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**INSIDE, PAGE 1B**

## Frontage roads in Pasco County?

By **Kathy Steele**  
ksteel@lakerlutznews.com

A citizen's task force looking for traffic remedies for congested intersections of State Road 54 and State Road 56 has put together a mix of options, including a bypass consisting of parallel frontage roads.

The recommendations are focused primarily on two intersections on State Road 54 at Little Road, and at U.S. 41.

However, the 17-member volunteer task force also looked more broadly at major intersections along the entire corridor from U.S. 19 on the west to Bruce B. Downs Boulevard on the east.

The parallel frontage roads are part of a proposal put forth by Jacksonville engineer Greg Parsons. It was a privately presented op-

tion at a task force meeting, and not part of the task force's initial list of 11 highway and transit alternatives and a no-build option.

Task force members whittled down the list at a meeting on Nov. 30 in Land O' Lakes. During the year, the task force had three public meetings, and a workshop.

The Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet Jan. 11 to consider the recommendations.

"The MPO will have to look at these and give the final say," said Ali Atefi, transportation engineer with the MPO.

Once the MPO's board determines a course of action, additional study on a road design will move forward in 2018. The focus will be only on the U.S. 41 and State Road 54 intersection.

The Florida Department of

Transportation has money for additional study on that intersection, but no funding is available for the Little Road intersection, Atefi said.

Other task force recommendations included:

- Elevated express lanes at major intersections, with express lanes at-grade elsewhere, and bus service in the express lanes.

- No-build

At the U.S. 41 intersection, the task force also recommended an elevated lane combined with dedicated lanes for bus or rail and a continuous flow intersection.

The continuous flow intersection relies on turn lanes to keep traffic flowing.

See **TRAFFIC**, page 15A

## 2017 had it all: A sinkhole, Hurricane Irma, wildfires and floods

But, it also was a year of significant growth, notable achievements and touching moments, too.

By **B.C. Manion**  
bcm@lakerlutznews.com

It's not often that Land O' Lakes makes the international news, but it did just that in July when a massive sinkhole swallowed two homes in Lake Padgett Estates.

Then, just a few months later in September, the world's attention turned to Florida as a potential category 5 Hurricane Irma appeared heading straight toward Tampa Bay.

The year also was marked by severe flooding and wildfires in Pasco County.

It also was a year for the changing of the guard, as Dan Biles was named Pasco County's administrator to replace Michele Baker, who retired.

Scores of headlines during 2017 involved stories about the area's congested roadways — and projects that are planned, underway or being discussed to improve traffic flow.

Major road projects that have begun or are planned include improvements to Interstate 75 and state roads 54 and 52. A four-lane extension of State Road 56, between Wesley Chapel and Zephyrhills, is also under construction.

Another improvement, known as the diverging diamond, is planned to improve traffic flow at I-75 and State Road 56.

And, discussions continue over the best ways to reduce congestion at U.S. 41 and State Road 54, an intersection that handles roughly 100,000 vehicles per day.

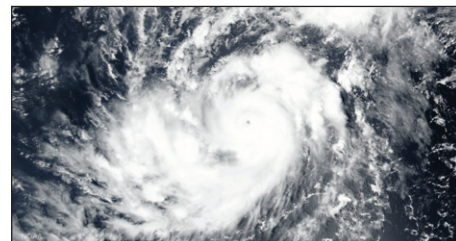
The county also appears to be making progress in its quest to secure a permit for the extension of Ridge Road, a project it has been seeking for nearly two decades. While the project can't come soon enough for supporters, its detractors remain steadfast in their opposition.

### INCREASING TRAFFIC IS A SYMPTOM OF PASCO'S ROBUST GROWTH

Housing developments, retail projects, restaurants, businesses and medical facilities are sprouting up on land previously occupied by citrus groves, farms and cattle ranches.



Zephyrhills now has a permanent venue for community events, such as the Z' Hills BBQ & Blues Fest, a popular event, which features blues bands and tasty barbecue.



With its sustained wind speeds of 185 mph, Hurricane Irma was deemed to be one of the strongest hurricanes to hit the Atlantic.



This is an aerial view of a giant sinkhole that developed in Lake Padgett Estates, swallowing two homes and causing several others to be condemned.

New schools continue to pop up, or expand, too.

In August, Pasco County Schools opened Bexley Elementary, in the Bexley subdivision off State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes and Cypress Creek Middle High School, off Old Pasco Road, in Wesley Chapel. In the coming year, it plans to begin construction of Cypress Creek Middle School.

Also, on the same campus, the school district and Pasco-Hernando State College plan to operate a new performing arts center. That center will be built by the college with \$15.5 million in state funds, but both the school district and the college will use it as

a teaching facility.

Meanwhile, the school district continues massive renovation projects at Land O' Lakes High School and at Woodland Elementary School in Zephyrhills.

More public school projects are expected, as funding for school construction gets a boost from increased school impacts fees adopted by the Pasco County Commission that will begin being phased in on Jan. 1.

On the private school front, North Tampa Christian Academy is expected to begin operations in Wesley Chapel in the fall of 2018.

See **2017**, page 15A

## Design work to start on \$15.5 million PHSC performing arts center

By **B.C. Manion**  
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Design work is expected to get underway soon on a Pasco-Hernando State College performing arts center that is planned for the Cypress Creek Middle High School campus, off Old Pasco Road.

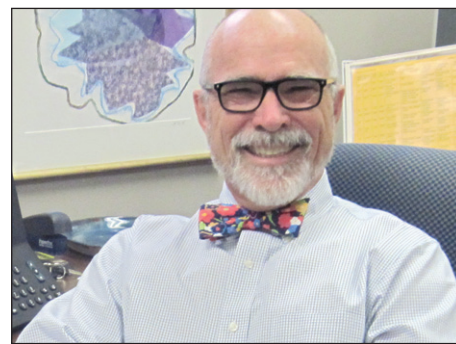
The \$15.5 million project will be built by the state college, but both the college and Pasco County Schools plan to use the facility for educational programming.

Additionally, Pasco County Schools is planning to begin construction on Pasco County Middle School, which is scheduled to open in August of 2020.

"We're designing the middle school, with the performing arts in mind," said Ray Gadd, deputy superintendent of Pasco County Schools.

"We're going to have some dance rooms at the middle school. We'll have a black box theater at the middle school. We'll have a chorus room. We'll have an orchestra room," he said.

"Sometimes the college might be in our



B.C. MANION

**Ray Gadd, deputy superintendent for Pasco County Schools, sees enormous potential for a planned \$15.5 million performing arts center.**

middle school at night, using the black box theater, and we might be in the new performing arts center, using the stage," Gadd said.

Harvard Jolly — the architect for the middle school project — also has been selected to do the performing arts center, said

See **ARTS**, page 15A

## Pasco reviewing lawsuit proposal linked to opioid epidemic

By **Kathy Steele**  
ksteel@lakerlutznews.com

More than 15 years ago, a landmark settlement against tobacco companies netted billions of dollars for plaintiffs who sued over smoking-related illnesses.

The nation's opioid epidemic may be headed in that same direction.

And, the Pasco County Commission is mulling a proposal to join a growing number of governments that are seeking to recoup public dollars spent battling opioid addictions.

At a Dec. 5 workshop in New Port Richey, Pensacola-based attorney Jeff Gaddy laid out a case for why Pasco should join the legal fray.

County commissioners made no commitment, but accepted a proposal for review.

"We'll make a decision down the road,"

See **OPIOID**, page 15A

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# Residents get preview of Curley Road project

By Kathy Steele

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

New development is changing the landscape in northeast Pasco County.

And, road projects – both state and local – are seeking to address road widenings and intersection improvements to handle a growing volume of vehicles along State Road 52, and its offshoots.

Residents had a chance on Dec. 6 to review proposals for road work on Curley Road, including its intersections with State Road 52, Prospect Road, and the future Mirada Boulevard.

New developments along Curley include Epperson, with its Crystal Lagoon, the future Mirada master-planned community, as well as the Villages of Pasadena.

Pasco County officials were available to answer questions about Curley. Residents also could leave written comments.

Pasco County commissioners are expected to get a report on the study in January. However, no funding is available for either design or construction of the project.

Work is not likely for several years.

“There may be further appropriations for improvements, but we don’t know yet,” said Panos Kontses, a Pasco County project manager.

The Curley Road Route Study Re-evaluation is an update of a study done in 2005, before new development began sprouting along Curley Road.

The original study reviewed Curley Road, from north of Wells Road to north of a realignment of State Road 52 that will link with an extension of Clinton Avenue. The new focus looks at one segment of the study from north of Tindall Boulevard up to the realigned state highway.

Pasco officials also sought comments on whether residents preferred traffic signals or roundabouts at intersections.

“I hate seeing (development), but you’re not going to stop it,” said area resident Jimmy Smith. “I’m just here seeing what they’re offering.”

In general, Smith said road plans seem to come too late and can’t keep up with growth.

“They’re always backwards, the cart before the horse,” he said. “I just don’t have too much faith in how they’ll do the engineering,” he added.

Longtime resident Margaret Beaumont worried about where the county would take right-of-way. They should do so where there is more vacant land, and fewer businesses and homes that would be displaced, she said.

She also added: “I don’t like roundabouts.”

Resident John Gassler is worried that the Knights of Columbus building on Curley Road could lose frontage to right-of-way, or possibly even lose the building itself.

But, as a former Hollywood (Florida) resident, he doesn’t object to the roundabouts. Hollywood had three of them, and he became accustomed to driving through them, Gassler said.

According to county data, 27 parcels to 30 parcels would be affected by the project, with one business or two, and between four to seven homes needing relocation.

Estimated construction costs range from about \$32 million to more than \$35 million.

Before the county gets to Curley Road, the Florida Department of Transportation will begin construction on about 7 miles of the realigned State Road 52. That work should begin in fall 2019 and be completed in 2021.

The project will build a new four-lane road from Uradco Place to Prospect Road/Happy Hill Road, with two additional lanes added from Prospect and Happy Hill to west of Fort King Road. New traffic signals, a 7-foot bicycle lane, 6-foot sidewalk and 10-foot multi-use trail extending to Curley Road also will be built.

Pasco County is expected to contribute more than \$4 million toward right-of-way purchases for a total project cost of more than \$107 million, according to county records.

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## Woman’s club honors Pat Wagner

The GFWC Lutz-Land O’ Lakes Woman’s Club has chosen Pat Wagner as its Clubwoman of the Year. Wagner, a retired educator, has worked on behalf of the club’s Education Committee and now serves as its chair. Knowing firsthand of school budget constraints, Wagner has reached out to our communities’ neediest schools to see how the woman’s club can best assist teachers and students with donated classroom supplies, backpacks, student school supplies and clothing. Also, with Wagner’s leadership, the club provided and delivered a bountiful Christmas to more than 13 area student families in need. Pat Wagner, right, accepts a commemorative plaque from Karin D’Amico, club president, who was re-elected to serve a second consecutive term in office.

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# Community gardening coming to Dade City

By B.C. Manion  
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Two new community gardens will be coming soon to Dade City.

The University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Pasco County Extension Office will be establishing community gardens with the help of the City of Dade City, the Pasco County Commission and private donors.

Members of the community will be able to grow their own produce in free garden plots, according to Whitney C. Elmore, Pasco County Extension director and urban horticulture agent.

The gardens will be located at Watson Park, which is at North and Main avenues, between 17th and 19th streets, and on the land surrounding the Stallings Building, at 15029 14th St.

The Dade City Watson Park Community Garden is being made possible with support from Dade City Mayor Camille Hernandez, the Dade City Commission and UF/IFAS, Elmore said. This is a new land use agreement model piloted between the University of Florida and a municipality, she added.

The Stallings Building Urban Farm has been made possible through the recently passed Pasco County Urban Agriculture Ordinance, the cooperation of Pasco County Commission and the guidance of Assistant County Administrator Cathy Pearson, Elmore added.

Many private citizens and companies also donated items and equipment to make these new ventures possible, according to Eden Santiago-Gomez, community gardens program assistant at the extension office.

The Dade City Watson Park Community Garden will host more than 30 community plots of varying sizes, including wheelchair-accessible and senior-accessible raised beds. All plots and beds will be available to lease free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis to the surrounding community.

Educator plots also will be available, so students on school field trips can engage and interact with all things gardening.

Lessons will be taught, on site, by the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension faculty and



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA/IFAS

Nice, plump tomatoes may be among the vegetables grown soon in Dade City by gardeners using community garden plots.

staff on topics such as gardening 101, good bugs/bad bugs, gardening for nutrition, composting, rain water harvesting, fertilizers, eating on a budget, and making your own healthy snacks, Elmore added.

Garden tours also will be available to the public in the future by Pasco Master Gardeners and Horticulture staff.

A planting party will be held to commemorate the first community garden in Dade City. The party will be on Jan. 12, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Dade City Watson Park Community Garden. The public is invited to share the afternoon with Dade City officials, local leaders and members of the community.

The Stallings Building Urban Farm will feature more than 50 8-foot-by-8-foot community plots and six raised wheelchair-accessible beds, all available for the community to lease, free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. The rest of the area will be farmed by the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Office's Community Gardens Program. All food grown in that area of the Urban Farm will be donated to local food pantries initially. At some point,

the hope is to offer a monthly farm stand or possibly Community Supported Agriculture to benefit the local community, Santiago-Gomez said.

Numerous gardening techniques will be utilized at this site (from traditional row cropping to permaculture design techniques) as educational demonstrations for county residents during various classes, to be offered in the near future.

