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INSIDE, PAGE 1B

Hearings authorized for impact fee hike

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

The Pasco County Commission has set into motion the process for boosting school impact fees, which are charged against new residential construction to help pay for new schools.

Commissioners directed county staff to set up a hearing before the Development Review Committee and to establish two

public hearing dates on a proposal to boost school impact fees.

In pushing the issue forward, commissioners rejected a recommendation by the School Infrastructure Funding Committee, which they had appointed to study funding needs and potential revenue sources for school construction.

That committee recommended the County Commission adopt the full impact fee recommended by a school district con-

sultant, provided the Pasco County School Board votes to put at least a quarter-cent sales tax on the 2018 ballot, so voters can decide the issue.

County commissioners didn't like that idea.

"I'm not very keen on the recommendation for this board to attempt to almost hijack the process, or tie the school board's

See HIKE, page 11A



COURTESY OF LUTZ LEARNING CENTER

These are the students taking part in Lutz Learning Center's production of 'Much Ado About Nothing,' back row, from left: Carter Smith, Devyn Asencio, Emberly Wilson, Aiva Sohl, Anola Sohl, Ryan Brochu, Campbell McElaney; middle row, from left: Kendal Whillock, Sasanka Senthil, Caleb Wong, Evan Meredith, Gavin Quijano, and Jaden Askew; front row, from left: Levi Quijano, Lucia Pinera, Damien Negre, Elysia Wooten and Jackson Brewer.

Putting on a show that's 'Much Ado About Nothing'

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

A group of second- through eighth-graders at Lutz Learning Center have been rehearsing their lines, and now they're ready to present Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing."

The school, located at 621 Sunset Lane,

will be presenting a free community performance of the play at Nye Park, 630 Sunset Lane in Lutz, on May 11 at 1 p.m.

Those attending the event should bring blankets or chairs to sit on, and they should get ready to see a bunch of young actors who are eager to put on a show, said Stephanie Rodriguez, director of staff at the school.

The play is an outgrowth a Shakespeare study the children have been involved in at the school.

"We kind of pride ourselves in making sure that kids are challenged and that they have a well-rounded education," Rodriguez said, which includes not only mathematics

See SHOW page 11A



COURTESY AMANDA COLON

Members of the Commission on the Status of Women elected their officers at a recent meeting. Amanda Colon, president of the Women Lawyers of Pasco Inc., left, is chairwoman; Krista Covey, SMARTstart Business Incubator director with the Pasco Economic Development Council, is vice chairwoman; and, Kelly Mothershead, communications assistant at Pepin Academies in Pasco, is secretary.

Commission on Status of Women elects officers

By Kathy Steele
ksteel@lakerlutznews.com

The Commission on the Status of Women met recently to elect officers and begin exploring issues that they want to pursue in coming months.

Pasco County commissioners established the 15-member commission in September 2016 as an advisory board. The commission will make periodic reports and recommendations on matters that promote women's issues.

Amanda Colon, president of the Women Lawyers of Pasco Inc., will serve as chairwoman; Krista Covey, SMARTstart Business Incubator director with the Pasco Economic Development Council, as vice chairwoman; and Kelly Mothershead, communications assistant at Pepin Academies in Pasco, as secretary.

Meetings are open to the public.

The next meeting will be June 5 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the county's Utilities Administration Office, at 19420 Central Blvd., off U.S. 41, in Land O' Lakes.

"The more public support we have in the community, the more it's going to help us," said Colon.

Commission members opted to focus on three umbrella issues of health and safety; education; and, economic prosperity and promotion.

Among health and safety topics are domestic and sexual violence, mental health, women's health, veteran's services, and the epidemic of drugs, pills and alcohol.

Education also will focus on drugs and alcohol, but also topics such as financial literacy, and the challenges facing single mothers and grandparents who are caregivers for their grandchildren.

See OFFICERS, page 11A

Pasco County begins budget review for 2018

By Kathy Steele
ksteel@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County officials anticipate an increase in property tax revenues, which in recent years have been on an upward trend.

