everybody got an extra job to fill in holes wherever we needed it. This is a way to ensure everyone feels they have ownership of what we're doing here."

Although the film is fiction, the stories of some of the various rescued horses on the ranch are real. Bavota has fallen in love with one mare, Blac, that the ranch won in an auction for \$10 just minutes before Blac was headed off to a meat-packing plant.

Others have heartbreaking stories of abuse or abandonment, finding a home in Clermont when no others were available.

The ranch itself spends \$3,000 a year to care for each horse, Bavota said, with most of those funds recouped by riding lessons and donations. The hope is the film will connect with younger audiences, especially girls, who typically have a fondness for horses, and could help champion the cause of caring for rescued animals.

"We want to help the ranch to attract more volunteers and more funds," Bavota said. "We want to attract people who can help the owners expand the ranch, so that they can take care of even more rescue animals. And we want to give them a story that will make them stop and think."

The cast and crew of "The DreamCatcher's Ranch" are still raising money for the production through the online crowdfunding site Indiegogo. And the hope is to have the film completed by winter so that it can start appearing in film festivals as early as Christmas.

To donate to the project, visit [tinyurl.com/DreamCatcherRanch](http://tinyurl.com/DreamCatcherRanch). And to learn more about the actual horse rescue ranch in Clermont, visit online at [DreamCatcherHorses.com](http://DreamCatcherHorses.com).

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# Enjoy your summer: Avoid a trip to the ER

By B.C. Manion

bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

If you've been outdoors lately, no doubt you've observed that Florida's steamy days of summer have arrived with a vengeance.

You also may have noticed there are a lot more kids riding bicycles in the street, splashing around in pools, and hanging off equipment at the local playground.

The roads are busier, too. Cars and trucks snake toward the beach, and families have packed up to hit the road for vacation. There are a lot more people firing up their backyard grills and having picnics at parks, too.

Summer and its pastimes can offer a pleasant break, but is also can lead to illnesses or injuries, prompting unwanted trips to the local emergency room. There are ways, though, to lower your risk of getting sick or injured.

Three physicians — from Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel and St. Joseph's Hospital-North — shared their observations about the types of summer injuries that typically arrive at their emergency departments, and they offered suggestions to help people avoid the need for medical care.

## On the road

"We see increased motor vehicle accidents," said Dr. Javier Gonzalez, assistant medical director of the emergency department at the Zephyrhills hospital. Wear a seat

belt, he added, because it reduces injuries and save lives.

It's important to safeguard children, too. Be sure they have the appropriate type of protection, such as car seats or child-restraint chairs, he said. Head injuries tend to increase in the summer, too, because of greater use of bicycles, skateboards and in-line skates, Gonzalez said.

Be sure to wear helmets and make sure they fit properly, he said. Also, be sure the chinstrap is strapped beneath your chin to help protect the side of your head.

Use wrist guards to help prevent injuries, too.

"A lot of these people wear helmets, but when they fall, they put their hands down first, so they get a lot of wrist injuries," Gonzalez said.

## In the water

The importance of water safety cannot be overstated. "In Florida, a lot of people have pools. Make sure they have gates," Gonzalez said.

Constant vigilance is required when children are in or around water, he added.

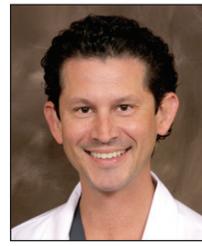
"Don't take a break to get on the phone. I hear that all of the time, 'I just went out for a second to speak to somebody or to pick up the phone.' Before they know it, two



Dr. Javier Gonzalez



Dr. Katrina Cordero



Dr. Michael Longley

minutes have passed by and the child is dead at the bottom of the pool."

At public pools, be sure the child is within view of the lifeguard, Gonzalez said. Drownings at the beach often result from swimmers getting caught in riptides, so be sure to swim across the current, not against it.

"Always wear a life vest, as well, if you are doing activities like jet skiing," he said. It's also wise to do so when you're cruising in a boat.

Besides the potential for drowning accidents, there are other risks associated with the water, Cordero said.

Diving accidents can cause serious neck injuries, she said.

When someone gets hurt diving, it's important to get them out of the water to make sure they're breathing, said Dr. Katrina Cordero, associate medical director of the emergency room at St. Joseph's Hospital-North. Then, make sure they keep their neck still until help arrives.

## Water Safety Tips

- Never leave a child unattended at a pool or a spa.
  - Teach children basic water safety skills.
  - Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings.
  - Have a telephone nearby to enable a quick call to emergency agencies.
  - If a child is missing, check the pool or spa first.
  - Learn CPR.
  - Install a 4-foot fence around the perimeter of the pool with a self-closing, self-latching gate.
  - Having life-saving equipment such as life rings or floats available and easily accessible.
- For information, visit [PoolSafely.gov](http://PoolSafely.gov).

## Enjoying the outdoors

When you're having a cookout or picnic, pay attention to how long the food has been sitting out, Gonzalez said. Some foods must be refrigerated, and if they are left out too long, it can cause people to become ill.

Store uncooked meats in separate coolers to avoid issues with cross

Continued on next page

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FILE PHOTO

Going to the beach is a fun summer pastime, but three local doctors want to make sure that trip doesn't end up in the emergency room.

contamination. Also, be sure to thoroughly cook meat and chicken, he said.

All three doctors said drinking water is important to avoid dehydration.

"There's a misconception that you can actually keep up with your hydration once you're outside, or once you're doing the activity," said Dr. Michael Longley, medical director of the emergency department at the Wesley Chapel hospital. "The reality is you really need to pre-hydrate. Drink a lot either the night before or a couple of hours before you're going to be outside.

"You're losing water with every breath you take, you're losing water with the heat itself. You're losing water with sweating and you're losing water with the activity that you're doing. It's compounded and there's just no way to keep up if the tank isn't full to begin with," Longley said.

How much you need to drink varies based on your size. An adult should drink a liter or two before they go out. A child

should drink about half of that, Longley said.

To help people drink enough water, Longley offers this piece of advice: "I tend to tell kids and adults, alike, to add a little extra salt to their meal. It drives the thirst. It helps the muscle function and it helps you to hold in a little of the water, as well."

People who suffer from heat cramps, heat stroke and heat exhaustion haven't hydrated before they go outside, Longley said. Often, people don't realize how hot they are because they've been out in the sun for hours, take a dip and feel a cool breeze.

Sunburn is a problem, too, St. Joe's Cordero said. People often underestimate the intensity of the sun here.

"They fall asleep on the beach," she said, and when they wake up, they have painful sunburn.

The same thing can happen when people are out working in the yard and haven't applied sunscreen, she said. They get busy

and forget how much sun exposure they've had.

Cordero also offered this tip to avoid becoming dehydrated: Carry a bottle of water or Gatorade around with you, to remind yourself to drink. Some people like to quench their thirst with a beer or another alcoholic drink.

"Beer is OK," Cordero said. But "don't let it be your only means of hydration."

### Rockets' red glare

The increased amount of recreation during summer months tends to result in more people visiting the ER with injuries, Longley said. "We see a lot more broken bones."

It's also a time of year when there's an uptick in fireworks injuries, which are typically unique injuries that require expert medical attention.

"Explosions can cause all sorts of tissue damage locally," Longley said. "Particles can

### Tips for a safer summer

- Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Start drinking water before you head out for the day, and keep drinking it throughout the day to stay hydrated.
- If you're grilling, be sure to cook your meats thoroughly. Also, do not allow children to be near hot grills.
- If you're having a gathering, be sure to keep foods that need refrigeration in coolers until shortly before you need them. Keep them away from direct sunlight and don't leave them out for more than an hour.
- Wear helmets while riding bikes, skateboarding or rollerblading. Wear wrist guards, too.
- Be vigilant when there are children around water. A happy gathering can turn tragic within minutes.
- Wear sunscreen to avoid sunburn. Be sure to reapply it if you decided to take a dip in a pool or at the beach.
- Wear life jackets on boats and seat belts in cars.

be inhaled. They can be embedded in the eye."

