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**INSIDE
PAGE 1B**

Outlet mall not ready to spring up

By Michael Hinman
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Site work has begun on the Cypress Creek Town Center site near the intersection of State Road 56 and Wesley Chapel Boulevard. It's just not for the proposed outlet mall in that area.

Instead, dirt has begun to move across the street from the planned 482,000-square-foot mall, where some outparcel retail stores will eventually be built, said Dawn Sutton with Pasco County's Planning and Development department.

See OUTLET, page 7A



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTOS

Some activity on a site where some individual retail stores may be located in the future had some residents thinking the proposed outlet mall work was finally beginning. However, that project — across State Road 56 near Wesley Chapel Boulevard — is wrapping up site plan approvals now.



COURTESY OF JONATHAN FUDGE
With around 20 years experience, Jonathan Fudge isn't afraid to tackle any balloon project.

BLOWING UP:

Jonathan Fudge's business vision finally takes shape

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

As a balloon artist, Jonathan Fudge has to be able to field all kinds of requests like dogs, swords and hearts. And recently, a fire alarm.

"I said, 'Tell me what's important about a fire alarm to you,'" recalled Fudge. And after hearing what elements clients wanted to see — a round shape, place for batteries, test button — he got to work immediately.

"I made it happen for him," he said. "That's my job."

Fudge, who attended Land O' Lakes High School and lives in Lutz, has been creating balloon art for most of his life.

"I used to be the best, youngest balloon artist in the world. But then I got older," he said with a laugh.

Now 28, Fudge started making shapes 20 years ago, and has been working events since he was 16. It's taken him to places like Belgium, China and Japan. He's also turned his love of entertaining into a larger, thriving business.

His company, YTE Events, boasts a stable of more than 130 performers who entertain at parties, celebrations, school programs, and corporate and charity events.

One upcoming charity on YTE's schedule is the Cheval Cares 5k & Family Fun Day, Sept. 20. Now in its third year, the event — at the Cheval Athletic Club in Lutz — bene-

fits the Pediatric Cancer Foundation.

YTE — which stands for Your Total Entertainment — participates in a number of charitable events that benefit groups like Metropolitan Ministries and Suncoast Hospice. For Fudge, it's just part of helping others in the community, his entertainers, and the people who enjoy them.

"I got my start through charity," he said. "Someone taught me for free. But I'm not the only one who's been touched by that."

"When I can give my entertainers an outlet to do something they love, and to share what they love with other people, that skips over all kinds of boundaries."

Even non-charitable events allow his performers to get the satisfaction that comes with entertaining others with their special skills and abilities.

Fudge's stable of performers includes superheroes and princesses (some might bear a resemblance to famous names, but aren't

See FUDGE, page 7A

Wiregrass, Pasco schools chart big enrollment gains

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

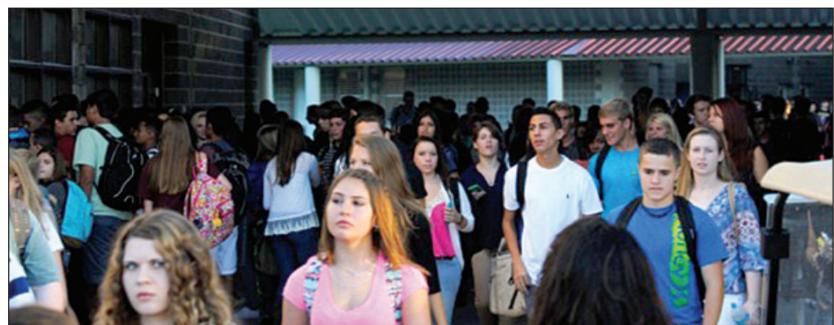
Hordes of Wiregrass Ranch High School students head to portable classrooms each morning, as the school copes with an enrollment of 2,255.

The school now has 30 portable classrooms, and must have four lunch periods to accommodate its swelling enrollment, said its principal, Robyn White. The high school, at 2909 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, had 165 more students this year than last, as of the 10th day of classes, according to Pasco County school district figures.

Some of that growth was anticipated because of a larger freshman class, White said. But the school picked up about 70 more students than it expected.

She attributes that growth to an increase in the construction of new homes and apartments in the area.

The school added 10 portable classrooms this year, enabling it to reduce the



COURTESY OF WIREGRASS RANCH HIGH

Wiregrass Ranch High School's enrollment continues to climb. This year, it had 2,255 students as of the 10th day of classes, picking up 165 students since the same time last year, according to district figures.

number of teachers floating between classrooms, White said. Last year, there were 11 teachers who floated between classrooms. This year, there are four.

Pasco High School's enrollment grew by 182 students — the biggest increase among

the district schools within The Laker/Lutz News coverage area.

As of the 10th day, Pasco's enrollment was 1,575.

See ENROLLMENT, page 7A

Local student finds trip to China enlightening

By B.C. Manion

bcmajian@lakerlutznews.com

When Darin Kilfoyl found out about the possibility of traveling to China to learn more about its language and culture, he seized the chance.

The 15-year-old, who attends Academy at the Lakes, is deeply interested in expanding his knowledge about the country and its language.

His teacher, Wei Wang, told him about the two-week program sponsored by the University of South Florida and the Confucius Institute. Wang said she knew Kilfoyl's desire to learn more about China and believed he would benefit from the experience.

Kilfoyl said the two weeks he spent in China gave him new insights about the country, and made him want to make a return trip when he has a better command of the language.

The program provided an expenses-paid experience, aside from airfare, which was slightly more than \$1,000, said Kilfoyl, who lives in Lake Padgett. The daily routine included morning language, culture and history classes, and day trips to learn more about the Chinese way of life.

The group spent the first couple of days in Beijing, then went to Hangzhou, which is a little bit west of Shanghai.

"If you want to see the true identity of China, don't stay in Beijing, but go to a province where there's a lake similar to Hangzhou," Kilfoyl said. "Or go to the mountain regions where it's all nature."

Beijing is very polluted, he added. "It's very modernized, but there are so many people that it's polluted," Kilfoyl said. "It's a little hard to breathe, and it's really difficult to see."

The traffic is insane. "People there are masters of driving. They come within an inch of another car. It was surprising how fast and how close they drove," Kilfoyl said, but added, "I didn't see a single accident."

Because it has such a large population, Beijing prohibits 20 percent of the people who own cars to drive them within the city limits on workdays, Kilfoyl said. The government controls that by monitoring a numbering system on license plates.

The students studied at the Hangzhou Foreign Language School.

"It was a private school, where kids in China or from out of the country would study different languages from around the world," Kilfoyl said.

The students in his group stayed in a guesthouse, which he said was similar to a dorm, with upgrades.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DARIN KILFOYL

If you want to experience the real China, don't just stay in Beijing, says Darin Kilfoyl. Travel to areas such as Hangzhou, which has a beautiful lake, and to the mountain regions.



Darin Kilfoyl poses with a young boy from China during Kilfoyl's two-week trip to learn more about the country's language, culture and history. It turns out that much of the clothing worn by the people he encountered is similar to the clothing that Americans wear, he says.



Darin Kilfoyle climbed to the top of the Liu He Pagoda, which is in Hangzhou, during his two-week stay in China. The sophomore at Academy at the Lakes says he is interested in Chinese architecture.

"In the morning, we'd eat breakfast at the cafeteria, then we'd normally have a class, where we'd practice learning Chinese or about the culture or something about China's history," Kilfoyl said. "Then we would go on a trip, somewhere within the

province. Normally, we went to two places during the day."

They visited the Xi Xi Wetlands, a museum that described the role water has played in the development of Chinese life. They also visited pagodas around the lake and heard Chinese folk tales.

As they made their way about the country, Kilfoyl noticed that most of the people he encountered were wearing modern clothing, which was similar to American styles of dress. When he arrived in China, he wasn't sure what the food was going to be like and he also wasn't sure about proper etiquette, he said.

The Chinese food he ate was substantially different than the fare served at Chinese

restaurants in America. For one thing, he said, "not much of it is fried."

"They eat a lot of white rice and vegetables," Kilfoyl said. "If they had meat, it was just a little bit, just for taste."

There were far fewer choices on television, he said. There was the government television channel, a channel that showed a Chinese version of "The Voice" reality competition show, and a channel that aired dramatic programming.

Before making the trip, Kilfoyl wasn't sure whether the people would be cordial.

It turns out he had nothing to worry about.

"When we were there, everybody was very friendly," Kilfoyl said.

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An era ends: Cash tolls go extinct on Veterans

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Toll roads have been a part of American life since the first such paths opened for business in Pennsylvania and New York in the late 18th century.

From the very beginning, passage on these roads required horse riders — and later vehicle drivers — to come face-to-face with a toll collector. But not anymore.

Last week, the Veterans Expressway parted ways with its last toll collector when the Florida Department of Transportation officially closed the Sugarwood plaza just south of the Pasco County line. It's the end of an era, as drivers no longer need to rummage for loose change in their car. Instead, SunPass transponders and license plate scanners will help drivers pay the required toll as cash itself becomes obsolete on the Veterans.

"Unlike the old days, back when we first built the Florida Turnpike in the 1950s, most of the people who use roads like this are not people on a leisurely vacation drive," said Christa Deason, public information officer for Florida's Turnpike Enterprise. "Now they are commuters, and they are on a fast track to get to work in the morning, and get home at night. They want to keep driving."

Sugarwood accepted its last cash toll around midnight Sept. 4. By late Friday afternoon, drivers heading north or south on the Veterans no longer had to stop. Technology had won.

When the Veterans Expressway first opened in 1994, traveling the 15-mile stretch was possible only by cash or a rarely used prepaid card that required a hefty cash balance. FDOT introduced SunPass on the Veterans in 2001 after a successful rollout two years earlier on the Florida Turnpike.

At first, SunPass was embraced by a select few, but that has changed over the years, Deason said. Now a third of Florida's drivers are SunPass users, and 84 percent of travelers on the Veterans and the Suncoast Parkway have a transponder in their car.

"This is just a logical evolution of the road," Deason said. "Fewer and fewer people were paying cash, and we've been phasing out collectors ever since."

The introduction of the Suncoast in 2001 has caused traffic to explode on the Veterans, especially Pasco residents looking to get to jobs in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, Deason said.

In its first year, more than 19,500 cars drove through the Anderson toll plaza each day, while 8,600 ventured past Sugarwood. Now, Anderson welcomes 59,400 cars each day, while Sugarwood deals with 44,200.