But, that doesn't mean the budget will be flush with money for fiscal year 2018.

Pasco County commissioners will be grappling with an \$8.1 million increase in the Pasco County sheriff's budget; a request to restore operating hours for libraries to 2008 levels; and, a parks system trying to keep up with population growth.

That's a short list of anticipated budget requests.

Commissioners got a preview of the tough budget decisions for fiscal year 2018 at a May 2 workshop in New Port Richey. Final figures on revenues and expenses are evolving.

The Pasco County Property Appraiser's office is scheduled to provide tax valuation data in June. Commissioners are set to review the budget in July and to have two public hearings before final approval. The fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

At the workshop, county projections pegged property tax revenues according to three scenarios - a 4 percent increase, a 7 percent increase and a 9 percent increase.

Even with the rosiest of scenarios, the county's property tax revenues for 2018 will be less than where the county was 10 years ago, said Bob Goehrig, the county's budget director.

The county also will be facing the potential loss in 2019 of as much as \$13 million in property tax revenues. Voters will decide in a 2018 referendum whether to increase the current \$50,000 standard homestead exemption to \$75,000.

See BUDGET, page 11A



Jack Mariano

Wesley Chapel team ready to take on the world

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

They're just in elementary school, but these children are already learning about the trade-offs in life.

They're also getting a first-hand experience regarding the importance of preparation, and they're finding out that even the smallest of details can alter the outcome in a competition.

These seven children are members of Wesley Chapel Elementary School's "Catch Us If You Can" team, and they'll be competing at Michigan State University May 23 to May 28, at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

The team is made up of Jake Piller, Sam Cappelluti, Isabell Barrios, Mina Melaika, Rowan Heyman, Jason Sherman and Justin Acosta — who are coached by Veronica Acosta and Janet Heyman. The coaches have children on the team and teach at Wesley Chapel Elementary.

Naturally, the kids and their coaches are excited.

"I still have to pinch myself," said coach Veronica Acosta.

Some of the team members have been working together for three years, which has its advantages.

"They can finish each other's sentences," said coach Janet Heyman, noting that familiarity between team members lends itself to

excellent collaboration on solving problems.

The team has also learned from victory and from defeat, coach Acosta said. "They know what it means to lose, and they've learned how it feels to win."

Even though they're elementary school students, some team members take a big-picture view on competing at Worlds.

"It doesn't really matter if you win or

lose. Just the experience — just going to Worlds — is a huge deal," said team member Rowan Heyman.

Team member Isabell Barrios said she's glad she decided to get involved in Odyssey of the Mind and thinks others should check it out. "Life is just trying new things. It can lead you to what you'd like to do in the future."

Three of the team members, who are fifth-graders, will be missing their graduation ceremony, in order to compete at Worlds. They think it's a trade-off worth making. Besides getting to travel out-of-state, they'll be meeting kids from all over the world, testing their skills in a big arena and getting a chance to trade pins, they said.

Justin Acosta said Odyssey offers lasting value.

"While you're doing it, you're getting experience towards life, problems you need to solve every day," he said.

They know that the competition will be

challenging, but they're looking forward to it.

"I think it's really exciting, especially for me, because I've never been out of the state before," said Sam Cappelluti, 10. "It's really exciting to go to a different place with all of your friends."

The fourth- and fifth-graders already have demonstrated that they're contenders.

They won first place at the Gulf Coast Regional competition, and wowed the judges so much that they won the "Ranatra Fusca Award" for their exceptional creativity.

They also won first place at the state tournament at the University of Central Florida on April 8.

Odyssey of the Mind is a competition that encourages students to use creative approaches to solving problems. The program emphasizes the importance of

science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

In Odyssey of the Mind, teams come up with their own ideas, engineer technical features, make costumes and props, and present their interpretation of the answer to a highly complex problem.

More than 825 teams from around the world are expected to compete in the 38th Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The teams represent nearly every state in the United States and approximately 20 other countries.