The injuries can get complicated quickly. "Something that seems simple can be way more complex a few hours later," Longley said.

Sometimes the steps taken immediately after a fireworks injury can make a big difference, Cordero said. If a fingertip is blown off, for example, it's important to try to find the fingertip, she said. It should be placed in a cloth that has been dampened with water, placed in a plastic bag, and then all put into a larger bag that has some ice in it.

"You don't want any direct contact with ice," Cordero said. "That could cause some tissue damage."

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# Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE



## Mental health tune-ups for Pasco County residents

by Mike Matthew  
special to The Laker / Lutz News

Spend a few minutes with Jim Harris, CEO of North Tampa Behavioral Health in Chapel (NTBH), and you'll catch his enthusiasm. He and his staff are committed to providing the very best care and support for people experiencing mental health issues.

"Sometimes the challenges of life can overwhelm us," says Jim. "Many of us will experience a mental health issue at some point in our life - grief, loss, loneliness, depression, addiction. We're here to help people work through their mental health concerns."

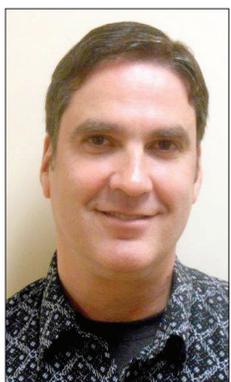
North Tampa Behavioral Health provides a non-institutional environment on 16 acres of wetlands and forest off of State Road 56, east of The Shops at Wiregrass. The campus offers peace and quiet without urban distractions.

"We want to set the standard for the treatment of behavioral health and addiction disorders," says Jim. "We have a unique half-day, partial hospitalization program and an intensive outpatient program for the treatment of adults and seniors with mental health and substance abuse conditions."

NTBH is more than just a productive member of the community. They are making their facilities available for various support group meetings. The National Alliance on Mental Illness currently provides free support group meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., for families experiencing mental health issues or who have friends receiving mental health care.

"We currently have 143 employees contributing to the economic health of the region," says Jim. "The resources we use come from the local community as much as possible. We are also a provider working to enhance mental health awareness and wellness of the citizens of Pasco County."

"Our treatment focuses on the whole person," says Jim. "We believe that physical health and nutritional health play a role in mental health, and we address that daily here."



Jim Harris

They have an indoor gym with stationary bicycles, workout bags and a basketball court. They also host yoga classes in the gym. Outdoors they have a basketball court, a walking path and spaces to relax, read and converse. There are also a number of spacious community rooms and a cafe with a selection of nutritious foods available during all meals.

"Our goal is to bring together mental and physical health approaches to psychiatric therapies founded on the most current principles of patient safety," says Jim. "We are a progressive facility. For example, there are no mechanical restraints for patients, which is rare for a psychiatric hospital. Suggestions from our patients are continually improving our facility."

All programs are group-oriented and developmentally appropriate to the client. Inpatient care is short-term. Outpatient care may go on longer depending on the client's needs. The partial hospital program is 5 days per week for 5 hours per day. The intensive outpatient program is 3 days per week for 3 hours per day.

They became a Baker Act facility in February 2014 and have since been working closely with law enforcement and local hospitals to treat involuntary patients who are deemed a threat to themselves or others due to mental health or substance abuse issues.

North Tampa Behavioral Health has been very successful to date. They are continuing to develop relationships with local hospitals, independent practitioners, clinics, colleges and chambers of commerce. They are in the process of starting an alumni group for people who have been treated at the facility as another way to further support the community. Call them for an assessment or referral.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS



Send health news to  
[news@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:news@lakerlutznews.com)

### GULFSIDE OFFERS BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Gulfside Hospice's bereavement department is starting a new 10-week support group for those who are newly bereaved.

The first cycle begins July 10 at 1 p.m., at Harvester United Methodist Church, 2432 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes. The second starts Aug. 6 at 4 p.m., at Gulfside's east clinical office, 37826 Sky Ridge Circle, in Dade City.

For information, called Erica Warren at (727) 992-8357.

### SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, 14000 Fivay Road in Hudson, will host a summer blood drive July 10 from noon to 5 p.m.

All donors will receive a wellness checkup and a beach towel. Photo ID is required.

Those who donate twice before Aug. 31 can receive a free lunch offer from Outback Steakhouse.

To make an appointment online, visit [OneBloodDonor.org](http://OneBloodDonor.org), and use sponsor code "0B034."

### SUPER-PREP CHILDBIRTH

The obstetrics program at Medical

Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is offering a childbirth super-prep class July 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This is a one-day accelerator/refresher course.

Cost is \$50 per person.

Seating is limited, and reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

### FAT LOSS SEMINAR

The Health & Wellness Center at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, 2700 Healing Way, is hosting a seminar on optimizing fat loss July 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Guest speaker is Matthew Luckie. The seminar will cover research-backed strategies that include current practices in fitness, nutrition and lifestyle.

Space is limited, and reservations are required.

Cost is \$5 for non-members and free for health center members.

To register, call (813) 929-5432, or visit [FHWesleyChapel.org/events](http://FHWesleyChapel.org/events).

### 'LOOK GOOD' CANCER PROGRAM

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is offering the American Cancer Society's "Look Good ... Feel Better" program July 16 at 2 p.m.

The program includes educational information as well as wigs, hats, turbans and prostheses.

To RSVP, call (727) 834-5630.

### BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

Florida Cancer Affiliates will host breast cancer support group meetings every other Thursday at 6 p.m., at the New Port Richey center, 5500 Little Road.

The next meeting is July 17.

For information, call (727) 505-6379.



COURTESY OF REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Dr. Michael Strobbe, left, oversees Dr. Camille Alfonso of Lake Erie College of Medicine receiving her white coat from Dr. Joseph Pino, chief medical officer of Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, during a grand opening ceremony for the new Graduate Medical Education Center.

## Bayonet Point cuts ribbon to new graduate education center

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point recently had a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Graduate Medical Education Center.

Located at 14108 Glacial Drive in Hudson, the center's grand opening included a white coat ceremony for the first class of the American Osteopathic Association Internal Medicine Residency program. Dr. Michael Strobbe, the internal medicine program director for the association, presided over the ceremony.

Bayonet Point first announced the acceptance for an internal medicine residency program with the association last August. This is the hospital's first step in developing graduate medical education residency programs in a logical progression as Bayonet Point continues to expand its tertiary and

specialty programs, hospital officials said.

"Developing a graduate medical education program is not an easy task, or one to be taken lightly," said Bayonet Point chief executive Shayne George, in a release. "It is extremely challenging, and requires long-term commitment and dedication to the rewarding honor and privilege to train future physicians."

That includes meticulous governing structures, policies and procedures, training curriculums, faculty training and more, George added.

Students in the new program included second-year resident Dr. Katie Groff from Lake Erie College of Medicine, as well as several first-year residents: Dr. Camille Alfonso, Dr. Jonathan Lind, Dr. David Otis, Dr. Giles Roberts, Dr. James Shepard and Dr. Woody Taves.



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COURTESY OF DAVE PARKINSON

## Zoo welcomes chicks of summer

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo recently experienced the successful hatching of an endangered African penguin, above and a Demoiselle crane, below. Spring has been a busy time for the zoo's aviary department, with additional hatchlings of Nicobar pigeon chicks, red-legged seriema chicks, spotted whistling duck chicks, and an endangered tarctic hornbill chick.



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# PET of the WEEK



### All about George

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### Send us a picture and information on your favorite pet!