That prompted the state to spend \$380



FRED BELLET/PHOTOS

The Sugarwood toll plaza on the Veterans Expressway is undergoing construction as toll-booths are removed and electronic sensors read the vehicle's prepaid SunPass.



A car makes its way south at the Van Dyke Road entrance to the Veterans Expressway. The days of manned tollbooths are fading away. Sensors now read prepaid SunPass transponders, while others are billed after a camera reads their license plate.

Just so you know ...

Michael Hinman, the reporter for this story, spent a little bit of time as a toll collector himself. He worked at both the Anderson Road and Sugarwood toll plazas in the mid-1990s, not long after the Veterans Expressway first opened.

million to not only convert the Veterans to cash-free tolling, but to expand the roadway to six lanes. It's created a mess along the road, with commuters having to navigate through construction cones. But this could be the last major construction project on the Veterans ... ever.

"We don't have any more room to expand the road," said Tracie Rose, a Lutz-based project engineer with Jacobs Engineering, the firm contracted by FDOT to complete the work. "This will be as wide as we get. So it's going to have to last us."

Now that the toll conversion is com-

plete, work crews can fully concentrate on widening the road. But even with that focus, the project won't be completed until 2016.

Deason didn't have an exact count of the number of toll collectors the Veterans employed at its peak, but did say that the state has been winding down hiring new collectors over the past several years. The few that were left up to last week have either moved on, or are getting help from the company that managed the toll collectors.

"We had some long-term employees," Deason said. "We even had one or two that started out on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge back when they accepted tokens. Some of them took this opportunity to finally get that chance to retire."

The tollbooths located along the Suncoast, including the one between State Road 54 and State Road 52, will remain the way it is. Cash tolls are still collected in those main plazas, with the option of using a full-speed express lane around the plaza for those with SunPass.

MOSI wins national award from Noyce

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa has been selected as one of just seven museums in the country to receive the Bright Lights Community Engagement Award from the Noyce Foundation.

The award recognizes science centers, children's museums and natural history museums that have done what it considers to be an outstanding job of engaging with their local communities, especially in areas like science, technology, engineering, art and math. It comes with an undisclosed monetary prize said only be above \$100,000.

"For decades, MOSI has been engaged in the issues of Tampa and the region, with particular emphasis on underserved and at-risk populations, and those who work with them," said Ann Bowers, chair of the Noyce board of directors, in a release. "Outreach and community engagement are not a separate department at MOSI, but embedded in its organization culture and actions. Commitment to community and improving lives permeates everything this institution does."

The goal of the award, according to the foundation, is to discover and shine a light on those willing to embrace their communities in new and profound ways. A panel of 15 judges helped select the winners.

MOSI provides more than \$3 million annually in free passes, scholarships and memberships to those who cannot afford them. In addition, MOSI works with educators, Head Start teachers, families and children to increase science interest and improve science inquiry, according to a release.

"Our impact on students in the Tampa Bay community and beyond through outreach programs, scholarships and trainings, allow us to bring fun, interactive STEAM education to those who might not otherwise make it to our science center," said Molly Demeulenaere, MOSI's vice president of growth, in a release. "This award will allow MOSI to continue its mission of being an educational resource with an emphasis on underserved communities."

Other museums winning the Bright Lights award include Explora in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul; the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California; the Hands On Children's Museum in Olympia, Washington; The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia; and The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, California.

For more information on the Museum of Science & Industry, visit MOSI.org.

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What's Happening

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

EMBLEM CLASSES FOR SCOUTS

Classes for Catholic religious emblems for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will begin in September in Land O' Lakes, and is open to all Catholic boys of all area units. For information, call Phil or Tina Raymond at (813) 482-5117 or (727) 858-5885.

JOIN ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

Anyone who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in September will receive 10 free live oak trees as part of the Foundation's Trees for America program. New members will receive The Tree Book, which includes information on tree planting and care. Membership is \$10. For information, visit ArborDay.org/September.

AQUARIUM DISCOUNT FOR DONATION

Those who donate housewares or clothing to a Goodwill store in September will receive a coupon for \$10 off admission to The Florida Aquarium. For information and donation sites, visit Goodwill-Suncoast.org.

VOLUNTEER FOR GIRL SCOUTS

Girls Scouts of West Central Florida is looking for adults to volunteer, including troop leaders. Various positions are available to work behind the scenes to support troop leaders, to train other volunteers, and work with girls as program facilitators or camp facilitators at Girl Scout camps. Volunteers also are needed for the Girl Scout Cookie program. For information, call (800) 881-4475, or visit GSWCF.org.

SWAP & SHOP

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club is planning its Swap & Shop fundraiser Sept. 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Lutz Community Center, at Lutz Lake Fern Road and U.S. 41, behind the Lutz Library. Cost is \$8, and guests should bring several items to swap, including new or gently used regifts, home décor, art, accessories, plants, jewelry, handbags or knick-knacks. Clothing or shoe donations are not permitted. Beverages and snacks will be provided. For information, call (727) 642-5959.

SOCIAL SECURITY WORKSHOPS

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will host two workshops on "Savvy Social Security Planning: What Baby Boomers Need to Know to Maximize Retirement Income" at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 11 and Sept. 16. Seating is limited. Reservations are recommended. For information, call (800) 769-1643.

BENEFIT CONCERT, COOKOUT

The Becky (Colson) White Benefit Concert and Cookout will be Sept. 13 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Wilderness Lake Beef O' Brady's, 7040 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The cost of \$25 per person includes a cookout-style buffet, draft beer and wine on the patio, along with a silent auction and music by the Roger Allen Band, Tangent 45 and White Moves First. White, an administrator at First United Methodist LOL Early Life Academy, is battling chronic lymphocytic leukemia. For information or to donate, call Kathy Hershelman at (813) 417-8897.

SKATEBOARD CONTEST

The first Rock the Rails Skateboard Contest and Concert Series will be Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Hillsborough County's Northwest Skate Park, 8612 Jackson Springs Road in Tampa. Competitions are divided into age brackets. There will be prizes, lunch and live music. Helmets are required. A notarized waiver must be completed. For rules and waiver form, visit HillsboroughCounty.org/Northwestskate.

SCALE AEROBATIC COMPETITION

Bay City Flyers of Land O' Lakes is hosting IMAC 2014, a scale aerobatic competition, Sept. 13-14 at 8:30 a.m. Gates open at 6 a.m., for pilot setup. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. Kitchen opens at 11 a.m., for lunch. Admission is \$3 for spectators. For directions and information, visit BayCityFlyers.org.

PUP PADDLE IN PORT RICHEY

There will be a Pup Paddle & Kayak Race at Gill Dawg Marina, 5419 Treadway Drive in Port Richey, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is pet-friendly, and will include music, a doggy show, bounce house, raffles and pet vendors. Proceeds will benefit



Remembering Heroes and 9/11

Memorial service in NPR

Elks Lodge 2284, 7201 Congress St., in New Port Richey, will have a Never Forget 9/11 Memorial Service Sept. 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Guest speakers will be New Port Richey Police Chief Kim Bogart and Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco.

Rolls and coffee will be served after the ceremony.

Heroes' celebration

The Humana Guidance Center, 7920 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills, will honor current or retired, local police officers, firefighters and military veterans with a free continental breakfast Sept. 11 from 8:45 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The breakfast will be served by local seniors who regularly visit the center.

For information, call (813) 780-7300.

Patriot Day observance

A Patriot Day Observance and Remembrance Ride will take place Sept. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park, 3602 U.S. 301 North, in Tampa.

Festivities include live entertainment from Jacked Up, craft and merchandise vendors, interactive military and first responders displays, a 50/50 raffle and a live auction.

The Remembrance Ride will feature groups of motorcycles starting from five locations around the Bay area beginning at 10:15 a.m., and simultaneously converging at the Patriot Day Observance.

Tickets start at \$10.

For information, call Michael Graham at (813) 240-6996.

Run For The Fallen

Veterans Memorial Park, 3602 U.S. 301 North, in Tampa, will also host a Run For The Fallen Candlelight Vigil Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

For information, call (813) 965-2682.

Raffle Rescue Inc. To register, visit Paddle4Minds.weebly.com.

BOLLYWOOD MOVIE SERIES

The New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd., is hosting a free Bollywood movie series Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. It will spotlight movies from the library collection. The series is for adults only. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care is having a photo contest for its 2015 calendar to showcase Pasco County's natural beauty, wildlife and special events. All photos must be shot in Pasco County. Photographers can submit multiple pictures. Deadline for entry is Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. For information and questions about the contest, call Kirsty Churchill at (727) 845-5707, or email GHPPCphotos@gmail.com.

DADE CITY GARDEN CLUB

The Dade City Garden Club will have a general meeting Sept. 15 at 9:30 a.m., at 13630 Fifth St., in Dade City. Guest speaker will be Chuck O'Neil, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters of Florida. Coffee and refreshments will be served. The meeting is open to the public. To RSVP, call Diane Scott at (352) 668-3261.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM

A one-hour orientation seminar on the Guardian ad Litem program will be Sept. 16 at 10 a.m., at the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City. There will be an overview of the program and a discussion on the responsibilities of the Guardian ad Litem volunteer. For information, call (727) 804-8332, or visit GuardianAdLitem6.org.

JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB RECRUITING

The GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club will recruit new members at a meeting Sept. 16 with social time at 6:30 p.m., and a club presentation at 7 p.m. The

meeting will be at Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 5340 Primrose Lake Circle in Tampa. For information, visit GFWCNewTampaJuniors.org.

FINANCIAL CLASS FOR WOMEN

The Hillsborough County /UF/IFAS Extension Service, along with the Financial Planning Association of Tampa Bay, is offering a "Women and Money" three-class series on Tuesdays, starting Sept. 16, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The classes will be at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, 1002 East Palm Ave., in Tampa. Topics include money decisions, goal setting, protecting assets, investing basics and estate planning. Seating is limited. Cost is \$10 for the entire series. For information, call Lisa Leslie at (813) 744-5519, Ext. 54143.

LITTLE WOMEN ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Little Women of Lutz will host an ice cream social Sept. 16 at 7 p.m., for ages 12-18, at the First Baptist Church of Lutz, 18116 U.S. 41. For information, call (813) 758-0979.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY MEETING

The Friends of the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will meet Sept. 17 at 2:30 p.m. The group is looking for new members to participate in book sales, special events, projects and more. Donations of gently used books are appreciated. For information, call (813) 996-5834.