It takes a lot of work, said 10-year-old Mina Melaika. The team meets every day, "adding small details" and re-reading the problem "to be sure that we're getting everything right," the fourth-grader said.

Ten-year-old Jason Sherman is excited about the competition, but he has another agenda, too.

"When I get up there, I want to try making a lot of friends," he said.



Members of the 'Catch Us If You Can' team from Wesley Chapel Elementary School are, from left, Jake Piller, Sam Cappelluti, Isabell Barrios, Mina Melaika, Rowan Heyman, Jason Sherman and Justin Acosta. They'll be competing at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State University in May.

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Dr. Buck earned her medical degree from Michigan State University. She was Board Certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2009 and specializes in robotic-assisted gynecological surgery. For the past 10 years, Dr. Buck practiced at Hackley Hospital - Mercy Health, near her hometown of Muskegon, Michigan.

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We're on the lookout for water-wise landscapes

By Whitney C. Elmore
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

The Pasco County Extension Office and Tampa Bay Water are looking for attractive landscapes with irrigation systems or techniques that minimize water waste and represent the best in Florida-Friendly Landscaping.

We would love to present your outdoor oasis for relaxation and a haven for wildlife as a powerful environmentally friendly example of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping is a concept based on the use of low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices.

Conservation of water, which is Florida's most precious resource, starts at home and in the yard with these nine principles:

- Using the right plant, in the right place
- Watering efficiently
- Fertilizing appropriately
- Mulching appropriately
- Attracting wildlife
- Managing yard pests responsibly
- Recycling yard waste
- Reducing stormwater runoff
- Protecting the waterfront

When planning, establishing, and maintaining a Florida-Friendly Landscape, the appropriate use of each of these principles can produce a beautiful landscape that's low maintenance, cost efficient and environmentally friendly.

A Florida-Friendly yard is a win for everyone and for the environment, as it helps to conserve and protect our water.

Many Pasco residents already incorporate these practices into their landscapes. Some have done so without expending much time, effort or money.

By using these principles, many Pasco County residents have produced relaxing outdoor spaces — worthy of gracing the front page of a lawn and garden magazine.

In Pasco County, the UF/IFAS Extension Office has a Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program Manager and Program Coordinator, funded by our partners at Tampa Bay Water.

As part of Tampa Bay Water's efforts to



WHITNEY C. ELMORE

Pasco County Extension and Tampa Bay Water are looking for yards that demonstrate practices that reduce the waste of water, while still presenting a lovely oasis.



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When the right plant is planted in the right place, it can thrive without excessive watering. You can use micro-irrigation to deliver water where it is needed, and use mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds.

conserve water, they offer the Water Wise Awards each year to recognize attractive, water-conserving landscapes at homes, businesses, industry and government.

In conjunction with our UF/IFAS Pasco Extension professionals, a winner is selected during landscape evaluations, and that winner is acknowledged with a beautiful, handmade mosaic stepping stone and recognition from the Pasco Board of County Commissioners.

If you would like to submit your land-

scape for an evaluation, simply go to TampaBayWaterWise.org, and click on the entry link.

The deadline for Water Wise Award applications is June 30, 2017.

It's quick, simple, and a fun way to recognize the work that you've done to create your personal oasis.

Dr. Whitney C. Elmore is the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension director and an Urban Horticulture Agent III.

Gardening workshops:

Registration is required for workshops and can be made through EventBrite.com.

#101 PROPAGATION FROM SEEDS

June 3, 10 a.m., Pasco Extension Office 36702 State Road 52, Dade City; Learn how to create an attractive and productive garden at this free workshop. Learn how to successfully germinate seeds. (The same workshop is also being offered June 8 at 2 p.m., at Centennial Park Library, 5740 Moot Road in Holiday).

BONSAI: THE ART & TECHNIQUE

June 6, 6:30 p.m., Hudson Library, 8012 Library Road, Hudson: Free seminar focuses on an introduction to the art of bonsai, a unique combination of horticulture and art.