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

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



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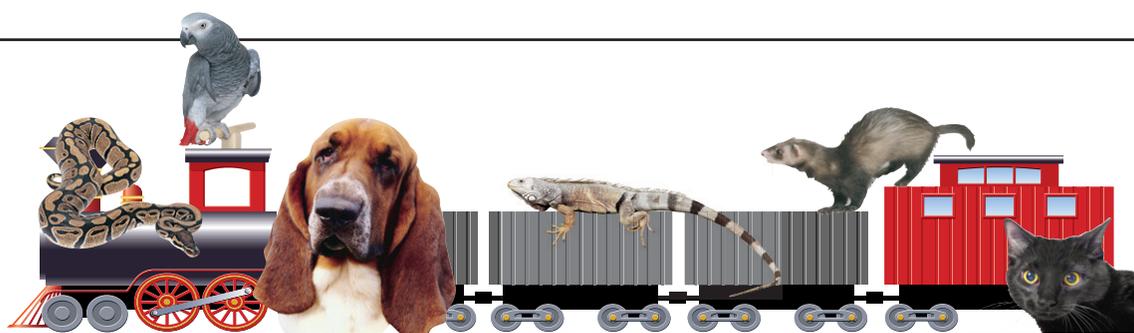


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# What's Happening

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

## 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 "The Smurfs 2" and "The SpongeBob Square Pants Movie" through July 10, and "The Lego Movie" and "The Nut Job" July 15-17. 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.

## TROPICAL PLANT FAIR

The Botanical Gardens at University South Florida, 12210 USF Pine Drive in Tampa, will host a tropical plant fair July 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and July 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be an orchid lecture and tropical plants for sale. Admission is \$5. Parking is free. For information, visit [Gardens.usf.edu](http://Gardens.usf.edu).

## WOMAN'S CLUB BACK JULY 17

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club will resume its crafting meetings July 17 at 9:30 a.m., at the Lutz Community Center on the corner of U.S. 41 and Lutz Lake Fern Road. The meetings are every Thursday and open to the public. For information, visit [GFWCLutzLandOLakesWomansClub.org](http://GFWCLutzLandOLakesWomansClub.org).

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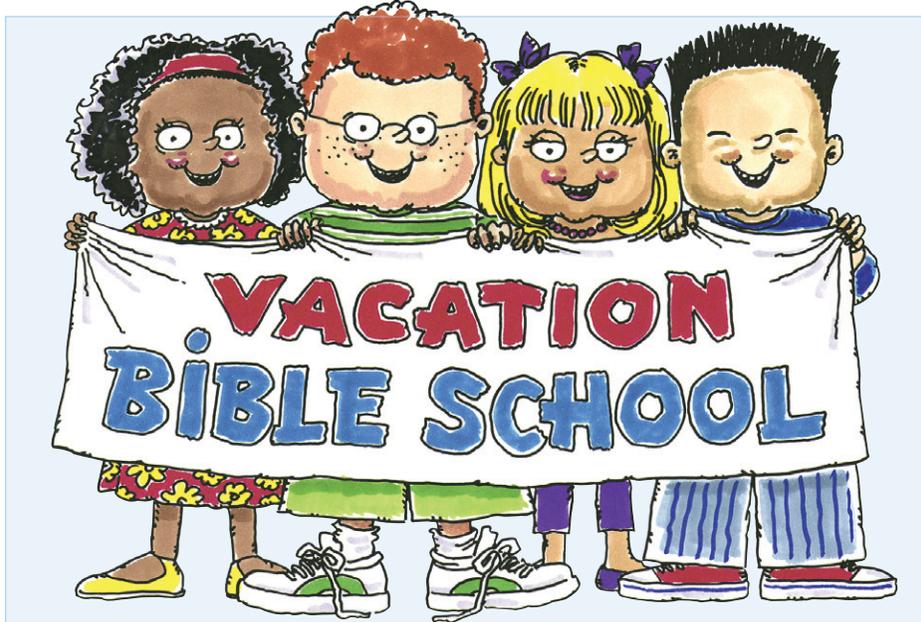
J.F. Swartsel Masonic Lodge, 3109 Lutz Lake Fern Road in Lutz, will host its monthly Friday fish fry July 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$8 for carryout or \$10 for eat-in.

## DIGITAL CAMERA WORKSHOP

The Downtown New Port Richey Art Gallery, 6231 Grand Blvd., will host a digital camera workshop July 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Local camera expert Jim Smetson will teach the workshop "What Went Wrong." Cost is \$20 per person. Seating is limited. To RSVP, call (727) 848-6500, or email [nprgallery1@gmail.com](mailto:nprgallery1@gmail.com).

## NONPROFIT SUMMIT

University Area Community Development Corporation's 2014 University Area Nonprofit Summit is July 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 14013 N. 22nd St., in Tampa. Community leaders and nonprofit agencies are invited to develop new paradigms in service delivery, remove



## Sunlake Baptist VBS

Sunlake Baptist Church, 18908 Sunlake Blvd., in Lutz, is hosting "Agency D-3" vacation Bible school July 14-18 from 9 a.m. to noon, for children in first through sixth grade. Admission is free. For information, call (813) 949-9248.

## Heritage Church VBS

Heritage Church, 1854 Oak Grove Blvd., in Lutz, is hosting "Jungle Safari" vacation Bible school July 14-18 from 9 a.m. to noon, for children 5 years through fifth grade. Cost is \$5 per child. To register online, visit [YesHeritage.com](http://YesHeritage.com). For information, call (813) 909-4080.

## Savanna Church VBS

Savanna Church is hosting "Weird Animals" vacation Bible school July 14-18 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Admission is free, and will take place at Avalon Park West Community Center, 5227 Autumn Ridge Drive in Wesley Chapel. To register, visit [SavannaChurch.com](http://SavannaChurch.com).

barriers to care, and build capacity to create a prosperous community. The fee of \$20 includes breakfast and lunch. To register by July 18, visit [UACDC.org](http://UACDC.org).

## OLD LUTZ SCHOOL SPRUCE-UP

The Old Lutz School, 18819 U.S. 41, is hosting a spruce-up July 26 from 8 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed for indoor cleaning, light yard work, and organizing storage. A general meeting will follow. For information, call Ben Nevel at (813) 334-5712, or Suzin Carr at (813) 453-5256.

## SUMMER SEWING CLASSES

Sewing classes for beginner and intermediate sewers are being offered in

Lutz at Sophisticated Tailoring, located behind McDonald's, at 18470 U.S. 41. Classes start at \$25. For information, call (813) 785-3177, or visit [SophisticatedTailoring.com](http://SophisticatedTailoring.com).

## LEARN TO TANGO

The Tampa Bay Tango Club and Tampa Downtown Partnership are offering a free weekly tango class at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N. Ashley Drive, in Tampa, on Thursdays at 6 p.m. through next March. All skill levels are invited. For information, call (813) 221-3686.

## 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](http://AMF.com/university-lanes-fl).

## VOLUNTEER FOR BOOKS FOR TROOPS

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

## MORNING GROUP FITNESS

The Oakstead Community, 3038 Oakstead Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, is offering a morning group fitness class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m. This is a low-impact class with cardio and resistant training. Cost is \$5 per class. For information, call instructor Julie Brucker at (813) 996-7186.

## VISIT WC CIVIL AIR PATROL

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

## DONATE TO LIBRARY FRIENDS

The Friends of the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, are looking for new members and gently used books. Books can be donated at the library Tuesday through Saturday. New member applications can be filled out at the library. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

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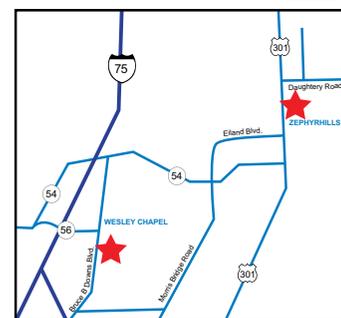
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BC142612-0614

# Chalk Talk

Send school news to [news@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:news@lakerlutznews.com)

### 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](http://PHSC.edu/rsvp).

### TEACHERS GET IN FREE AT ZOO

Through Aug. 14, Florida certified teachers for kindergarten through 12th grade will be treated to a free ticket to Lowry Park Zoo, 1101 W. Sligh Ave., in Tampa.