MASONIC LODGE FISH FRY

J.E. Swartsel Masonic Lodge, 3109 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, will host its monthly fish fry Sept. 19 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$10 for eat in, an \$8 for carry out.

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

The Festival of Flight Wesley Chapel 2014 will be Sept. 19-21 at the Tampa North Flight Center, 4241 Birdsong Blvd., in Lutz. There will be a sunrise launch at 7 a.m., each day, and a balloon night glow from 7:30 p.m. to dusk Sept. 19. The event will

include live music, food, airplanes, kites, delta trikes, and balloon rides for purchase. Admission is free. For a full listing of events and schedule, visit FestivalOfFlightWesleyChapel.com.

OLD LUTZ SCHOOL WORKDAY

There will be a workday at the Old Lutz School, 18819 U.S. 41, on Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., followed by a general meeting. The school is also looking for vendors for Autumn Day on Oct. 4 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, visit OldLutzSchool.com. For vendor information, call (813) 784-4471, or (813) 949-1937.

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

New Beginnings Family Church, 18935 Michigan Lane in Spring Hill, is hosting "Community in Unity," a free family fun day Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will include more than 25 vendors, a bounce house, dance performance, bridal/prom fashions, MMA demonstration, dunk tank, food, and a fire truck and ambulance on display. For information, call (813) 922-5210, or visit NewBeginningsFamilyChurch.com.

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 resistance training. Cost is \$5 per class. For information, call instructor Julie Brucker at (813) 996-7186.

HELP SPRUCE UP LAND O' LAKES

Volunteers are needed for Coastal Cleanup Sept. 20 in Land O' Lakes. The cleanup will start at 8 a.m., when volunteers pick up supplies at SunTrust Bank, at the corner of State Road 54 and Osprey Lane. There will be free lunch and prizes at the same site from 11 a.m. to noon. Cleanup includes school grounds, parks, roads and waterways. For information, or to register, call Betsy Crisp at (813) 929-2725. For business donations of food, call Kurt Conover at (727) 861-5141. For door prize donations, call either number.

'AROUND THE WORLD' EXHIBIT

The Downtown New Port Richey Art Gallery, 6231 Grand Blvd., will present the exhibit "Around the World in 30 Days" through Sept. 27. Gallery professional artists will display works in all media, each depicting a place the artist has traveled to, or imagined. Guests can visit local and foreign places — both famous and unknown — on land, sea and in the air. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. For information, call (727) 848-6500, or email nprgallery1@gmail.com.

WATER AEROBICS AT OAKSTEAD

The Oakstead community pool, 3038 Oakstead Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, is hosting water aerobics on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. Cost is \$4 per class. For information, call Julie Brucker at (813) 996-7186.

PILATES CLASSES

Back in Health Wellness Center, 18942 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Lutz, is hosting mat Pilates classes on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., and Saturdays at 9 a.m. Classes are a small-group setting and \$8 each. First class is free. For information, email Susan Mosher at lemondropcc22@gmail.com.

RUNNING CLUB START-UP

Mentmore Running Group is looking for local runners of all levels to join. The free group runs Monday through Friday at 5 a.m., and 8 p.m., and Saturdays at 6:30 a.m. It starts and finishes behind Wells Fargo, 18975 State Road 54 in Lutz, at Mentmore Boulevard. There will be monthly field trips, couch-to-5-kilometer training, fitness and camaraderie. Strollers are welcome. For information, email Monica Del Re at mdelre@gmail.com.

MOSI FREE FOR YOUNGSTERS

The Museum of Science & Industry, 4801 E. Fowler Ave., in Tampa, is now offering free admission to all children younger than 5. For information, call (813) 987-6000, or visit MOSI.org.

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A look at some cyclists involved in another ride organized by DRC Sports, the organizers of the inaugural Spin the Suncoast Ride, set for Sept. 21.

Cyclists gear up to Spin the Suncoast in inaugural ride

By B.C. Manion

bcmalion@lakerlutznews.com

Cyclists looking for a new challenge may enjoy an event that's debuting on Sept. 21 on the Suncoast Trail.

Spin the Suncoast is presented by DRC Sports and sponsored by Suncoast Trailside Bicycles, Pasco County Parks and Recreation and Southwest Florida Watershed Management District. It aims to appeal to all sorts of cyclists, said Chris Moling, the ride director.

Riders will be able to choose four distance options: nine miles, 28 miles, 50 miles and a Century Challenge of 100 miles.

The start, finish and registration take place at Suncoast Trailside Bicycles at 16216 State Road 54, in the Target Shopping Center, Moling said. The ride begins at the State Road 54 trailhead, with cyclists starting between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Pasco County Sheriff's deputies will be on hand to make sure riders make it safely across State Road 54 to get to the Suncoast Trail trailhead on State Road 54, Moling said.

Emergency crews will be on standby, in case any medical emergencies arise during the event,

and there will be support and gear stops for riders along the route.

The event will take place rain or shine.

The paved state trail winds through Hillsborough, Pasco and Hernando counties. The nine-mile ride will head north from the trailhead, take the shortest loop and enjoy a scenic ride to the trail entrance to the Starkey Wilderness Preserve.

The 28-mile ride includes a fully supported stop at Crews Lake Park, with food and beverages, as well as music and restrooms.

The 50-mile ride includes a support stop at the Anderson Snow Sports Complex with snacks and beverages.

The 100-mile ride, which attracts more

If you go ...

WHAT: Spin the Suncoast Century Challenge Bike Ride, an event aimed to attract all types of cyclists.

WHERE: Registration and check-in at Suncoast Trailside Bicycles at 16216 State Road 54, near the Suncoast Trail on State Road 54

WHEN: Cyclists can start their ride any time between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

COST: Early registration through Sept. 17 is \$40. Registration on race day is \$45.

INFO: Call (352) 637-2475, or email info@drcsports.com

serious riders, involves riding the trail to its north end, plus a ride toward the Starkey Wilderness Preserve, and then back. There are limited road crossings, giving riders plenty of space to spin their wheels.

Cyclists from as far away as Miami and Tallahassee already have signed up to join the ride, Moling said. More than 100 have registered as of last week, and organizers believe the number could climb to around 600.

The race was organized at the request of cycling enthusiasts, Moling said. He said, "Hey, there's nothing really happening on the Suncoast, so to speak," he added.

If there's enough interest, the ride could become an annual event, Moling said.

Besides the support provided by ride organizers, cyclists also will get a T-shirt, a continental breakfast, and barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs after their ride, Moling said.

Trail support for riders will end at 3 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will be used to help fund some cross-country scholarships in Hernando County.



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Club Mom offers women and kids a chance to relax, socialize

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

When Megan Hendricks moved to Land O' Lakes from Tampa, she was looking for a place to meet new friends and mingle with other mothers.

She decided to check out a meeting of Club Mom of Lutz/Land O' Lakes. And now, just a few years later, she's president of the group.

"I didn't know anybody," Hendricks said. So, she went to a Club Mom meeting and immediately felt at home.

"Everybody was super nice and friendly. It's casual. It's laid back," said Hendricks, 39, who has two daughters, Grace, 5, and Eden, 3.

There are lots of things to do, in lots of places, giving members plenty of options, she said.

Heather Hemberger, who moved to Land O' Lakes from South Tampa, also was looking for a way to plug in with other new moms. She heard about the club and decided to check it out.

"I joined a year ago, when my son was five weeks old," Hemberger said, noting she was attracted to the group's laid-back nature. "I was looking for some friends for my little guy and it seemed like a really neat group of moms."

Hemberger was a youth director and preschool teacher before she became a stay-at-home mom. And she's glad she joined Club Mom.

"What's different about our group is that we're really flexible," Hemberger said. "A lot of groups have lots of rules. We allow members to say, 'Hey, I have an idea. Let's do this.'"

There's no pressure to be at gatherings, either.

"If you can come, come," Hemberger said.

The group has 31 members, ranging in age from the 20s to 40s. Some are stay-at-home moms, some work part-time, and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEATHER HEMBERGER
Heather Hemberger and her son, Quinn, play on a drum during an outing with Club Mom of Lutz/Land O' Lakes.

some are working moms, Hemberger said. Some moms have one child, and others have more.

The club meets frequently at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, but also meets at other locations, such as Wiregrass Wednesdays and club members' homes.

"A typical group is someone will bring snacks and we'll meet at the playground," Hemberger said. "Very low-key."

The club gives members a chance to socialize and gives their kids a chance to have fun. It also provides a forum for moms to share information about doctors, low-cost entertainment, day care options, and parenting advice.

"I wouldn't say we all have one parenting philosophy, which is also refreshing because everyone has a different approach to parenting," Hemberger said.

If you go ...

WHAT: Club Mom of Lutz/Land O' Lakes is hosting an open house to introduce local moms to their group. The open house will feature crafts and giveaways.

WHERE: Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, 3032 Collier Parkway

WHEN: Sept. 19 at 10 a.m.

COST: Event is free, but annual dues to join the group are \$20

INFO: Meetup.com/momsclub or find 'Club Mom of Lutz/Land O' Lakes' on Facebook



COURTESY OF MEGAN HENDRICKS
Grace Hendricks, 5, and Eden Hendricks, 3, enjoy a Halloween gathering put on by Club Mom of Lutz/Land O' Lakes.



Children dress up for a Halloween gathering arranged by members of Club Mom of Lutz/Land O' Lakes. The group brings moms and their children together to have fun and socialize.

Hemberger has made some good friends through the group.

"It's definitely fun," she said. "For me and for a lot of the women in leadership, it's a way to still have an outlet."

The club specifically targets members in Lutz and Land O' Lakes, but does have some members from New Tampa and Carrollwood.

Most of its get-togethers are in the Lutz and Land O' Lakes communities for the con-

venience of club members, Hemberger said. Most of the events are in the day, for moms and their children. But there are occasional family events, in the evening or on the weekend.

The group also likes to celebrate holidays with special events, and also likes to help out various charities.

The club will host an open house Sept. 19, so potential members can find out more. It will be at the Land O' Lakes Recreational Complex, and will feature crafts for the kids and some giveaways.

Hemberger encourages any mom who thinks she might want to join, to check it out.

"For me, I feel like it makes me a better mom to him, when I'm able to get out of the house, get a cup of coffee, meet up with friends," she said.

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OUTLET, from page 1A

"There are no site plans for that part of the property just yet," Sutton said. "Right now, it looks like they are just trying to make it site-ready. It's not a pad, but more of a central system to get ready for some eventual work there."

