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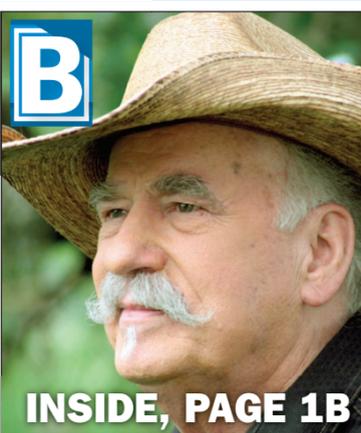
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INSIDE, PAGE 1B

School construction is heating up

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

Cypress Creek Middle High will be adding a senior class this year, but that isn't the only change that will be happening at the campus off Old Pasco Road.

Cypress Creek Middle School is under design right now, with construction expected to begin in October or November, said Mike Gude, director of construction services and code compliance for Pasco County Schools.

The construction budget for the school is \$43.5 million, and the planned opening date for the new middle school is in August of 2020, he said. When completed, it will have a robust performing arts wing, including a black box theater.

Also, on the same campus, Pasco-Hernando State College is planning a \$15.5 million performing arts center, that will serve as both an educational facility and cultural arts facility.

The college is in charge of construction,

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

The state college will build the performing arts center on land that was donated by the school district, and both the college and school district plan to use the performing arts center for educational programming.

The school district plans to use access off Old Pasco Road when construction begins, to avoid interacting with current access to

See **SCHOOLS**, page 11A



CHRISTINE HOLTZMAN

Sunset spurs memories

This sunset over an East Pasco pasture is reminiscent of what much of Pasco County looked like for decades. The photo was taken on the north side of State Road 52, just east of Bellamy Brothers Boulevard in Dade City. While ranch land and groves dominated much of the landscape in Pasco County for most of its history, there has been a significant influx of new subdivisions, schools, churches, stores, shops, medical centers and offices during the past decade.



KATHY STEELE

About 50 people attended a public hearing to oppose a program from the Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County to operate a temporary shelter for families, and provide additional services at a Housing Services Center.

Review board recommends family homeless shelter

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

The Pasco County Planning Commission has recommended approval of a program to temporarily house homeless families in a former Boys & Girls Club building.

Planning commissioners reached that recommendation during a public hearing on June 6.

The Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County wants to operate the temporary shelter on Youth Lane in Port Richey. The coalition also wants to open administrative offices in a second building, designated as the Housing Services Center. Individuals and families would be able to receive a range of social services at the center, with a primary focus on housing for the homeless population.

The county owns the land, and has partnered with the coalition to get the program up and running.

About \$700,000 in grants, and other funding sources, has been allocated for building renovations.

The Pasco County Commission is expected to make the final decision at a June 19 meeting in New Port Richey. Commissioners also will vote on an amendment to the county's comprehensive land

use plan to change the land use from open space/recreational to a public/semi-public use.

About 50 people attended the planning commission's public hearing to show their opposition to the project. Most of the concerns, however, focused on the services available at the services center, not the temporary family shelter.

Area residents worried about increasing crime, a loss in property values, and overall public safety.

"The only good thing about this program is the good intentions," said Suzanne Greene Taldone, who lives in the Crane's Roost subdivision, off Little Road.

She thinks the coalition's site will become a magnet for transients and will create "a cesspool of crime."

Greene added: "Encampments flourish near these centers because they want to be first in line for services."

The program was initially proposed in 2017 as a temporary shelter for adult men and women, with a focus on providing a one-stop center for social services and with a goal of placing people in permanent housing.

Amid strong opposition from residents,

See **SHELTER**, page 11A

Controversy continues over solar in Pasco

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

The Pasco County Commission has adopted an ordinance that will guide future decisions on where and how solar farms are permitted.

But, the controversy over a proposed solar farm in northeast Pasco County continues.

Commissioners approved the ordinance relating to placement of solar farms at their June 5 meeting in Dade City.

Pasco County Commissioner Mike Moore, who supported the ordinance, said, "I feel not just as a county, but as a nation, we need to be less dependent on fossil fuel."

The ordinance doesn't settle what has been a controversial issue, however.

The county's Planning Commission in April gave its stamp of approval to a special exception permit for Mountain View Solar Project. But, that decision is on hold until the county commissioners hear two appeals filed against the planning commission's decision.

Tampa Electric Company, known as TECO, wants to install about 464,000 photovoltaic solar panels on about 350 acres, on both sides of Blanton Road. The solar farm would produce about 53 megawatts of power for TECO's power grid.

The amended land use ordinance, adopted by the County Commission, codifies the county's approach to regulating solar farms. Previously, the code did not deal directly with solar farms.

For the Mountain View project, county officials had to rely on a section designated for uncertain classification rules.

The newly amended ordinance permits solar farms as special exceptions in agricultural zones, and as permitted uses in some commercial and industrial zones. Future decisions on permitting would be left to

See **SOLAR**, page 11A

Getting down and dirty in summer camp

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

It's a few minutes before class will start and 6-year-old Elix Danahue, 10-year-old Elizabeth Lankist and 11-year-old Karis Williams are looking forward to the day's lessons.

The children are in a class being taught by Edén Santiago-Gomez.

The three children are among a group of 21 in a Farm to Table Summer Youth Camp, offered by the University of Florida/Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences and Pasco County Extension in Dade City.

"It's a summer camp that teaches kids how to grow their own food," said Gomez-Santiago, who is the Extension Office's community gardens program assistant. Among other things the camp teaches is "the importance of nutrition, as well as water conservation," she said.

All three kids said they've been enjoying the camp and would recommend it to friends.

That may be due to the teacher's approach. She limits how long she talks and instead concentrates on letting kids learn by doing.

She also brings in guest speakers to give the kids a deeper look at various topics.

It's the first time that Gomez-Santiago has offered a summer camp for kids, but it won't be the last. There's a possibility she could offer this camp again near the end of the summer, if there's enough demand.

Otherwise, she'll likely offer it twice next summer, she said.

"Each day, I have a different theme. The

first day was Gardening 101," Santiago-Gomez said.

"Yesterday, we talked about good bugs vs. bad bugs," she said.

"They got to do a scavenger hunt, where they looked for these good and bad pests, and different elements that plants need.

Each day of the week has had a different emphasis.

On Wednesday, the children focused on learning about the importance of conserving the environment.

Gomez-Santiago asked the kids to tell her what they knew about pollution, then she shared some video clips on the topic.

Next, they did an experiment that involved making edible water bottles.

Later in the morning, an agent was slated to visit the class to talk about vermicomposting, which uses worms to turn food waste into compost called worm castings. Worm bins tend to take up less space than traditional compost bins and can even be kept inside.

"Kids will get to make their own little bins and will take them home," she said.

Other days of the week involved lessons on food conservation, aquaponics, different forms of farming and gardening.

There was even a visit planned involving an agricultural agent to talk about chickens and manure.

Karis and Elizabeth said they especially enjoyed the gardening.

"I've always had a knack for gardening," Elizabeth said.

"I like gardening," Karis agreed.

Elix said he pretty much likes everything about the camp.

"It's just so fun," the 6-year-old said.



B.C. MANION

Edén Santiago-Gomez led a Farm to Table Summer Youth Camp in Dade City to teach children about growing their own food, conservation, pollution and other topics.



Edén Santiago-Gomez helps children in a Farm to Table Summer Camp work on an experiment. The youths next to Santiago-Gomez, from left, are Isel Chavez, Alan Guzman and William Lopez.

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Volunteers spruce up Moore-Mickens campus

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Volunteers put a little shine to the campus of Moore-Mickens Education & Vocational Center in Dade City.

They swept the parking lot, raked and bagged leaves, pruned the greenery and cut the lawn.

Inside, they cleaned up the kitchen and refrigerators, and wiped down walls.

Future projects include interior painting and a pressure washing for the exterior of the school's buildings.

For now, the cleanup efforts were done just in time for summer activities.

"It looks so much better," said Marilyn Hunter, president of the Moore-Mickens Education & Vocational Center, at 38301 Martin Luther King Blvd., in Dade City.

Many of the volunteers who showed up for work duty on May 26 are former students who wanted to give back.

Some of those who turned out also serve on the school's advisory board or its junior board.

"This is a legacy," said Warren "Snapper" Godbolt, a director on the advisory board and a 1968 graduate of the school. "It's been a life saver in a lot of ways to a lot of people. The teachers here made a lot of difference in our lives. They were like second parents for us."

Moore-Mickens is a historical landmark in Dade City as the first public school for blacks in Pasco County. It began as Moore Academy, but later operated under the Moore and Mickens' names as elementary, middle and high schools, and lastly as the education center.

The school's name honors its founding educators, Rev. Junias D. Moore and Odell Kingston Mickens.

Pasco County Schools closed Moore-Mickens in 2016, citing the expenses of repairs and upkeep.

Nearly a year ago, a coalition of community activists accepted the keys to Moore-Mickens from the Pasco County school board. There is a 30-year lease, at a cost of \$10 a year.

School administrators and its board of directors are revitalizing Moore-Mickens as a



FRED BELLET

Dade City resident Arthur Whitehead, 80, was among the first volunteers to show up on a recent Saturday morning to clear leaves and sweep the parking lot at Moore-Mickens Education & Vocational Center.



Dade City resident Baron Bloodworth rakes leaves on the grounds of the Moore-Mickens Education & Vocational Center.

learning center and social hub for the community.

"We want this to be a new beginning," said Godbolt. "The first priority is education. If you can save anyone's child, you've done something."

In recent months, the school has begun afterschool tutoring and General Equivalency Diploma classes. This summer, the school is partnering with a Gainesville-based nonprofit, Mega Social Enterprise Inc., to offer job training skills to youth, ages 14 to 21.

Although some students have signed up, additional applications are being accepted, Hunter said. The program will provide stipends during training, and will seek to find hands-on work opportunities in the community.

Sprucing up the campus was a kickoff to a busy summer.

Quantabia Maner is in charge of the Community Enrichment Committee for the school and helped organize the cleanup day.