County teachers in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Hernando, Manatee and Sarasota are eligible.

Teachers must present valid professional

or temporary teaching certification, pay stub and Florida ID to receive the offer.

Eligible teachers can purchase up to two additional one-day companion tickets at a discounted rate.

For information, call (813) 935-8552.

### 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.

For information, call (813) 346-0402.

### LUIKART NOW CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

Steve Luikart, a Pasco County School Board member, was recognized as a certified board member June 13 at the annual summer conference sponsored by the Florida School Boards Association.

The Certified Board Member Program is a voluntary training program for individual school board members, and provides training in student learning, school finance, legislative processes, policymaking, strategic planning, school law, community involvement, advoca-



COURTESY OF PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE

### Bash at the Ranch wrangles \$35,000 for PHSC Foundation

The Pasco-Hernando State College Foundation Bash at the Ranch topped \$35,000 in funds raised to create new scholarships, including an endowment established in honor of the Porter family. PHSC president Katherine Johnson was on hand to recognize J.D. Porter and family at the event.

cy for public education, diversity, employee relations and current trends and issues.

### GOV. SCOTT APPOINTS NEW PHSC BOARD MEMBERS

Gov. Rick Scott has appointed Marilyn Pearson-Adams and Robin Schneider to the district board of trustees for Pasco-Hernando State College.

Pearson-Adams, of Brooksville, is the president of Century 21 Alliance Realty and a director with the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce.

Schneider, of Spring Hill, is a marketing coordinator at Medical Center of Trinity.

Board terms for both will run until May 31, 2017.

### MOSI SCIENCE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Museum of Science & Industry still has more than 200 scholarships available for students in need of financial assistance to attend MOSI Summer Science Camps.

Eligible students need to submit an application along with proof of financial need.

The application and eligibility requirements can be found on [CampFun.org](http://CampFun.org).

For information on how to apply for a camp scholarship, call (813) 987-6000.

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# Tax collector focused on Arc of Florida in July

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Arc of Florida/Center for Independence is the featured charitable organization for July by the Pasco County Tax Collector.

The goal is to raise funds to support those with developmental and other intellectual disabilities in the community. The Center for Independence is the Pasco County chapter of The Arc of Florida, and is a key provider of services to those with a variety of disabilities, according to a release.

Services there include residential, day-training, supported employment, and transportation assistance.

"Donations through the check-off program fund services that change the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Pasco County," said Deborah Linton, chief executive of The Arc of Florida, in a release.

"There is probably not a person who does not know someone with a disability, whether a family member, friend or neighbor," said county tax collector Mike Fasano, in a release. "The programs offered by the Center for Independence have made the lives of countless individuals better. Your donation of any amount will assist the center to continue providing the highest level of care possible."

Customers who wish to support the charity can check off the box on their vehicle registration form to contribute \$1 or more to the fund. Cash donations also will be accepted at tax collector's offices around the county, like Land O' Lakes, Dade City, New Port Richey and Gulf Harbors.

The promotion runs throughout July.

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

## POLITICAL AGENDA

SEND POLITICAL NEWS TO [MHINMAN@LAKERLUTZNEWS.COM](mailto:MHINMAN@LAKERLUTZNEWS.COM)

### MULIERI ENDORSES ROBERTSON

Pasco County commissioner Pat Mulieri is retiring from her job, but she already knows who she's voting for to replace her: Bob Robertson.

Robertson, a Zephyrhills financial analyst, is in a primary battle with former state Rep. Ken Littlefield and Wesley Chapel entrepreneur Mike Moore. Mulieri told The Laker/Lutz News she first met Robertson through his work with the homeless, and later learned his wife was an outreach coordinator at a church in Zephyrhills.

"He believes, like me, in giving a hand up to those in need," Mulieri said. "Being a commissioner is a steep learning curve. Bob has done his best to prepare himself for the job. I believe he will listen to citizens, study the issues, and work to bring opportunities hope to Pasco."

Mulieri went public with her support on June 29 when she wished Robertson a happy birthday on Facebook, adding "I support you 100 percent. You will be a great commissioner."

The winner of the August primary will face Land O' Lakes Democrat Erika Remsberg in the November election.

### MOBILE HOURS FOR ROSS

U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, will host mobile office hours Aug. 12 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Lutz Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road in Lutz.

Other dates in Lutz include Sept. 9, Oct. 14 and Dec. 9.

For more information, call (863) 644-8215, or (813) 752-4790.

### CORCORAN ENDORSES MOORE

Pasco County Commission candidate Mike Moore has received an endorsement from future House Speaker and current Land O' Lakes state Rep. Richard Corcoran.

"Mike Moore has spent his career building businesses and creating jobs," Corcoran said, in a release. "It's vital to have more leaders who can help make government more accountable and more efficient. His commitment to his family and to our community shines through, and is a good example for us all."

Moore is seeking the Republican nomination to replace retiring commissioner Pat Mulieri. He is locked in primary with former state Rep. Ken Littlefield and Zephyrhills financial analyst Bob Robertson.

The winner of the August primary will face Democrat Erika Remsberg in November.

### REALTORS HELP GET THE VOTE OUT

Pasco County elections supervisor Brian Corley is thanking the Pasco County Board of Realtors Associations for the group's help

in registering and updating voters around the county.

"In the exciting but stressful time of purchasing a new home and relocating, things like registering to vote or update your address are often overlooked," Corley said, in a release.

Corley's office provides packets containing information like a voter's guide and a registration form.

"In the upcoming 2014 election cycle, proactive initiatives like Move the Vote are low-cost ways to encourage voters to prepare in advance of election day," Corley said.

### MOORE ATTENDS FIRE RESCUE ORIENTATION

Pasco County Commission candidate Mike Moore recently attended the fifth annual Fire Operations 101 Orientation with representatives from Pasco Fire Rescue.

Moore, who is one of four candidates looking to replace the retiring Pat Mulieri in District 2, attended the one-day operations orientation, which was sponsored by the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association among others.

### ARMSTRONG APPOINTED TO SWIFTMUD BOARD

Gov. Rick Scott has appointed Elijah Armstrong III to the Southwest Florida Water Management District's governing board.

Armstrong is a Dunedin attorney with Hill Ward Henderson. He was previously a member of what was then known as the Pasco-Hernando Community College board of directors.

If confirmed by the state Senate, Armstrong's term will end March 1, 2018.

### CHAMBERS GET TOGETHER TO HOST FORUMS

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will host two forums to introduce members to candidates facing off in primary and general elections.

The first forum takes place Aug. 4 beginning at 7 p.m., at East Pasco Adventist Academy, 38434 Centennial Road in Dade City. That event will include candidates ranging from the state House to the Mosquito Control Board.

The second event will be Oct. 20 beginning at 7 p.m., in the same location, once again including the same races.

The chambers will provide two moderators to ask questions. Candidates also will have a chance to set up tables and meet voters beginning each night at 6 p.m.

### REPUBLICAN CLUB INVITES CANDIDATES

The Wesley Chapel Republican Club will host a Republican candidate meet and greet July 10 at 7 p.m., at Wesley Chapel Hyundai, 27000 Wesley Chapel Blvd.

Candidates will have a chance to speak for up to three minutes each beginning at 7:30 p.m.



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FILE PHOTOS

Members of the Porter family joined Pasco-Hernando State College president Katherine Johnson at the open house and dedication of Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch. From left are J.D. Porter, Bill Porter, Johnson, Don Porter and Quinn Miller.