Both gardens are located in the low-income communities of Dade City, and are aimed at helping local community members learn to grow their own food.

This will give local community members access to fresh fruits and vegetables, in what is currently a food desert. Additionally, money saved on grocery bills, by growing much of the produce needed for a family, can be redirected to other areas of everyday life, Elmore said.

Citizens can sign up now for a free garden plot at either of these locations and start gardening. Please contact Eden Santiago-Gomez at [esantiagogomez@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:esantiagogomez@pascocountyfl.net) or (352) 518-0156 to reserve your free plot.

## Start the new year by growing your gardening knowledge

Here's a slate of upcoming classes aimed at helping people who want to learn more about how to propagate from seeds, and other gardening topics.

### PROPAGATING FROM SEEDS #101

**WHERE:** Clayton Hall at Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36702 State Road 52 in Dade City  
**WHEN:** Jan. 6, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.  
**COST:** Free  
**DETAILS:** Learn some tricks of the trade to successfully germinate seeds and raise the seedlings to beautiful plants. Registration is required. Call the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Office at (352) 518-0156 for details.

### COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

**WHERE:** Centennial Park Branch Library, 5740 Moog Road in Holiday  
**WHEN:** Jan. 11, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
**COST:** \$35 fee, includes instruction and one composting bin  
**DETAILS:** Learn how to recycle nutrients into plants and add organic matter to your soil. The workshop covers the do's and don'ts of composting for Florida flowers and vegetables. Each Pasco household is eligible to receive one compost bin when at least one household member registers and attends this workshop. Call the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Office at (352) 518-0156 for details.

### VEGETABLE GARDENING BASICS

**WHERE:** Stallings Building, 15029 14th St., in Dade City  
**WHEN:** Jan. 18, 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.  
**COST:** Free  
**DETAILS:** Learn how to choose a location for a garden, what makes good soil, when to plant different vegetables, and how to control common vegetable garden pests. Registration is required. Call the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Office at (352) 518-0156 for details.



COURTESY OF EDEN SANTIAGO-GOMEZ, PASCO EXTENSION OFFICE

Soon, gardeners will be using community gardening plots to grow vegetables in Dade City.

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# What's Happening

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

## CARD PLAYING

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will celebrate National Card Playing Day Dec. 28 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., for all ages. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## SMASH BROTHERS TOURNAMENT

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer a Super Smash Brothers Tournament Dec. 28 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., for grades six to 12. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## CARD CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host the LOL Card Club Dec. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon, for adults. Participants can learn the new game Hand and Foot. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## HAPPY NOON YEAR

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will host a Happy Noon Year Party Dec. 30 at 11:30 a.m., for children. There will be stories, noisemakers, a countdown to the stroke of noon, and a balloon drop. Groups must register in advance. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit [HCPLC.org](http://HCPLC.org).

## DINNER/DANCE

The 50-plus senior singles club SCIPS will host a New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance Party Dec. 31 from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., at Colreavy Hall, 820 Jasmine Way in Clearwater. There will be live music by the Ray Curtis Band and a buffet. The event is BYOB (bring your own beverage). Tickets are \$20 per person, and will not be sold at the door. For information, call (727) 544-3735.

## BOOK DISCUSSION

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host the Hugh Embry Mystery Book Discussion Group Jan. 2 at 2 p.m., to discuss "Burn" by Nevada Barr. New members can attend. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## GARDEN CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Garden Club will meet Jan. 2 at 10:30 a.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park (formerly Land O' Lakes Community Center), 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. There will be a small-item white elephant sale as a fundraiser for the club. For information, call Marie Woody at (813) 961-2697, or visit [Facebook.com/loigcfl/](http://Facebook.com/loigcfl/).

## HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Zephyrhills Historical Association will meet Jan. 2 at 5:30 p.m., at the Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St. Refreshments will include provided drinks and food brought in by members. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

## CARROLLWOOD TOASTMASTERS

The Carrollwood Toastmasters will meet Jan. 3 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, for anyone who wants to improve their public speaking skills. For information, visit [Carrollwood.toastmastersclubs.org](http://Carrollwood.toastmastersclubs.org).



## Gallery reception

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will host a Gallery Opening & Artist Reception Jan. 5 at 5 p.m., to celebrate the artists of the student/faculty art show. Participants in the annual show have either taught or taken a class at the center during the last three years. The exhibit will be on display through January. Photographer Billy Joe Hoyle will open his exhibit "From Asia to North America." Admission is free. For information, visit [CarrollwoodCenter.org](http://CarrollwoodCenter.org).

## True West performance

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will present "True West" by Sam Shepard Jan. 5 and Jan. 6 at 8 p.m., and Jan. 7 at 4 p.m. The tale tells the story of a Hollywood screenwriter and his prodigal older brother. Tickets are \$20. For information, visit [CarrollwoodCenter.org](http://CarrollwoodCenter.org).

## LUTZ GARDEN CLUB

The Orange Blossom Garden Club of Lutz will meet Jan. 3 at 10 a.m., at the Lutz Civic Center, 98 First Ave., N.W., across from the library. Eileen Hart will make a presentation on camellias. Members are asked to bring a small rooted cutting for trade (must be labeled) and a canned good for the food bank. For information, visit [Orange Blossom Garden Club of Lutz, Florida on Facebook](http://OrangeBlossomGardenClubofLutz,FloridaonFacebook).

## BOTTLE PAINTING

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a glass bottle painting class Jan. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon, for ages 9 to 15. Participants can paint a flattened, glass bottle. A proper dress code and a signed liability waiver are required. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

## TECH TALK

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer "Tech Talk" Jan. 4 at 4 p.m., for a series of talks on technology, for ages 16 and older. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## HISTORY LECTURE

The Historic Hernando Preservation Society will present "The Ridge Manor Area: Then & Now," with a lecture on how the Fort King Military Road affected early and later settlements, Jan. 4 at 6:30 p.m., at Brooksville City Hall, 201 Howell Ave. For information, visit [HistoricHernandoPreservationSociety.org](http://HistoricHernandoPreservationSociety.org).

## TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host its Teen Advisory Board Jan. 4 at 6 p.m., for grades six to 12. Students can get volunteer hours for scholarships and school clubs by attending the meetings. Members of the board help to plan and to run the teen library programs. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## TRIVIA GAMES

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host National Trivia Day games Jan. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for the whole family. Prizes will be awarded. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## TEEN MOVIE

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer a teen movie, for grades six to 12, Jan. 5 at 2 p.m. Call the library for more information at (352) 567-3576.

## FESTIVAL CONCERT TICKETS

Tickets for the 83rd annual Strawberry Festival's headline entertainment shows on the Wish Farms Soundstage are now on sale. Performers include Reba McEntire; Earth, Wind & Fire; Casting Crowns; and the I Love the 90s Tour featuring Vanilla Ice, Salt-N-Pepa and Tone Loc. Tickets for each show can be found online or by calling (813) 754-1996. The festival is scheduled for March 1 to March 11 in Plant City. For a complete entertainment lineup and information, visit [FLStrawberryFestival.com](http://FLStrawberryFestival.com).

## HAVDALLAH & HOLLYWOOD

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host Havdallah & Hollywood "The Musical" Jan. 6 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Havdallah under the stars (weather permitting) will take place at 7 p.m. Then, the feature presentations and snacks will be in the "theatre lobby." For adults, the film will be "The Jazz Singer" starring Neil Diamond, and for the kids, "The Lion King." Admission is free, but RSVP by Jan. 3 to [sisterhood.kolami.tampa@gmail.com](mailto:sisterhood.kolami.tampa@gmail.com).

## THE MARKET PLACE

The Market Place at Hibiscus Park in Dade City will take place Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be fresh produce from St. Angela's Farmers Market of San Antonio, specialty wine-tasting by Brookstone Wines of Brooksville, honey by Grandpa Stan's All Natural of Brooksville, home décor, Carol Reeves' garden accessories, goats from Homespun Goods, Jovita Treats' jams and jellies, the Dade City Soap Company, alpaca products, essential oils, jewelry and more. Pets can attend, but owners must bring bags for cleanup. For information, contact Lucy Avila at (352) 424-4972 or [lucyavila707@gmail.com](mailto:lucyavila707@gmail.com).

## BE A VOLUNTEER

Life's Treasures Thrift Stores, with locations in Carrollwood and Zephyrhills, needs volunteers and is looking for active retirees, empty-nesters, homemakers, college and high school students, full and part-time workers, as well as those in job or career transition. Schedules are flexible and no retail experience is required. Teens age 14 and older can earn community service hours for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. For all locations and information, contact Anne Ferrell at (813) 357-5321 or [ferrella@chaptershealth.org](mailto:ferrella@chaptershealth.org).

## JEWISH WORSHIP

Seeking residents in Land O' Lakes and southern Pasco County who may be interested in forming a family friendly Jewish house of worship for people of all ages and backgrounds. If interested, email [familyfriendlytemple@yahoo.com](mailto:familyfriendlytemple@yahoo.com).

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Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. Tobacco Free Florida offers free tools and services to help you get started.



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Morton Plant, North Bay Hospital  
6600 Madison Street New Port Richey

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 | 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel  
2600 Bruce B Downs Blvd, Wesley Chapel

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 | 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Good Samaritan Clinic  
5334 Aspen Street New Port Richey

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 | 2:00pm - 4:00 pm  
Regional Medical Center, Bayonet Point  
14000 Fivay Road, Hudson

Thursday, January 18, 2018 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Florida Hospital - Zephyrhills  
38233 Daughtery Road, Zephyrhills

Wednesday, January 24, 2018 | 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Zephyrhills Library  
5347 8th Street, Zephyrhills

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# All-Pasco County fall awards announced

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

High school coaches from the Pasco County School District recently announced Sunshine Athletic Conference (SAC) All-Conference Teams, Athletes of the Year and Coaches of the Year, for the 2017-2018 fall

sports season.

Selections were made for both the East and West Division.

The following high schools from The Laker/Lutz News coverage area were represented in the East: Cypress Creek, Land O' Lakes, Pasco, Sunlake, Wesley Chapel, Wiregrass Ranch and Zephyrhills.

## FALL SPORTS (BOYS)

### 2017-2018 SAC EAST

#### ALL-CONFERENCE BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

**Coach of the Year:** Chris Loth, Wiregrass Ranch  
**Runner of the Year:** Alex Normandia, Land O' Lakes

#### FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Alex Normandia, Land O' Lakes, senior  
Kevin Jaaves, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
Giovanni Duran, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
Dominic Bureson, Sunlake, junior  
Devin Pollay, Wesley Chapel, sophomore  
Edward Scheid, Sunlake, sophomore  
Joseph Pineda, Land O' Lakes, junior

#### SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Jericho Cooley, Pasco, senior  
Adam Hahn, Land O' Lakes, junior  
Josiah Pineda, Land O' Lakes, junior  
Carlos Cruz, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
Gavin Kennedy, Sunlake, junior  
Anthony Dimarco, Wiregrass Ranch, sophomore  
Abdallah Mbowe, Sunlake, junior

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Joseph Hoppe, Zephyrhills, sophomore  
John Rowsell, Cypress Creek, freshman

### 2017-2018 SAC EAST

#### ALL-CONFERENCE BOYS' GOLF

**Coach of the Year:** Shaun Van Patten, Zephyrhills  
**Golfer of the Year:** Jordan Sarhaddi, Sunlake

#### FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Jordan Sarhaddi, Sunlake, junior  
Damien Rhule, Sunlake, senior  
Jarrod Smith, Cypress Creek, sophomore  
Wyatt Pilsarski, Zephyrhills, senior  
Gabriel Fleck, Pasco, senior

#### SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Zach Bauer, Wesley Chapel, senior  
Cade Darbyshire, Pasco, senior  
Brendan Schmied, Wiregrass Ranch, junior  
Roddy Kight, Zephyrhills, sophomore  
Landon Ogilbee, Zephyrhills, senior

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Max Budd, Land O' Lakes, senior  
Zach Holiday, Land O' Lakes, senior

### 2017-2018 SAC EAST

#### ALL-CONFERENCE BOYS' SWIMMING & DIVING

**Coach of the Year:** Brian Vaile, Land O' Lakes  
**Swimmer of the Year:** Jabari Ramsey, Land O' Lakes  
**Diver of the Year:** Mason Gandy, Land O' Lakes

#### FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

**200 Medley Relay:** (Land O' Lakes)—Patryk Pilkowski, Jabari Ramsey, Zachary Davis, Zuri Ramsey  
**200 Freestyle:** Douglas Lankton, Wiregrass Ranch, sophomore  
**200 Individual Medley:** Colin Wilkins, Sunlake, sophomore  
**50 Freestyle:** Dominic Ortanez, Sunlake, sophomore  
**100 Butterfly:** Jabari Ramsey, Land O' Lakes, senior  
**100 Freestyle:** Patryk Pilkowski, Land O' Lakes, junior  
**500 Freestyle:** Douglas Lankton, Wiregrass Ranch, sophomore  
**200 Freestyle Relay:** (Sunlake)—Brendon Thai, Dominic Ortanez, Colin Wilkins, Jay Jay Fonnotto  
**100 Backstroke:** Patryk Pilkowski, Land O' Lakes, junior  
**100 Breaststroke:** Jabari Ramsey, Land O' Lakes, senior  
**400 Freestyle Relay:** (Land O' Lakes)—Patryk Pilkowski, Jabari Ramsey, Zachary Davis, Zuri Ramsey  
**Diver:** Mason Gandy, Land O' Lakes, freshman

#### SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

**200 Medley Relay:** (Zephyrhills)—Julian Jennings, Houston Neal, Peyton Lebron, Zayne Trebour  
**200 Freestyle:** Quinn Crouse, Cypress Creek, freshman  
**200 Individual Medley:** Jack Kaatze, Land O' Lakes, sophomore  
**50 Freestyle:** David Garbutt, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
**100 Butterfly:** David Garbutt, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
**100 Freestyle:** Danny Amaya, Wesley Chapel, sophomore  
**500 Freestyle:** Quinn Crouse, Cypress Creek, freshman  
**200 Freestyle Relay:** (Wesley Chapel)—Daniel Amaya, Brennen Choate, Jayden Rogers, Dominick Slay  
**100 Backstroke:** Ravidu Idippill-Pathiran, Land O' Lakes, sophomore  
**100 Breaststroke:** Griffen Sutek, Land O' Lakes, freshman  
**400 Freestyle Relay:** (Sunlake)—Nathan Doris, Diego Hernandez, Ryan Juarez, Paul Scavino  
**Diver:** Rick Pritchard, Sunlake, junior

#### Honorable Mention

Quentin Carren, Pasco, freshman

## FALL SPORTS (GIRLS)

### 2017-18 SAC EAST ALL-CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL

**Coach of the Year:** Michelle Davis, Wiregrass Ranch  
**Player of the Year:** Rachel Michner, Land O' Lakes

#### FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Destanie Ayt, Wiregrass Ranch, junior  
Sydney Bade, Wesley Chapel, senior  
Rachel Michner, Land O' Lakes, junior  
Caroline Schoonover, Sunlake, sophomore

Shayna Heymann, Land O' Lakes, junior  
Lianek Davis, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
Abbie Hindersman, Land O' Lakes, sophomore

#### SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Peyton Patterson, Wesley Chapel, senior  
Jaizah Anderson, Wiregrass Ranch, junior  
Sydney Hiner, Land O' Lakes, senior  
Elizabeth Spalding, Sunlake, senior  
Kamea Nash, Sunlake, junior  
Elanny Brefon, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
Rebecca Wolff, Pasco, sophomore

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Shayla Fleshman, Cypress Creek, sophomore

### 2017-18 SAC EAST

#### ALL-CONFERENCE GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

**Coach of the Year:** Randy Reeves, Sunlake  
**Runner of the Year:** Natalie Abernathy, Land O' Lakes

#### FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Natalie Abernathy, Land O' Lakes, junior  
Liina Winborn, Sunlake, sophomore  
Estefania Acosta, Land O' Lakes, junior  
Shannon Gordy, Sunlake, freshman  
Emily Jenkins, Sunlake, sophomore  
Reis Ehman, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
Kylee Ehman, Wiregrass Ranch, sophomore

#### SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Guadalupe Guerra, Wiregrass Ranch, freshman  
Emma Skantze, Land O' Lakes, senior  
Olivia March, Wesley Chapel, freshman  
Mariah Morales, Sunlake, junior  
Brenna Moran, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
Anna Moore, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
Breanna Preiser, Wiregrass Ranch, freshman

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Ashleigh Lacey, Cypress Creek, freshman  
Madison Kaylor, Pasco, senior  
Joselyn Wingo, Zephyrhills, junior

### 2017-18 SAC EAST ALL-CONFERENCE GIRLS' GOLF

**Coach of the Year:** Kathleen Dorkowski  
**Golfer of the Year:** Norah Catlin, Wiregrass Ranch

#### FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Maggie Schmock, Land O' Lakes, senior  
Emily Alderman, Zephyrhills, junior  
Kacie Huber, Pasco, senior  
Norah Catlin, Wiregrass Ranch, freshman  
Hannah Sullivan, Zephyrhills, junior

#### SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Kariye Finn, Wiregrass Ranch, junior  
Loryn Finn, Wiregrass Ranch, sophomore  
Sofia Clark, Sunlake, sophomore  
Maddie Wagner, Sunlake, sophomore  
Callisa Kwiat, Cypress Creek, sophomore

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Hannah Collin, Wesley Chapel, senior  
Cydnee Jonas, Wesley Chapel, freshman

### 2017-18 SAC EAST

#### ALL-CONFERENCE GIRLS' SWIMMING & DIVING

**Coach of the Year:** Tanner Schmitz, Land O' Lakes  
**Swimmer of the Year:** Chloe Grimme, Sunlake  
**Diver of the Year:** Taylor Watson, Wesley Chapel

#### FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

**200 Medley Relay:** (Sunlake)—Tori Eurell, Hanna Barton, Elise Ballash, Chloe Grimme  
**200 Freestyle:** Taylor Ward, Land O' Lakes, junior  
**200 Individual Relay:** Audrey Ballash, Sunlake, sophomore  
**50 Freestyle:** Chloe Grimme, Sunlake, sophomore  
**100 Butterfly:** Margarita Czupryn, Land O' Lakes, sophomore  
**100 Freestyle:** Chloe Grimme, Sunlake, sophomore  
**500 Freestyle:** Taylor Ward, Land O' Lakes, junior  
**200 Freestyle Relay:** (Sunlake)—Tori Eurell, Chloe Grimme, Audrey Ballash, Hanna Barton  
**100 Backstroke:** Tori Eurell, Sunlake, junior  
**100 Breaststroke:** Elise Ballash, Sunlake, junior  
**400 Freestyle Relay:** (Land O' Lakes)—Taylor Ward, Romina McCloskey, Margarita Czupryn, Ashley Schrader  
**Diver:** Taylor Watson, Wesley Chapel, senior

#### SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

**200 Medley Relay:** (Wiregrass Ranch)—Daniela LaFlamme, Kieleigh Grace, Kyra Johnson, Delaney Smith  
**200 Freestyle:** Alex Sprague, Sunlake, freshman  
**200 Individual Relay:** Alex Sprague, Sunlake, freshman  
**50 Freestyle:** Brooke Duncan, Wesley Chapel, senior  
**100 Butterfly:** Kyra Johnson, Wiregrass Ranch, junior  
**100 Freestyle:** Brooke Duncan, Wesley Chapel, senior  
**500 Freestyle:** Daniela LaFlamme, Wiregrass Ranch, senior  
**200 Freestyle Relay:** (Land O' Lakes)—Jessica Adcock, Amaya Henry, Jennifer Zartman, Rowan Rees  
**100 Backstroke:** Jessica Adcock, Land O' Lakes, junior  
**400 Freestyle Relay:** (Wiregrass Ranch)—Daniela LaFlamme, Delaney Smith, Kieleigh Grace, Kyra Johnson  
**Diver:** Alexa Scalcunes, Sunlake, junior

#### Honorable Mentions:

Gianna Nuguit, Cypress Creek, freshman  
Mykenzy Neal, Zephyrhills, sophomore  
Abigail Fisher, Pasco, junior

**MORE SPORTS, PAGE 16A**

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# Asturia Wins Awards at Builder's Masquerade Ball

**A**sturia, a Hines Community located in Odessa, recently won Best Logo for a Developer and Best Online Digital Ad for a Developer at the Tampa Bay Builders Association's annual Sales and Marketing Awards of Excellence competition.

The sold-out masquerade ball was held at the beautifully restored Floridan Palace Hotel in downtown Tampa. Tables were elaborately decorated with candelabras, feathers and flowers, and guests wore festive masquerade masks. A strolling musician played a glowing violin as she walked around the grand ballroom.



Carla Luigs, marketing specialist for Asturia, accepts an award from Claudette Kelsey at the recent Awards of Excellence competition of the Sales and Marketing Council of the Tampa Bay Builders Association.



Ashton Wood's new model, the Suwanee, features a spacious gourmet kitchen.

## ASTURIA'S BUILDERS

Ashton Woods, David Weekley Homes and ICI Homes are Asturia's exclusive builders. All have model homes open daily.

Ashton Woods' newest model home is the Suwanee — a new floor plan for the builder — that offers a fabulous kitchen/great room concept. The one-story home features a two-car garage at the rear of the home and boasts four bedrooms, three baths and a spacious front porch. Total square footage is 2,200 square feet. Pricing begins at \$274,990.

Ashton Woods has also recently completed its Lincoln showcase home, which is move-in ready. This 2,368-square-foot home is two stories and features a spacious family room that flows seamlessly into the kitchen, and its large center island and upgraded granite countertops.

ICI Homes is the community's newest builder, and is opening its fully decorated Serena model in late January, with a grand opening weekend of Jan. 27-28. Refreshments will be provided, and a \$500 gift card raffle will be held for those attending.

The Serena is a four-bedroom, three-bath home with 2,217 square feet. It features a large gathering room, spacious gourmet kitchen and an owner's suite with a master bath that leads into a large, double entry, walk-in closet. The Serena has a two-car garage and begins at \$329,900.

David Weekley Homes also offers homes with the garage in the rear, with eight distinct floor plans in its Cottage and Garden series. It also builds traditional floor plans in its Lake and Manor series, which combined offers 14 floor plans.

All Asturia builders provide a wide variety of home sizes and architectural styles. Pricing begins in the mid \$200,000s, and goes to over \$500,000.

## AWARD WINNING AMENITY CENTER

Everyone enjoys Asturia's distinctive, 5,800-square-foot Amenity Center and Clubhouse, which earned the prestigious Silver Aurora for the Best Recreational Facility at the 2017 Southeast Building Conference.

The Amenity Center incorporates a fully equipped state-of-the-art fitness center, covered outdoor living rooms, a luxurious resort-style swimming pool and expansive lawn areas for recreation.

Asturia is a kid-friendly, family oriented lifestyle surrounded by miles of multi-use trails, interspersed with playgrounds, dog parks and pocket parks.

The community has wide, meadow-like spaces, lovely ponds, thick stands of cypress and hardwood trees, and large tracts of scenic wetlands.

## ABOUT ASTURIA

When Asturia's development is complete in a few years, it will likely have less than 550 single-family homes. It is a mixed-use, master-planned community located in the high-demand State Road 54 corridor in Pasco County. The community's central location is just five minutes from the Suncoast Parkway and also provides close proximity to U.S. 41, U.S. 19 and I-75. Its master plan incorporates retail, office, multifamily and a variety of single-family residential offerings.

For more information, visit Asturia's model homes and register at the community's website, [AsturiaFlorida.com](http://AsturiaFlorida.com), or by calling (813) 227-4148.

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A **Hines** Community



# Cornerstone brings you safe, crystal clear water for your family

*Plus, refined water that prevents scaling and doubles the life of appliances*

**M**any people take for granted the water in their home — both working water used for taking showers and washing clothes, and drinking water for making coffee and ice cubes.

It's not until their showerheads become corroded with mineral build up, or their ice cubes look cloudy, do many families consider a water treatment and purification system for their home.

Unfortunately, by the time they do, the damage often has already been done to home appliances, faucets and grout which have become pitted, scratched, stained and may even require replacement.

The good news is that all of these symptoms of poor water quality can be resolved with a quality home water system that pays for itself in just a few years. Refined water also extends the life of a hot water heater because less sediment is deposited in the tank.

Like many of her customers, Dana Spears, owner of Cornerstone Air Conditioning, Plumbing & Electrical in Land O' Lakes, also waited too long before installing a water treatment and purification system in her home.

A wife and mother of five children, Dana and her husband, James, built a new home four years ago.

"We didn't think to put in a water system them, and that was a huge mistake because today my beautiful, expensive kitchen and bathroom faucets are pitted and scratched, my grout is cracking and there is so much corrosion in my dishwasher that we need to replace it," said Dana.

Cornerstone's Plumbing Department has always offered water treatment, but Dana found a real need to expand this area for her customers.

"Not only did my family home



need a water system, but many of our customers were also inquiring about what system was best for their home," said Dana.

Dana and her team researched dozens of manufacturers and systems, and selected Westinghouse because of its effectiveness, efficiency and 10-year guarantee.

"Westinghouse also offered Cornerstone exclusivity, which means we are the only plumbing company in the area that can sell their exceptional water systems," said Dana.

The Westinghouse Progressive Revolution Series works 24 hours a day delivering clean, soft working water to the entire house. Its refined water makes clothes and linens softer and brighter, and kitchen and bathroom faucets and showerheads become free of water spots, soap scum and scaling that restricts water flow.

For drinking water, the Westinghouse system delivers fresh, purified water on demand from a special faucet installed at the kitchen sink. Its technology removes nearly all of the contaminants in city water,

and leaves nothing but pure, clean, fresh tasting water.

"If you're buying bottled water, you can stop. And if you're relying on faucet or refrigerator filters, this gives your family a much higher level of purity," said Dana. "Essentially, you get unlimited bottled water — just think how much money you will save because you will no longer need to buy bottled water!"

As sediment builds up, it doesn't take long for water coming from a faucet that is not treated first by a purification system to taste like minerals and even look a bit cloudy. Many families spend \$20 or more on bottled water for their family a week, Dana explains.

Cornerstone also installs water treatment and purification systems for homes on well water. Well water is tested for iron, bacteria and other elements, and the system custom designed to meet the specific needs of a family's well.

The Westinghouse system can be installed same day or next in most homes with city water, especially in newer homes that are pre-plumbed for a water treatment system. Homes

## Why Refined Water?

**Pure, clean, fresh tasting water.** The purification process removes nearly all of the contaminants in your city or well water and gives you a limitless supply of higher quality drinking water.

**Save money:** Pure, crystal clear water from your faucet means you can stop buying bottled water for your home.

**No hard water spots and soap residue:** Glassware comes straight from the dishwasher, crystal clear. The same goes for stemware and flatware.