Pam Roberts, a junior board member, attended sixth grade at the school. She was in charge of lunch for the volunteers - hot dogs, chips and drinks.

"It was a great experience for me," she said of her brief time at Moore-Mickens. "I have great memories."

Arthur Whitehead, 80, was an eager volunteer. He was born in Tampa but lived most of his life in Dade City. He pushed a broom to sweep up leaves and dirt from the parking lot.

"I've lived here longer than Tampa, and I wanted to help out," he said.

Mack Brockington operates Soul Refreshing Outreach in Zephyrhills. He wants to expand services and open a food pantry at Moore-Mickens. "We're trying to move in this direction (to Dade City)," he said.

A friend and fellow church member, Guy Wright, brought a ride-on mower to clip the lawn, especially the tall grass between classroom buildings.

Ed Reed is a custodian for Pasco County Schools. He went to elementary school at Moore-Mickens. His father, Freddie Reed, worked on the construction of Moore-Mickens' buildings.

And, Ed Reed's wife, Ella, was a majorette and student there.

"I'm glad I'm part of it," said Reed, who pruned palms from planters, and in the



Dade City resident Guy Wright brought his ride-on mower to help spruce up the campus.

landscaping outside the buildings.

Baron Bloodworth attended middle school in the late 1990s. He grabbed a rake and went to work. "It made an impact on the community," he said. "Anything I can do to help."

Edele Graham had appointments that day but made time to give an hour or so to the cleanup. She attended middle school. "I just want to see it stay and thrive," she said.

For information on Moore-Mickens or the Mega Social Enterprise summer youth program, call Marilyn Hunter at (352) 807-5691 or Sandra Coward at (352) 467-0313.

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MEET CANDIDATES FOR 'HONORARY MAYOR'

Swing by Hungry Harry's Family Bar-B-Que on June 13 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., to meet the candidates for Honorary Mayor of Land O' Lakes. Hungry Harry's is donating 15 percent of total sales to split between the charities of all three candidates. Eat-in or take-out. The candidates for the post are David Cravatta, Judi Fisher and Russell Bly. Hungry Harry's is at 3116 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Land O' Lakes.

ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS

The Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida-Pasco Chapter will meet June 13 at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Room One. The guest speaker will be Mona Neville, Pasco County forester, on the topic of invasive cogon grass. Networking begins at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. For information, email DECFPasco@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

The Pasco Alliance of Community Associations will meet June 14 at 7 p.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The guest speaker will be Dominick Scannavino, of the Community Associations Institute, on updates from the 2018 Legislature session. For information, visit MyPACA.org, or call Wayne Mooney at (352) 467-9808.

AFTERNOON MOVIE

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2828 Collier Parkway, will present an afternoon movie June 14 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. A newly released DVD will be shown on a big screen. Refreshments will be provided. Call (813) 929-1214 to find out what movie will be shown.

MAKE BELIEVE THEATER

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will present the Libraries Rock! Summer Reading Club on June 14 at 10:30 a.m. The guest will be Katie Adams' Make Believe Theater: American Tall Tales. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

COOKING CLASS

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Teen "Toastmasters" Cooking Class June 14 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Participants can make a classic quesadilla with a Greek twist. A signed waiver is required to participate. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

YOUTH UKULELE

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a Youth Ukulele Class June 14 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., for grades four to 12. Instruments will be provided. This is a three-week course. To register, call (352) 567-3576.

INTERACTIVE MOVIE

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel, will host a Teen

Art for seniors

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will offer two art classes for seniors:

- June 18 at 10 a.m.: Clay Sculpting. The fee is \$10 to cover material costs. Reservations required.
- June 20 at 1 p.m.: Drawing with Angela

For information, call (813) 264-3804.

Observational drawing class

The Land O' Lakes Branch Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer an observational drawing class June 18 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Learn about historical and contemporary drawing practices, and enhance your skills through observational methods. All experience levels are welcome.

Supplies are provided, but you can bring your own. For information, call (813) 929-1214.



Summer Reading Club interactive movie June 14 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Participants can use props and play games that tie into the movie. There also will be themed snacks. For movie details, call (813) 788-6375.

READING CLUB

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel, will host the K-3 Summer Reading Club June 14 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

FOOD TRUCK RALLY

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will host a Food Truck Rally June 15 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., in partnership with Carrollwood Village HOAs and Generation Entertainment Florida. Admission is free. For information, call (813) 922-8167.

DRIVER SAFETY

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will offer the AARP Smart Driver Course June 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are no tests, and participants could receive an insurance discount. The workshop fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. To register, call Bev Cogdill at (813) 907-3908.

JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL

The African American Club of Pasco County will host a free Juneteenth Festival on June 16 from noon to 5 p.m., at the Old Booker T. Washington School House, 6105 Pine Hill Road in Port Richey. The theme is "Celebrating Diversity Thru Music." The event will include music, food, a water slide and bungee jumper. For information, visit AACPascoFl.org, email aacofpasco@yahoo.com, or call (727) 849-5582.

MAKE JEWELRY

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer Jewelry Making 101 on June 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. This is a beginner jewelry class. Participants can make a bracelet or an anklet. Registration is required. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

PRINCESS BALL

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, and the Carrollwood Jukebox Big Band will host a Princess Ball in honor of Father's Day June 16 at 6 p.m. Swing Time of Tampa Bay will give free dance lessons to ticketholders, starting at 4:30 p.m. The event is open to everyone, not just fathers and their families. Tickets range from \$12 to \$18. The princess's ticket is free. Tickets are limited. For information, visit CarrollwoodCenter.org, or call (813) 922-8167.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY FILM

Cobb Grove 16 Theatres, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, will show the movie "Incredibles 2," in a sensory-friendly format June 16 at 10 a.m. There will be brighter lights and sound levels turned down in the auditorium, for families with varying abilities. Participants can dance, sing and interact with the movie without the worry of disturbing others. Tickets are available in person only the Wednesday prior to each show. For information, call (813) 948-5444.

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host a Kiddush luncheon June 16 after the 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services. Admission is free, but non-members are asked to RSVP by calling (813) 962-6338.

CLASSIC MOVIE

The Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., in downtown Tampa, will show the 1984 sci-fi movie, "Blade Runner" June 17 at 3 p.m., as part of its Summer Classics Movie Series. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$7 for theater members. For information, visit TampaTheatre.org.

GUV'NA FUNDRAISER

Lutz Guv'na candidate Kandy Sinquefield will host "Barbecue and BellyDancing" June 17 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., at UNION72, 2000 Piazza Ave., Suite 150, at The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel. The restaurant will donate a portion of the proceeds to the Guv'na's race. For information, visit Kandy4LutzGovna.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Grace Lutheran Church, 3714 W. Linebaugh Ave., in Carrollwood, will host a Vacation Bible School June 18 to June 22 from 6:30

p.m. to 8:30 p.m., for age 4 to fifth grade. The theme is "Rolling River Rampage." To register, visit GraceTampa.org.

FREE KIDS' MOVIES

Cobb Grove 16 Theatres, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, will again offer its free Kids Summer Movie Escape. The theater will show "Alvin: Road Chip" and "Lego Batman Movie" June 19, June 20 and June 21 at 10 a.m. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Same-day ticketing only. Large groups, schools and camps are welcome. For information, call (813) 948-5444, or visit CobbTheatres.com.

CHAIR YOGA

The Land O' Lakes Branch Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, in Land O' Lakes, is offering chair yoga on June 19, from 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. The fitness goals are to improve balance and increase endurance, flexibility and range of motion. Bring water and wear comfortable clothing. If you want to relax on the floor, bring a mat, towel or blanket.

COMPOST WITH WORMS

UF/IFAS Pasco Extension will offer a free seminar on "Worms are Eating My Kitchen Scraps" June 19 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the New River Branch Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel. Participants can learn how to build a habitat for vermicomposting that starts with the right types of worms. To register, visit tinyurl.com/y7jfm4ez.

SIPPIN' WITH SUNRISE

Sunrise of Pasco County Inc., will host a fundraiser June 21 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Covington Farm, 36222 Covington Road in Dade City. Tickets are \$40 each, or two for \$75. VIP tickets also are available for \$55 each or two for \$100. The evening will include entertainment, food, wine and craft beer vendors. For information, call (352) 521-3358, or visit SunrisePasco.org.

SUMMERFEST

SummerFest will take place June 21 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave., in Zephyrhills. The family event is pet-friendly, and includes a kids' area with face painting and bounce houses, food vendors, music, a watermelon-eating contest and a fireworks show. There also will be an old-fashioned Patriotic Stroll around the lake at 7 p.m., to benefit Gulfside Hospice. The cost to participate in the stroll is \$10 for adults and \$5 per child. For information, call Simply Events at (727) 674-1464.

ORCHID CLUB MEETING

The Tampa Orchid Club will meet June 26 at the Northdale Recreation Center, 15550 Spring Pine Drive in Tampa. Laurie Neissen will lead a Cattleya potting clinic. There also will be a bloom table, plants for sale and a silent auction. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting starting at 10 a.m. For information, call Barbara Barkhurst at (813) 949-7467.

WHAT TREE IS THAT?

The Arbor Day Foundation has a book that helps people to identify trees, available for a \$5 donation. To obtain the tree guide, send your name, address and \$5 to What Tree is That?, Arbor Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Nebraska, 68410. Or, order the guide online at ArborDay.org.

BASIC RIFLE SAFETY CAMP

Dade City Rod & Gun will offer the NRA's First Step (Firearm Instruction, Responsibility and Safety Training) Rifle Program for area youth and those interested in learning how to properly handle a rifle. The 4 1/2-hour session will be offered during the summer, subject to availability. The cost is \$40 per participant and includes the use of a rifle, ammunition, training materials, refreshments, professional instruction and a safe shooting environment. For dates and times, email LShrews1@aol.com.



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Disaster expo offers valuable info — and swag, too

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Visitors to the Pasco County Disaster Expo could find answers to nearly any question they had about preparing for a disaster, and responding in the aftermath.