## PORTER, from page 1

special events.

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel also issued a statement paying tribute to Porter's contributions.

"Don Porter's vision was to transform the Porter Ranch into a Wesley Chapel community centered around family ... a community

with quality health care, education, and recreation services for its residents," hospital officials said. "It was wonderful to work with Don and his family to bring that vision to life. The entire Porter family has been very supportive of the hospital and our programs to improve the health and wellness of the entire community."

Katherine Johnson, president of Pasco-Hernando State College, recalled the first time she met Porter. It was her first day as the college's president, and she was being introduced around the community. Those introductions included a lunch with Porter at Saddlebrook Resort.

Porter was approachable and she immediately felt at ease, Johnson recalled.

"We clicked. We just clicked," she said.

At that very first lunch, Porter told Johnson about his vision for higher educational opportunities for students living in the community. The family's later contribution of 60 acres for the campus played an instrumental role in making that vision come true, Johnson said.

"Clearly, we would not have been able to have a campus in Wesley Chapel without that family," she said. Beyond helping to bring that vision to life, Porter became a friend and mentor.

When Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch opened in January, it signaled the first time in Wesley Chapel history that a student could attend preschool through college without leaving the Wesley Chapel community.

When the Porters moved to Wesley Chapel during the 1940s, there wasn't much development in the area. Over the years, the community has evolved, and Porter had a clear vision for the future, Johnson said.

When plans were being discussed for the Porter Campus, he envisioned a campus with multi-story buildings.

"He wanted an urban, corporate look," Johnson said.

Porter is survived by son, J.D., daughter, Quinn Miller and her husband, Matthew, as well as three grandchildren, Johannah, Cooper, and Lillian Jane, of Odessa; and his brother, William H. and his wife, Debby, of Dade City.



Don Porter, whose vision helped create the building blocks for community life in Wesley Chapel, died July 1.

## Don Porter memorial service

A memorial service for Don Porter has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on July 12 at the conference center at Pasco-Hernando State College's Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, 2727 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

## SHERIFF, from page 1

level of service Nocco says residents in neighboring counties receive. For instance, a homeowner who has a mailbox knocked over could easily make a report using an online form — if that technology was available to Pasco County residents. Instead, a deputy has to physically go out and make a report, costing valuable time that could be saved otherwise.

Even if the salary and technology problems are addressed, the county still has another problem. Many counties average around 1.3 deputies per every 1,000 residents. In Pasco, that number is below one deputy per thousand. Just to catch up with current populations, Nocco needs 150 new deputies.

With new deputies, he will need a new district office, too, right where the population is growing the most.

"We are going to need many more deputies, and we're going to need a fourth district in the (State Road) 54 corridor," Nocco said. "We need to have a stronger presence in the Land O' Lakes and Wesley Chapel area. Deputies who serve that area right now are based out of Dade City, and there has to be something much closer to serve those needs."

Many of these issues aren't even a part of this year's proposed budget increase, which would bring the sheriff's office budget close to \$100 million.

And elected officials are listening. During a recent workshop, commissioners admitted taxes in Pasco were far too low, affecting the government's ability to serve its people. With proposed budget increases from other departments needed as well, it seems impossible to keep taxes at the same level they were last year.

"I am for having a better-funded county government," Commissioner Kathryn Starkey said recently. "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."

But how much of those extra funds should go into the sheriff's office is still a question for the commission, which has been weighing Nocco's request carefully. Public safety may be a key measure to stimulate growth, but so is having a building department that can maintain a seamless working relationship with developers so that major projects, like a new Amazon.com facility, are not lost to neighboring counties, Commissioner Ted Schrader said.

"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," Schrader said during a workshop last month.

Nocco is convinced the commission will help him with most, if not all, of his budget requests this year. But if the increase was tough to swallow this year, future requests might be even more difficult.

Yet, the sheriff's office is willing to help in those areas, too, Nocco said. For instance, the call for more code enforcement can actually be handled by a group of volunteers trained and managed by the sheriff's office.

"We will train them and provide them the tools they need to start writing code enforcement violations and target high-crime areas," Nocco said. "This will let us focus on areas where abandoned or neglected structures are used over and over again for drug houses and other crime."

In all, there is a lot more the sheriff's office can do to help other departments, Nocco said, and soften the impact of potentially higher taxes to residents.

"We are not wasting taxpayer dollars. Instead, we are very efficient," he said. "I know our commissioners are being pulled in a thousand different directions, but I also think they realize that public safety is a priority."

## Summer travel heats up in Florida

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Summer is going to be a busy time for travelers, especially those who hail from Florida.

The majority of Florida residents — 81 percent — plan to take a leisure trip of 50 miles or more over the next three months, according to a new study by AAA. That is a jump of four percentage points from 2013.

"This marks the third consecutive year that AAA data shows a steady summer travel season in Florida — a positive sign for the travel industry," said Jessica Brady, AAA Travel's spokeswoman, in a release. "Although theme parks, beach getaways and city destinations top 2014's summer travel list, the majority of people haven't finalized their vacation plans."

However, travelers who do wait until the last minute to book their hotel, rental car or airline ticket can expect to pay more than those who book weeks in advance, Brady said.

The majority of travelers, some 59 percent, say they plan to spend \$1,500 or less on travel in the next three months. More than

half, or 62 percent, say they will pay for a hotel during a summer vacation. Another 36 percent say they will cut costs by staying with family and friends.

Although only 35 percent plan to rent a car this summer, nearly 3-in-5 travelers, or 57 percent, plan to drive at least five hours to get to their destination, or for sightseeing.

"Floridians are fortunate because most destinations like beaches and theme parks are within a one-day drive," said AAA spokesman Mark Jenkins, in a release. "Gasoline prices are beginning to let up just in time for the busy summer driving season. Pump prices are not expected to have a negative impact on travel plans."

The AAA Consumer Pulse Survey was conducted online among residents living in the Southern Region of the Auto Club Group — Florida, Georgia and Tennessee — from April 14-21.

Some 400 Florida residents were sampled in the survey, which has a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points. The results also were weighted by gender and age.

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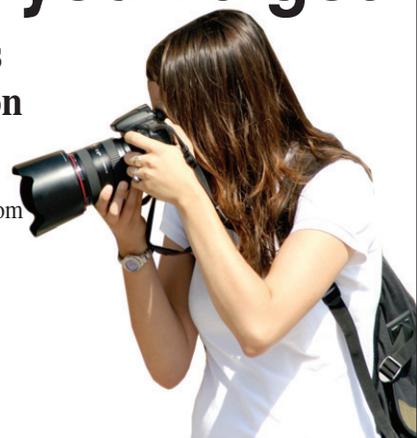
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B.C. MANION/STAFF PHOTO

Learning Gate Community School has gained approval for using buildings located at 207 Lutz Lake Fern Road to house its seventh-and eighth-graders. Even though that hurdle has been cleared, no details are available yet on when or whether the school will make the move to the site.

## County approves middle school site for Learning Gate

By B.C. Manion  
bmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Learning Gate Community School has received Hillsborough County's blessing to locate its classes for seventh- and eighth-graders in the former Hand-in-Hand Academy building near downtown Lutz.

Land use hearing officer James Scarola approved Learning Gate's request to use the location at 207 Lutz Lake Fern Road for its middle school-level students. The approval, issued June 29, limits the enrollment, however, at the Lutz Lake Fern Road location to 205 students.

That's 45 fewer students than the school initially requested. The school agreed to reduce its request after Mike White, president of the Lutz Citizens Coalition, objected to the higher number.

At a June 2 public hearing, White told Scarola the site was not conducive for that many students. White also said the community has no problems with the school, simply with the proposed enrollment, ac-

ording to the hearing officer's June 29 ruling.