**Soft skin after shaving and bathing:** Rinses away all soap and cleaning products completely, leaving you with soft manageable skin and hair. Razorblades last longer and you can shave you closer.

**Water becomes a powerful solvent** - all by itself. Refined water will lift stains and clean surfaces, plus eliminate tough stains brought on by your old harsh water. Refined water also reduces the time it takes to clean your home, and also the need for harsh and sometimes toxic cleaners.

on a well may take up to two weeks for the testing and installation to be completed

Cornerstone's licensed plumbers are trained by Westinghouse and are certified to install its systems. Every installation is different, and all are integrated with the home's water system. All work is guaranteed and under warranty for a full year.

Cornerstone was founded in 2006 as an air conditioning service company. In 2012, it expanded into plumbing services, and two years later added electrical services. Its phones are answered 24/7, and technicians are available around the clock, including weekends and holidays.

Call (813) 949-4445 anytime, day or night. For more information, visit their website at [CornerstonePros.com](http://CornerstonePros.com).

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- 2. MAKES HOUSEHOLD CLEANING FASTER AND EASIER** - No gritty scale keeps your faucets and tile squeaky clean and shiny
- 3. APPLIANCES LAST YEARS LONGER** - Scale deposits corrode the inside of water heaters, dishwashers, icemakers and other home appliances
- 4. PAYS FOR ITSELF THROUGH TIME** - Reduced cost of cleaning supplies, hygiene products and bottled water

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# A More Organized Home for the New Year

Interior upgrades can make a big impact to the style and comfort of your home. They should also last a long time — even for a busy household with lots of foot traffic.

After the hectic holidays, it's no surprise that many people commit to becoming better organized in the new year.

There are plenty of reasons why people obsess over organization and resolve to master it. Organization makes household items easier to find, and rooms suddenly seem bigger and more welcoming. And, when you walk past a tidy linen closet, which was once an avalanche waiting to spill forward, you feel a great sense of accomplishment.

Whether you're after new storage solutions, or just looking to cut clutter, successful organization begins with a thoughtful approach.

## THINK SMALL

While it's fun to dream about a large-scale organization reset, smaller sustainable actions are key to lasting change. Take it one room, or even one drawer at a time, to keep momentum positive and to avoid feeling overwhelmed.

This also allows you to focus, leading to more creative solutions for taking advantage of under-utilized areas. For example, you may find using over-the-door organizers a great way to free up space in home offices and craft rooms.

## SAY "NO" TO CLUTTER

Everyone has items they keep around that aren't particularly meaningful or serve a purpose. Being able to objectively identify these items makes everything easier.

Paring down possessions doesn't have to be painful. That cardinal-shaped cookie jar that you've always been on the fence about? It would make an incredibly thoughtful "just because" gift for an ornithology-obsessed aunt. Often, less can literally be more: Consignment shops and eBay make it easy to turn four or five pieces of furniture you "kind of



like" into one piece you absolutely love.

## STORE DÉCORWISELY

Everyone loves holiday decorating. Taking down decorations afterward... not so much. It's difficult to preserve items in a haphazard collection of cardboard boxes, plastic bags and mismatched bins, all crammed into the corner of a garage. Stepping up storage containers can make a big difference. For a wide selection of storage solutions specifically designed for holiday décor, check out ImprovementsCatalog.com, which offers everything from ornament and gift wrap organizers, to wreath and garland storage bags, and more.

## MAKE A PLAN

Create a schedule so nothing is overlooked. Knowing which project is next gives you time to prepare and purchase any storage items you might need. When scheduling, designate specific rooms and spaces for certain seasons. For example, the first warm days of spring are perfect for cleaning out the shed or garage.

Successful resolutions are essentially new habits that become part of a lifestyle. Deliberately choosing to incorporate small acts of organization on a daily basis will pay off tremendously throughout the year.

*Courtesy StatePoint Media*

# This Month's Featured Realtor & House



Meet

**Jodie Maddaloni**

**813-382-2692**

**jodiemaddaloni@gmail.com**

Jodie is a long time Land O Lakes resident, she obtained her Real Estate license in 1998 and is extremely knowledgeable regarding the local market.

Jodie specializes in residential real estate in Pasco, Hernando and Hillsborough counties. Inventory is at an all time low, contact Jodie today for a Free Market Analysis of your home.

**27200 LA JOLLA WAY,  
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Spacious 2 story home! 4 bedroom/2.5 bath/2 car garage located in Barrington yards of Northwood. In Barrington yards & irrigation systems are maintained, trees are trimmed, grass is fertilized, and garbage is included in low monthly fee. This home features newer ROOF (2 years old), A/C (3 years old), new disposal, and brand new carpeting. Gleaming laminate and ceramic tile downstairs. Family room overlooks large screened in lanai. This home is within walking/biking distance to community amenities. Priced at \$225,000



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## CalAtlantic Homes introduces Sylvan Crossing in Lutz. Your Luxury Townhome Awaits.

Sylvan Crossing, an award-winning collection of townhomes, in an elegantly appointed gated community, offers three different floor plans with the upscale features that you desire. The distinctive architecture of your home has beautiful features that include stacked rock, shutters, paver entries and driveways.

This well-thought-out community brings to its residents an amenity center to relax and unwind and includes a heated pool, outdoor kitchen and BBQ, poolside umbrellas and cozy hammocks. In addition, there is an open-air entertaining area with a 70" television, a ping pong table and wifi so you can stay completely connected.

Located in the popular area of Lutz, Florida you're just north of Tampa but close to all the major conveniences like shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and healthcare facilities as well as the 589-acre county nature park, Lake Park.

## Our Models are Now Open!

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Prices, plans and terms are effective on the date of publication and subject to change without notice. Depictions of homes or other features are artist conceptions. Hardscape, landscape and other items shown may be decorator suggestions that are not included in the purchase price and availability may vary. Ryland Homes of Florida Realty Corporation (CQ268118). (Standard Pacific of Florida (CQ1038741)).

# Same Day Service at Air Hawk A/C



Joe Massa, Owner

When your A/C goes out and it's 95 degrees, you want same day service so your home or office is cool again as quickly as possible.

And that's why you should call Air Hawk Heating & Cooling, which always provides same-day service at fair prices.

"When your A/C is on the blink, you want to talk to someone who is knowledgeable and available ASAP," said Joe Massa, owner of Air Hawk. "By asking the right questions, we usually have a good idea what the problem is, and within a few hours send out the most suitable technician for the job."

Joe and his field staff are all NATE-certified technicians — meeting the highest standard in the HVAC industry for repair and installation.

"Our customers can feel confident knowing that their HVAC system is being properly installed, repaired and maintained by the Air Hawk team," said Joe.

In the two years that Air Hawk has been in business, Joe's commitment to customer service and technical expertise has resulted in the company growing to 12 employees and six service vans.

Air Hawk works with both residential and commercial customers out of its Odessa location. Most customers are from Land O' Lakes, Wesley Chapel, Lutz, Carrollwood, Odessa, Trinity and Palm Harbor.

You can reach Joe at 813-929-HAWK (4295), or by email at JMassa@AirHawkAC.com. Website: www.AirHawkAC.com. CAC License: 1817999.



# Celebrate the Holiday Season With Sparkling Wine

With New Year celebrations almost here, it's a good time look for sparkling wines that go hand-in-hand with this special time of year.

Consider swapping your usual bubbles for Cava, a delicious and wallet-friendly Spanish sparkling wine that is made using the same traditional methods as champagne.

One Cava producer offering top-quality sparkling wines is Poema. Its wines are made from sustainably farmed grapes, and are available at affordable prices. The Poema Cava Brut is a fine choice for cocktail hour, and retails at just \$12.99. Its fresh citrus and granny smith apple aromas are a good match with light tapas, oysters and seafood.

Poema Cava also makes for delicious sparkling cocktails, such as the Belle of the Ball.

Whether you are having a formal celebration or an impromptu casual



## BELLE OF THE BALL

### Ingredients:

- 4-ounces Poema Cava Brut
  - 1/2-ounce Belle de Brillet Pear Liqueur
  - A splash of orange liqueur
- Chill Cava and Pear Liqueur beforehand. Then, pour both ingredients into a flute. Top off with a splash of orange liqueur.

party, be sure to celebrate this holiday season with sparkling wines that won't disappoint your guests.

Courtesy StatePoint Media



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Discover more than you could have imagined when you explore this quick-move-in opportunity with The Lincoln plan at Asturia. This home features a spacious kitchen with large center island, white Shaker-style cabinetry, quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances and a porcelain farmhouse sink. Other thoughtfully designed features include an upstairs laundry room and an oversized master bathroom. Experience a place where high design is more approachable than ever. At Asturia, you'll love the possibilities.

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## Drive into the New Year



Dimmitt Automotive's new Audi facility is now open in Wesley Chapel. The new facility was designed with the customer experience at its core; the perfect union of elegant interaction and advanced technology for an elevated car buying experience. Come in and find your new dream Audi while relaxing in our luxury lounges with leather chairs and iPads.



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# SAVE THE DATE

## FREE Community Hands-Only

### CPR Demonstration Training SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Registration and Light Refreshments at  
at Regional Center Bayonet Point

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Classes start at 9:00am-12:00 noon  
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# HEALTH & WELLNESS



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

## NEWBORN CARE

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a newborn care class Dec. 30 from 9 a.m. to noon, in Garden Classroom A.

The interactive class covers infant care, including feeding, diapering, bathing safety, signs of illness, and newborn characteristics.

The cost is \$25, which includes the expectant mother and support person. To register, call (813) 443-2046.

## SAFE SITTER CLASS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a Safe Sitter with CPR class Jan. 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for ages 11 and older, in Garden Classroom A.

Participants can learn about minor to emergency situations, infant/child choking rescue, CPR training (non-certifying), safety behavior and entertainment.

The cost is \$65 per child. Parents must be present for check-in and pickup. A permission slip must be completed and handed in at check-in.

Bring a bag lunch and drink to class. To register, call (813) 443-2046, or visit [StJosephsTampa.com](http://StJosephsTampa.com).

## SMOKING CESSATION

Morton Plant North Bay Hospital, 6600 Madison St., in New Port Richey, will offer a two-hour smoking cessation class Jan. 3 at 10 a.m.

The class includes four free weeks of patches, gum or lozenges.

To preregister, call (727) 953-6877, or visit [BayCareEvents.org](http://BayCareEvents.org).

## MEDITATION SESSION

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a free information session on learning to meditate for health

Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## HOSPITAL APPOINTS COURTNEY STEPHENSON

The Medical Center of Trinity has appointed Courtney Stephenson as assistant chief nursing officer. Stephenson was promoted to the position from her chief

nursing officer position at Northside Hospital.

Stephenson has been with HCA for almost 11 years, starting her career as a registered nurse at Medical City Fort Worth in 1996.

She also has served as a director of risk

Continued on next page



COURTESY OF KETH LUKE

## Charity show rakes in over \$40,000

The inaugural Charity Fashion Show, at Heritage Springs Golf & Country Club in Trinity, benefitting Gulfside Hospice, raised more than \$40,000 to support patient care in Pasco County. From left: Linda Ward, president and CEO of Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care; Deiah Riley, morning anchor from ABC Action News and event emcee; and, Carla Armstrong, director of philanthropy for Gulfside

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The Laker/Lutz News likes to keep our readers informed about available classes, seminars, lectures and events regarding health and wellness issues. Hospitals, doctors, individual practitioners and anyone related to the health care industry can submit information, at least two weeks in advance, to be considered for publication. Photos of events, recognitions and so on, also are welcome. Submissions should include who, what, where, when, cost, contact information, identifications for individuals in a photo (unless it is a large group), and a photo credit. This information should be emailed to [news@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:news@lakerlutznews.com).

management and patient safety, vice president of clinical services and interim chief nursing officer during her time in HCA.

In 2014, she entered the Executive Development Program and was promoted to associate chief nursing officer at Medical Center of McKinney.

Stephenson has a Master of Science in nursing administration from the University of Texas, Arlington, and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Texas Christian University.

### CASINO NIGHT BENEFITS HEARING IMPAIRED

Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation had its annual Las Vegas Casino Night at Seven Springs Golf and Country Club in New Port Richey, to benefit the Children's Hearing Help Fund.

Visitors took part in gaming, auctions, dinner, and music and dancing throughout the event.

All proceeds, more than \$6,000, will benefit the hearing fund.

To contribute to the fund, drivers who are renewing a license or motor vehicle registration also can check the box to "CHHF" and add a dollar or more to their fee, which will be donated to Sertoma through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

### HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A PAPER DOVE

Gulfside Hospice thrift shops are offering two paper doves, with a place to write the name of a loved one, for \$1 donation for anyone who would like to honor a loved one's memory during the holiday season.

One ornament can be placed on a decorated tree at the shops, and the second dove is for the donor's tree at home.

Doves can be purchased at any Gulfside Hospice thrift shop location, as well as the three Gulfside offices.

For store locations, visit [GHPPC.org](http://GHPPC.org). For information about the ornaments, call Gulfside's Philanthropy Department at (727) 845-5707.

### TAX COLLECTOR RAISES MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER

Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano's five offices partnered with the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation to help

raise funds and awareness of breast cancer, its symptoms and treatments.

The five office branches promoted the sale of the "End Breast Cancer" specialty license plates, as well as voluntary check-off donations on automobile registrations.

Forty-two plates were sold, and combined with the cash donations a total of \$7,882.68 was raised to help fight the disease.