And, they could also load up on all sorts of freebies.

They could pick up a can of Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli and a gallon of water, courtesy of Pasco County Walmart stores.

At other expo tables, they could pick up a rain poncho, a waterproof cellphone protector, hand sanitizer, a keychain, a notebook, pens, reusable tote bags, insect repellent and bookmarks, among other things.

Throughout the expo, there were people waiting to provide information aimed at helping to prepare for a possible disaster, what to do when a disaster threatens and where to turn for help in the aftermath.

There were booklets, fact sheets and plastic cards chock-full of information aimed at helping, and there were plenty of people on-hand to field questions and provide answers.

Ralph McCullough, president of the Gulf Coast ARC, was one of the people working a booth. He was there to share how his organization of amateur ham radio operators can help when a disaster strikes.

"We can provide emergency communications back and forth to the shelters, get messages through for medical reasons, general welfare reasons. If the whole infrastructure is down, we can put our personnel into fire trucks, ambulances, what have you," McCullough said.

That kind of help was provided during Hurricane Katrina and when the Twin Towers went down on Sept. 11, he said.



B.C. MANION

Ralph McCullough, president of the Gulf Coast ARC, says that amateur radio operators can provide a vital source of communication to help keep information flowing during and after disasters.

Useful numbers

These Pasco County numbers could prove useful in the aftermath of a disaster:

- Customer service: (727) 847-2411
- Emergency Management: (727) 847-8137
- Human Services: (727) 834-3297
- Pasco County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Number: (727) 847-8102
- United Way: 2-1-1
- Website: PascoCountyFL.net

Pasco County has 37 registered members who were prepared to help during Hurricane Irma last year.

If there had been a direct hit, there were 70 radio operators on standby to help in case the whole infrastructure went down, he said.

Melinda Velez, manager of community



Melinda Velez, manager of community impact initiatives for United Way of Pasco County, was on-hand at the expo to remind residents that calling 2-1-1 is a good option when people need information about resources that can help during the aftermath of a flood, high winds or other disasters.

impact initiatives for the United Way of Pasco, was at the expo, too, handing out 2-1-1 cards to remind residents that the number can help people find resources quickly to respond to their needs when a disaster strikes.

The booth was also giving out a freebie: A small kit containing first-aid bandages and disposable towelettes.

Being prepared is important, Velez said. "Last year was one for the record. Most of New Port Richey was on evacuation."

Frankie Gullledge, an underground crew chief for the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative Inc., was there, too.

He demonstrated the dangers involved in having contact with overhead electrical lines and downed power lines.

His message? Keep your distance from overhead electrical lines and downed power lines.

Outside of the expo hall, there was an assortment of emergency vehicles, which can clear out debris, drive through high waters and be used in water rescues, among other things.

Emergency supply list

- One gallon of water per day per person for at least three days
- A three-day supply of nonperishable food and a can opener to open canned foods
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio, and a N.O.A.A. Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Local maps

Other items to consider for emergency supply kit

- Prescription medications and eyeglasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Important family documents stored in a waterproof plastic container, including insurance policies, identification and bank account information
- Cash
- Sleeping bag or blanket for each person
- Change of clothing
- Games for kids

Source: FEMA, Ready.gov

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Keystone Place Grand Opening

JUNE 24 FROM 11 TO 3

Special to The Laker / Lutz News

The much-anticipated opening of Keystone Place at Terra Bella, a new senior living community in Land O' Lakes, is opening its doors for a grand opening celebration on Sunday, June 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited to enjoy fabulous food, live music, raffles and giveaways, and, of course, tours of its apartments and beautiful grounds.

"It's going to be one big party to celebrate the opening of our building," said Executive Director Beth Barber.

The striking thyme green and salmon, four-story building is centrally located on State Road 54 at Livingston, next to Florida Medical Clinic. Keystone Place offers a full range of senior care, including apartments for independent living, assisted care and memory care.

With its spacious apartments, grand porches, inviting lobbies, wide hallways, friendly staff and busy social calendar, Keystone Place is a stimulating environment for seniors.

"It's just like living in an apartment anywhere else," Barber said about Terra Bella's independent living units. "We just include a lot of nice services and amenities, so residents can have fun and not worry about housekeeping and home maintenance anymore."

All residents can enjoy the many amenities at Keystone Place, including restaurant-style dining—where meals are ordered off a menu, a fitness center, heated swimming pool, neighborhood pub, theater, library and beauty salon/barber shop.

The community's Life Enrichment Program provides a large offering of educational, social, cultural and entertainment activities tailored to residents' interests and hobbies.

Regular activities include bingo, charades, movie night, Wii bowling and poker. A healthy lifestyle is encouraged with aqua fitness, chair exercise and walking groups.



Recent recreational outings include Columbia Restaurant, Bahama Breeze Island Grille, Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, International Plaza and Jazz with Jim at Carrollwood Cultural Center.

"Plus, there is always Friday afternoon happy hour at our onsite Driftwood Pub, where probably everyone knows your name—or eventually will," said Barber.

Keystone Place also offers transportation for shopping, medical appointments and entertainment.

"It's the residents who make this community — not us telling them what they're going to do, or what's on the menu to eat," Barber adds.

Keystone Place accommodates a continuum of senior care, from independent living to assisted living to memory care. Residents have priority access to move from independent living to a licensed assisted living, if needed. However, Barber points out that residents have many home healthcare options to choose from that can ease the transition from independent to assisted living, and extend a resident's independence.

"We promote as much independence as possible, and can provide personal care on an as-needed basis," she said.

Keystone Place, is a privately owned and requires no large entrance fees or buy-in. For more information and to RSVP for the grand opening, call (813) 388-2121 or (813) 695-6439.

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or **(813) 695-6439**.

You may also register online at:
KeystonePlaceAtTerraBella.com/RSVP

Wondering what life at the new Keystone Place is really like?
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HEALTH & WELLNESS



Send health news to news@lakerlutznews.com

CANCER LECTURE

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will present a Moffitt Cancer Center lecture June 15 at 1 p.m.

Participants can learn the signs and symptoms of skin cancer.

For information, call (813) 264-3804.

PREPARED CHILDBIRTH

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a Prepared Childbirth (Express) class June 16 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in Garden Classroom A.

Expectant mothers can learn how to become active participants in childbirth with breathing techniques, coping strategies, comfort measures, medications and postpartum adjustment. Breast-feeding is not taught in this class.

The cost is \$50, which includes light snacks and registration for two.

For information and to register, call (813) 443-2046.

MEDICARE INFO

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) volunteer to answer Medicare questions June 16 at 11 a.m.

For information, call (813) 929-1214.

YOGA THERAPY

American House, 38130 Pretty Pond Road in Zephyrhills, will host an animal-assisted therapy yoga experience — Goat Yoga — June 18 at 9:30 a.m.

Snacks will be served.

To RSVP by June 14, call (813) 400-2263.

JOINT REPLACEMENT

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will present a lecture on total joint replacement June 18 at 11 a.m., in the Nursing Administration classroom.

Participants can learn how to prepare for surgery and become familiar with the recovery process.

Based on the requirements of your physician and availability, participants could get pre-op testing done the same day.

The lecture is free. To register, call (813) 443-2046.

CARDIAC SEMINAR

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will offer a seminar entitled, "A Heartbeat Away: Ablations & Cardiac Electrophysiology" June 19 at noon, in the fourth-floor classroom.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Iosif Kelesidis, cardiovascular disease, internal medicine and clinical cardiac electrophysiology.

A light lunch will be provided. For information and to register, call (844) 504-9378, or visit FHWesleyChapel.org.

REDUCING RISK OF STROKE

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point will offer a community lecture about a procedure to reduce the risk of atrial fibrillation June 20 at Hilton Garden Inn, 2155 Northpoint Parkway in Lutz.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. A complimentary dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited and reservations are required.

Call (727) 869-5948 or (888) 741-5119 for more information or to register.

AUTISM PRESENTATION

Autism Speaks will host a free Research Series Presentation June 20 at 6 p.m., at Crowne Plaza Tampa Westshore, 5303 W. Kennedy Blvd., in Tampa.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Thomas Frazier, Autism Speaks chief science officer, who will explore the latest advance in autism research to support people with autism and their families.

The presentation is open to everyone, including people with autism and their families, researchers, educators, clinicians, policy makers and members of the local community.

For information, visit AutismSpeaks.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will offer these community events:

- Breast Cancer Support Group: June 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Compassionate Friends Support Group: June 20 from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Lymphedema Support Group: June 21 at 3 p.m.
- Huntington's Disease Support Group: June 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- JDRF Cups of Hope Type 1 Diabetes Support Group: June 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome. For information, call (727) 834-5630.

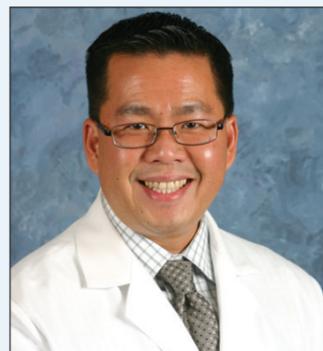
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

New and additional volunteer opportunities are now available with the Oak Hill Hospital Volunteer Association, including golf cart drivers and greeters.

Shifts are available in the mornings, after-



Dr. Debra Angelo



Dr. Visal Numrungroad

Medical Center of Trinity honors staff

The Medical Center of Trinity has announced the following staff awards.

• Dr. Debra Angelo, internal medicine, was named the Physician of the Year, a nurses' choice award selected by the nurses of the hospital.

Angelo was chosen for her integrity, professionalism, accountability, responsiveness, teamwork, nurturing, empathy and respect, as well as the time she takes to educate each patient on their condition/options, striving to answer their questions.

• The Frist Humanitarian Physician of the Year was given to Dr. Visal Numrungroad.

The award is one of HCA's Awards of Distinction named in honor of Dr. Thomas F. Frist Sr., founder of HCA and

humanitarian.