During a recent interview, White said the school also agreed to sign a private agreement with the Lutz Citizens Coalition pledging that it would never ask for a variance to allow more students at the site.

The 4-acre site previously had been approved for 175 kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Of those, up to 85 were allowed to be in child care.

The property, which is included in Hillsborough County's Landmark and Historic Archeological Resources Inventory, contains a church that was built in the 1940s and two educational buildings that were constructed during the 1960s.

No additions or expansions are requested in Learning Gate's application.

The county's transportation department reviewed the request and concluded the school will not impact traffic on nearby roads. The school is expected to generate 225 trips during the peak morning hours, and 151 during the afternoon peak hours.

However, the transportation department has determined that a detailed traffic study will be needed and it may show the need for such improvements as paving, widening and construction of a turn lane.

Learning Gate is a nationally recognized charter school that operates at two locations in Tampa. Its campus for kindergarten through sixth grade is at 16215 Hanna Road, and its campus for seventh and eighth grade is at 15316 N. Florida Avenue.

Even though Learning Gate applied for permission to operate a school at the Lutz Lake Fern location, no additional information is available about Learning Gate's plans.

Brian Erickson, president of Learning Gate's board, said in an email that "at this time, it would be inappropriate for anyone to comment.

"There are many unanswered questions. We are having ongoing communications with the bank who holds the note, but we are still doing our due diligence on the property," Erickson wrote.

## Troopers want cars to move over on busy highways

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

There are two words that can mean the difference between life and death on Florida's busy highways: move over.

It's a phrase the Florida Highway Patrol is sharing as much as it can, letting drivers know that when someone is stopped along a busy roadway, they need to move over, or slow down. If not, it could not only result in a ticket, but also injury or death of whoever might be stopped because of an accident.

"Our troopers are out there every day working traffic stops and crash scenes along busy highways with cars speeding past them, often just feet away," said Col. David Brierton, director of Florida Highway Patrol, in a release. "And every day, they face the real possibility of never going home to their families because someone fails to obey the move over law."

The law, according to FHP:

- Protects law enforcement officers, emergency workers and tow truck drivers stopped along roadways while doing their jobs.

- Requires motorists to move over when a patrol car, emergency vehicle or tow truck is stopped on the side of a road with lights flashing. If such movement cannot be safely accomplished, motorists must slow down to a speed 20 mph below the posted speed limit.

Enforcing the law is important to troopers, especially since FHP lost one of its own this past May when Trooper Chelsea Richard was struck and killed by a vehicle while investigating an accident. The tow truck driver, as well as another pedestrian, was also killed in the crash.

For more information on the move over law, visit [tinyurl.com/MoveOverFlorida](http://tinyurl.com/MoveOverFlorida).

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# Happy Birthday, USA!



Despite a little bit of morning rain, crowds lined up along Lutz Lake Fern Road for the annual Fourth of July parade and celebration.

MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTOS



Nadia King of Spring Hill holds her 18-month daughter Kaylynn ahead of the Miss and Mr. Firecracker contest at The Shops at Wiregrass over the Fourth of July weekend.



Matthew Wheaton, 5, of Lutz, enjoys a snow cone in a cup along the Fourth of July parade route in his hometown last weekend.



Gavin Childress, 11, can only look on as his mom, Karrie, stuffs a toy bear during the Connerton Fourth of July celebration.



It was a festive parade float for Elsa's in Lutz, including a Fourth of July hat for beer's 'most interesting man in the world' in the background.



Jaxson White, 3, of Land O' Lakes, shows what it's like to fiercely drive an antique tractor during last weekend's Fourth of July celebration in Lutz.



Sadie Overton, 3, flies down an inflatable slide during the Fourth of July festivities at Connerton last weekend.



Trista Ambler, 8, and Stella Ierna, 6, take a break on a hot day as the Ierna's Heating & Cooling float makes its way to the end of the Lutz Fourth of July parade.



This group shows what the Lutz Fourth of July parade might have looked like had it taken place back when the nation was first born.



There were plenty of fire trucks during the Lutz Fourth of July parade, but also at least one Dalmatian, like this one from the GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club.



When this fire truck first raced to save people and homes from deadly flames, Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, and the original Lutz Junction train station still existed. Now it's celebrated as part of the Fourth of July celebration in Lutz.



Coming out for the Lutz Fourth of July parade has been a 14-year tradition for Kevin Dec, left, Joe Rich and Nana Gorgetti.



Outgoing Lutz Guv'na Suzin Carr gets one last chance to share her popular pose as she makes her way through the town's Fourth of July parade.



One young girl jumps in excitement as the North Tampa-Lutz squadron of the Civil Air Patrol makes its way down Lutz Lake Fern Road as part of the Lutz Fourth of July celebration last weekend.

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## Local soccer teams earn gold in Special Olympics

By Michael Murillo  
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

While soccer fans around the world are watching the World Cup, two teams from Land O' Lakes High School already are basking in victory.

Two squads, the Grey Team and the Gold Team, each claimed the gold medal in their respective divisions at the Special Olympics Florida State Summer Games, May 16-17 at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista.

The Grey Team is a Division 2 team with seven players per side, while the Gold Team is a Division 3 team with five players per side. Divisions are set up based on team skill levels.

Each team is unified, meaning athletes play alongside partners to help them and provide support. The Gold Team has four players and three partners playing at one time, while the Grey Team has three players and two partners.

While the players are happy to have achieved their goal, their longtime coach, Vicky King, is equally proud.

"It was a great accomplishment. Our teams have trained really hard this year," she said.

The Gold Team had little knowledge of soccer before they started playing together a few years ago, King explained. For their first two years playing soccer, they didn't score a single goal. Now they understand the game, talk about it, and claimed the gold medal in their division.

And the Grey Team has a chance to continue playing at an advanced level. They're eligible to compete at the World Games, and if selected, they'll go to Los Angeles to take part next July.

The keys to success are the same as they would be for any championship team, King said. Hard work, a balanced squad, and an emphasis on fitness and skills led the teams to victory.

But the Special Olympics is about more than competition. Land O' Lakes resident Terry Ahearn said his son, Andrew, truly en-



COURTESY OF LAND O' LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

Two soccer teams from Land O' Lakes High School went to Lake Buena Vista to compete in the Special Olympics Florida State Summer Games. Both came home with gold medals.

joys being a part of the team and competing in the games.

"He loves it. It's been really good for him, too," Ahearn said.

Andrew has participated in Special Olympics for years, and plays soccer for the Grey Team. He has autism, and is high-functioning. His father said that playing has given him more confidence, and even though he can be hard on himself, he always has praise and support for his teammates.

While playing on a unified team allows the athletes to get on-field support, it doesn't affect the team dynamic. Ahearn said once they start playing, everyone is working toward the same goal.

"It doesn't matter if they're playing basketball, if they're bowling or playing soccer, you really can't tell the difference between any of the kids," he said. "They're just like any other team."

And like any other athlete, Andrew is happy to have claimed the gold for his team.

"It feels good," he said. "We did our best."

The midfielder said participating in various sports — Andrew also competes in bowling, basketball and flag football — and having fun are the best things about the games. He was named Athlete of the Year for Pasco County.

For his father, coaches like King are some

of the real highlights of participating in the Special Olympics. The teachers and coaches make the experience more valuable for the participants, he said.

"I'm proud of (Andrew) and how he competes and what he's learned, but I'm also proud of the teachers and the coaches," Ahearn said. "Because he would not be where he is right now if he didn't have the teachers and coaches that gave so much of themselves."

"To do what these kids are doing and to reach them takes a special person. I could not say enough good things about them."

For more information about the Special Olympics, visit [SpecialOlympicsFlorida.org](http://SpecialOlympicsFlorida.org).