CONTAINER GARDENING

June 10, 9 a.m., Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O Lakes Blvd.: Learn how to plant flowers, foliage and herbs in containers at this free workshop.

ATTRACTING POLLINATORS TO YOUR GARDEN

June 10, 10 a.m., Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St., in Zephyrhills: Learn what elements are needed in the home garden to attract butterflies and hummingbirds at this free seminar.

EASY TO GROW NATIVE PLANTS & THEIR POLLINATORS

June 20, 2 p.m., New River Library, 34043 State Road 54, Wesley Chapel: Learn about native plants that are easy to grow and find out about these plant's pollinators, too, at this free workshop.

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FRIENDSHIP SINGERS

The Friendship Singers, a volunteer group that performs in local nursing homes, assisted living facilities and seniors centers in Pasco and Hillsborough counties, is looking for new members. There are two practices and two concerts every month. Practices are Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Pasco County Senior Center, 6801 Wisteria Loop Road in Land O' Lakes. There are no auditions, and no previous singing experience is required. For information, call Joyce Ruby at (813) 442-7879 or Mary Vannier at (813) 541-4183.

LEADERSHIP PASCO

Leadership Pasco is accepting applications for the Class of 2018. Emerging and existing community leaders who live or work in Pasco County can apply. Monthly program sessions begin with orientation in August and conclude with graduation in May 2018. Applications are online at LeadershipPasco.com and due no later than June 1.

BEER-TASTING PARTY

Congregation Kol Ami's Men's Club will host a Pre-Shavout Beer Tasting Party May 11 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Six Ten Brewing, 7052 Benjamin Road in Tampa. Shavout is a time of thanks for the gift of Torah and the new grain of the summer wheat harvest. The tasting includes one flight of beer, and snacks provided by the Men's Club. Reservations are required. For information and to RSVP, call (813) 962-6338.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

The middle and upper levels of the Lutz Learning Center will perform "Much Ado About Nothing" May 11 at 1 p.m., at Nye Park, 630 Sunset Lane in Lutz. Guests should bring a chair or blanket.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

The Pasco Alliance of Community Associations will meet May 11 at 7 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The guest speaker will be attorney Ellen Hirsch de Haan on the topic of HOA (Home Owners Association) issues. For information, visit MyPACA.org.

TEA AND FASHION

The Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center will host its annual Spring Tea and Fashion Tea May 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 32825 Rhode Island Ave., in San Antonio. Tickets are \$20 per adult, \$10 for ages 6 to 12, and free for ages 5 and younger. Guests should wear a hat and gloves, and bring a favorite teacup. For information, call (352) 521-1218. For information, email BeckyFinley@finleyr1817@yahoo.com.

SHREK THE MUSICAL

Dreamhouse Theatre, 1840 Oak Grove Blvd., in Lutz, will present "Shrek the Musical" May 12, May 13, May 19, May 20, June 2 and June 3 at 8 p.m., and May 21 and June 4 at 3 p.m. For information and tickets, visit tinyurl.com/n3hx4xg.

PIZZA AND SHABBAT

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host a Pizza & PJ Shabbat May 12 at 6 p.m., for families. There will be a pizza dinner followed by a child-friendly musical service, and then ice cream for dessert. The cost is \$5 per person, with a \$25 family maximum. Children ages 3 and younger are free. The program is recommended for kids ages 15 months through second grade. To RSVP by May 10, email frontoffice@kolami.org.

ANTI-PROM FOR TEENS

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host its free ninth annual Anti-Prom May 12 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., for ages 13 to 18. There will be a disc jockey, a piñata, chips, soda and punch. Guests can



Make a Mom's Day button

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will offer a class on making a Mother's Day button May 11 at 4 p.m., for grades four to seven. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

Moms are free at MOSI

The Museum of Science and Industry, 4801 E. Fowler Ave., in Tampa, will give all mothers free admission May 13 and May 14, with the purchase of one child's general admission ticket. Limit one offer per household. Excludes special engagements. Must mention offer. For information, visit MOSI.org.