Numrungroad is a member of the Project HOPE team that responded to those in need after Hurricane Maria's devastation, volunteering in Puerto Rico and collecting donations in Tampa Bay.

• Nursing awards were given to MJ Dodson, RN, medical telemetry, as Nurse of the Year; and, Matthew Prince, RN, progressive care unit, as New Nurse of the Year.

• Duane Hollier and Athena Markos were chosen for the HCA Innovators Award for their collaborative efforts on the Safetrac RadioPharmaceutical Barcoding pilot program to reduce patients dosing errors. Hollier is in nuclear medicine and Markos is with the pharmacy.

noons and evenings.

For information, call (352) 597-3038.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZES CEO

Access Health Care Physicians' founder and CEO Dr. Pariksinh Singh was honored by the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners for his achievements and contributions to the community.

In presenting the Resolution to Singh, county commissioners discussed his economic impact on the community. The Resolution covered:

- The opening of the Auro Community Outreach Center to help provide food, cash and medical assistance to those in need
- The Auro Community Garden as a sustainable garden "using natural growing methods, free of harmful insecticides and other chemicals"
- The Auroveda Operating Foundation, which includes the outreach center and community garden
- Singh's recognition as Oak Hill Hospital's Frist Humanitarian Physician of 2017, an award which honors outstanding in-

dividuals for their humanitarian and volunteer activities

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Pasco offer a NAMI Family Support Group the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Atonement Lutheran Church, 29617 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel.

The group is open to family members and caregivers of someone with a mental illness diagnosis.

For information, call (727) 992-9653, or visit NAMIPasco.org.

REGIONAL MEDICAL ADDS NEW TOOL

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, 14000 Fivay Road in Hudson, has installed a digital X-ray imaging system for its Neuroscience Center to view detailed, real-time images of a patient's head, neck and spine during stroke and other neuro endovascular procedures requiring exact precision.

For information, visit RMCHealth.com or HeartOfTampa.com.

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KATHY STEELE

A bus tour sponsored by the Central Pasco Association of REALTORS stopped for lunch and a visit at Florida Hospital Center Ice, off State Road 54.

All aboard for a bus tour of Pasco development

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

A bus tour through Pasco County connected the dots, and highlighted both new development, and notable educational institutions, such as Saint Leo University.

The Central Pasco Association of REALTORS sponsored the tour to offer professionals in real estate and area residents an up-close look at what's happening in Pasco. The bus tour on June 7 was the first, but CPAR officers say they plan for more in future.

"We're looking to introduce people, to say, the (Florida Hospital Center Ice) rink," said Jack Buckley, who is chairman of the CPAR committee that organized the tour. "Not everyone knows it's here. We want to make them aware of activities in the area."

About 60 people boarded the bus at the Hilton Garden Inn Tampa Suncoast Parkway. The all-day tour visited nine locations, including stops at Florida Hospital Center Ice, Saint Leo, and the historic Pasco County Courthouse in Dade City.

Other locations were the master-planned communities of Bexley by Newland Communities, Epperson and Mirada; the Dade City Business Center; the business park, Compark 75; and Tampa Premium Outlets.

A lunch break at Florida Hospital Center Ice included a tour of the ice rink facility, off State Road 54.

The CPAR bus tour also was about forging closer ties between Central Pasco and Dade City business and chamber of com-

merce communities.

Dade City Mayor Camille Hernandez arranged a police-escorted drive through downtown Dade City, and touted its historic, small town charm.

"This is my little piece of heaven that I call home," the mayor said.

The real estate organization will be supporting Dade City officials for "Discover Dade City," an economic summit on Sept. 27 at the Pasco-Hernando State College.

"We're feeding off one another, so residents and businesses get the benefits from our associations," said Buckley.

The tour offered opportunities for networking, and getting to know new people, said Hernandez. "I'm excited about that."

Jo Easton, a certified residential specialist, said the tour provided new experiences in getting to know not only about new development but well-established places such as Saint Leo.

She had driven by the university many times, but the tour was her first visit to the campus.

Florida Hospital Center Ice was new to her, too.

"This is really helpful to us," Easton said.

John McCabe, a vice president and Small Business Administration lender with CBC National Bank, was also glad to get to know the area better.

"You see these places driving by, but to do a deep dive, it's terrific," he said. "I think the tour is a great thing."

McCabe works out of Tampa but services the Tampa Bay area including Pasco.

For more information, visit CPARFL.com.

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Chalk Talk

Send school news to news@lakerlutznews.com

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced this year's National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winners.

The finalists in each state were judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Winning students in The Laker/Lutz News coverage area were:

- Grant J. Lopresti, of Lutz, George M. Steinbrenner High School. Probable career field: Engineering
- Varun M. Puri, of Odessa, Hillsborough High School. Probable career field: Finance
- Catherine L. Weng, of Tampa, Freedom High School. Probable career field: Business

STUDENTS EXCEL AT SKILLS COMPETITION

Pasco-Hernando State College graduate Kenith Christian, of Land O' Lakes, was awarded gold in the Related Technical Math category of the SkillsUSA Florida State Leadership and Skills competition.

Christian will compete at the SkillsUSA National competition in Louisville, Kentucky, June 24 to June 29.

Other PHSC students that were recognized at the state competition were:

- Jordan Rucker, Customer Service, silver medal
- Dwight Howard, Technical Drafting, silver
- Duniesqui Rodriguez, Architectural Drafting category, bronze
- Karen Becker, Customer Service, bronze
- Kristen Knight, PHSC student, voted in as a state representative

More than 300,000 students and advisors join SkillsUSA annually.

For information about career programs at PHSC, visit PHSC.edu.

PASCO SCHOOLS WINS GOLD

Pasco County Schools was recognized as a Gold level district for the period of May 2018 through April 2020 by the Florida Partnership for Healthy Schools.

The designation is based on the Florida Healthy School District Self-Assessment, which considers sustainable infrastructure, policy, programs, and practices from national and state guidelines, best practices and Florida statutes.

The assessment was developed by FPHS to recognize and celebrate the hard work and success of school districts related to the physical, mental and social health of students and staff.

Pasco County Schools will be invited to participate in the Healthy District Collaborative facilitated by the Florida Departments of Education and Health, where they will be provided professional development, technical assistance and information for resource/funding opportunities.

AREA STUDENTS WIN HONORS

- Gianna N. Basulto, of Land O' Lakes, has been named to the President's List at Andrew College in Cuthbert, Georgia.
- Brycie Gauthier, of Lutz, has been named to the Spring 2018 Dean's Honor Roll at Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- Omer Shareef Mohammed, of Lutz, graduated from the University of the Cumberlands, in Williamsburg, Kentucky, with a Master of Science in Information Systems Security.

The Laker/Lutz News likes to keep our readers informed about news from our local schools, including upcoming events, photos of events, recognitions and so on. Submissions need to include who, what, where, when, contact information, identifications for individuals in a photo (unless it is a large group), and a photo credit. Please send your information two weeks prior to desired publication date, and email it to news@lakerlutznews.com. If you would like The Laker/Lutz News to consider coverage of an event, send a request to the same email.

• Katelyn Prieboy, of Lutz, was named to the Spring Dean's List at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

• Taryn Raval, of Lutz, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of South Florida.

• Maxim Stepanets, of Lutz, was named to the Alma College Dean's List for winter 2018. Stepanets is studying general studies and is a graduate of Academy at the Lakes. Alma College is in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

• Payton Strawser, of Land O' Lakes, earned a spot on the Spring Dean's List at Bethel University's College of Arts and Sciences and College of Health Sciences in McKenzie, Tennessee.

• Riley Wood, of Land O' Lakes, made the Honor Roll at Bethel University's College of Arts and Sciences and College of Health Sciences in McKenzie, Tennessee.

• Katie Wynn, of Lutz, made the Spring Dean's List at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

SAINT LEO SUMMER FEST

Saint Leo University, 33701 State Road 52 in St. Leo, is hosting Summer Fest on June 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the university's main campus.

The event gives families and prospective students an opportunity to enjoy a day of music, food, fun and sun. The event is open to students who have committed to attending the university this fall, to students who are still making their college decision and to students who may be interested in attending the university in the future.

The event is free. For more information, please email nicole.lesko@saintleo.edu.

LEXINGTON OAKS MERIT AWARD WINNERS

Four Lexington Oaks students recently each received \$500 merit awards from the Lexington Oaks Woman's Club.

The recipients were Katherine Vo, Emily Shay, Tyler Luginiski and Alex Carr.

Vo was given special recognition for the career she is pursuing in pediatric cardiology. The award was anonymously donated in the name of a former club member, JoLee Fallis, with the stipulation that it be used for a student studying nursing.

STUDENT BUS PASSES

The Pasco County Public Transportation Department will offer Student Summer Haul Passes to students for \$20.

Pasco County students can ride the fixed-route bus system all summer. The special rate will be effective through Aug. 31.

Haul passes can be picked up at all Pasco County libraries; the Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller's office at the West and East Pasco Government Centers; the Pasco-Hernando State College bookstores in Wesley Chapel, Dade City and New Port Richey; and the PCPT Administrative Offices at 8620 Galen Wilson Blvd., in Port Richey.

For information, call (727) 834-3322, or visit vit.ly/SummerHaulPass.

For bus routes and schedules, visit RidePCPT.com.



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COURTESY OF BECKY FINLEY

Scholarship recipients recognized

The GFWC Woman's Club of Zephyrhills awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships to 10 deserving students at an end-of-the-year luncheon. The students receiving a certificate and a check are, back row, from left: Jasmine Dobbs (Southeastern University), Domenique Benjamin (Florida Atlantic University), Autumn Roe (Pasco-Hernando State College), Luis Arturo Chavez Rincon (Pasco-Hernando State College) and Tyceson Sampson (Tallahassee Community College). Front row, from left: Annica Morgan (University of South Florida), Madison Kaylor (Ringling College of Art and Design), Allyson Worthy (University of South Florida), Lacy Downs (Pasco-Hernando State College) and Hanna Binnicker (Pasco-Hernando State College).