### LIONS CLUB SIGHT PROGRAM

The Zephyrhills Lions Club Sight Program will accept applications at 5827 Dean Dairy Road from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The program is open to all Pasco County residents in need of basic eye care. Applicants must bring required documents which can be found online at [E-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills/](http://E-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills/).

For information, call (813) 788-1444.

### SILVER SNEAKERS PROGRAM

Silver Sneakers Strength & Balance Classes take place every Wednesday at 9 a.m., and every Friday at 10:30 a.m., in The Groves Golf and Country Club Civic Center in Land O' Lakes.

The program is free for Silver Sneakers members and \$5 for non-members, per session.

These are low-impact classes for men and women designed to improve flexibility and balance, which can help prevent falls, broken hips and more.

For more information, please contact Tom Marbell at (352) 409-2984 or [Trainwithtomm@gmail.com](mailto:Trainwithtomm@gmail.com).

### NAMI SUPPORT GROUPS

The Pasco County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers two types of support group meetings each month, at Atonement Lutheran Church, 29617 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel.

- NAMI Family Support Group, for family and friends of those with mental illness, meets the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group, for those living with mental illness, meets the second and fourth Friday of each month from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For information and other locations, call (727) 992-9653, or visit [NAMIPasco.org](http://NAMIPasco.org).

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### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield presented the R.B. Stewart Middle School football team with a proclamation on Dec. 15, in recognition of the team's winning 41 consecutive football games and seven conference titles.

The Bulldogs were joined by other student athletes, cheerleaders, band members, school and district staff, for the presentation.

USA Football shows that only five high schools in the country have more consecutive wins, and one has the same number of wins as Stewart Middle School.

### GULF TRACE HOLIDAY CHEER

Santa Claus and Gulf Trace Elementary School volunteers shared holiday cheer and gifts with students Dec. 22.

Along with members of a women's golf league, Santa and volunteer Shirley Bates delivered gifts to each Head Start prekindergarten class.

Bates has long-served as the school's Secret Santa.

### FRONTIER CHALLENGE WINNERS

Frontier Communications honored the winners of the "Florida State Frontier Challenge" business case study competition during the school's homecoming halftime show.

Senior David Walsh and junior Matthew Young received medals and prize money for placing first in the competition.

The annual competition provides students the chance to solve real-world challenges facing the telecommunications industry. This year, students were asked to help Frontier create new and original ways to engage millennial customers.

The process included written plans presented by students and in-person interviews in front of a panel of nine judges.

After presentations, teams had a chance to sit down with Frontier executives and discuss their ideas.

For information, visit FSU.edu.

### PINE VIEW JOINS ANGUS ASSOCIATION

Pine View Middle FFA in Land O' Lakes is a new member of the American Angus Association.

The national breed organization, with

more than 25,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef breed association in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on more than 18 million registered Angus.

The association records ancestral information and keeps production records and genomic data on individual animals to develop industry-leading selection tools for its members.

The programs and services of the association help members to advance the beef cattle business by selecting the best animals for their herds and marketing quality genetics for the beef cattle industry and quality beef for consumers.

### SUPERHEROES AND SCIENCE

The National Science Foundation and the National Nanotechnology Initiative are gearing up for this year's Generation Nano: Superheroes Inspired by Science challenge.

Sixth-grade through 12th-grade students can compete for scholarship money and a trip to Washington D.C., to attend the 2018 USA Science and Engineering Festival.

There will be an honorarium for teachers involved with the winning teams.

Students may compete as individuals or as members of a two-person to three-person team, to create a superhero using science, or tell their story in a short comic or video.

The contest ends Jan. 8 at 11:59 p.m.

To learn more, visit NSF.gov and search "Gen Nano."

For questions, email gennano@nsf.gov.

### MENTOR TRAINING

Take Stock in Children, a program with the Pasco Education Foundation, offers Pasco County students scholarships, mentors and hope.

Female mentors are currently needed at Centennial Middle School, Hudson Middle, Mitchell High and Zephyrhills High. Male mentors are needed at Sunlake High.

Mentors meet at the student's school two times to four times per month.

Upcoming mentor training dates are Jan. 17 at 1 p.m., and Jan. 22 at 11 a.m.

For information, contact Diane Jerome, mentor coordinator, at (813) 794-2134 or djerome@pascoeducationfoundation.org.

### OPEN HOUSE

Countryside Montessori Charter School, 5852 Ehren Cut-Off in Land O' Lakes, will host an open house for the 2018-2019 school year Jan. 18 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Prospective students, Grades 1 to 8, and families can tour the campus, and meet the teachers and staff.

For information, call (813) 996-0991, or visit CMCSmontessori.com.



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COURTESY OF MIKE MOORE

## Community steps up

Pasco County Commissioner Mike Moore initiated a toy drive for Pasco County Schools children, ages 5 to 13, in need. Community members donated unwrapped toys at drop-off locations throughout the county. Toys were delivered to the district's warehouse, and school social workers sorted through them to take back to their schools for the underprivileged students. Moore, right, stands with Superintendent Kurt Browning, center, and the social workers amid the donated toys.

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## TRAFFIC, from page 1A

Also, for major intersections along the entire corridor, the task force recommended elevated express lanes, with at-grade express lanes elsewhere, as well as dedicated bus or rail lanes and continuous flow.

These recommendations are intended to provide a permanent fix for traffic jams. But, in the interim, the state transportation department is preparing a temporary fix for U.S. 41 and State Road 54.

The intersection is one of the busiest in

## ARTS, from page 1A

Tony Rivas, PHSC's associate vice president for facilities management and administrative services.

Creative Contractors has been selected as the construction management firm, Gadd said.

Both Creative Contractors and Harvard Jolly have experience with performing arts center projects, Rivas said.

The architect will be holding design charrettes with the users in January and February, to discuss design considerations.

The design must take into account the users' needs, budget and state regulations for educational facilities, Gadd and Rivas said.

It also must consider how spaces interact with each other, Rivas said.

"You want to get certain things close to certain things, and you want to not necessarily be in proximity for other things because of noise levels or distractions. Those things come into play," Rivas explained.

The arts center will be a teaching facility, but there's also a desire to have a facility that can be used as a public venue, too, Gadd said.

Initially, the goal was to secure about \$60 million in funding for a performing arts facility that would have accommodated about 3,500 seats, Gadd said. Actual funding came in at \$15.5 million, which means the center will be much smaller.

Gadd said he hopes the new center will have a stage large enough to accommodate an orchestra. "If you have a stage that can hold an orchestra, then it can hold anything," he said.

Construction is not likely to begin for about a year.

The college is in charge of construction,

Pasco County, with about 100,000 vehicles passing through daily.

More than \$752,000 is budgeted in 2018 for design work on a project to lengthen some turn lanes at the intersection for a better traffic flow. Construction is expected in 2019.

The state transportation department also has budgeted about \$32 million to purchase right-of-way for whichever alternative project is selected for the major re-do of the intersection.

The task force could be asked to meet again in 2018 for additional discussions.

but the school district is providing about 5.5 acres for the site.

Lots of details regarding cost-sharing for operations and shared use of facilities still need to be worked out, Gadd added.

Betsy Kuhn, assistant superintendent for support services, said the school district plans to offer curriculum such as digital design courses, lighting, production, cinematography and traditional arts programs for students who are interested in the performing arts.

Rivas noted that that it's very early in the process, but as things progress, information about the project will be shared in a number of venues to keep lines of communication open. For instance, the construction manager will have a website that will have progress photos and different milestone events.

"We have to be attuned to the fact that we are in the community. We're going to keep that awareness and sensitivity, and always try to be a good neighbor," Rivas said.

Creative Contractors has extensive experience in building performing arts centers — both professional and educational, said Joshua Bomstein, president of the Clearwater-based company.

"We're finishing the Tampa Theatre renovation right now. We did the complete renovation of the Capitol Theatre in downtown Clearwater. We've done all of the work at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater," he said.

His company also did the Clearwater High School performing arts building, the performing arts building at Manatee High School, and the performing arts auditorium at Generations Christian Church in Trinity.

Bomstein is excited about the new project.

"This is going to be phenomenal facility. I predict and promise that," he said.

The lawsuits are filed against drug distributors and manufacturers. They allege false claims about the safety of opioids and a massive pill distribution that created a "public nuisance," he said. "They should be held accountable for it."

Distributors are required by law to report suspicious orders to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. But, Gaddy said those rules have been violated.

He cited reports from West Virginia that 780 million pills were distributed over six years in a state with about 1.8 million people.

"It was off the chart by any stretch of the imagination," Gaddy said.

There are about 800 drug distributors, but Gaddy said three major distributors typically have been named as defendants in lawsuits. They are Cardinal Health, McKesson Corp., and Amerisource-Bergen.

The goal is to force plaintiffs to establish abatement funds that would pay for the drug damages to communities through education programs in schools, costs to law enforcement, and funds to support drug prevention and addiction recovery programs.

Gaddy said, "There is no county in the nation with enough beds to handle the flood of victims of their pills."

## 2017, from page 1A

And, a charter school also has announced its intentions to open in Wesley Chapel in 2019, but has not identified its location yet.

The year also signaled changes on the spiritual scene across the region, too.

Van Dyke Church in Lutz changed its name to Bay Hope and expanded the scope of its mission. North Pointe Church settled into its first permanent home in Lutz, and the Episcopal Church announced its intentions to branch into Wesley Chapel.

The region also added to its list of amenities during the past year.

In Wesley Chapel, the 150,000-square-foot Florida Hospital Center Ice opened in January, with its Olympic-size rink, three National Hockey League-size rinks and one junior rink. Several rinks can easily be converted to accommodate basketball, soccer, lacrosse, volleyball and events such as corporate meetings, and parties.

In Land O' Lakes, the Heritage Park Stage opened, off of U.S. 41. The project, which was years in the making, has already become a popular gathering spot for community events.

Starkey Park District Park also opened in Land O' Lakes, off State Road 54.

Meanwhile, across the county, Zephyrhills added a permanent venue for community events, such as Pigz in Z'Hills, a popular barbecue and blues event.

## A TIME OF MILESTONES AND TRANSITIONS

While new construction made the news, 2017 was also a year of big milestones, including R.B. Cox Elementary School's 90th birthday, in Dade City, and the Dade City Garden Club's 70th anniversary.

But, it was also the year that Royal Lanes, a community fixture in Lutz since the 1970s for bowling leagues and birthday parties, turned out the lights for the final time in May.

On a more personal level, the region mourned the loss of some of its biggest champions, including Eddie Herrmann of San Antonio, Roy T. Hardy of Dade City and Ray Mason of Land O' Lakes. All three men were known for their deep commitment to civic causes.

Others — who captured headlines for their excellence — included Margaret Polk, the Odyssey of the Mind team from Wesley Chapel Elementary School, and Courtney Urban, a volunteer for Gulfside Hospice who received a national award for her volunteer work.

Polk, a school nurse at Pasco High School, was named the Florida Association of School Nurses' 2017 School Nurse of

the Year.

Wesley Chapel Elementary School's "Catch Us If You Can" team, finished first in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held in May at Michigan State University. Members of the team were Jake Piller, Sam Cappelluti, Isabell Barrios, Mina Melaika, Rowan Heyman, Jason Sherman and Justin Acosta. Teachers Veronica Acosta and Janet Heyman coached the team.

And, Urban, who initially began volunteering at Gulfside's Thrift Shoppe in Lutz so she could hang out with her grandmother, went on to serve the organization in a variety of roles.

And then, there were the people who simply extended themselves to help others.

There was Elaine Pittman, a Lutz gardener in her 80s, who nurtures plant cuttings to create plants, which she sells to raise money for Christian Social Services, an organization that provides food for people who are hungry.

And, there was Whitney C. Elmore, who oversees Pasco County Extension.

Elmore reached out to help Frogmore Fresh Farm, outside of Dade City, after Hurricane Irma uprooted and toppled about 100,000 blueberry bushes. Elmore got the ball rolling, but hundreds of volunteers responded — stepping forward to help the farm.

Two Boy Scouts also made a difference in the communities where they live.

Michael Valenti of Lutz and Gabe Vega of Land O' Lakes each spearheaded Eagle Scout projects.

Valenti spruced up the Lutz Memorial Park in Lutz, and Vega created a Rosary Garden at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Land O' Lakes.

And, then, there was a trio of Wesley Chapel Girl Scouts in Troop 1263 who gave new life to Karina's Garden, behind the administrative offices of Sunrise of Pasco County, in their quest to earn a Girl Scout Silver Award.

The girls — Paige and Kaitlin Trabouley and Alyssa Duran — added flowers, plants, butterflies and statuary to create a place of repose and refreshment in the garden which honors the late Karina Abdul, a former shelter director.

The garden now provides a place to take a break and enjoy nature, according to Vicki Wiggins, director of development for Sunrise, which is a domestic and sexual violence prevention and services organization.

The garden had been choked with weeds and had fallen into disrepair.

The girls and the volunteers they enlisted changed all that.

"It's beautiful. I'm so happy they did this. They brought it back to life," Wiggins told The Laker/Lutz News, when the project was completed.

## OPIOID, from page 1A

said Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Wells. "We know it's an epidemic."

If approved, legal action would be taken on a contingency basis, with Pasco paying no upfront costs and only paying attorneys in the event of a settlement.

Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco, who attended the workshop, favors the lawsuit.

"This is a pill epidemic that didn't have to happen," he said.

Every deputy now carries a supply of Narcan, the brand name for naloxone. The medication can be used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

Nocco said 40 people "have been brought back" by deputies and first responders administering Narcan.