Big band music for mom

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will host a Mother's Day Celebration May 13 at 8 p.m. The Carrollwood Jukebox Big Band will perform a variety of swing and jive music, along with contemporary tunes of the 20th century. Swing Time of Tampa Bay also will give free dance lessons to ticket holders at 6:30 p.m. To get a free ticket for mom (limited amount available), call or visit the box office. The event is open to moms and families. For information, visit CarrollwoodCenter.org, or call (813) 922-8167.

Market celebrates moms

The Farmers Market in San Antonio, at San Antonio City Park, will celebrate Mother's Day May 13. All moms will be given a free chance drawing ticket for a Mother's Day basket, and vendors will offer specials at their booths. The market is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, contact Winnie Burke at (352) 437-5161 or rotarysanantonioff@gmail.com.

donate \$5 to Friends of the Library for admission to the VIP room with pizza and video games. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

BOOK BAZAAR

The Friends of the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will have a book bazaar May 12 and May 13 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The next book sale will be in July. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

BRAIDING FOR BEGINNERS

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Kumihimo class for beginners May 13 from 10 a.m. to noon, for ages 9 to 15. Kumihimo is traditional Japanese braiding from the day of the samurai. Participants will learn the basics, building a toolkit, choosing braiding material, setting up your disk, making a bracelet, and more. A proper dress code, registration and liability waiver are required. For information and to register, call (813) 929-1214.

PLANT PROPAGATION

The UF/IFAS Pasco Extension Office will offer free tips and tricks for "Unusual Plant Propagation Methods" May 13 at 10 a.m., at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. There will be a discussion on methods and

hands-on examples. To register, visit tinyurl.com/k3cwrmb.

LITTLE MAKERS PROGRAM

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Little Makers program May 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., with an "In a Small Small Pond" sensory experience. The program is for toddlers and preschoolers. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

WORMS AND WASTE

The UF/IFAS Pasco Extension Office will offer a free seminar on "Worms are Eating My Kitchen Scraps" May 13 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. Participants can learn how to harness the power of the red wiggler worms to turn garden waste and food scraps into fertilizer. To register, visit tinyurl.com/mac9t94.

AMERICAN LEGION

Lutz-Land O' Lakes American Legion Post 108 will meet May 13 at 9 a.m., at Harvester United Methodist Church, 2432 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes. Members and potential members can attend. Officers for the following year will be nominated. For information, call Lyle Watson at (813) 996-5917.

TAMPA BAY LIBCON

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Tampa, will host the Tampa Bay LibCon May 13 at 10 a.m., to celebrate comics, anime, manga, sci-fi, fantasy, and the world of fandom. Participants can play video and tabletop games all day, check out fan panels, presentations, a vendor room, and see special guests. Dress up as your favorite character and enter the cosplay contest. The event is for all ages. For information, visit HCPLC.org/libcon.

OM YOGA CLASS

The Tampa Premium Outlets in Lutz will host an OM Yoga Class at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., May 13; and at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., May 14, in Lagoon Court. The cost is \$10 and guests will receive a discount card and complimentary tote bag. All proceeds will benefit Susan G. Komen and the fight against breast cancer. Participants can register online at OM.com or at the event. For information, visit PremiumOutlets.com/Tampa.

ROSE SHOW

The Tampa Rose Society will present its 46th annual Rose Show May 13 from noon to 6 p.m., at Westfield Citrus Park Mall, 8021 Citrus Park Town Center in Tampa. There will be hundreds of blooms competing for trophies and awards in more than 40 classes of homegrown roses. Entries will be judged by the American Rose Society. There also will be locally grown, fresh-cut roses and arrangements available for a donation, as well as an educational and informational display by Consulting Rosarians. For information about the show, email Marilyn Bertch at mgbertch@msn.com. For information about the society, email Larry Sullivan at lsullivan0422@gmail.com.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The East Pasco Democratic Club will meet May 15 at 7 p.m., at The American House, 38130 Pretty Pond Road in Zephyrhills. The guest speaker will be Michelle Petrie, of Toastmasters, on the topic of "Positive Political Speaking" and effective communications. Light refreshments will be served. For information, call Fern Williams at (813) 838-0767.