SCHOOLS, from page 1A

the Cypress Creek Middle High campus.

Meanwhile, work is expected to wrap up at Woodland Elementary School in Zephyrhills by the time school begins.

"The new building is mostly finished," Gude said, and the renovation of the existing building is for a new administration area underway.

The project includes a new cafeteria, a new classroom building, renovated classrooms and restrooms, and a new administration area.

A major overhaul also is planned at Zephyrhills High School, which is in the middle of design right now.

The district plans to begin some preliminary construction activities at the school during the summer, with the expectation of beginning heavier work later this year.

"It will be a phased project," Gude said, with the first phase being a new classroom building.

"Everybody will stay on the campus, but by building the new classroom building, that will enable us to move a section of the students out there," he added.

A final determination hasn't been made yet, but the project will likely be done in four or five phases, he said.

When the renovation is completed, the district expects to be able to accommodate about 500 more students at the campus. The estimated construction cost is \$28 million.

"That will be an exciting project," Gude said.

Land O' Lakes High School is on schedule to be completed by August 2019.

"Everything has been going smooth. The principal has been great to work with, in terms of moving his folks around," he said.



B.C. MANION

Mike Gude, director of construction services and code compliance for Pasco County Schools, provided an overview of construction work underway in an area stretching from Starkey Ranch to Zephyrhills.

When completed, Land O' Lakes High will be able to accommodate around 450 more students, he said.

New construction also is planned for a kindergarten through eighth-grade school at Starkey Ranch.

"That is in the very early stages of design right now," Gude said. The school is scheduled to open in August 2021.

As part of that project, the school district will have a partnership with Pasco County involving a public library/community theater, next to the school.

"It's a good partnership," Gude said. "It makes perfect sense. We're all public entities, so why not share in some of these facilities."

SHELTER, from page 1A

the coalition changed its purpose to instead help families only at the shelter. Coalition representatives also voluntarily limited the services that would be available at the Housing Services Center.

Under the proposal, the center would not have an emergency food pantry, clothes closet, showers, or scheduled visits for a mobile medical unit.

The coalition also agreed to other conditions.

Four to eight families would be housed temporarily, but no more than 36 people would stay at the shelter at any one time. The coalition estimates helping a minimum of 50 families annually.

Background checks would be done. There would be security cameras, and a curfew from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Also, coalition staff members would be on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Families could stay no longer than 180 days.

The goal, coalition officials said, would be for families to stay 30 days to 60 days, with most being placed in housing within 45 days.

"This is something that is very realistic," said Don Anderson, chief executive officer of the homeless coalition.

Area residents remain skeptical.

Judith Bowes lives in the nearby subdivision of The Orchards of Radcliffe. She said more than 70 widows live there.

"They were scared. They had a lot of sleepless nights," Bowes said. "The shelter that will house six to eight families is not the problem. The problem is (the Housing Services Center) will bring a lot of transients into the neighborhood. My neighbors are still having sleepless nights."

But, Amina Ahmed said it made her sad to hear people making assumptions about people who are homeless.

"Not all of them are criminals," Ahmed said. "People think if you're homeless, you have to have a problem, which is not true. Let's help people become valuable members of society."

Attorney Robert Lincoln, who represents the owners of an adjacent shopping plaza, also spoke in favor of the coalition's efforts.

The owners had found fault with the original plan but support the new direction, Lincoln said.

He said that eliminating such services as showers, medical care and clothes makes a difference.

"You take away those kinds of things, you take away the kinds of services that get people wandering in off the street," Lincoln said.

Plus, he noted: "It's much better to be working with (the coalition) and becoming engaged."



FILE

Tampa Electric Company, or TECO, has a solar farm at Big Bend.

SOLAR, from page 1A

county staff and the planning commission.

Many residents who live on and near Blanton Road, outside Dade City, are opposed to the solar farm. They also spoke against the ordinance on June 5.

They told county commissioners they worried about impacts of photovoltaic solar panels on water and soil, about damage from panels swept up during hurricanes, and how fires would be handled on site.

"I think we're just moving too fast with this," said Margaret Woods. "I don't think they've been around long enough to know what the long-term effect will be."

TECO representatives in contrast cited research that has shown photovoltaic panels are safe, and typically are located on agricultural land.

"It's a very compatible use with agriculture," said Rich Kirkland, a certified appraiser from North Carolina. He said he had reviewed about 400 solar projects, including about 10 in Florida.

Pasco County Commissioner Ron Oakley said solar farms wouldn't work for all agricultural lands. But, the Blanton Road site, with nearby transmission infrastructure, seems suitable, he said.

However, Commissioner Jack Mariano found some of the residents' comments per-

suasive regarding safety issues, especially the disposal of old solar panels as waste.

"This is probably the most complex, difficult decision I've had as a commissioner," he said. "I'm not sure we have done everything we should to make the best ordinance for the county."

However, he voted in favor of the ordinance after receiving assurance that the county's ordinance, as written, could be defended against legal challenges.

In future votes, residents raised concerns about the ordinance's provision to place authority for solar permits with county staff and the planning commission. County commissioners would only be involved in the event of appeals.

Resident Judy Geiger noted that an appeal cost \$2,500 to file. Additional fees for transcripts and attorneys would easily push the cost to \$5,000 or more, she said.

"That's huge to many Pasco county residents," Geiger said.

Residents also said the county wasn't paying attention to overlay district protections for rural areas that are part of the county's land use plan.

"All of us bought homes in this area because of the beauty," said Laura Myers, who lives on Blanton. "You're going to take that away. I don't understand who benefits. It's going to be an eyesore we all have to live through."

'Watch the weather, wait to water,' SWFMD says

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Southwest Florida Water Management District is encouraging people who irrigate their lawns to take advantage of recent rains and the coming summer wet season.

Officials from the water management agency are asking residents to "watch the weather, wait to water."

During June, July, August and September, yards need no more than ¾-inch of water every three days or so. If there has been enough rain to water your lawn, turn off your irrigation system, and turn it back on when needed.

The water management agency offers suggestions to help you save on water.

The simplest way to determine if your yard needs water is to look for these visual clues:

- Grass blades are folded in half lengthwise on at least one-third of your yard
- Grass blades appear blue-gray
- Grass blades do not spring back, leaving footprints on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it

If your yard is showing signs that it needs water, check your local forecast to see if rain is on the way.



Here are some other steps that can help you conserve water:

- Use a rain gauge to determine how much rain your yard has received.
- If you have a rain sensor, make sure that it is working properly.
- Take full advantage of the rain. Make sure gutter downspouts are directed into landscaped areas or lawn.
- Install a rain barrel to capture excess rainwater.

For additional information, visit WaterMatters.org/WatchTheWeather.

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Wiregrass Ranch Sports Complex breaks ground

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Construction has begun on a long-awaited sports fieldhouse in Wesley Chapel that is expected to provide more athletic and economic opportunities in Pasco County.

The June 7 groundbreaking ceremony for the Wiregrass Ranch Sports Complex attracted a crowd of more than 100 people, including a Who's Who of Pasco County dignitaries.

The \$44 million sports complex is being built at 3211 Lajuana Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, just off State Road 54, near The Shop at Wiregrass.

Members of the crowd came from all walks of life, including government officials, community leaders, business leaders, Wesley Chapel residents and representatives of sports organizations, local schools and universities.

They came to gather details about the 98,000-square-foot complex that will include eight basketball courts, 16 volleyball courts, a cheer and dance studio, a fitness center, and sports medicine and athletic training offerings.

The complex also will be able to host other sporting events and recreational activities such as martial arts, wrestling, gymnastics, curling, badminton, indoor soccer and lacrosse and pickleball.

In addition to the indoor gym, the complex will have seven outdoor sports fields, an amphitheater with an event lawn, walking trails, pavilions and a playground.

The Pasco County Commission approved the project as a public/private partnership in 2017.

RADD Sports, a private company, will operate and manage the sports complex.

The county will own the facility and share in anticipated profits.

The county also has a ground lease for an \$18 million, 128-room Marriott Residence Inn that will be built with private funds at the complex. The hotel and its "suite-style" units will cater primarily to traveling sports teams and families as well as active business travelers looking to access the facility.

The Wiregrass Ranch Sports Complex is set to open by late 2019.

It will operate on Monday through Thursday as a community-based sports center for youth, adults and seniors.

Weekends will be set aside to host tournaments, competitions and other events that will generate hotel stays and tax revenues for the county.

Secondary uses of the complex include graduations, banquets, exhibits and concerts.

The facility is being built on land donated



KEVIN WEISS

A groundbreaking ceremony on June 7 celebrated the start of construction for the new Wiregrass Ranch Sports Complex.

ed years ago by the Porter family - developers of Wiregrass Ranch.

Until recently, several proposals for such a facility on the land fell apart over the years, including one for a baseball complex in 2015.

"This has been something that's been on our minds for the past 15 years," said Wiregrass Ranch developer J.D. Porter. "(We're) trying to do something that's very good for the community, bringing people into Pasco County."



FILE

The \$44 million Wiregrass Ranch Sports Complex is expected to open in late 2019.

PASCO'S OFFERINGS CONTINUE TO EXPAND

The complex also adds to a growing list of premier, state-of-the-art sports facilities in Wesley Chapel — and further markets the area as a sports tourism destination primarily for youth and amateur sports.

Other nearby offerings include Florida Hospital Center Ice in Wesley Chapel, which opened in early 2017 as the largest hockey complex in the southeastern United States; Saddlebrook Resort & Spa, an upscale resort renowned for world-class golf and tennis training; and Wesley Chapel District Park, which sits on 144 acres and contains 10 full-sized athletic fields and lighted outdoor tennis courts and basketball courts. Efforts also began recently in a quest to build a premier aquatics facility in Land O' Lakes.

"Pasco County is rapidly positioning (itself) to be a leader in the nation in hosting sports events, and training athletes," said RADD Sports president and CEO Richard Blalock.