Gaddy's firm is among seven law firms litigating the issue in states including West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

The group has about 120 clients in more than 10 states, and to date has filed more than 80 lawsuits. Some lawsuits could eventually be consolidated into a single lawsuit.

"We are without a doubt the national leader in this litigation," Gaddy said.

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## Recalling some top 2017 sports moments

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Coaches were celebrated, state titles acquired and local athletes turned in outstanding performances.

The past year brought countless moments and lasting memories in sports, from Lutz and Land O' Lakes, across to Wesley Chapel and Zephyrhills.

Here's a look back at some of the top sports happenings from 2017:

### FLORIDA HOSPITAL CENTER ICE OPENS

Hockey and ice-skating enthusiasts rejoiced when the largest ice sports facility in the Southeastern United States finally opened its doors in Wesley Chapel.

The 150,500-square-foot Florida Hospital Center Ice, unveiled in January, took about 2 ½ years to complete.

The main attraction of the \$22.5 million complex, of course, is its four full-size rinks (one Olympic, three National Hockey League) and one kid-size rink.

Previously, many Pasco and northern Hillsborough residents would trek to Brandon's Ice Sports Forum to get their hockey and skating fix. Others may have used the Clearwater Ice Arena or the Tampa Bay Skating Academy in Oldsmar.

Besides serving local hockey players, skaters and curlers, the facility already has scored on Pasco's sports tourism initiative by hosting a number of camps, collegiate competitions and other tournaments — drawing an estimated 1.5 million visitors in its first year.

It has also become the training home of the U.S. women's national hockey team, as members prepare for the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea.

### LAND O' LAKES HIGH WINS STATE SOFTBALL TITLE

It had been nearly 25 years since a Pasco County school won a state softball title — until May 20.

On that day, Land O' Lakes seized the Class 6A state softball championship, unseating powerhouse Plantation American Heritage 3-1, at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.

The achievement marked the first fast-pitch title for Land O'Lakes and the first for a Pasco County program since Ridgewood High won in 1992.

What made the victory even sweeter for the Gators was downing the same team that eliminated them in the 2016 state semifinals.

They did it in comeback fashion, too. Trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the sixth inning, Land O' Lakes unearthed timely hits and capitalized on opposition mistakes to build the lead for good — against an American Heritage program that was making its fourth-straight championship game appearance and had previously won seven state titles.

The Gators ended the year with a 29-3 record.

And, the accolades didn't stop there. In July, Gators coaches were named the 2017 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) High School Coaching Staff of the Year, beating out staffs from other top-tier programs in California, New Jersey, Illinois and Kansas. The recognition went to Gators fourth-year head coach Mitch Wilkins and assistants Edwin Rodriguez, Janet Sciales and Vinny Guarracino.

### PARALYMPIC ATHLETES EXCEL AT NATIONALS

It was another banner year for Paralympic Sport Tampa Bay.

The team in July won its second straight Small Team Division at the National Junior Disability Championships in Middleton, Wisconsin.

Three athletes — Eric Lowry, 17, of Land O' Lakes; Danielle Kanas, 12, of Lutz; and 16-year-old Logan Krepop of Parrish — earned a combined thirty-three medals and set nine national records. In total, they collected 18 gold, 11 silver and four bronze medals.

Kanas — a single-arm amputee, missing her left arm below the elbow — herself collected 15 gold medals and set six national records this year.

That included a javelin throw of 19.66 meters, shattering the previous record for her age group by six meters.

After the season, Kanas earned Paralympic Sport Tampa Bay's "Spirit of Excellence" award. The club's highest honor, it recognizes courage, strength, determina-



Academy at the Lakes football overcame three straight losing seasons to win its first eight-man state title on Dec. 9. They finished the season 11-1, after going a combined 9-20 the past three years.



Paralympic Sport Tampa Bay this July won its second straight Small Team Division at the National Junior Disability Championships in Middleton, Wisconsin. Lutz resident Danielle Kanas, a single-arm amputee, earned 15 gold medals and set six national records this year.



Florida Hospital Center Ice has been a hit since it opened in January. The five-rink facility is on pace to draw 1.5 million visitors in its first year.



During the school's Oct. 27 homecoming, Zephyrhills High's Bulldog Stadium was officially renamed Tom Fisher Field after its longtime coach of 21 years. Fisher retired in 2008 as the program's winningest coach, with 124 career victories.

tion and demonstration of a positive attitude as a role model.

Beyond athletics, Kanas is a "straight-A" student at Martinez Middle School, and member of the National Junior Honor Society, a Girl Scout, and patient ambassador at Shriners' Hospital for Children-Tampa. She's also a talented guitar player.

The others likewise have overcome various hardships to shine in athletics.

Lowry has spina bifida and competes from a wheelchair. It didn't stop him from benching 190 pounds, earning a gold medal and setting an Adaptive Sports Junior national record.

And Krepop, who has cerebral palsy, earned a gold medal in the 400-meter run. His time of 1:33.14 set a new Adaptive Sports record for his age group.

### ZEPHYRHILLS HIGH HONORS WINNINGEST FOOTBALL COACH

It was the perfect time for Zephyrhills High School to honor its winningest football coach.

The Bulldogs earned a district championship, won a playoff game, and finished the season with 10 wins.

That was all last done in 2002 — under former longtime coach Tom Fisher.

This year, the school's Bulldog Stadium was formally renamed Tom Fisher Field at its Oct. 27 homecoming.

The dedication ceremony was attended by Fisher, and drew dozens of former players and coaches, as well as many of his family members and friends.

Fisher — regarded as a hard-nosed, no

nonsense type who voraciously studied game films — retired in 2008 after 21 years as head coach.

In his tenure, Fisher won 124 games (most in program history) and led Bulldogs teams to eight playoff berths, four conference championships and three district titles; he also was a four-time conference coach of the year.

Moreover, the Zephyrhills football program had gone 47 years without a state playoff appearance until Fisher's arrival, making it in his first season in 1989.

Another example of Fisher's extensive impact: The Bulldogs' past two head coaches, Nick Carroll and Reggie Roberts, both played for him over 20 years ago.

The most successful player under Fisher was defensive lineman Ryan Pickett, who played 14 years in the NFL, mostly for the St. Louis Rams and Green Bay Packers. Pickett, a 1998 Zephyrhills graduate, started as a freshman at Ohio State, left after his junior season to play professionally and was selected in the first round of the NFL Draft.

Though its been nearly a decade since the 65-year-old Fisher last roamed the sidelines, he still can be found in the stands at many Bulldogs home games.

### ACADEMY AT THE LAKES WINS STATE FOOTBALL TITLE

Following three straight losing football seasons, Academy at the Lakes football experienced a remarkable turnaround in 2017 — capped by its first eight-man state title on Dec. 9 with a 30-9 win over Jacksonville Old Plank Academy.

The Wildcats, under fourth-year head coach Shawn Brown, finished the season 11-1, with a 7-0 district mark.

Many of their wins came in dominating fashion, with an average scoring margin of nearly 34 points.

It was quite the contrast from past years. The team went 2-8 in 2016, after finishing 4-7 and 3-5 the prior two seasons.

This year's success harkens back to its summer offseason program, which included weightlifting sessions three days a week, participating in Division I college camps, and competing in various seven-on-seven tournaments — sometimes facing 11-man schools from Classes 7A and 8A.

The Wildcats' solid talent base didn't hurt its gridiron performances, either.

Senior tailback/linebacker Daniel Gonzalez was the most productive two-way player in the eight-man ranks — rushing for 1,125 yards and 24 touchdowns on offense, and tallying 138 tackles and 7.5 sacks on defense.

Several others made significant impacts as well, including freshmen Jalen Brown and Jordan Oladokun, juniors Jamaal Johnson and Dylan Price, and senior Isaiah Smith, among others.

The football program's last state title came in 2006, when Academy at the Lakes played in the six-man ranks.

### SOME OTHER NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017:

- Wesley Chapel High varsity softball has first winning season in program history
- Cypress Creek High varsity football wins its inaugural game against Gulf High
- Wesley Chapel hoops product Erik Thomas appears in NCAA Tournament
- Academy at the Lakes athlete Alexis Kilfoyl makes 2017 USA Softball Junior Women's National Training Team
- Land O'Lakes' Jabari Ramsey becomes the first boys swimmer from Pasco County to win three-straight state titles in the same event (100 breaststroke).
- Carrollwood Day School volleyball wins the Class 4A state title, to earn the school's first state championship in any sport.
- Steinbrenner baseball alum Kevin Merrell is selected by the Oakland Athletics in the first round of the Major League Baseball Draft.

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### Award-winning teachers create 'safe' places to learn

By B.C. Manion  
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

**D**rop by Hannah Trapani's mathematics classroom and chances are the teacher will be helping her students figure out a complicated mathematics problem by literally drawing it out.

Trapani has been known to have students cut dyed spaghetti into specific lengths and glue the pieces to a graph, to help drive home a lesson.

"If they can start visualizing what they're doing, I think that helps a lot," Trapani said.

And, she's always on the lookout for new ways to deliver instruction.

"I'm constantly on Pinterest. I'm constantly on any website I can find — to try to make it easier for the kids to understand things," the Land O' Lakes High School teacher said.

She encourages students in her Advanced Placement Statistics and Algebra II Honors classes to risk failure because, by overcoming a fear of not knowing, they gain deeper understanding.

Meanwhile, Terry Stanley, a science teacher at the same school, also realizes that to truly learn, students must be willing to initially miss the mark.

One recent day, there was a steady hum of activity, as Stanley moved about the classroom. She helped some who were peering into microscopes, checked in with others about their observations and answered questions as they came up.

When they completed their task, she instructed her students to compare their work against published results. She directed them to offer reasons for why their results were similar or different.

As Stanley engages her Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate students, she isn't seeking only to prepare them to perform well on tests. She has a higher aim: She wants them to develop critical thinking skills that will serve them throughout life.

While their subject matter is different, Trapani and Stanley have much in common.

For one thing, they are each recipients of a Barrett Family Foundation Excellence in Science/Mathematics Teacher Award, which recognize outstanding teachers of mathematics and science.

The award is provided by a nonprofit charity, based in Clearwater. It honors teachers who share their energy and enthusiasm for science or mathematics through creative and innovative methods. It carries a \$10,000 prize for each recipient.

While they share many professional characteristics, they came into teaching on different paths.

Stanley said she knew from an early age that she enjoyed teaching others.

"I remember in first grade, I would do my work as effectively and as efficiently as I pos-



Three sections of seniors taking an International Baccalaureate Biology course taught by Terry Stanley made skeletons during their muscle unit. The students took information they'd heard in the classroom, as well as information they'd read, and translated that into a three-dimensional model.

B.C. MANION



Hannah Trapani, who teaches Algebra II Honors and Advanced Placement Statistics, advises her students to use visual aids when solving mathematical problems. "When in doubt, draw it. It's going to help you," she tells students.



Terry Stanley recaps a lesson and her expectations at the end of a class period during a recent class at Land O' Lakes High School. She has been honored for being an outstanding science teacher.

sibly could, so that I could be awarded to go help the next-door kindergarten teacher," Stanley said.

Trapani, on the other hand, initially was interested in becoming a physical therapist. When she got one B, though, she dropped that idea. She knew the acceptance criteria was stringent, and didn't think she'd be selected over others who had achieved straight A's.

So, Trapani turned to something else that felt like a natural fit.

"I grew up teaching my younger brothers and sisters," explained Trapani, who comes from a family of six children.

"In high school, the teacher would teach and I would sit next to a couple of people, and they would say: 'Explain that to me again.' I would help people," Trapani added. "I knew I was always good at explaining things to other people."

"I think it (becoming a teacher) was always meant to be. I don't think it was one defining moment. It was more like giving in to your fate," Trapani said.

#### REMOVING BARRIERS TO LEARNING

While both educators now teach in Land O' Lakes High School's International Baccalaureate program, their experience also includes teaching students of wide-ranging ability levels.

Trapani said she thinks she is a better teacher because she personally struggled as a learner and because she has taught struggling students.

"I know what it's like to work really hard, and to finally be able to understand," Trapani said.

Plus, she said, students at every ability level can find themselves struggling at times.

"You get these kids that are gifted and because they are so smart, they have never struggled. And then they get to your class, and Algebra II is really the first time they see really new math."

"Those kids who have never had to study, who have never struggled, never hit that wall (before)," she said.

Trapani helps students by teaching them how to study for her classes.

She also makes it abundantly clear that she's available to help students who need it.

She makes an effort at getting to know her students.

"When I go around and I check homework, I make eye contact with every person," she said.

"I try to really connect with the kids; I think that makes a huge difference. I think if they feel you are there for them, then they'll be there for you," Trapani said.

"I try to help them understand that their self-worth is not wrapped up in whether or not they're perfect at this problem, and whether or not they have an A. In the end, are they going to be a good person? Are they going to weather the storm?"

"The fact that they failed my test, I'm not heartbroken about it," Trapani said. And, she

said a student who fails a test shouldn't be heartbroken, either. Instead, her attitude is: "Let's find a way to overcome this."

Learning the course content is important, Stanley said, but when students leave her classroom she wants them "to know how to think, how to observe, how to ask questions."

Stanley believes teachers must find ways to reach their students.

Teachers need to understand their audience, each individual, and then tailor-make their lessons to bring their students to the place they need to be, Stanley said.

"If they're not interested, I try to find commonality with them. I try to find an entry point, if you will, for conversations outside of the content area."

"They understand that they have to perform in the class, but it's a journey, and we're going on this journey together."