The outlet mall itself, tentatively called Cypress Creek Town Center Premium Outlets Mall, is still going through site plan review, Sutton said. One of the developers involved with Simon Property Group submitted paperwork to the county Sept. 4, all part of the standard back-and-forth between a developer and the county.

If both sides can square away any lingering issues, Simon could start moving its own dirt on the site in 30 days. That means actual construction, once building permits are issued, could get underway before the end of the year.

The mall will almost certainly not hit its originally announced completion date of the end of 2014. In fact, whether the outlet mall will hit the Summer 2015 timeframe county administrator Michele Baker suggested earlier this year is still yet to be seen. Simon did not return an email last week

seeking comment.

The entire process for Simon is a little déjà vu, Sutton said.

"The 50 acres that is being planned for the mall sits differently than it did before," she said. "They have a different layout, and the location is adjusted."

Simon had originally planned a 1.2 million-square-foot project with 600,000 square feet of retail, and 120,000 square feet of office by 2011. Expanded plans included 350 hotel rooms, 230 apartments, and a 2,582-seat movie theater.

Yet, the east indigo snake and the economy got in the way. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers delayed final environmental approval for years, with one herpetologist telling officials that the land is necessary to help the snake avoid major roadways.

The Army Corps cleared the way for the mall last November.

"We are very excited to be moving forward on this project, and are commencing meetings with the county to determine approvals and a schedule," Danielle DeVita, senior vice president for development and acquisition at Simon, said in a statement last year.

Simon still needs to finalize its site layout, which would require approval by Pasco



No site plan has been submitted yet for land under development across from the proposed outlet mall on State Road 56 and Wesley Chapel Boulevard. However, county officials expect outparcel-like retail stores to be built there in the future.

County commissioners. However, Sutton doesn't anticipate their being any additional controversy with the site.

Some of the land work on the mall site had already been done back in 2007, said Carol Clarke, assistant planning and development administrator for the county.

"There was earth working done there, which was part of what they were initially going to do," Clarke said. "They have this new plan, but it looks like they are endeavoring to use as much of the existing infrastructure there as they can."

Simon is joined on the project by JG Cypress Creek LLC and Tampa Premium Outlets LLC, and is expected to be built in seven phases, according to plans submitted last April. The overall project will consist of nine buildings, and nearly 2,400 parking spaces. The complete project is expected to offer 1.1 million square feet of commercial space.

FUDGE, from page 1A

specifically representing characters who would cost a lot of money to license) as well as mermaids, magicians, ninjas, jugglers and face-painters. He works out of his home, matching the right entertainment to specific events, as well as performing balloon art himself.

The company handles around 50 different events each month, he said.

Fudge himself heads out to his own gigs making balloon shapes. The art form has changed a lot over the past few years, he said. In the past, one could get away with making basic shapes using just one balloon. But people expect more definition and complexity today, and that means staying on top of trends, learning new styles and being creative on the fly.

Fudge has fielded unusual requests like lawnmowers and vacuum cleaners, and participated in creating a dress made out of balloons.

Running his business isn't easy, either. In addition to the 20 to 25 hours he spends doing balloon art, he can invest as much as 80 hours a week keeping things running smoothly, and making sure the right entertainment is placed with the right event.

Finding high-caliber talent is a challenge as well. It's one thing to run across someone with a nice costume and the right look, but entertaining at an event takes more than that. And Fudge doesn't let just anybody join the team. He's very picky, and is looking for performers who have a natural ability to in-



Jonathan Fudge likes to make many different characters with his balloons.

teract with people in an entertaining and positive way.

"What's really more important, and what I can't teach, is personality," he said. "They have to be good with kids, they have to be charismatic, they have to be fun, they have to be high energy."

"And someone who really loves what they do. If they're in love with the character they're trying to portray, then they're going to portray them in a much more realistic and believable way."

Fudge's team is filled with performers quick on their feet, and who are willing to

do a bit of acting to really adopt the image they're displaying at the event.

The end result is a strong group of hand-picked performers who share passion for their craft and appreciate the opportunity to share it with the public. And beyond the costumes, balloons and other props, Fudge considers that passion to be his company's biggest asset.

"There are other agencies in the area and elsewhere," he said. "But I think what sets our agency apart is the fact that everyone in my company loves what they do."

For more information about YTE Events, visit YTEEvents.com.

ENROLLMENT, from page 1A

"We weren't shocked," said Pasco principal Karin Kadlub. "We were ready for those numbers."

The school, at 36850 State Road 54 in Dade City, keeps a close pulse on enrollments at its feeder schools, Kadlub said. Because the number of eighth-graders was up at Pasco and Centennial middle schools last year, Kadlub knew there would be more freshmen at Pasco High this year.

She also knew that the school would pick up students from Academy at the Farm, a public charter school that doesn't have a high school program.

Increased development in the area also is boosting Pasco High's enrollment, Kadlub said.

John Long Middle School, at 2025 Mansfield Blvd., also experienced an uptick in its enrollment. Its 10th-day count was 1,659, up 116 students over last year at the same time.

Seven Oaks Elementary School, 27633 Mystic Oak Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, grew by 96 students, bringing its total to 1,009.

Most of the public schools within The Laker/Lutz News coverage area had enrollment fluctuations of fewer than 50 students, plus or minus. Some exceptions were Sand Pine Elementary School, down by 64; Centennial Middle School, down by 62; and Weightman Middle School, down by 87.

Pasco Middle School was up by 62, Watergrass Elementary School was up by 60, and Sunlake High School also was up by 60.

Feds offering loans, grants for rural economic expansion

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Zero-interest loans and grants are now being offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in an effort to promote long-term economic growth and community vitality in rural areas.

The funding programs, administered by the USDA Rural Development department, includes \$30.6 million in no-interest loans, and \$9.2 million in grants to establish revolving loan funds that finance business and economic development activities in

rural areas.

Applications for these funds will be accepted through the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, federal officials said. That would include rural utilities eligible for USDA financing under the Rural Electrification Act who wish to help administer the funds locally.

The funding is designed to help with business startup and expansion, business technical assistance and job training, and community facilities projects that support economic development.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis through state offices of the USDA and are evaluated monthly.

The Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program is looking to improve conditions in designated Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones, and for members of Native American tribes in rural areas, for grants up to \$100,000.

Funding can be used to support business incubators, feasibility studies and business plans, long-term strategic business planning, leadership and

entrepreneurial training, and other related efforts.

USDA also has two other grants available from funds put together for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program, including a \$500,000 grant for rural transportation projects, and a \$250,000 grant for federally recognized Native American tribes. Those funds can be used to provide technical assistance and training to help rural communities improve passenger transportation services or facilities.

For details, visit USDA.gov.

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Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

Meineke Car Care Center comes to Land O'Lakes

By Mike Matthew
Special to The Laker / Lutz News

John and Michelee Coffield, owners of Meineke Car Care Center, opened for business on June 23. They were looking for land to build when they came across an empty furniture store in a promising location. When they removed the wall where they planned to install their garage doors, they found garage doors already in place. The building was once a garage turned into a dance and gymnastics studio, and a most recently a furniture store, which now has returned back to its roots.

"It's exciting being a new business owner," says John. "We've wanted to do this for a while and felt like the time was right. It was either now or never."

They purchased a franchise that they knew a great deal about and felt comfortable taking the risk. John has been in the car care industry since the age of 19. He started out as a technician for Sears and worked his way up the ranks. Over the years he's worked for dealerships in leadership roles within the service department. He knows car care intimately.

Meineke is relatively new to Florida, but they have a strong reputation and brand recognition in other parts of the country. They are owner-operated. When you come, you'll be talking to the owners.

"We know that everything we do is a reflection on us," says John. "We're not going to sell services that aren't needed. We want to do high-quality work at a fair price."

John and Michelee were born and raised in the Tampa area. They have raised their

family here. "This is a great community where people like to support each other and their local businesses," says John. "We want to build long-term relationships with our customers. We expect to be here a long time."

John manages the day to day operations and works daily at the store. He personally assists each guest when they come in, too. John's knowledge and expertise in the industry ensures that all of their technicians are working at the top of their game. He strives for an excellent customer experience each time a guest comes in. Michelee takes care of the backend functions of the business: book-keeping, payroll, HR, computer support and office runner.

Meineke truly provides total car care. "We can do everything, including tires" says John.

"This is a brand we believe in," says John. "We wanted a business close to home. We've always participated in the community. This business is another part of our commitment to the community, to our friends and neighbors."

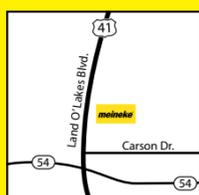
Meineke Car Care Center is located at 2632 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. They have a comfortable showroom with free coffee, along with cold soda and water in the refrigerator. They also provide complimentary snacks.

Meineke offers free inspections for brakes, check engine lights, air conditioning, and much more. Every guest is also offered a free comprehensive vehicle inspection with every service. Their everyday low price oil service of \$19.99, 50% off brake pads, among other ongoing monthly specials.

Call them at (813) 949-0111 to set up an appointment or just stop on by. They're open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Michelee and John Coffield,
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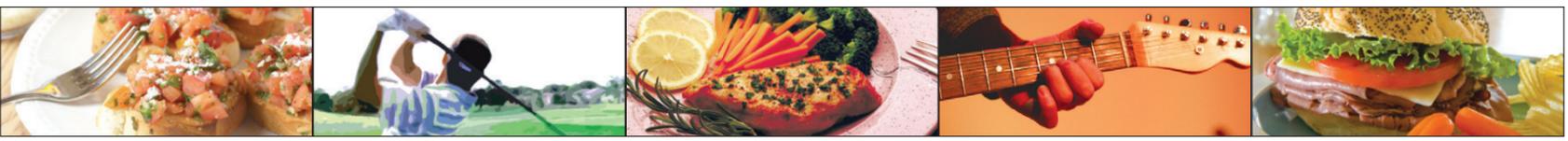
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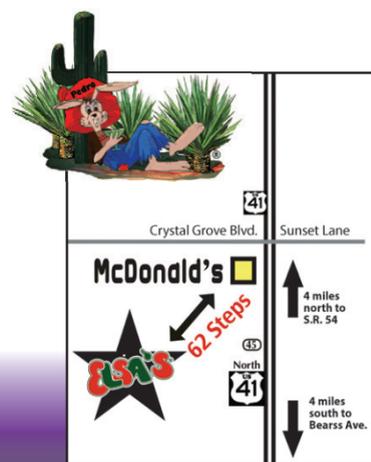
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COURTESY OF REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Kramer named Employee of the Month

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point has honored Keith Kramer, an environmental services assistant, with the August Employee of the Month award. He received multiple nominations from visitors, family members and colleagues. Kramer (with certificate) is seated with members of the Environmental Services team, at a reception in his honor.