Blalock last year estimated annual economic impact would be about \$6.5 million for the new facility. Over 10 years, about \$8 million or more in sales and use taxes would be generated, not including tourism taxes from hotel stays.

"We're excited of the fact that it's going to put itself where we can attract not only for the locals, but also state, regional, national and international events," he said.

"It's not just the out-of-state visitors that'll come," said Pasco County Commissioner Mike Moore.

"It's our visitors from Orlando, our visitors from Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, Miami. They'll come here, they'll visit our small businesses, they're going to stay at our hotels, they're going to buy our gas, our food, (and) they're going to help our economy."

Moore said amateur sports tourism is one of fastest-growing market segments of the travel industry, adding "Pasco County's about to become a major player in this \$10 billion-a-year industry."

"When we say this is huge — it's huge," Moore said.

According to VisitFlorida, the state's leading tourism resource, approximately 106 million non-resident visitors came to the state last year. Of that total, 16 million were drawn to Florida by its sports economy, representing about 15 percent of the state's tourism economy.

But it's about more than just tourism dollars and economic impact, said Pasco County Tourism Director Adam Thomas, who spent over a decade as a professional

Reactions to the Wiregrass Ranch Sports Complex

"What a great opportunity we have to continue to grow the economic environment here (and) to attract people. For all those reasons everybody moves here... They'll continue to come back because we have a great thing to offer here in Pasco County." — J.D. Porter, Wiregrass Ranch developer

"This is going to change the game for our athletes in Pasco County, give them the opportunity to raise the level of play and, really have the opportunity for families and kids to get to college and playing those sports, so I think it's a great opportunity." — State Rep. Amber Mariano, R-Hudson

"This is huge. (People's) ability to show up today just shows the importance of this project, not only to Pasco County tourism but the business community right here in Wesley Chapel." — Adam Thomas, VisitPasco director

"I'm excited. I'll continue to be excited. I can't wait to see this thing moving. I'll probably down here every day as this goes up because I live down the street." — Pasco County Commissioner Mike Moore

minor league baseball pitcher.

Thomas, who has two young children, underscored the social and competitive benefits of the facility for youth — the ability to participate in local tournaments that'll host quality in-state and out-of-state teams and athletes.

"They're going to be exposed to a different level of playing, so we're going to raise the bar a little bit for our student-athletes," he said.



AATL'S KILFOYL NAMED GATORADE STATE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

A local softball sensation has achieved yet another honor in a growing list of accolades.

Academy at the Lakes' junior Alexis Kilfoyl, who recently guided the Wildcats to its first state softball title, has been named the 2017-2018 Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year.

The honor, which takes into account athletics and academics, distinguishes Kilfoyl as the state's best high school softball player.

She now becomes a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award.

The 6-foot-2 right-handed pitcher led the Wildcats to a 26-4 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season.

Kilfoyl posted a 23-1 mark in the circle with a 0.32 earned run average and 249 strikeouts in 154 innings pitched.

Likewise dominant at the plate, Kilfoyl produced a .482 batting average with five home runs, 35 RBI, a .585 on-base percentage and a .788 slugging percentage.

In the state title game on May 22, Kilfoyl fired an 11-inning shutout and knocked the game-winning double in the Wildcats' 1-0 win over Monticello Aucilla Christian Academy.

Besides in-state success, Kilfoyl has been on the national radar for some time.



COURTESY OF ACADEMY AT THE LAKES

Academy at the Lakes' Alexis Kilfoyl (No. 9) has been named 2017-2018 Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year, given to the state's best high school softball player.

Last summer, Kilfoyl was a member of the 2017 USA Softball Junior National team, the youngest of the 24-player roster.

And in January, FloSoftball.com ranked Kilfoyl as the nation's No. 1 player in its "2019 Hot 100" recruiting list.

She has been a verbal commit to the University of Alabama since her freshman season.

Off the field meanwhile, Kilfoyl has maintained a 3.78 grade-point average and is a member of the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the



COURTESY OF MIKE CONNELL

State champs bound for regionals

The Lutz-based FC Tampa Rangers Newcastle U17 boys were crowned U17 Florida President's Cup Champions in April, and the squad has now advanced to the Southern President's Cup. That competition runs through June 17 at the Mesa Soccer Complex, in Greenville, South Carolina.

As part of the regional competition, FC Tampa Newcastle faces off against teams from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee; with hopes to secure a spot at the 2018 U.S. Youth Soccer National President's Cup in July, in Westfield, Indiana.

District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selec-

tion process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.



SUMMER'S FRESHEST

FROM SOUTHERN FARMS TO YOUR PUBLIX



Bellamy Brothers are stars of reality TV show

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

More than 40 years after releasing their chart-topping country pop hit, "Let Your Love Flow," recording 20 No. 1 hits and selling 40 million albums, The Bellamy Brothers show no signs of slowing down.

They're touring worldwide upward of 150 days a year.

They released an autobiography, "Let Your Love Flow: The Life and Times of The Bellamy Brothers."

They're a few harmonies shy of releasing their 30th studio album.

And, that's not all for the 67-year-old David Bellamy and 72-year-old Howard Bellamy, who were born and raised in Darby, and graduated from Pasco High School in the 1960s.

They're also in the middle of filming a new reality television show, "Honky Tonk Ranch" on The Cowboy Channel, an American cable television network airing in 25 million homes.

The reality show follows the international country music icons through their misadventures of a demanding tour schedule and life back home at their family's 200-acre ranch, outside of Dade City.

The first season premiered April 8 and wraps up with the 13th episode season finale on July 1.

In the series, David, Howard and the Bellamy family open their doors to cameras illustrating how they balance ranching, recording, world touring, running a record label, as well as guiding the careers of the next generation of Bellamy music aspirations.

The Laker/Lutz News recently had an exclusive look into the filming of an episode at the ranch.

As part of the day's hijinks, the Bellamy Brothers and their crew try to round up a 7-foot-long alligator nesting at one of the ranch's ponds.

Another scene that afternoon involved David and his wife of 25 years, Susan, bantering about hoarding. "What I tell her is, it's not hoarding if it's cool stuff," David quipped.

Such storylines have helped make the show an instant hit, in both the U.S. and overseas.

It's become the No. 1 rated show on The Cowboy Channel, which is owned by Rural Media Group Inc.

Available in 28 countries, it's also been the network's most-streamed show.

One sign of the show's success and The Bellamy Brothers' global fame: 100 people in China pay \$10 a month to subscribe to the show, according to Chris Shaheen, the duo's business manager.

"One of the reasons we thought the show would be successful is because we have a pretty good world audience," David said.

Throughout the first season, several scenes have been filmed in and around Dade City, like Charlie's St. Joe Market on St. Joe Road.

"We like to expose the local people and local things and Central Florida as much as we can," Howard said. "It's a really cool place and, after (touring) 72 countries, it's still a unique place here."

Yet much of the show revolves around the family ranch in Darby. Located just north of Tampa, the working ranch is home to purebred Brahman cattle, crossbred cows, quarter horses and three generations of the Bellamy family. The ranch was purchased in 1870 by the Bellamy's great-great-grandfather, Abraham, and has been the family's homestead ever since.

Between the fruit trees, ancient oaks and crepe myrtles, the series follows the chaos from one household to another on the ranch's lush land.

The property — and rural Darby — offers a sanctuary of sorts for the Bellamys. It's the one constant in their frenetic showbiz schedule.

"This is the recharger right here — this old place," Howard said while gazing at the ranch. "It's where it all started, and I suppose



FRED BELLET

Howard and David Bellamy take a break in-between shooting scenes for their reality show, Honky Tonk Ranch.



Kachunga alligator handlers Chad Wright and Chad Wright Jr., of Dade City, along with David Bellamy, Noah Bellamy and Howard Bellamy size up the situation on what it takes to capture a 7-foot alligator in a pond on The Bellamy Brothers Ranch in Darby.

it's where it'll all end, right here."

Added David: "Just some place we could come home to, and just relax and take it easy. We still do quite a few dates a year and so it's nice to have this. In the winter it's nice because we mainly play weekends, so we're home during the week, and it's nice to lay back."

Other regular cast members on the show include H.C. Young, Howard and David's cousin and ranch hand; Randy Hiebert, The

Bellamy Brothers' longtime guitarist, David's sons, Jesse and Noah Bellamy; and Melanie Owston, a family friend from Texas.

Besides the ranch, the show also followed the duo outside of central Florida — one episode was filmed in New York City, where the Bellamys were doing a media blitz to promote their new book.

The brothers tried to get a reality show for years while they were in contract with a handful of media companies, their business

manager explained.

They originally shopped it to other major stations like A&E and the History Channel before winding up with Rural Media Group and The Cowboy Channel.

Said Shaheen, "Those people just couldn't grasp it without seeing it and that was kind of the issue. They've had a relationship Rural Media Group for a while, and they just got into talks and decided that was probably the best route to take."

With the show's success, the Bellamys and their representatives are now in talks for two more seasons. Future episodes will likely focus more on the road.

The cameras have been rolling since January, a few months after the TV deal was inked.

"I just try to ignore 'em," David jokingly said of having omnipresent filming crews.

Between breaks in action, the younger Bellamy noted the season finale will feature appearances from fellow American country music stars Mickey Gilley and Tanya Tucker. David and his wife also will renew their vows in the episode.

David pinned the show as "just a combination of all sorts of things."

"We've done pretty well so far," he said. "Everybody's had fun."

Honky Tonk Ranch airs Sundays at 8:30 p.m.

For the full program schedule and more information, visit TheCowboyChannel.com or BellamyBrothers.com.

In addition to their new reality television show, the Bellamy brothers casually touched on other topics, including today's country music scene and what it was like growing up in Darby, in a recent interview with The Laker/Lutz News:

ON LIFE IN DADE CITY AND HOW IT'S CHANGED OVER THE YEARS:

Howard Bellamy: "It's amazing how you can sit here and feel pretty removed from things. Now in 15 minutes you can literally be into a mall, the next exit up, which is kind of cool in a way, as long as we can keep 'em at bay. It has changed in that respect. And, of course, technology's changed so much, so you can have everything everybody else does. It's really great living in the country, but you don't have to go far to get into a traffic jam."