### SPORT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS

Senior Sports is seeking players older than 60 for a number of regular co-ed sporting events.

The group participates in golf every Wednesday and bowling every Thursday. It also has added tennis and indoor volleyball.

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

### ROLLER DERBY GAME TO BENEFIT SHEPHERDS CENTER

Revolution Roller Derby, an all-female roller derby league, will play July 20 to benefit the Tarpon Springs Shepherds Center, which provides education, assistance and support to needy members of the community.

Those who attend the game between the Rolling Valkyries from Tarpon Springs and NR3 from Sarasota are asked to bring canned or non-perishable food.

The game begins at 6 p.m., at Astro Skate & Fun Centers, 875 Cypress St., in Tarpon Springs.

The cost is \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door, or \$8 at the door with a food dona-

tion. Children 6 and younger are admitted free. Advanced tickets can be purchased at [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com).

For information about the Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center, visit [TSSOnline.com](http://TSSOnline.com). For more information about Revolution Roller Derby, visit [RevolutionRollerDerby.com](http://RevolutionRollerDerby.com).

### SOCCER CAMP HIGHLIGHTS SPANISH STYLE

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

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

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

For information, call (813) 355-6671, or visit [ProSoccerSpain.com](http://ProSoccerSpain.com).

### REBELS PLAY THE KNIGHTS IN JULY

The Tampa Bay Rebels, a semi-pro basketball team, will play the Palm Beach Knights on July 26 at Freedom High School, 17410 Commerce Park Blvd.

Tickets are \$10 for fans older than 13. Children younger than that are admitted free.

For information, visit online at [TampaBayRebels.com](http://TampaBayRebels.com).

### FOOTBALL AND CHEER JAMBOREE AUG. 9

The Dade City Pirates, Pasco Police Athletic League and Lacoochee Boys & Girls Club will have their 2014 football and cheer jamboree 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, email [ppalpirate@gmail.com](mailto: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 send her an email at [hjmarcusddm@gmail.com](mailto:hjmarcusddm@gmail.com).

### SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE JOVITA

Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club, 12900 Lake Jovita Blvd., in Dade City, will host

camps this summer.

The general summer camp will be 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 email [rweber@lakejovita.com](mailto: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 Pennye Garcia at [pgarcia@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:pgarcia@pasco.k12.fl.us).

### 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](mailto:tim.boylan@sdhc.k12.fl.us).



COURTESY OF PATRICIA SERIO

## Sharon Bard is cook-off champ

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club's recent Guv'na fundraiser luncheon for Jay Muffly featured a crockpot cook-off contest. Members competed with recipes including appetizer items, soups, entrees and desserts, all prepared in crockpots. Sharon Bard stirred up the hands-down winner with her recipe of chicken, yellow rice and black beans, which was quickly emptied by the tasters.

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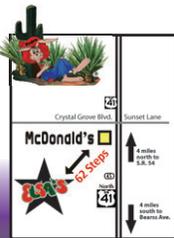
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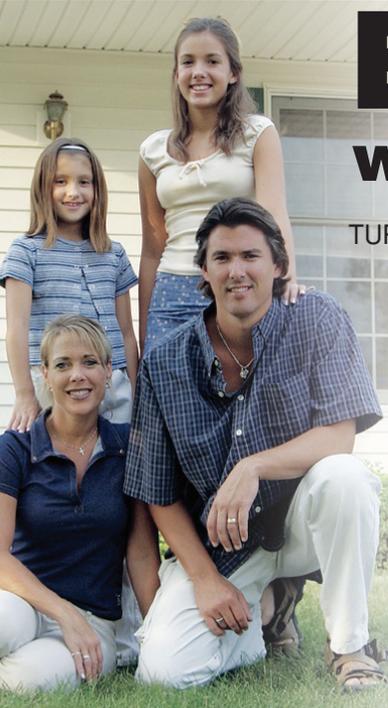
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## BUSINESS DIGEST

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[mhinman@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:mhinman@lakerlutznews.com)

### DUSEK NEW HONORARY MAYOR

The votes are in, and so is the money. Pasco County has a new mayor, and it's Terri Dusek.

Dusek, a local real estate agent, ran a campaign of "Paying it Forward Through Music." She was one of several people and businesses honored at the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce annual dinner last week. Dusek also won Ambassador of the Year.

The dinner included the installation of the new chamber president, Charlene Ierna, of Ierna's Heating & Cooling. She succeeds Denny Esber, who also is retiring from the board along with director Gary Loman.

Before he left, Esber handed out his President's Award to Tony Masella of OurTownFla.com for his outstanding service to the chamber and the community.

Hungry Harry's Bar-B-Que was the Large Business of the Year while All Smiles Tampa Bay won Small Business of the Year. A Focus on Fitness was New Business of the Year, while Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco was Non-Profit Member of the Year.

If honorary mayor and the chamber's top ambassador wasn't enough, Dusek topped a successful season as Chamber Member of the Year as well.

The Community Service Award was a tie between April Saland of A.L. Saland Insurance Solutions, and Pam Oakes of

Pasco International Tourism.

Finally, the Central Pasco Chamber honored the lifetime service of Larry Delucenay and retiring Pasco County commissioner Pat Mulieri.

### LAKE FRANCISCO PLAZA SOLD

A 1980s-era shopping center along Land O' Lakes Boulevard has a new owner.

Robert and Elizabeth Ferrer purchased Lake Francisco Plaza at 1900 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Lutz, early last month for \$1.3 million. That was nearly \$200,000 less than what Lake Francisco Plaza LLC out of Georgia paid for the same 121,000-square-foot strip mall in 2005.

The center, near where U.S. 41 and Dale Mabry Highway split just north of the Hillsborough County line, has spaces for retail and office, according to Pasco County property records. The largest is 54,000 square feet.

Lake Francisco Plaza has been part of the Yount family since the beginning in 1984, with even the company that purchased it in 2005 listing Thomas C. Yount as one of its managers.

Pasco had a strong quarter in property sales of transactions more than \$1 million. The period between March and June, not including any late filers, saw \$72.8 million change hands, compared to \$37.2 million sold during the same quarter in 2013, according to county property records.

### PINCHERS CRAB SHACK OPENS AT THE SHOPS

Pinchers Crab Shack, a seafood restaurant chain based out of Bonita Springs, has opened its 10th location at The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel.

Dacie Broshears will manage the restaurant, located at 28330 Paseo Drive, Suite 185. Broshears also managed what had been the closest Pinchers location before in Lakewood Ranch near Bradenton.

Pinchers started in 1997 at a six-table

restaurant in 1,500 square feet of space in Bonita Springs. It has grown to 10 locations and more than 500 employees, stretching from Wesley Chapel in the north to Key West.

For information, visit them online at [PinchersCrabShack.com](http://PinchersCrabShack.com).

### MARKET STRUGGLING TO GRAB FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS STILL

Condominium sales in the Tampa Bay region are down, but prices are on the rise as home sales continue their long recovery in the state.

The median sales price of a condominium in the region, which includes both Pasco and Hillsborough counties, was \$110,000 in May, up nearly 13 percent from the year before, according to a new report from Florida Realtors. The number of closed sales dropped nearly 10 percent, however, to 1,256 units.

Single-family home sales climbed a little more than 1 percent last month in the area, while median sale prices slipped about the same percentage, to \$156,000.

Statewide, condo sale prices rose nearly 14 percent to \$145,000, while home prices ticked up another 4 percent to \$180,000.

The market still struggles to attract first-time homebuyers.

"Going forward, we're concerned about affordability," said John Tuccillo, chief economist for Florida Realtors, in a release. "In particular, the difficulty of first-time buyers to access mortgage financing, and the lag in providing a much-needed supply of new homes may hold back Florida's housing market."

### AVALON PARK WEST WELCOMES D.R. HORTON

D.R. Horton has recently completed construction of its first model home at Avalon Park West in Wesley Chapel.