BROMELIAD GUILD

The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay will host its annual picnic, followed by an auction, May 15 at the Christ the King Catholic Church, 821 S. Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa. There will be a covered-dish dinner provided by guild members at 6:30 p.m. The auction will begin at 7:30 p.m., with prices starting at \$5. For information, call Tom Wolfe at (813) 391-1542 or (813) 961-1475.

SAFETY ACADEMY

The New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd., will offer a "Splish, Splash" Safety Superhero Academy May 16 at 3 p.m., for ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers. Hillsborough County Fire Rescue will give tips on making water adventures safe and fun for children. Participants also can learn that water can be as hot as fire. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

ATTRACTING WILDLIFE

The UF/IFAS Pasco Extension Office will offer a free seminar on "Attracting Wildlife" May 16 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel. Participants can learn how to use native plants to attract pollinators and other good guys to the garden. To register, visit tinyurl.com/mfjqc2v.

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a book discussion

Continued on next page

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group May 16 from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., on "A Man Called Ove" by Frederick Backman. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

ROTARY CLUB SPEAKER

The Rotary Club of Lutz will host guest speaker Richard Hodder (The Salvation Army) at noon, at the Heritage Harbor Golf & Country Club, 19402 Heritage Harbor Parkway in Lutz. For information, visit LutzRotary.org.

SIP AND PAINT

In the Loop Brewing, 3338 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, will host a night of sipping and painting May 17 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$25 and includes all supplies, and complimentary cheese and crackers. Advance registration is required at TheColorWheelz.simplybook.me, or by calling (352) 584-1396.

MAKE A POM-POM RUG

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a class on making a pom-pom rug May 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for ages 16 and older. A proper dress code, liability waiver and registration are required. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

PASTA AND A SHOW

There will be a pasta dinner and variety show May 20 at 6 p.m., at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 20735 Leonard Road in Lutz, to support candidate Rosie Heim for Honorary Mayor. The deadline to purchase tickets (\$15) is May 13. For information, call Elayne Bassinger at (813) 495-2336 or Rosie Heim at (813) 598-6945.

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

The Pasco Federated Republican Women's Club will host a free wine and cheese party May 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.,

at the Land O' Lakes Winery, 3901 Land O' Lakes Blvd. Guests can meet and mingle with Pasco elected officials, all of whom have been invited to attend. Admission is free. Reservations are required by May 15. Contact Fran Scerbo at (727) 597-3727 or fmscerbo@yahoo.com.

SPONSOR A RUBBER DUCK

The second annual Duck Derby, hosted by The Rotary Club of Wesley Chapel Noon, will be May 21 at the FOP Hall, 4220 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. Festivities start at 1 p.m., followed by the duck race at 3:30 p.m. There will be music, a kid zone, and food and beverages for purchase. Guests should bring chairs or blankets. To sponsor a duck, visit WCRotary.org/duck-derby, or call (813) 927-2730.

OUTLETS GO 'PINK'

Tampa Premium Outlets will host its Spring 2017 More Than Pink movement in support of Susan G. Komen and the fight against breast cancer. In exchange for a \$10 donation to Susan G. Komen, shoppers can receive a discount card, available at Guest Services until May 31. The card will provide 25 percent off one item at a participating retailer.

CITIZEN SURVEY

Pasco County has launched its annual Citizen Survey to get feedback from residents on a variety of topics related to the future of the county, such as transportation, parks, emergency services and growth. The survey is intended to help the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners with planning discussions and decision-making. The survey will remain open until May 31 at PascoCountyFl.net (click on survey link).

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National parks offer lessons in life, history

By Kathy Steele
ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

The nation's history is recorded in books and taught in classrooms — but, author Penny Musco recommends another path of discovery.

She suggests that you visit as many of the 417 properties in the U.S. National Parks Services as possible.