Send health news to news@lakerlutznews.com

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

Florida Cancer Affiliates will host a breast cancer support group Sept. 11 at 6 p.m., at its New Port Richey center, 5500 Little Road. For information, call (727) 505-6379.

HEARING AID BATTERY GIVEAWAY

Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation of Florida is having a battery giveaway Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon, at 4443 Rowan Road in New Port Richey.

The foundation is offering free hearing aid batteries in the most common sizes of 10, 13, 312 and 675, while supplies last.

The Sertoma Hearing Aid Recycling Program will collect old hearing aids at the giveaway, and containers can also be found in area Publix stores.

For information, call (727) 834-5479 or (866) 999-2443.

ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY LAB TOUR

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, 14000 Fivay Road in Hudson, will have free tours of its Electrophysiology Lab Sept. 15 at 3 p.m., and 4 p.m.

The tour will include the procedural suite, and a meeting with the lab team.

Space is limited. Reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 869-5498.

LEARN ABOUT FUNCTIONAL FOODS

The Health & Wellness Center at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, 2700 Healing Way, will host a Functional Foods seminar Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Learn which functional foods can offer additional benefits to reduce the risk of disease and promote overall wellness.

The seminar is free for members of the Center, and \$5 for non-members.

Space is limited. Reservations are required.

For information, call (813) 929-5432.

WOUND CARE SEMINAR

Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is hosting a seminar entitled "Wounds Big or Small, We Heal Them All" Sept. 17 at noon.

Guest speaker will be Sharon Owen, director of Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine.

A first-aid kit will be available to all who attend.

Admission is free. A complimentary lunch will be served.

Seating is limited. Reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

FHWC HOSTS WOMEN'S EVENT

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel is hosting a free, multi-generational women's health and wellness event at Saddlebrook Resort, 5700 Saddlebrook Way in Wesley Chapel, Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event will include health and wellness presentations from area experts, and a healthy cooking demonstration.

There will be free health screenings, pampering and giveaways. A continental breakfast and full lunch are included.

The keynote speaker will be ABC Action News anchor Deiah Riley.

Admission is free, but registration is required.

Women can register by calling (813) 929-5432, or by visiting the website at tinyurl.com/WCWomensEvent.

MEDICAL GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN

The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation is seeking grant applications from families in need of financial assistance to help pay for their child's health care treatments, services or equipment not covered — or not fully covered — by their commercial health insurance plan.

Qualifying families can receive up to \$5,000 per grant, with a lifetime maximum of \$10,000 per child to help pay for medical services and equipment such as physical, occupational and speech therapy, counseling services, surgeries, prescriptions, wheelchairs, orthotics, eyeglasses and hearing aids.

Children must be younger than 17, and families must meet economic guidelines, reside in the United States, and have a commercial health insurance plan.

Grants are available for medical expenses families have incurred 60 days prior to the date of application, as well as for ongoing and future medical needs.

Parents or legal guardians can apply for grants at UHCC.org. There is no application deadline.

NEW MINUTECLINIC IN LUTZ

MinuteClinic has opened a new walk-in clinic inside the CVS store at 2322 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Lutz.

The clinic is part of the company's plan to add 150 new clinics nationwide in 2014.

No appointments are required. Most health insurance is accepted.

The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information, visit MinuteClinic.com.

MOFFITT RECRUITING PATIENTS FOR RESEARCH

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute is recruiting male patients and their caregivers for a research study that takes a closer look at the uptake of prostate cancer information and health service.

Participants should be between the ages of 40 and 75, and newly diagnosed in the past three months. Patients also must have a caregiver who is willing to participate.

For information, call Shani Davis at (813) 745-6806, or email shani.davis@moffitt.org.

MEDICAL CENTER GETS ADVANCED CERTIFICATION

The Joint Commission, in conjunction with The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, recently recognized the Medical Center of Trinity with Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers.

The certification signifies an organization's dedication to fostering better outcomes for patients. The center also has demonstrated that its program meets critical elements of performance to achieve long-term success in improving outcomes for stroke patients.

SURVIVING CANCER SEMINAR

Dr. Roberto Diaz from the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute will speak about surviving cancer Sept. 25 at 7 p.m., at Keystone Community Church, 21010 State Road 54 in Lutz.

The program is free, and will cover new treatments for cancer, and allow for a question-and-answer period.

For information, call Walt Bockmiller, chair of the Keystone Cancer Support Group, at (813) 527-8211. Or call Keystone Community Church at (813) 948-4522.

FREE PREGNANCY CARE

LifeChoices Women's Care, 1527 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Suite 101 in Lutz, offers free pregnancy testing and limited obstetrical ultrasounds to teens, women and couples facing an unplanned pregnancy.

The center is open Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Appointments are recommended. For information, call (813) 948-7734.

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Twins set to become second-generation Eagle Scouts

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Last year, only 7 percent of all Boy Scouts achieved the organization's highest honor — the Eagle Scout rank. Yet, fraternal twin brothers Joseph Nystrom II and Jonathan Nystrom will officially earn that final badge — even though they'll only be able to wear it for six days.

"The ceremony is on Sept. 20, but our birthday is on Sept. 26," said Joseph, who is two minutes older than his brother. "Once we turn 18, we won't be able to wear it."

The Nystrom brothers will actually become second-generation Eagle Scouts, following in the footsteps of their father, Dr. Joseph Nystrom, a family practice doctor in Zephyrhills. They each earned at least 21 merit badges, served six months in a troop leadership position, and planned a project that will leave a lasting legacy in the community.

Joseph wrapped up his project a few weeks ago, constructing a landscaping project, volleyball court and a bench at his family's church, St. Rita Catholic Church in Dade City. Jonathan got his project going much earlier, building a portable fishing storage unit for the Teneroc Youth Conservation Center in Lakeland late last year.

"This summer camp program had 260 fishing rods in a shed that just wasn't organized at all," Jonathan said. "They wanted me to build some way to hold all of them, and store them, and be transportable. It took me three months, but it's made out of steel, and that thing is going to last 20 years."

Joseph's project kept him a little closer to home, paying close attention to a neighboring religious school building that needed some attention.

"Surrounding the CCD building is a whole bunch of shrubbery, and it didn't look very good," Joseph said. "I decided I wanted to redo it. But then the church's Life



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Twin brothers Jonathan Nystrom, left, and Joseph Nystrom II, will be awarded Boy Scout of America's highest honor Sept. 20, when each receives the Eagle Scout rank. Jonathan created a portable storage container for a fishing camp in Lakeland, while Joseph did landscaping work, including shrubbery like they're posing with at St. Rita Catholic Church.

Teen group wanted something for kids to do while they waited for their families at church, and asked for volleyball posts and stuff, so I built that, too."

Both decided to wait for the official Eagle ceremony so that they could do it to-

gether. The brothers are part of Boy Scout Troop 311, which meets in San Antonio. They both started as Cub Scouts, working their way up.

"We made really good friends in the troop, and there are a lot of good people

there," Joseph said.

"You are responsible for helping the troop grow, and you want to help out and make it a better troop," Jonathan said. "You really appreciate the skills you learn in Scouts."

Since joining the Boy Scouts in 2008, Jonathan has earned 29 merit badges, and was admitted to the Order of the Arrow — the national honor society of Boy Scouts — in March 2013. Joseph also has a place in Order of the Arrow, and earned 21 merit badges.

They both have stories for each one of their badges — but not all of them are good.

"My personal management badge was the worst," Joseph said with a laugh. "That was three months of keeping track of receipts and money. I am just horrible at paperwork, so it was the last thing I wanted to do."

But there are some fun badges as well, including ones that allowed the two to go whitewater rafting in North Carolina.

"We went down all these different rivers, and some were super dangerous, which made it 10 times more fun," Joseph said. "A couple of times, they had to shut down parts of the Chattooga River because it was that bad."

Another trip took the two to Minnesota where they rowed 132 miles in a canoe.

Joseph and Jonathan are seniors at Pasco High School, where Joseph is on the swim team, and Jonathan a right fielder with the baseball team. Both are in dual enrollment, taking classes with Pasco-Hernando State College, and neither has really started to look at colleges yet.

"We're thinking about the University of South Florida," Jonathan said. "We're still trying to plan things out."

"Yeah," Joseph said. "We need to start applying fast."

The Eagle Scout ceremony will take place in the St. Anthony of Padua parish hall in San Antonio Sept. 20 at 2 p.m.

Florida Hospital stirring up 'Bucs Fever'

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Florida Hospital and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are spreading "Bucs Fever" across the Tampa Bay region with a series of community health events and a new television commercial featuring Bucs head coach Lovie Smith.

"We believe that Florida Hospital has an important role to play in creating a healthier community," said Mike Schultz, president and chief executive of Florida Hospital West

Florida Region, in a release. "We are excited to build on this partnership with the Bucs, and add new initiatives that will benefit communities that we serve."

Florida Hospital officially launched its Bucs Babies program during the NFL draft in May, giving new moms and dads a "training camp" health and wellness package for their new little rookies, the hospital said. That program will continue on through the regular season as well, with all babies born at Florida Hospital campuses receiving a

Bucs Babies T-shirt.

Florida Hospital will give away free Bucs bandanas at four locations outside of Raymond James Stadium on Sept. 14 when the Bucs take on the St. Louis Rams. In October, Florida Hospital will be one of the sponsors for the Buccaneers Treasure Chests 5k Run/Walk, which helps raise awareness, and support patient treatment and research for breast cancer. This will be the first year where the Florida Hospital Foundation is a beneficiary of the proceeds raised at this

event, which is expected to attract several thousand participants.

Florida Hospital also will be the presenting sponsor of the fitness challenge prior to the Nov. 9 game between the Bucs and the Atlanta Falcons.

To see the new commercial with Smith, visit CatchBucsFever.com.

Florida Hospital West Florida Region includes nine hospitals and 1,257 beds. That includes Florida Hospital at Connerton Long Term Acute Care, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, and Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel. It's part of the Adventist Health System, a network of 23 hospitals throughout Florida.