ON TODAY'S COUNTRY MUSIC SCENE AND THE INDUSTRY IN GENERAL:

Howard Bellamy: "Musically, it doesn't excite me. And, of course we cut our teeth, we worked with (Merle) Haggard and (George) Jones in our early days, so we've seen the best there

was and, after that, everything's a little bit of a disappointment. It's not as creative as it was in the '70s and '80s, musically. Songs aren't as creative, I don't think. They get a little redundant, lyrically and musically. But, that's not because of the artists. There's a lot of talent out there. It's because of the business itself. Everybody plays it safe, finds formulas of things and sticks to those formulas. And, the same with movies. The real creative stuff, I kind of miss that. ... If anybody can make a living in this business, more power to them."

ON THEIR FAVORITE PLACES TO PERFORM OVER THE YEARS:

David Bellamy: "It's a little hard to pinpoint the favorite spots. We've been to places that I'd never thought I'd see that are pretty cool and we've done interesting things. We played for presidents, royalty and all kinds of stuff like that, but I think our favorite stuff to do is, as far as still playing concerts, is to play out where people really like the music, because there's still places like that. I mean a lot of cities are kind of jaded musically. There's just so much and so many, and it's just all the time. And, not that there aren't good shows there. Like, when we were (recently) out in Texas, it's like the whole town, the whole city

shows up. That's a lot of fun when you get places like that. We've played places overseas like that, like Sri Lanka and India, Australia. ... Those are kind of the most fun things because those are the people who really appreciate it."

ON WHAT PEOPLE CAN EXPECT FROM THE NEW AUTOBIOGRAPHY, "LET YOUR LOVE FLOW: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE BELLAMY BROTHERS."

David Bellamy: "Some of my favorite stories and some of the old stories about growing up here were about family. I think there's a lot of humor and a lot of things that were fun to us, but other people, I think, they'll like some of our road stories after we got a couple hits and got going on the road, started traveling. Some of the weird things and funny things that happen or some of the acts that you play with — I think in the book we say we've played shows with or done television with or recorded with everybody from Abba to Conway Twitty. I mean in the '70s we were working with acts like Abba and Bonnie Tyler and Boney M., Dr. Hook. ... So we had all that, and then we'd come back here and we had a whole country career going on, as well as a pop career. ... So I think that kind of makes the book more interesting."

LOCAL WILDLIFE



A skillful mimic

Sharon Thompson caught this mockingbird on a roof in Country Walk, down the street from where she lives, in Wesley Chapel. A mockingbird is 'a skillful mimic and incorporates memorized phrases as part of its song.' The bird can have dozens of songs in its repertoire, including an imitation of a frog or cricket. In just an hour of singing time, one mockingbird reportedly imitated 55 species of birds.

Spoonbills 'feel' for their prey

Sandra Vann, of Lutz, snapped a photo of this Roseate Spoonbill at Lettuce Lake Park in Tampa. Some consider the spoonbill to be a gorgeous bird, at a distance, but bizarre up-close. Spoonbills feed in shallow waters, walking forward slowly while they swing their heads from side to side, sifting the muck with their wide flat bill, detecting prey by feel.



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Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



Carter loves to learn

Carter is a bright adolescent pup looking to join an active family. Walks and playing fetch are two of his favorite things. The shelter is not the best place for a super smart and active pup like Carter. During training interactions, he is both food and toy motivated in learning. Carter is heartworm negative, neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. He is looking for a home with no kites and no young children.



Chucky is sweet

Chucky Cheese Puff is a handsome orange boy. He is FIV positive, but that does not slow him down or prevent him from enjoying life. He has been featured on the shelter's social media several times and currently resides in our Feline Freedom Room, with a couple other FIV friends.

If you would like to adopt Carter or Chucky Cheese Puff, 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.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS FOR PETS

Here are some tips from PetMD to help keep your pets safe this summer:

- Apply sunscreen if your pet is outdoors for more than a few minutes. The sunscreen should be fragrance free, non-stain, and contain UVA and UVB barriers. Consult your veterinarian for the proper type of sunscreen to use.
- Provide plenty of water and shade for your pets.
- Do not leave your pet in the car.
- Keep your pet off grassy areas that may have been treated with fertilizers and pesticides. Look for a safe place, such as a dog park.
- Keep your pet away from antifreeze spills, which, even in small amounts, is poisonous.

DAVID WEEKLEY HOMES TEAMS UP TO HELP VETS4PETS

David Weekley Homes celebrated its canine residents in Asturia, in Odessa, with a Dog Day Afternoon on May 19, to benefit Vets4Pets.

The dog-themed event brought out a number of vendor booths offering a variety of services from obedience training, grooming, healthy pet treats and more.

Donations and a portion of the proceeds were collected, culminating in \$650 in donations for Vets4Pets, a nonprofit organization providing low-cost veterinary care.

"This was a wonderful event with a

worthwhile cause," said Mike Foster, division president with David Weekley Homes in Tampa, in a news release. "We are grateful to Hines for their partnership in hosting the Dog Day Afternoon in Asturia."

HAPPY FELINE FRIDAY

Every Friday is happy feline Friday at Pasco Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes. Adoptions on adult cats are reduced to just \$5.

All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip, vaccinations and FIV and Feline Leukemia testing.

For more information, you can visit PascoCountyFL.net/pas, or call (813) 929-1212

SHARE YOUR PET NEWS

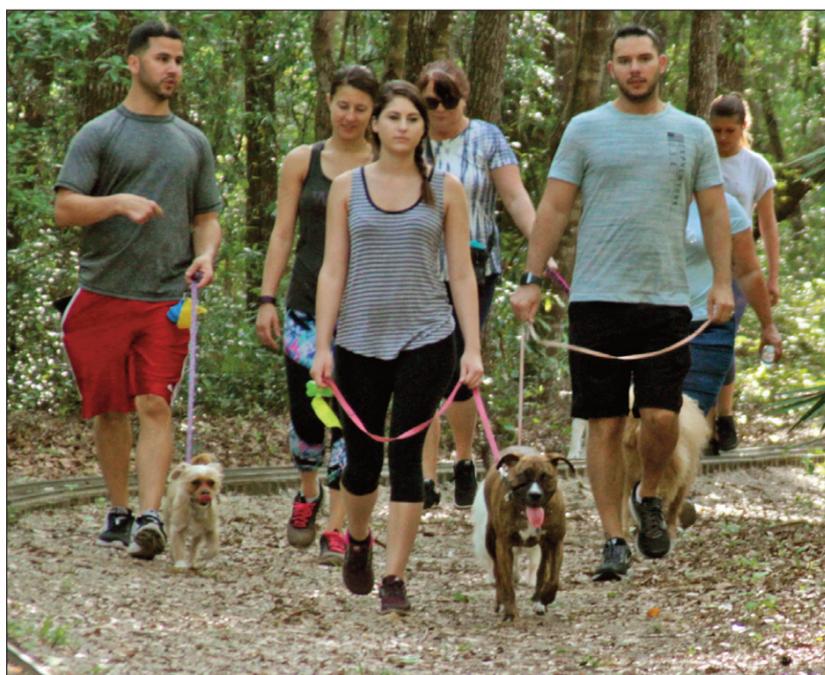
If you have pet news about adoptions, walks or other events for pet owners and their pets, you can let us know by sending us an email. We just need the basics: who, what, when, where and why.

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.

Readers can now find Pets of the Week and Local Wildlife photos on our website at LakerLutznews.com, under the Pets/Wildlife link.



/FILEART

Withlacoochee River Park Walk

A pet walk will take place July 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Withlacoochee River Park, 12449 Withlacoochee Blvd., in Dade City.

Once a month, selected canines get to go on a field trip — when Pasco County Animal Services and the county's parks, recreation and natural resources department team up for Pasco Park Walks. A

handful of adoptable dogs trot and stroll through one of four Pasco parks.

The public is invited to bring their dogs for the "pack walk." Or, visitors can come without a dog to simply enjoy a community walk in the park.

And, those who are so inclined can adopt a dog on the spot.

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to news@lakerlutznews.com

BEXLEY BIKE SHOP OPENS

Suncoast Trailside Bicycles opened a second full-service location in Bexley in Newland Communities, next to the welcome center at The Bexley Club, according to a news release from The Leytham Group.

The shop offers sales and repairs to residents and the public. Bike rentals will be available in late summer or early fall. Customers also can buy cycling gear and clothing. Battery-powered e-bikes are available as well.

Suncoast Trailside Bicycles is located along the Bexley community's lakefront amenity center, which includes the Twisted Sprocket Café.

The shop's owner, Geoff Lanier, and his staff are planning cycling and BMX clinics for bikers of all skill levels at the Bexley shop, as well as Bike and Brew events in partnership with the Twisted Sprocket Café.

Bexley offers miles of trails for cycling, walking and jogging as well as a BMX pump track.

Suncoast Trailside Bicycles is open six days a week. Hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For information, call (813) 425-7555, or visit BexleyFlorida.com.

BUSINESS SEMINAR

Pasco-Hernando SCORE will have a free seminar, "Using the Internet for Your Business," June 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Hugh Embry Branch Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City.

The seminar will demystify much of the "gobbledygook" relating to the Internet through an eight-step process of key activities. The seminar will explain how to leverage technology, and show various roles that a website can play in enhancing your business.

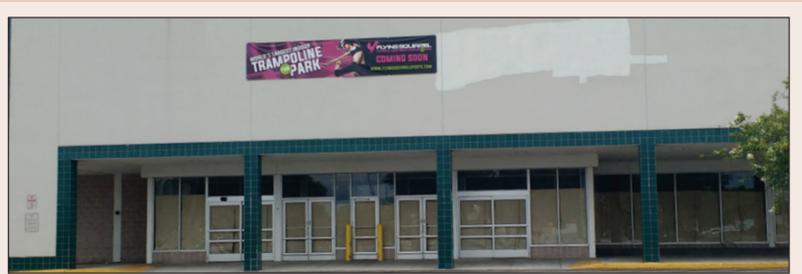
Space is limited. For information and to register, visit PascoHernando.score.org.