"How are we going to get you to that point where you need to be?"

"I'm here to help you. I'm your coach. I'm here to help you get where you need to be," said Stanley, who teaches Advanced Placement Biology and IB Biology.

Some students are stymied by a lack of confidence, she said. Some just want to regurgitate what they've read in a book.

Stanley recalled that a student once told her: "I know everything I need to know about biology."

She told the student she was happy for him, but to let her know if that perspective changed.

A few weeks later he came back to her and said: "I realize that what I know Miss Stanley is what I read in a book, and superficial. I can't think through these problems that you're putting on this test."

It's moments like those — when an obstacle to learning has been removed or overcome — that are especially gratifying, both teachers said.

Both Stanley and Trapani were pleased by the recognition they received from the Barrett Family Foundation award, and enjoyed celebrating their success with their families.

And, they have another thing in common, too.

"I absolutely love what I do," Trapani said.

Stanley added: "I always was drawn to teaching. I just always had a passion for explaining things, observing, questioning."

## Kudos for Hannah Trapani and Terry Stanley

### Hannah Trapani

"Mrs. Trapani told her students that she would always be available after school ... Mrs. Trapani's devotion of her time to offer one-on-one help to me and other students who would stay after school was crucial to my success."

— Land O' Lakes High student Ashley Kupferman

"Hannah gives freely of her time to students who struggle. She will help them during her lunch hour, before and/or after school. If a student is having difficulty with a standard, she will approach them and offer extra help and guide them to websites that provide assistance as well."

— Land O' Lakes High mathematics teacher Amy Smith

"Hannah directs every ounce of energy towards helping all students learn. She accomplishes this by looking at each student as an individual with unlimited capabilities."

— Land O' Lakes High Principal Ric Mellin

### Terry Stanley

"... the abundance of laboratory experiments, which far exceeds my previous classroom experience, causes students to genuinely comprehend and understand the importance of the work they are doing. Ms. Stanley's class looks to confront head-on that quintessential high-schooler question of 'Who cares?' and silence it with a simple answer: 'Me.'"

— Land O' Lakes High student Camellia Moors

"To teach is to light a fire in the mind. If our role as educators is to guide students to explore the unknown, then Terry Stanley has accomplished this thousands of times over."

— Land O' Lakes Assistant Principal Jeff Morgenstein

"Although it has been several years since I have walked the halls of Land O' Lakes High School, I can safely say that my experience in Ms. Terry Stanley's classroom changed my life in ways I am still realizing to this very day. Each day in her classroom was a chance to learn new and exciting things about the world around me. Going to class wasn't just a boring lecture, it was interactive research, it was working together, and it was putting what we learned to the test."

— Land O' Lakes High School graduate Blake Lash, now a research scientist

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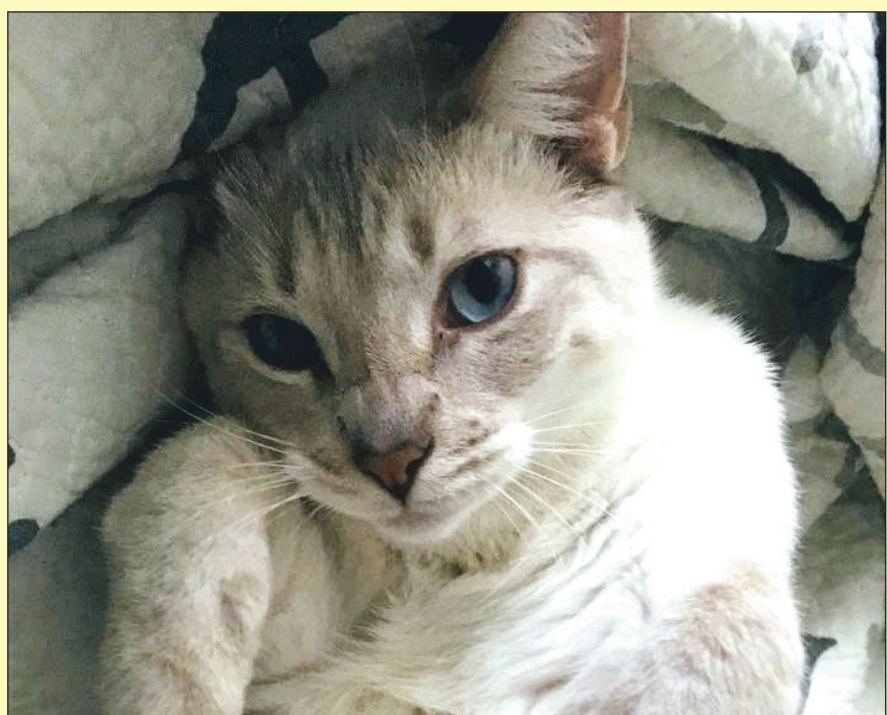
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## Rocky loves fresh laundry

Rocky is a 1½-year-old lilac point Siamese who is everybody's friend. Rarely will you find him hiding; he loves to spend time with people. Rocky responds to his name being called and knows how to do jumping tricks. His favorite things to do are watching TV, sunbathing by the window, and sleeping on a warm pile of laundry fresh out of the dryer. Rocky's proud owners are Josh and Alison Cagle of Land O' Lakes.

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

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

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



## Pet Loss Support Group



Last Thursday of the Month from 3 - 4:30 p.m.  
Upcoming Dates: Nov. 30, Dec. 28 & Jan. 25

Gulfside Center for Hospice Care  
5760 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills

Facilitated by Chaplain Mike Merritt

Our relationship with our pets is very special. For many of us, they are members of the family, and when the bond we share is broken, the resulting sense of loss and grief can be overwhelming. At Gulfside Hospice's Pet Loss Support Group, you can share your feelings with others who are going through a similar experience.

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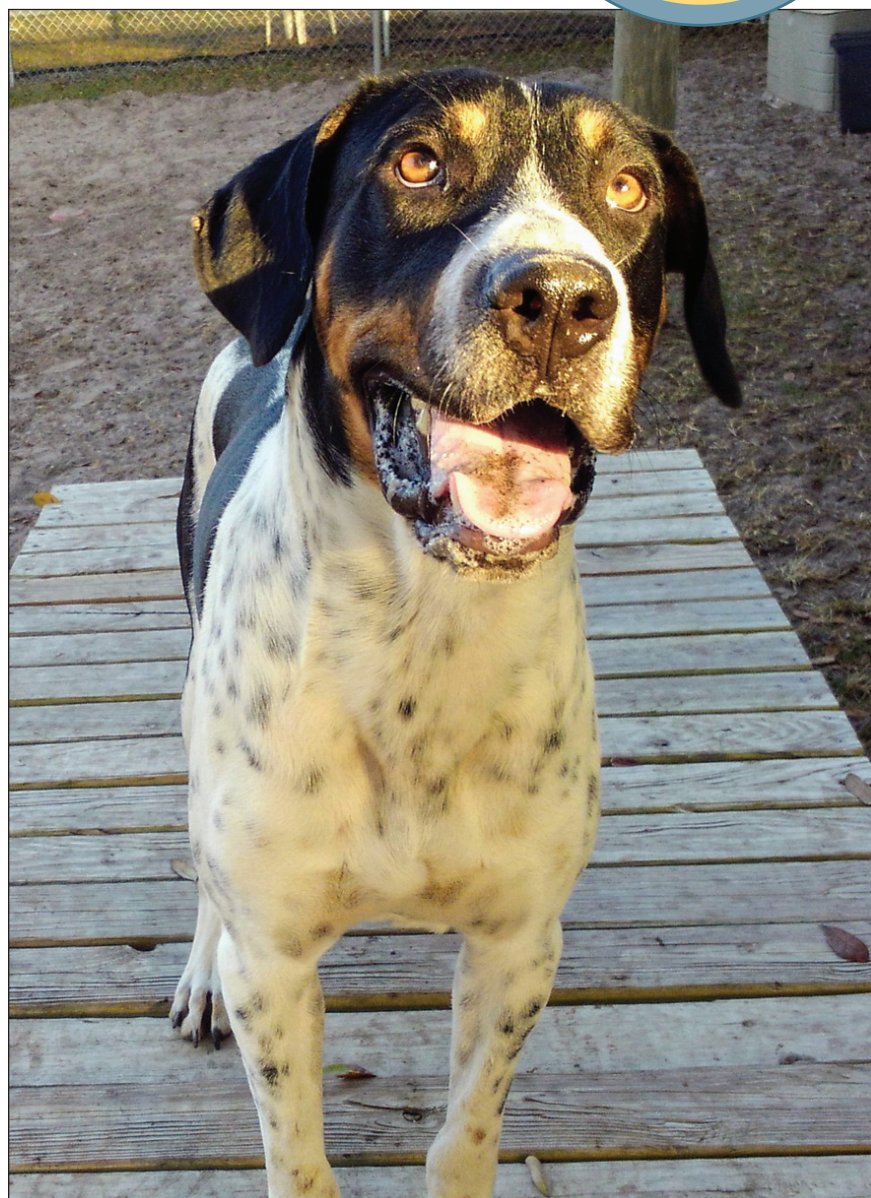
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## Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



## Meet and greet Hai Hai

Hai Hai is a white and black hound mix that was found as a stray and joined the shelter at beginning of December. He is an energetic blur. The person that found him reported that Hai Hai did well with the other dogs in their household and with their young child, but it would be careful with cats and small pocket-pet animals. Hai Hai is sure to make you smile.



## Yzma is outgoing

Yzma is a senior gal that came to the shelter in November. She initially needed some medical help, but seems to have brightened up considerably. Yzma likes to explore the adoption showroom. She would love to join you in your home and keep watch of the birds through the window.

**If you would like to adopt Hai Hai or Yzma, be sure to visit Pasco County Animal Services at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes. The adoption center is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6:30 p.m. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip and vaccines. For more information, email [adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net).**

### PET PAWS

#### SHELTER PETS NEED HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAY

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, will waive adoption fees for the 15 pets that have been at the shelter for more than 90 days, through Jan. 2.

All pets are microchipped, vaccinated and spayed/neutered.

For information, call (813) 929-1212.

#### PET CELEBRATION

Cindy's Pets, a volunteer-run nonprofit that provides pet food to senior citizens in the Pasco County Meals on Wheels program, will host a Strawberry Festival Feb. 17 in downtown New Port Richey, at the Community Congregational Church. The festival will celebrate pets in the community.

Monthly, Cindy's Pets feeds about 400 pets, including dogs, cats and birds; delivers about 1,850 pounds of pet food to Pasco County seniors; and, purchases \$2,000 of food to feed the seniors' pets.

This annual fundraiser helps provide meals to senior's pets for an entire year.

The event will include strawberries and strawberry shortcake, a dog walk with fun obstacles for pets, a dog show, vendors, food, raffle and a kids' zone.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

For information, visit [CindysPets.org](http://CindysPets.org), or email [CPStrawberryFestival@gmail.com](mailto:CPStrawberryFestival@gmail.com).

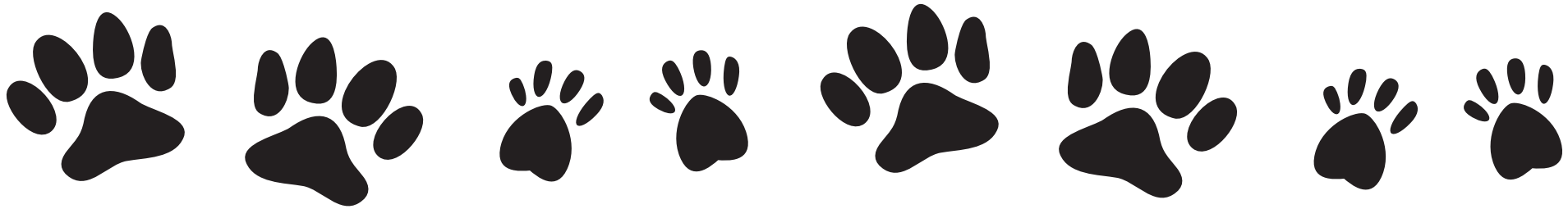
#### SHARE YOUR PET NEWS

If you have pet news about adoptions, walks or other events for pet owners and their pets, you can let us know by sending us an email. We just need the basics: who, what, when, where and why.

The information should be submitted two weeks prior to the desired publication date. We also need a contact name and number, in case we have questions.

There is no guarantee of publication, but we consider each item we receive.

If you'd like to make a submission, send it to [news@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:news@lakerlutznews.com).



# Another look at some of our furry friends

Whether your best four-legged friend is feisty, or furry, or feisty and furry — or sleek and laid back — we know your pets bring a special joy to you throughout the year. We thought we'd take a look back and share some of the cats and dogs we've showcased this year in our Pet of the Week feature. Thanks for sending in those stories and photos. Keep them coming!