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Closer Look
AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

Try a hearing aid for 30 days through Gardner Audiology's field study

By Mike Matthew
Special to The Laker / Lutz News

Jodi Conter is a certified audiologist with Gardner Audiology in Zephyrhills. She's worked there with Dan Gardner, the founder, for 29 years. Dan opened the doors to his practice 31 years ago and now has offices in Zephyrhills, Tampa, Pasadena, Inverness, Crystal River and Carillon.

"Our goal is to help people hear better," says Jodi. They've set up a field study with Starkey Hearing Technologies, the largest manufacturer of hearing aids in the U.S., to enable people to try out a hearing aid for 30 days, risk free.

"This field study is open to anyone, whether they've worn a hearing aid before or not," says Jodi. "Noisy environments are frustrating for the hearing impaired."

Gardner Audiology has partnered with Starkey Hearing to bring to market the latest technology for noise management in hearing aids. "People used to turn down or turn off their hearing aid in noisy environments," says Jodi. "Current research is finding new techniques for handling noise. These new hearing aids can automatically adjust to the particular environment."

How about a hearing aid made for an iPhone? An app on the iPhone allows the wearer to control, modify and adjust the hearing aid to fit specific situations and environments. It also geo-tags the location and automatically changes the setting for that environment as soon as you arrive.

"Hearing loss is a challenge," says Jodi. "People don't accept hearing loss as easily as they accept vision loss. The technology has greatly improved. Hearing aids are much more comfortable and noticeably smaller to

the point where they're almost invisible."

Most people don't see one day and not see the next. It's the same with hearing. It's often gradual. People can lose hearing for particular sounds, such as consonants. They may lose the ability to distinguish particular pitches or frequencies.

"People often complain about others mumbling, thinking that's the reason they're not hearing well," says Jodi. "That's usually a sign that they've lost hearing for a particular pitch range. Today's hearing aids can be programmed to fit the exact type of hearing loss the person is experiencing."

"Our biggest challenge is getting people in the door," says Jodi. "My greatest joy is seeing the expression on their face when I turn on the hearing aid and they begin to hear sounds they haven't heard in years."

"Research has shown a direct connection between hearing loss and memory loss such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease," says Jodi. "Lack of stimulation causes the brain to shut down. Getting a hearing aid is critical in the early stages of memory loss."

"Some of the same issues that cause hearing problems may affect balance and dizziness," says Jodi. "Everyone should have a baseline hearing test done. Then when they come back, we can tell if they're experiencing hearing problems."

The human brain is an amazing organ. It adjusts and compensates for hearing loss quite well, up to a point. The only way to be sure that we're hearing as well as we could be is to get a hearing test from a certified audiologist.

Contact Jodi Conter at Gardner Audiology to set up an appointment or participate in their field study. You can learn more by visiting their website at GardnerAudiology.com.

Audiologist, Jodi Conter, M.S.

GardnerAudiology
813-782-5395
38196 Medical Center Avenue • Zephyrhills
www.GardnerAudiology.com

Labor Day domination: Travel ball team wins tourney

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

When a baseball team goes to a tournament and scores 40 runs while only giving up five, you'd expect them to win the tournament handily.

And when the Carrollwood Gators competed in the Perfect Game's World Wood-Bat Association Labor Day Classic in Fort Myers, that's exactly what happened.

The Gators' 16U team — for athletes graduating high school in 2017 — went through the tournament with a perfect 6-0 record, claimed the title, and earned Most Valuable Player and Most Valuable Pitcher honors as well.

Performing well at a Perfect Game event is a big deal, according to Danny Rodriguez, general manager and founder of the Carrollwood Gators.

"It's the organization to go to in order to get your boys seen on a college and a pro level," he said.

In addition to the victory at the recent 16-team Perfect Game tournament, the Gators also finished in the top 16 of the organization's 100-team Memorial Day tournament, and in the top eight of its 86-team Fourth of July tournament.

While the Gator athletes also play on their high school teams — several attend Steinbrenner High School, and most live in Lutz or Land O' Lakes — the travel ball team offers them extra opportunities to get noticed by college scouts. The Perfect Game system is extremely competitive, Rodriguez said, and good performances in tournaments will get the club — and its players — noticed by colleges around the country.

The 16U team should have a national ranking after the victory; the general manager is hoping for a top 10 spot when they're released in a couple of weeks.

That kind of recognition is essential for players looking to extend their careers beyond high school, Rodriguez said. In addition to playing in high school, a quality travel ball team experience is essential to helping athletes take that next step.

"It's a must," he said. "If they want to go to the next level, they need to go to the college showcases that they want to go to, and they need to be a part of something that's



MICHAEL MURILLO/STAFF PHOTO

Ryan Glass, left, C.J. VanEyck and Cam Coakley were part of the Carrollwood Gators' 6-0 run at the Perfect Game Labor Day Classic in Fort Myers.

going to get them seen, that's going to be right there in front of the college coaches."

Rodriguez tries to help get his athletes noticed by colleges, and said the tournament win will only increase the stature of the program. Athletes playing for the Carrollwood Gators have gone on to play in schools like Pasco-Hernando State College, the University of Florida, the University of South Florida, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Alabama State University. Some students attend on full scholarships as well.

While all the teams in the Perfect Game system are talented, the Gators do things differently. Instead of large-scale tryouts that draw athletes from different cities, or even states, and multiple teams representing each club, the team prefers to draw from local talent, mostly hand-selected athletes who play

different positions.

That keeps the traveling team small: The Gators brought just 11 players to the recent tournament. And according to head coach Pete Mocny, there are significant benefits to their philosophy.

"They all know each other from previous travel teams," Mocny said of the players. "The team chemistry is big in helping us do a little extra to beat the sometimes more-talented teams. We can still really compete, and many times beat them."

C.J. VanEyck, a Steinbrenner student whose pitching was instrumental in the team's only close game at the tournament, a 5-3 semifinal win, agrees.

"Everybody knows each other really well. We have good chemistry and everybody gets to play more with a smaller team," he said. "We hit the ball really good, and we

had the pitching to back it up. And when you do that, you can't really be beat."

Strong fundamentals were another reason why the Gators weren't beaten at the tournament, Mocny said. The team committed no errors in the first five games, and shut out their opponent in the final by a score of 7-0. As a result, it was one of the best performances the coach has seen from the team.

"It's easy to coach them," Mocny said. "I'm proud of them. They did a great job out there."

And Rodriguez believes the team that achieved so much is full of players who can achieve even more in college.

"Every single one has the talent," he said. "If they play it right and they keep their grades (up), there's a place in college for each one of those players."



COURTESY OF TAMPA BAY REBELS

Hard work during training camp led to another strong season for the Tampa Bay Rebels, which fell just short of the title for the second year in a row.

Rebels fall to Miami in FBA title game

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

The Tampa Bay Rebels, a semi-professional basketball team that plays its home games at Freedom High School, always seem to finish their seasons the same way: In the Florida Basketball Association championship game.

For the third year in a row, the Rebels were one of two teams left standing. But while they took the title in 2012, the last two years have ended with a loss — this time a 98-82 defeat to the Miami Midnites on Aug. 10.

While it was a disappointing end to the year — it was the first time they were held to under 90 points all season, and just the

second time they were held to under 100 — it was still another impressive campaign. A 10-2 record meant they've compiled a 31-4 mark over the past three regular seasons.

Finishing with a loss to the Midnites was a tough-but-familiar feeling for the club. Miami was the only team that beat them all year: The Rebels lost two home contests to Miami while winning one against them on the road during the regular season.

Add in a third loss to the Midnites in the title game, and those setbacks mean Tampa Bay had a successful 2014 season, but finished runner-up to Miami in 2014.

The Rebels' 2015 season will begin next spring. For more information, visit TampaBayRebels.com.



CARROLLWOOD GATORS BASEBALL TRYOUTS

The Carrollwood Gators, a travel baseball team, will host open tryouts on Sept. 14.

The tryouts are for teams comprised of athletes graduating high school in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

For information, search for "Carrollwood Gators" on Facebook.com.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS FOR LUTZ BASEBALL

Lutz Baseball is hosting several events in September.

- Top baseball prospect Domingo Ayala will host a clinic on Sept. 14 at Oscar Cooler Park from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Registration fees are \$25 per child and includes lunch.

- Play It Again Sports will collect donated sports and exercise equipment on Sept. 14 at Oscar Cooler Park as well. Proceeds will benefit Lutz Baseball.

- A charity golf outing benefiting Lutz Baseball will be at Avila Golf & Country Club, 943 Guisando De Avila, on Sept. 15. Tee time is at 1 p.m., and a round of golf starts at \$150 per person. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Oscar Cooler Park is located at 770 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road.

For information, visit LutzBaseball.com.

FREE TENNIS PLAY DAY

A free tennis event will be Sept. 14 at Lake Padgett Estates East, 4533 Savannah Way in Land O' Lakes. The event is part of Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play.

The play day will be between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., and is designed for children ages five to 10 years old.

For information, email U.S. Professional Tennis Association pro Jeanette Marcus at jmarcusddm@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 email jmarcusddm@gmail.com.

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.

CHEVAL CARES 5K SET

The third annual Cheval Cares 5k run will take place Sept. 20 to benefit the Pediatric Cancer Foundation.

The 5-kilometer event begins and ends at the Cheval Athletic Club, 4142 Cheval Blvd., in Lutz. There will be a post-race family fun party after the event.

The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for children. Registration will not be available on the day of the event for non-residents of Cheval.

For information and to register, visit ChevalCares5k.com.

T-SHIRTS SUPPORT CROSS-COUNTRY COACH

"I Run For Keppel" T-shirts are available to help support Land O' Lakes High School cross-country coach Kris Keppel, who is battling pancreatic cancer.

The shirts are \$15 each, with all proceeds going to Keppel.

For information or to make a donation, call (813) 406-5730, or email carolyn011jr@hotmail.com or kbdehaas@aol.com.

SOCCER LEAGUE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The Greater Tampa Bay Football Club is now accepting registrations for its fall and winter soccer league.

The league is open to boys and girls in north Hillsborough and Pasco counties from ages 5 through 19.

Each team will have one practice day per week, and a game on Saturdays. Practices and games will be at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, 3032 Collier Parkway.

To register, visit GTBFC.com.