NORTH TAMPA LUNCHEON

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will have its June 2018 Momentum Thursday on June 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Atria Lutz, 414 E. Chapman Road in Lutz.

Guest speaker will be Geoffrey Higgins, certified public accountant at Mary W. Simmons, CPA PA.

For early bird registration, please RSVP online with credit card at NorthTampaChamber.com or by email to Contact@northtampachamber.com by



KATHY STEELE

NEW SHOPS AT WILLOW BEND

A Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park is slated to open at Willow Bend Town Centre, at State Road 54 and Collier Parkway. The indoor trampoline park, which has a posted sign of its pending arrival, will move into the space vacated in 2016 by Kmart.

According to the company website, the park was expected to open in spring

or summer of 2018.

Willow Bend also will have a new breakfast nook soon. Representatives for Keke's Breakfast Café have applied for permits to renovate one of the shopping center's vacant storefronts.

Current Keke's locations are in Carrollwood and Citrus Park. Restaurant hours for all Keke's are 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily.

5 p.m. June 13, at the discounted rate of \$15 (whether you eat or not). After that date, the cost is \$20 (whether you eat or not), payable at the door by cash, check or credit card.

For information, call the chamber at (813) 563-0180.

COFFEE SOCIAL

The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce will have its Monthly Coffee Social on June 19 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., at Buttermilk Provisions, 2653 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

The is a "no agenda" event with time for social networking.

For information, call Grace Martin at the chamber at (813) 994-8534, or visit NorthTampaBayChamber.com.

ZEPHYRHILLS MIXER

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will have a chamber mixer June 21 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Zephyr Health & Rehab Center, 7350 Dairy Road in Zephyrhills.

Continued on next page

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BUSINESS DIGEST

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For more information, call the chamber at (813) 782-1913, or send an email to admin@zephyrhillschamber.org.

KEYSTONE PLACE OPENS

Keystone Place at Terra Bella, an independent living, assisted living and memory care community, will have a ribbon cutting and grand opening June 21 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at 2200 Livingston Road in Land O' Lakes.

There will be tours, hors' d'oeuvres, music, drawings and giveaways.

Please RSVP by June 18.

For more information, please call (813) 388-2121, or register online at KeystonePlaceAtTerraBella.com/VIP.

SCORE BUSINESS SEMINAR

Pasco-Hernando SCORE will have a free seminar, "Utilizing YouTube for Small Businesses," June 26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at SMARTstart Dade City Entrepreneur Center, 37837 Meridian Ave., Suite 309, in Dade City.

The free seminar will teach attendees how to upload videos to YouTube, as well as how to design and develop YouTube videos. Information will be provided on social media strategy and integrating YouTube into social media efforts.

For more information, please email PascoHernando.score.org.

CENTRAL PASCO ANNUAL BANQUET

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will have its 2018 Installation & Awards Banquet on June 29 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at The Groves Golf & Country Club, 7924 Melogold Circle in Land O' Lakes.

Meet the new board of directors, celebrate award winners and nominees, and greet the new Honorary Mayor.

Dress to impress or wear casual business attire. It's your choice.

Tickets are \$50 per person, or two for \$90, through June 27. Thereafter, tickets are \$60 per person.

Sponsorships, including tickets, are available.

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

TOP REALTORS

Coldwell Banker F.I. Grey & Son Residential Inc., announced the following Top Realtors for the month of May.

Top listing and producing agent by units and volume is Anita McCracken. Top selling agent by units and volume is Charles Pardee.

Tax Collector's Office promotes CARES in June

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano's five offices will feature CARES (Community Aging & Retirement Services) as the charitable organization for the month of June, according to a news release from Fasano's office.

"Desperate for your help..." is the theme of this month's campaign.

All proceeds from the promotional effort will benefit CARES and, specifically, its program to help uninsured adults who have slipped through the cracks of the health care system.

CARES provides programs and services that help older adults to stay in their homes by providing support to them, their caregivers and families, the release says.

The June promotion shines a spotlight on the CARES Senior Health Clinic.

Donations will be used to provide limited primary care services to Pasco County residents, age 55 and over, who are facing illness with limited resources.

"CARES is very appreciative of this effort by the tax collector's office," Jemith Rosa, CARES president and chief executive officer, states in the release. "Life does not always happen the way we

plan or desire. Being poor, elderly or ill is not a crime, nor is it shameful. It is the result of endless human possibilities, which we all share. Donations made through the month of June will help many of these individuals maintain their dignity and receive the health care they so desperately need."

Fasano adds: "It is my belief that a public servant has a responsibility to do whatever he or she can to assist those less fortunate. Over the years, whether in Tallahassee or locally, the proper funding of CARES was a top priority of mine. The CARES Senior Health Clinic has been operating for over eight years without state or federal support. It is run entirely through doctors, nurses and other caring people who volunteer their time and expertise to provide medical care to this fragile population. I encourage everyone who steps into one of our offices during the month of June to make a donation to this more than worthy program."

Donations can be made at any of the five tax collector locations in Pasco County.

For more information about CARES and the CARES Senior Health Clinic, call (727) 863-6868, or visit CARESFL.org.

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Senior Office Assistant, Placement Center Facilitator
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Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC) is now accepting applications. For more information and to apply online visit our website at www.phsc.edu/jobs. The College is closed Fridays through August 10th. EOE/ADA Compliance

Inquiries: Belice Arbores

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Notices

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

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Deadline approaching for county budget

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Crunch time is approaching for Pasco County's 2019 budget.

On June 5, Pasco County commissioners got a look at a draft budget as part of their review process.

Crucial dates are coming up, including a July 10 deadline to set the millage rate, which determines how much homeowners will pay in taxes.

No increase in millage is expected. However, some will pay higher tax bills because of general increases in property values.

County officials anticipate that the average, single-family homeowner will pay almost \$16 more into the general fund on a homesteaded property valued at \$100,000. The cost will increase about \$3.80 for the fire fund.

Owners of non-homesteaded property will pay almost \$65 more to the general fund, and about \$15.35 to the fire fund.

New revenues from property taxes are expected to increase by about 8.5 percent for the general fund, adding about \$10.5 million to county coffers.

Those funds are evenly divided between the county and its constitutional offices, and the Pasco County Sheriff's Office.

New construction is fueling a large share of the increased tax revenue.

However, a Nov. 8 referendum to add another \$25,000 exemption to homesteaded property is expected to adversely affect the county's 2020 budget — if the measure passes, and county officials are expecting it to pass.

The loss to the county's general fund in 2020 would be about \$12 million, and about \$2.4 million for the fire fund.

Funding temporary housing for inmates

at the Land O' Lakes Detention Center is one of the immediate challenges facing the Pasco County Commission.

By 2020, projections put inmate population at nearly 2,400 a day. The facility was built to house about 1,400 inmates, and already exceeds that number.

The draft budget includes about \$2.4 million for the cost of temporary onsite housing; and another \$2.5 million to pay other counties to house Pasco inmates in their jails.

Currently, there remains about \$3.3 million in unfunded budget needs at the sheriff's office.

Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco struck a positive note on the matter.

"It's very tricky, but we're getting there," Nocco told county commissioners. "I know we're going to get there in the end."

Other big ticket items include about \$2.8 million for repairs and capital improvements



Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco



Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey

for public buildings; \$1.4 million for Medicaid, retirement and health insurance; and \$1 million for deferred maintenance of parks that are in danger of closing.

County officials peg deferred maintenance costs at parks at about \$24 million.

"So, that's not even treading water there," said Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey.

The LAKER / Lutz News WORD SEARCH & SUDOKU

BASEBOARD	DRYWALL	JOIST
BATTEN	EAVES	LANDING
BEAM	ELECTRICAL	MOLDING
BOW	ELEVATION	PLUMBING
BRIDGING	FASCIA	ROOFING
CABINET	FIXTURES	SHEATHING
CASEMENT	FLASHING	TRADITIONAL
CATHEDRAL	FOOTING	TRIM
CEILING	FOUNDATION	TRUSS
CHAIR RAIL	GABLES	WALLS
COFFERED	GUTTERS	WINDOW
DORMER		

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B & 7B

To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

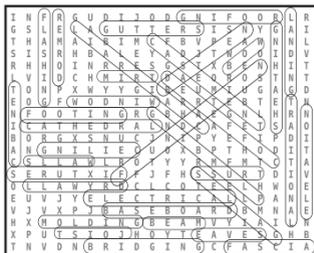
	5					3		
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	3	2	5	8	4			9
	1			5	9		4	8
	2						6	3
3	4				2	1		

CONSTRUCTION WORD SEARCH

I N F R G U D I J O D G N I F O O R L R
 G S L E L A G U T T E R S I S N Y G A I
 T H A M A I B I M C F B V P E A W N N L
 S I S R H B A L E Y A D J T W O O I D V
 R H H O I N R R E S G S T X B E N H I T
 L V I D C H M I R T D A E O R O S T N T
 T O N P X W Y Y G I B E U M I U G A G D
 E O G F W O D N I W A R R T E B T E T N
 N F O O T I N G R G B H A E G N L H R N
 I C A T H E D R A L N D C A F E T S A O
 B O R G X S N U C J N I P Y E F I P D I
 A N G N I L I E C U O X B P T H O D I T
 C S L L A W L R O T Y Y R M F M T C T A
 S E R U T X I F F J F H S S U R T D I V
 O L L A W Y R D C L C O T E E L H W O E
 E U V J Y E L E C T R I C A L L P A N L
 V J V X P J B A S E B O A R D B M N A E
 H X M O L D I N G B E A M V Y I A I L N
 X P U T S I O J H O Y T E A V E S G H B
 T N V D N B R I D G I N G C F A S C I A

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

GAME PAGE ANSWERS



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