# 2017

January



**Minnie and Chloe**  
Dev and Shirley Besselieu, Zephyrhills

February



**Duke**  
Don Burke, Lutz

March



**Roxz**  
Peggy and Eddie Wingo, Lutz

April



**Truffles**  
Ed and Loren Hensley, Land O' Lakes

May



**Leo**  
Velma and Bill Herrig, Land O' Lakes

June



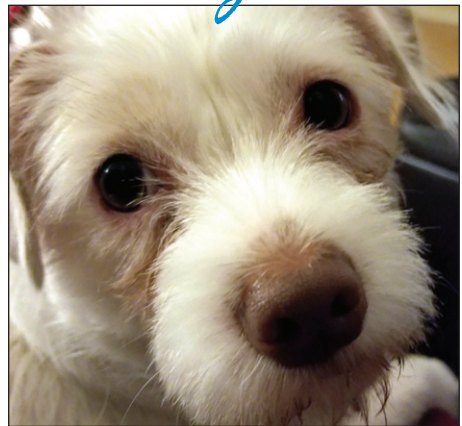
**Jersey**  
Phyllis Ferretti, Land O' Lakes

July



**Stanley**  
Miriam, Joe and Andrew Humphrey, Lutz

August



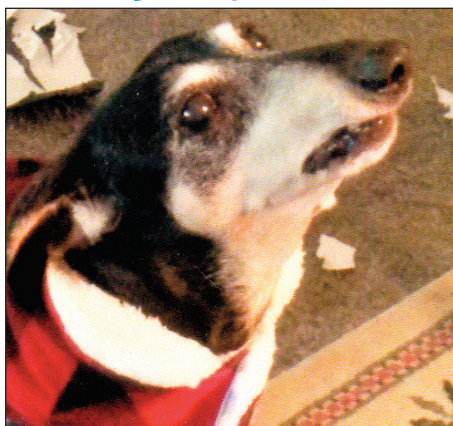
**Khaleesi**  
Dena Gaeta and family, Lutz

September



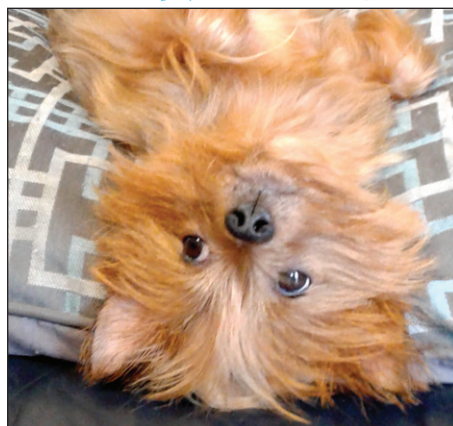
**Maycie**  
Catherine Deneau, Land O' Lakes

October



**Snickers**  
Jeanne and Ed Bittman, Dade City

November



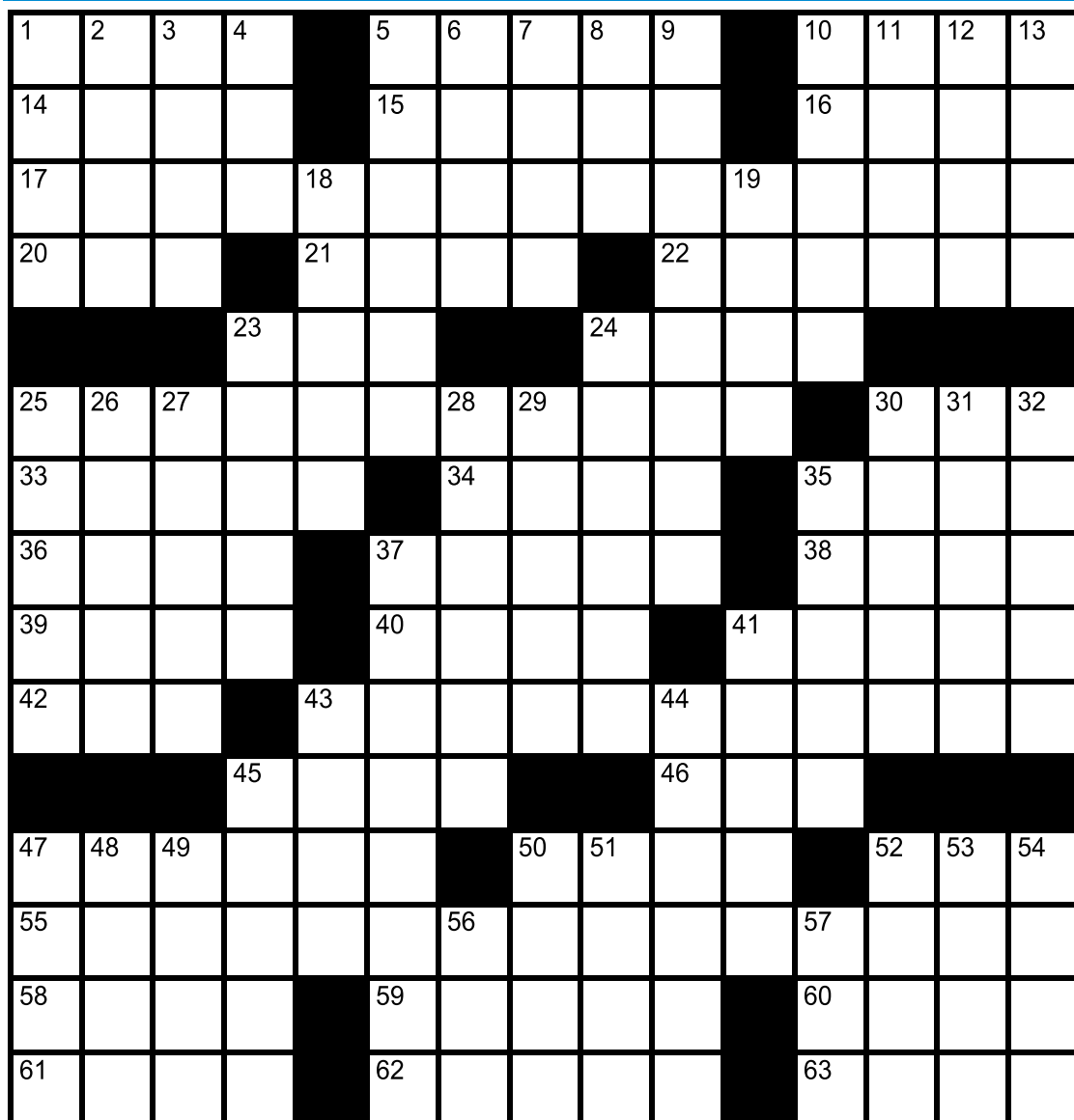
**Sophie**  
Uschi and Bernard Kessler, Wesley Chapel

December



**Graci**  
Linda Greer, Port Richey

## The LAKER / Lutz NEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Panhandles
5. Acquiesce
10. Stone
14. A dissolute man
15. Discover
16. City on the Yamuna River
17. Paying in fixed amounts at specified intervals (2 wds)
20. "C' \_\_\_ la vie!"
21. Speech problem
22. Familiarize
23. Conk out
24. Lying, maybe
25. Sprawled out
30. \_\_\_ de deux
33. Parenting challenges
34. \_\_\_-bodied
35. "Buona \_\_\_" (Italian greeting)
36. "-zoic" things
37. Longing looks
38. Acclaim
39. Anger, with "up"
40. "Guilty," e.g.
41. Egg: Prefix
42. "A Nightmare on \_\_\_ Street"
43. A large species of mammal (2 wds.)
45. Coin opening
46. Afflict
47. Fur pieces
50. Chooses, with "for"
52. Affirmative vote
55. Buckle
58. Song and dance, e.g.
59. Coach
60. Buddies
61. Shrub
62. Black
63. Sort

### DOWN

1. Cheese on crackers

2. A long, long time
3. Burst of wind
4. Undertake, with "out"
5. Joined by treaty
6. Hair goops
7. Alternative to steps
8. "... \_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
9. Confers titles of nobility
10. Fleet
11. Eye
12. \_\_\_-grape juice
13. German philosopher
18. Assumed name
19. Certain surgeon's "patient"
23. Crowded
24. Radiant
25. About 1.3 cubic yards
26. Danger
27. Camelot, to Arthur
28. Young raptor
29. Less inept
30. Necklace item
31. Come to mind
32. Corporate department
35. Bar
37. Completely different
41. Trick-taking game
43. Knocked off, in a way
44. Wet
45. Splash around
47. Attempt
48. By way of, briefly
49. Crumbs
50. "Beetle Bailey" dog
51. Relating to sound
52. "Shoo!"
53. Canine cry
54. "... or \_\_\_!"
56. Center
57. Decide to leave, with "out"

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

# BUSINESS DIGEST

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

## OVERCHIEVERS NAMED NEW CHAPTER OF BNI

Business Network International named Overachievers as its 50th chapter in the Tampa Bay region.

BNI is a networking organization with more than 8,000 chapters worldwide.

The Overachievers meets every Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the

banquet room of the Plantation Palms Golf Club, at 23253 Plantation Palms Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

The chapter invites local business owners and professionals to its next meeting on Jan. 3 at no charge. Only one person per profession can be a member in each chapter. Please check ahead to find out if your profession is already represented.

To RSVP, contact Joey Zani of Keller Williams Tampa Properties at (727) 742-0811 or email [zanijoe@verizon.net](mailto:zanijoe@verizon.net).

## ZEPHYRHILLS BREAKFAST

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly breakfast Jan. 4 from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., at the Golden Corral, 6855 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills.

The cost is \$8 for chamber members and \$10 for non-members.

For information, call the chamber at (813) 782-1913, or email [Eleanor@zephyrhillschamber.org](mailto:Eleanor@zephyrhillschamber.org).

## NEW ARTISTS IN TOWN

Artists Bernard W. Brooks and Gwendolyn Aquí-Brooks have opened an art studio at 5242 Riva Ridge Drive in Wesley Chapel.

The retired couple relocated from Washington D.C.

Bernard Brooks worked as chief medical dental illustrator and graphic designer at the Howard University College of Dentistry, and Gwendolyn Aquí-Brooks taught art in the Washington D.C., public schools.

They have held freelance workshops for the Prince George's County, Maryland Department of Recreation, and the Washington D.C., Commission on the Arts.

Several of Bernard Brooks' artworks have been displayed on television programs, including "Fresh Prince of Bel Air," "The Parkers" and "The Bill Cosby Show."

Gwendolyn Aquí-Brooks is a doll maker with creations featured in Doll Magazine. She also is a quilt maker, and is represented

by Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi of The Women of Color Quilters.

For information, call (813) 618-0916, or email [aquibrooks@gmail.com](mailto:aquibrooks@gmail.com).

## SHUMAKER, LOOP AND KENDRICK JOINS PASCO EDC

Attorney Michele Hintson, of Shumaker, Loop and Kendrick law firm, joined the board of directors of the Pasco Economic Development Council.

Shumaker, Loop and Kendrick, or SLK Law, joined the Pasco EDC as a corporate council-level investor.

"Michele has been a valuable member of numerous committees at the Pasco EDC, so we are very excited to now have her on our Board of Directors," said Bill Cronin, in a press release.

Cronin is the president and chief executive officer of the Pasco EDC.

Continued on next page

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Support your local small businesses!



COURTESY OF PASCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

A team of SMARTstart entrepreneurs were award winners at the 'Hacking the Human Element' competition.

# SMARTstart business wins award

The team of Tracy Ingram, a SMARTstart business entrepreneur, won an award of \$15,000 for a prototype of wearable technology that monitors an individual's vital life signs, according to a news release from the Pasco County Economic Development Council.

The funds will be used in 2018 to advance the technology.

The team, which included David Hirschberg, Natalie

Concours, Asia Hall, Alex Thurman, Brian Meredith, Steve McCalmont, Yves St. Laurent, and Terry Shaw, participated in the "Hacking the Human Element" competition, held Dec. 1 to Dec. 3.

Hosts of the event were SOFWERX and MD5.

SOFWERX is an Ybor-based organization that develops technology for the United States military. MD5 is a U.S. Department of Defense public/private partnership that works with national research universities in devel-

oping civil and military technologies for national security.

"Success stories like this are why we offer the programs we do," Bill Cronin said in a written statement.

"We want to help provide space for entrepreneurs to create ideas and grow, just like Tracy and his team," said Cronin, who is president and chief executive officer for the Pasco EDC.

For information, visit PascoEDC.com.

SLK Law began in 1925. It has more than 260 lawyers, 50 paralegals and 500 employees in its five offices, located in Ohio, North Carolina, and in Tampa and Sarasota.

The council's board is responsible for governing the organization and guiding its economic strategy. It works in partnership with Pasco County in promoting economic growth in the county.

For information, visit PascoEDC.com.

## CENTRAL PASCO GENERAL MEETING

The Central Pasco Chamber of

Commerce will have its general membership meeting Jan. 9, at its new location, the Hilton Garden Inn Tampa Suncoast Parkway, at 2155 Northpointe Parkway in Lutz.

Guest speaker will be Steven Roberto, director of development for The Diversity Initiative (TDD).

Members and guests are welcome.

The cost for members is \$20 if you RSVP by Jan. 4, and \$25 at the door for members and non-members.

For information, call the chamber at (813) 909-2722, or email office@centralpascochamber.com.

## ANYTIME FITNESS FOOD DRIVE

Employees of Anytime Fitness of Dade City had a food drive for several weeks at 14570 Seventh St., in Dade City, to collect donations for Love One Another.

The outreach ministry is supported by its partners First Baptist Church of Dade City, St. Rita Catholic Church, The Dade City Youth Council, Dade City Christian Church, Calvary Assembly and Dade City/Metropolitan Ministries/Restored Hope/Men of Integrity.

Anytime Fitness employees delivered the donations to the Pasco County

Community Services Nutrition Center, where a hot meal, toiletries, dog and cat food (from Dog-Mania & Cats, Dade City Animal Clinic and Farmers Feed), and clothing are provided each Sunday. Anytime Fitness owner Barry Jackson also made a matching donation.

Other churches, including St. Mary's Episcopal and First United Methodist Church of Dade City, as well as schools and community organizations also are supporting these efforts.

For information on Love One Another, contact Lucy Avila at (352) 424-4972.

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