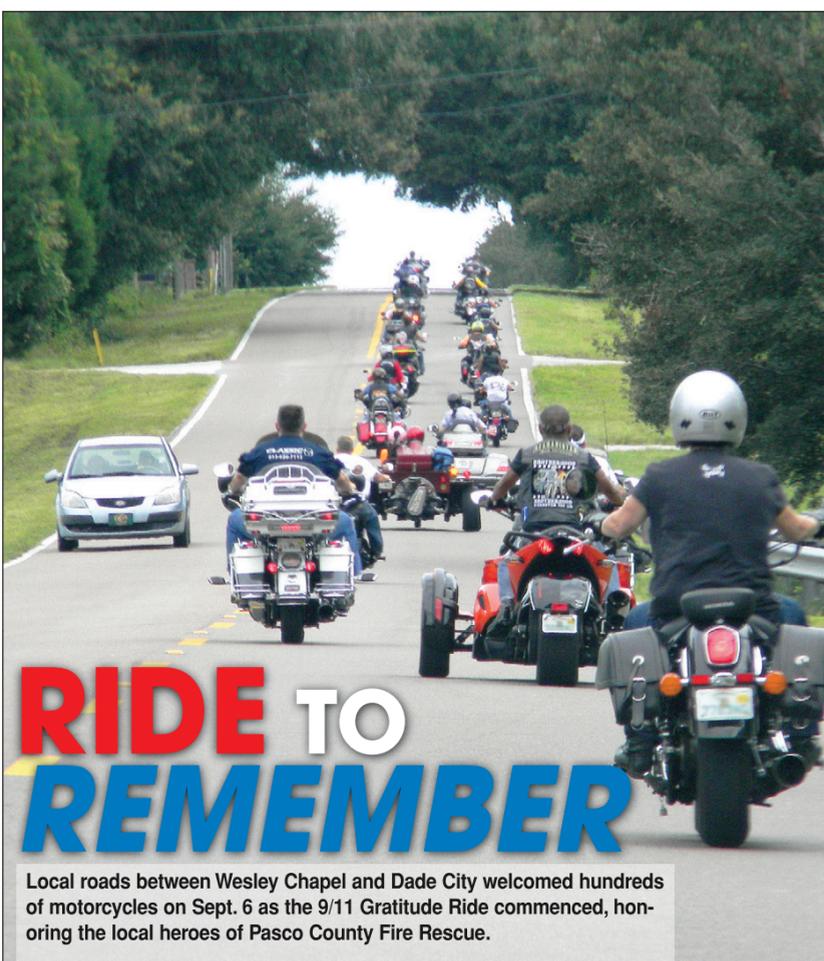
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RIDE TO REMEMBER

Local roads between Wesley Chapel and Dade City welcomed hundreds of motorcycles on Sept. 6 as the 9/11 Gratitude Ride commenced, honoring the local heroes of Pasco County Fire Rescue.



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTOS

Dan Turner, the organizer of the 9/11 Gratitude Ride with Pasco County Choppers, presents a plaque to Pasco County Fire Rescue chief Scott Cassin, while Turner's wife Cheryl looks on.



Debbie Kloc, left, of Wesley Chapel, chats with Howie Taylor on his yellow Honda, before the two head out on the 9/11 Gratitude Ride on Sept. 6, to remember those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Bikers honor first responders with annual Gratitude Ride

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Wayne Mancarella knew it would be a long day on his motorcycle, beginning with a trip from his home in Largo to the Quail Hollow Golf & Country Club in Wesley Chapel.

But there was nowhere else Mancarella wanted to be. He joined hundreds of other bikers for the 9/11 Gratitude Ride, raising money for the Pasco County Fire Rescue Benevolent Fund to make sure families of fallen first responders were well taken care of.

"Sometimes we take both the cops and our firefighters for granted," Mancarella said. "I'm glad there are people out there like them willing to do all the things we need them to do. There's no one else like them."

The 9/11 Gratitude Ride is now in its fifth year, settling in at its home at Quail Hollow through the work of Land O' Lakes Realtor Dan Turner. The Sept. 6 event not only pooled together money to help who Turner called local heroes, but to honor the men and women who died trying to rescue people during the terrorist attacks of



William Sivertsen, 14, of Boy Scout Troop 61 in Riverview, plays 'Taps' on his trumpet during a ceremony at the Quail Hollow Golf & Country Club on Sept. 6.

Sept. 11, 2001.

"Make no mistake about it, this is a 9/11 event," Turner told the crowd on Saturday. "We call it the Gratitude Ride because we can't go to New York, we can't go to Pennsylvania, we can't go to Washington, to express our gratitude to the emergency



Wayne Mancarella of Largo sets up his GPS ahead of the 9/11 Gratitude Ride on Sept. 6.

workers there. So what better way to express our gratitude to the local men and women who protect us every single day?"

The parade of motorcycles traveled more than 50 miles from Quail Hollow that morning to visit Pasco County Fire Rescue stations in Dade City and Zephyrhills. There, bikers met with firefighters and paramedics, learning more about what they do, and the dangers they face every day.

"As the events of Sept. 11, 2001, unfolded, these men and women ran into those two buildings, they ran into the Pentagon, they ran out to the grass site in Pennsylvania," Turner said. "It was all to do one thing — to save people like you and



Jon Cramer of Wesley Chapel goes over his checklist with Melissa Blakey of Lutz.

me. That is what they do. As we are running from danger, what are they doing? They are running into it."

After the visit to the fire stations, crowds returned to Quail Hollow for an afternoon event that included food, vendors, and live music from The Greg Billings Band.

Final numbers from the recent event were not available, but past Gratitude Rides have raised more than \$6,000 for the benevolent fund.



Chuck and Diane Newman of Holiday fire up their Harley-Davidson as they get ready to head to their first Pasco County Fire Rescue station.



Daniel Digeon, a driver engineer with Pasco County Fire Rescue, explains one of the trucks at Station 36 in Dade City during a stop on the 9/11 Gratitude Ride on Sept. 6.

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E-cigarettes can kill ... your pet

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

There is a lot of debate over how safe — or unsafe — electronic cigarettes are to people. But one organization says it's important to make sure those same people think about their pets, too.

The Pet Poison Helpline says there is no debate on how such nicotine-delivering devices can hurt animals, to the point of poisoning a dog or cat. And the biggest problem, they say, is that many pet owners don't realize it.

The helpline group has had a spike in recent calls concerning nicotine poisoning in pets that ingested e-cigarettes or liquid nicotine refill solutions. In fact, those calls have doubled over the past six months, reflecting what the organization believes is increasing popularity over the cigarette alternative.

Although dogs account for the majority of cases coming into the helpline, nicotine in e-cigarettes and liquid refills can be toxic to cats as well, the group says.

"We have handled cases for pets poisoned by eating traditional cigarettes or tobacco products containing nicotine for years," said Ahna Brutlag, an associate director of veterinary services at Pet Poison Helpline, in a release. "But, as the use of e-cigarettes has become more widespread, our call volume for cases involving them has increased considerably."

E-cigarettes are another way of delivering nicotine. They are designed to resemble traditional cigarettes, however the battery-operated devices atomize liquid that contains nicotine, turning it into a vapor that can be inhaled. The most recent craze is flavored e-cigarettes, which are available in an array of flavors from peppermint to banana cream pie, helpline workers said.

The aroma of liquid nicotine in e-cigarettes can be alluring to dogs, and flavored e-cigarettes could be even more enticing. The issue is the amount of nicotine in each car-

tridge — between 6 milligrams and 24 milligrams.

Each cartridge contains the nicotine equivalent of one or two traditional cigarettes, but the purchase packs of five to 100 cartridges multiply that amount many times over, posing a serious threat to pets that chew them.

For example, the official said, if a single cartridge is ingested by a 50-pound dog, clinical signs of poisoning are likely to occur. But if a dog that weighs 10 pounds ingests the same amount, death is possible.

Dogs of any weight that ingest multiple e-cigarette cartridges are at risk for severe poisoning, and even death.

In addition to the toxicity of nicotine, the actual e-cigarette casing can result in oral injury when chewed, and can cause gastrointestinal upset with the risk of a foreign body obstruction.

Some e-cigarette users buy vials of liquid nicotine solution for refilling cartridges. The solution is commonly referred to as "e-liquid" or "e-juice." The small bottles hold enough liquid to fill multiple cartridges, meaning they contain a considerable amount of nicotine, officials said. Pet owners should be very careful to store them out of the reach of pets.

Nicotine poisoning in pets has a rapid onset of symptoms — generally within 15 to 60 minutes following ingestion. Symptoms for dogs and cats include vomiting, diarrhea, agitation, elevations in heart rate and respiration rate, depression, tremors, ataxia, weakness, seizures, cyanosis, coma and cardiac arrest.

Because nicotine poisoning can happen so rapidly following ingestions, prompt veterinary care can mean the difference between life and death for a pet. Home care is not generally possible with nicotine exposure, officials said, due to the severity of the poisoning, even in small doses.

Owners should take action immediately by contacting a veterinarian, or calling the Pet Poison Helpline at (800) 213-6680.

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He's one 'Lucky' cat

Lucky wandered in the yard of his foster parents in March, starving and with one leg totally useless. After a few weeks of TLC, he needed to have his right front leg amputated. Lucky has recovered, and has quickly adapted to being a three-legged cat. He is a 1-year-old male, and is the ultimate lap cat. He is very playful and loves attention.

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

Neighbors showing lots of love for dogs in coming weeks

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The GFWC Tampa Junior Woman's Club is collecting items for Canine Companions for Independence.

The drive runs through Sept. 18 at Why Not Boutique, 3423 W. Bay to Bay Blvd., in Tampa.

Canine Companions depends on the generosity of the community as it strives to provide highly trained assistance dogs for people with disabilities, all free of charge, according to a release. Gifts are guaranteed to make a difference, organizers said.

For a complete list of needs, visit TampaJuniorWomansClub.com.

Barktoberfest sponsors needed

The Rotary Club of Spring Hill Central is getting ready for Barktoberfest on Oct. 25, and the group is looking for both vendors and sponsors.

The event will take place at Rotary Centennial Park at 10375 Sandlor St., in Spring Hill — the only park in Hernando County that allows dogs. It runs from noon to 4 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit the Rotary Foundation of Spring Hill Central, which supports the dog park and other local charities.

For information, call (352) 208-3772, or email rotaryshc@hotmail.com.



This kitten loves family

Robbie came to the shelter when he was about 10 weeks old, and has been spending time with his brother, Luke, who's also up for adoption. He'd love to be adopted with his brother, but first and foremost needs a loving home.

To adopt Robbie or pets like him, visit Pasco County Animal Services at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes. For more information, email adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net.