The model is located in the Cypress Village neighborhood of the community,

where the homebuilder is planning 56 new houses.

The company will offer homes ranging from 2,045 to 3,576 square feet, according to a release, with prices starting at \$270,000.

Avalon Park West is located just off State Road 54, east of Interstate 75.

### SCHOOL DISTRICT HOSTS 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](http://PascoSchools.org).

### NEW TENANTS IN TRINITY

Commoncents Wealth Advisors LLC has signed a five-year lease with Trinity Medical Holdings Inc., for 1,605 square feet of space in the Trinity Medical and Professional Center, 8820 Belagio Drive.

The lease was negotiated through Hold-Thyssen Inc., a Winter Park-based commercial property firm, which also was involved with a lease for 1,100 square feet of space at Hunting Creek Pointe in Trinity for JGI Insurance Group LLC. The landlord there is Sunfield Homes Inc., for the property located at 3610 Galileo Drive.

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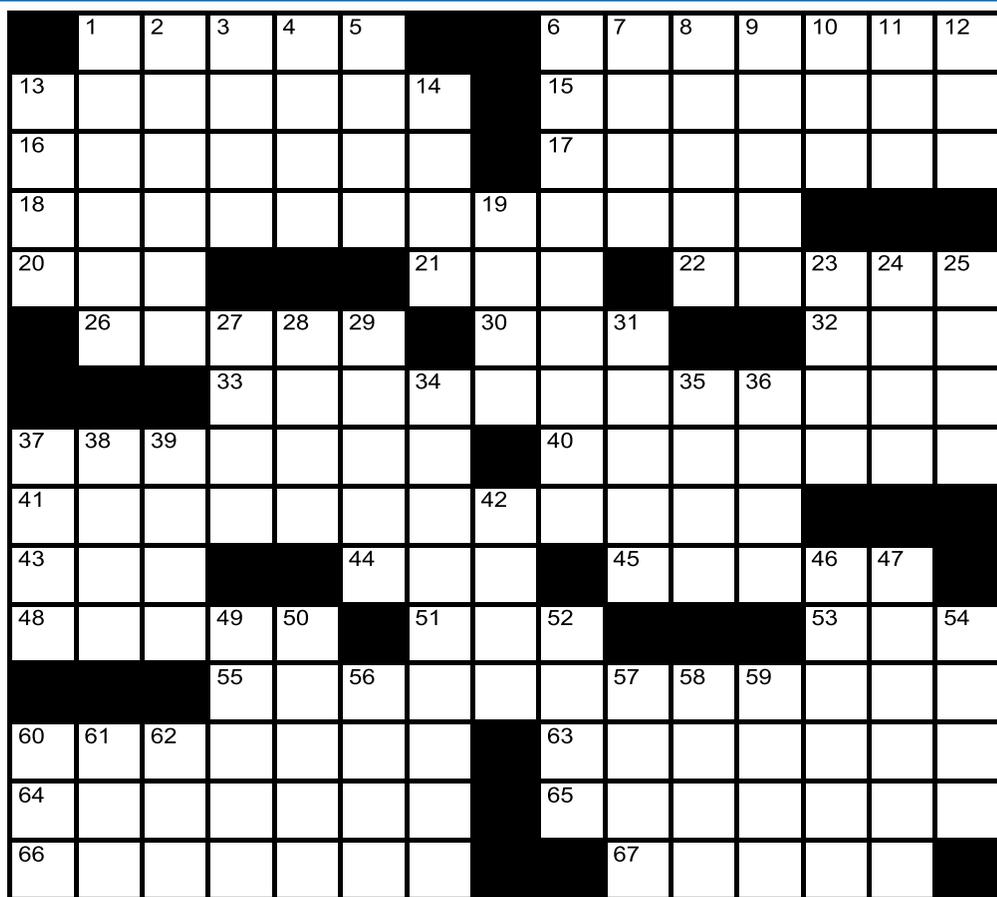
**CATHY GERBETZ OF ZEPHYRHILLS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



**ACROSS**

- 1. Air pollution (pl.)
- 6. Immeasurably deep chasms
- 13. Keen insights
- 15. Stone Age artifact
- 16. Knocking sound (hyphenated)
- 17. Occupancy by title, lease or rent
- 18. Extending from the U.S. to Japan
- 20. Last day of the week (abbrev.)
- 21. Big, fat mouth
- 22. Cut corners
- 26. Doozie
- 30. \_\_\_ de deux
- 32. Bill and \_\_\_
- 33. Absurd
- 37. One who fails to carry out a promise
- 40. Neophyte
- 41. Door-to-door

(hyphenated)

- 43. Armageddon
- 44. Clod chopper
- 45. Donnybrook
- 48. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (acronym)
- 51. \_\_\_ Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
- 53. Grassland
- 55. Pass allowing one to get on a ship (2 wds)
- 60. Like some triangles
- 63. Major neck artery
- 64. Cornmeal concoction
- 65. Hard, colored minerals composed of metal oxides
- 66. Passed out
- 67. File

**DOWN**

- 1. Sacred beetle of ancient Egypt
- 2. Undergo change
- 3. Arab League member
- 4. Catches on
- 5. Become unhinged
- 6. Italian appetizer
- 7. Strengthen, with "up"
- 8. Symbols representing Shakti
- 9. Remiss
- 10. Anger, e.g.
- 11. "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
- 12. Diffident
- 13. Song and dance, e.g.
- 14. "Don't go!"
- 19. Crime boss
- 23. Clickable image
- 24. Grimace
- 25. Ask
- 27. "Planet of the \_\_\_"
- 28. Advocate
- 29. Choppers, so to

speak

- 31. Play, in a way
- 34. Work on a galley
- 35. "\_\_\_ on Down the Road"
- 36. Cambodian currency
- 37. Perlman of "Cheers"
- 38. A long, long time
- 39. Art subject
- 42. Principal
- 46. Click beetle
- 47. In a spooky manner
- 49. Less inept
- 50. A great deal (2 wds)
- 52. Nervous twitches
- 54. Annexes
- 56. A chip, maybe
- 57. Back of the neck
- 58. Dismal
- 59. A type of geometric solid
- 60. Marienbad, for one
- 61. Bully
- 62. \_\_\_ mode (2 wds)

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 26

		4						2
6	3		9			5	8	
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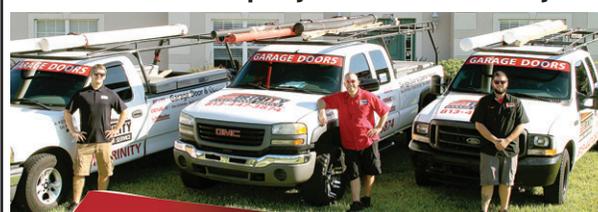
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WE'RE GETTING BIGGER  
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BEGINNING  
**August 6**

The Laker/Lutz News  
will be six inches taller  
than the current newspaper  
you're holding.

We will be the same size as many  
daily newspapers.

## WHY THE CHANGE?

### 1. Credible newspaper; serious local news

A traditional size communicates even more that we're credible newspapers committed to reporting serious local news.

### 2. More and bigger photos

Photos help us better tell stories about our community.

### 3. Two Sections

A new B Section becomes a second front page to give more prominence to feature stories. It also lets us use the back page of the A Section for a high-profile sports section.

### 4. Easy-To-Find Classifieds

Our new B Section will house all classified pages, including our popular Best In Small Business Directory.

### 5. More advertising circulars

The larger format allows us to accept more advertising circulars — important to readers as more national retailers open stores in our community.

### 6. Bigger ads

Ad sizes will be 25% bigger than current sizes. And bigger ads mean advertisers can add more offers and have more space to promote their business or service.

## The LAKER / Lutz NEWS

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