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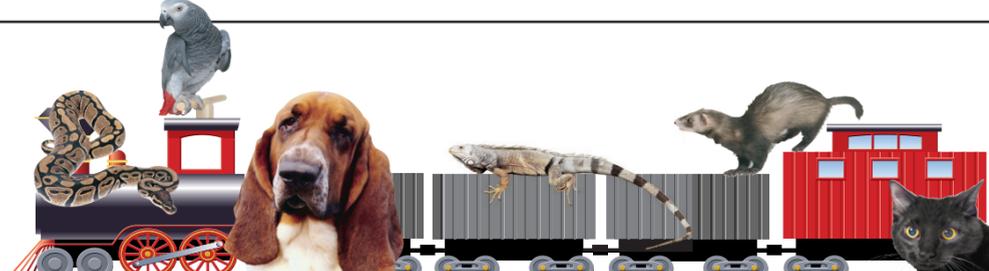
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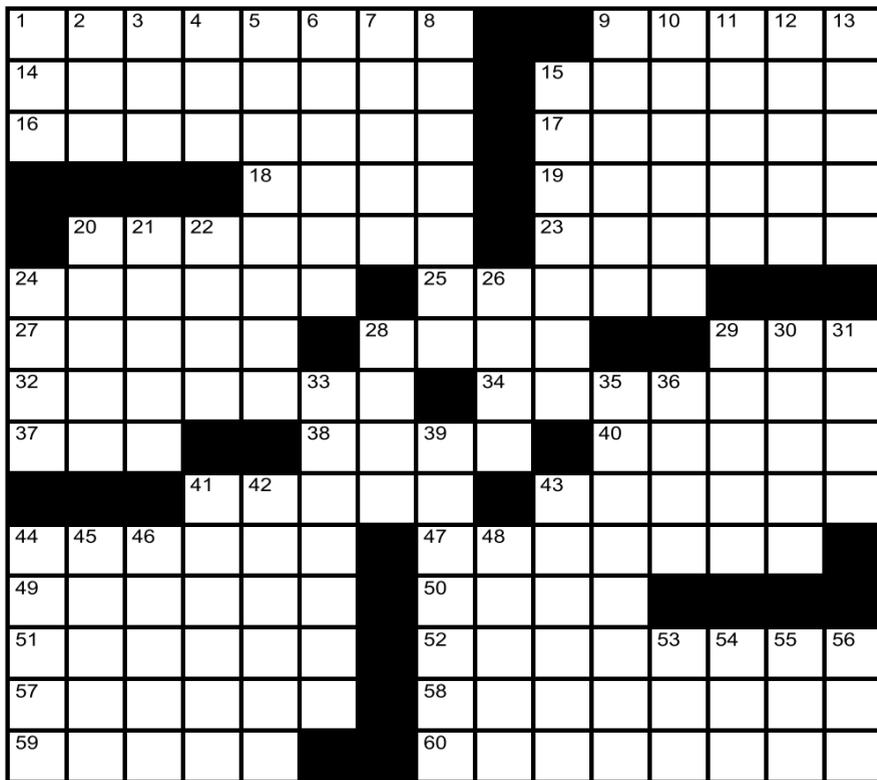
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- 16. Secured with wood strips
- 17. Acting by turns
- 18. Go through
- 19. Let
- 20. Having a will
- 23. Simple tools utilizing a fulcrum
- 24. It has points in Arizona
- 25. Approval (hyphenated)
- 27. Less inept
- 28. Carve in stone
- 29. Nipper
- 32. Flat highland
- 34. Endocrine gland

secretion

- 37. Undertake, with "out"
- 38. Advocate
- 40. Red fluorescent dye
- 41. Mel Gibson, e.g.
- 43. Aimless
- 44. Hitchcock classic
- 47. Galore
- 49. Polar cover
- 50. Clip
- 51. Spuds
- 52. Person to whom a promise is made
- 57. Emotionally attached
- 58. Knowledgeable about books
- 59. Dispatch
- 60. Put off

DOWN

- 1. Hack
- 2. ___ king (cooking, 2

wds)

- 3. "Sesame Street" watcher
- 4. "Wanna ___?"
- 5. Instrumental introduction in an opera
- 6. Lover of Dido, in myth
- 7. Milk-Bone biscuit, e.g.
- 8. Most unhappy
- 9. Donnybrooks
- 10. Printed sheet of paper folded three times
- 11. This (pl.)
- 12. Personnel director
- 13. Mails
- 15. Fox hunt cry (hyphenated)
- 20. Put off, as a motion
- 21. Ceremonial splendor
- 22. "Let it stand"
- 24. Beans
- 26. Advil target
- 28. 100 cents in

Belgium

- 29. Place
- 30. Ally
- 31. Confined, with "up"
- 33. Postmortem
- 35. One who buys back promissory notes
- 36. "September ___" (Neil Diamond hit)
- 39. Wrestle
- 41. Highlight
- 42. Battlefield shout
- 43. "Jo's Boys" author
- 44. Spiel
- 45. La ___, Italian opera house
- 46. Abominable snowmen
- 48. Romeo's rival
- 53. Bank offering, for short
- 54. Gabriel, for one
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ME HOBBIES OPENS IN LUTZ

ME Hobbies has opened a new store at 1904 Oak Grove Blvd., in Lutz, and will host a grand opening and ribbon cutting on Sept. 13.

"We've enjoyed hobbies our whole lives, and want to share that with the community," said Edward Karpoich, the chief executive of ME Hobbies, in a release.

The grand opening will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with music by Koss Music, face painting by Fuentes Fantabulous Facepainting, balloons, free train rides, and free food, ice cream and drinks provided by Sam's Club in Wesley Chapel.

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will host the weekend event.

MIXER, LUNCHEON WITH PHHCC

The Pasco Hernando Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will host a mixer Sept. 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at BB&T, 26644 Silver Maple Parkway in Wesley Chapel.

The chamber will host a luncheon Sept. 16 at 11:30 a.m., at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 20735 Leonard Road in Lutz.

CAREERSOURCE OFFERING EMPLOYEE TRAINING

CareerSource Pasco Hernando is offering assistance through the Employed Worker Training program to help businesses stay on the cutting edge of the current, growing economy.

Trained business service consultants are helping companies increase skilled labor productivity and become more competitive in today's market, the agency said, in a release. The program also provides financial assis-

tance to employers who wish to invest in their employees.

The program also provides up to 50 percent of the employers' direct training costs to be reimbursed through the agency. Last year, the local CareerSource office helped provide 150 certifications.

For additional information, visit CareerSourcePascoHernando.com, or call Sunnye Fredia at (352) 247-0761.

WC CHAMBER MIXER

The Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce will host a mixer Sept. 11 at 6 p.m., at Hyundai of Wesley Chapel, 27000 Wesley Chapel Blvd.

The event includes food, beverages, music, prizes and on-site chair massages.

WESLEY CHAPEL NETWORKING GROUP

Networking for Your Success meets every Thursday at 8 a.m., at Lexington Oaks Country, 2615 Lexington Oaks Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

Cost is \$5, and annual membership to the group is \$79.

For information, call (813) 073-1657.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR BUSINESS AWARDS

Bright House Networks and local chambers of commerce are seeking nominations for its second annual Regional Business Awards.

The awards honor companies, organizations and people who have made an impact with their products, services and thought leadership in the business community.

Nominations are currently being accepted through Sept. 26 in four categories ranging from small business to large business, including a category for start-ups.

Bright House will award prizes including commercial television production, airtime, customer newsletter and cash, with a total value of more than \$1 million.

Those interested in applying can visit tinyurl.com/BrightHouseAwards.

The winning businesses will be honored at a dinner Feb. 5 at the Tampa Convention Center.

The \$100 application fee is waived for members of local participating chambers of commerce.

DADE CITY CHAMBER WANTS AWARD WINNERS

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards banquet Oct. 16. With that, it's seeking nominations for various awards.

Typically, awards are open to members who have been a part of the chamber in good standing for at least a year. Some of the categories include Business Leader of the Year, Large Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Civic Association of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

To learn more about how to nominate, contact Jo Uber at the chamber office at (352) 567-3769, or email her at juber@dadecitychamber.org.

BANK STANDS UP TO CANCER

Fifth Third Bank has returned its "Pay to the Order Of" campaign that earlier this year raised more than \$2.3 million for Stand Up to Cancer.

The campaign was first launched in January and leverages new checking accounts to help drive donations that support collaborative cancer research programs, the company said in a release. For each new customer who opens a checking account with direct deposit, and makes three online bill payments, Fifth Third will give \$150 to the customer and donate \$150 to the cancer organization, more commonly known as SU2C. The campaign runs through Oct. 17.

KUMQUAT FESTIVAL SELLING SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce is now accepting reservation packages for the 2015 Kumquat Festival, set to take place Jan. 31.

Packages start at \$500, and include logos and links on the KumquatFestival.org website, as well as booth space at the festival. Premier packages, which run from \$1,000 to \$5,000, include additional features.

The event is expected to draw 45,000 people from Florida, who live here seasonally,

and who are visiting.

For information, call John Moors at (352) 567-3769, or email jmoors@dadecitychamber.org.

BANK OFFERS STUDENT SWEEPSTAKES

Fifth Third Bank has launched its annual Student Banking Sweepstakes.

Through Sept. 30, students who open a checking account will be automatically entered into a sweepstakes offering \$10,000 toward college tuition.

Last year's winner was Tre' Watson, a rising football star at Tampa Catholic High School.

For more information, visit 53.com/students.

UPCOMING ROTARY CLUB OF LUTZ MEETINGS

The Rotary Club of Lutz meets every Tuesday at 7 a.m., at Heritage Harbor Golf & Country Club, 19502 Heritage Harbor Parkway in Lutz.

Cost is \$10 and includes a continental breakfast, juice and coffee. Visitors are welcome.

Upcoming speakers include:

- Sept. 16 — Jessica Spencer on Amendment 2

- Sept. 23 — Dr. Paul Bowman on skin cancer prevention and treatment

- Sept. 30 — Kim Thompson on the secret behind nutrition labels

- Oct. 7 — Maj. Ruth VanDyke, an author discussing her book on women in the military

- Oct. 14 — Diane Kortus, president and owner of The Laker/Lutz News

- Oct. 21 — U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis

- Oct. 28 — Michael Walters on water management

For information, call (813) 857-7089.

WESLEY CHAPEL CHAMBER HEADING TO TUSCANY

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

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

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C	T	A	C	T	S	T	A	T	E	S					
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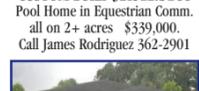
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