That list includes 59 parks, 87 monuments, 15 rivers, three scenic trails, four battlefield parks, 11 battlefields, 78 historic sites, and thousands of recreational areas.

Musco, who lives in Sarasota, summed it up like this: "It's our history."

She went on to say, "sometimes it's more interesting to learn our history when you're somewhere history occurred rather than in a classroom. That's what makes it come alive."

Musco is author of "Life Lessons from the National Parks: Meeting God in America's Most Glorious Places."

She was guest lecturer at the Zephyrhills Public Library on April 19.

She also is a former artist-in-residence for the National Park Service.

She spent six weeks in Nebraska researching the "exodusters," blacks who migrated to Kansas and other states west of the Mississippi River after the Civil War. The Homestead Act of 1862 provided land grants of 160 acres to all Americans, including former slaves and women.

During her residency, Musco wrote "Steal Away," a one-woman show on homesteaders and exodusters. She occasionally performs at events for Black History Month or Women's History Month.

She wrote her book in 2016 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

The variety of properties operated by the park service often surprises people, who tend to only think of the national parks, such as the Grand Canyon or Yosemite.

There are many other properties to visit that are less widely known, Musco said.

For instance, the national historic site commemorating the Supreme Court desegregation decision in Brown v. Board of Education is in Topeka, Kansas.

"It has a lot of multi-media. It's a really good place to go," she said.

Another plus? The site is free, Musco said.

Another free attraction — which was the country's most visited park property in 2016 — is the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

About 15.6 million people visit that each year, Musco said.

The Grand Canyon ranks No. 8 for most visitors; Yosemite, No. 12; and the Lincoln

Memorial, No. 6.

The Blue Ridge Parkway — No. 2 in visitors — follows a scenic route for more than 400 miles through the Shenandoah National Park within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Smoky Mountains became a national park in the 1930s — as automobiles became a popular mode of travel.

Park service officials wanted to have a national park located in a populated area, unlike the western parks that had far fewer, if any, residents.

"Most Americans wanted to go somewhere in their automobiles," Musco said.

Donations from the states of Tennessee and North Carolina, average citizens, and John D. Rockefeller Jr., helped buy the land. The park's creation came with controversy, as about 1,200 people were displaced.

"People lived in the hollers in the Great Smokies," Musco said.

About 70 log-built structures remain.

Today, the Great Smoky Mountains is the largest protected land area east of the Rocky Mountains.

In Florida, a popular spot is the Hernando de Soto National Memorial, near the Sarasota-Bradenton airport. The site marks the spot where the Spanish explorer came ashore in Tampa Bay in 1539.

The Dry Tortugas National Park is an island fortress south of the Florida Keys, accessible by ferry or seaplane. Dr. Samuel Mudd, convicted as a conspirator in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, served time on the island until his pardon in 1869.

Musco said Cuban refugees fleeing Castro would sail small boats to the island to seek asylum in the closest place to mainland United States.

It is one of the least visited parks but, Musco said, "It's architecturally a magnificent place. The aquatic life is beautiful. It's an all-day adventure."

Her personal favorite is the Grand Canyon.

"It is so immense and so hard to wrap your mind around the scale," she said.

Musco also loves the opportunities for free or reduced cost passes issued by the park service.

Seniors age 62 and older qualify for \$10 lifetime passes. (There is a proposal to increase that fee to \$80). Free passes are available to military; permanently disabled; and, fourth graders (age 10) and their families from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31.

Parks also are free on President's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and on Aug. 25 for the National Park Service's birthday.

For information on parks, visit NPS.gov.

For information on Musco, visit PennyMusco.com.



Penny Musco

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CORRECTIONS: Marc Bellas' first name was misspelled in a photo caption and story published on May 3 in The Laker/Lutz News.

Brooke Blankenship's name was spelled incorrectly in a caption on the Community Sports page on May 3.

Staff members from Pasco Kids First recently appeared at a seminar on child abuse at Pasco-Hernando State College's Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch. The name of the organization was incorrect in some references in a story published on May 3. An incorrect website for the organization was published as well. The organization's website is pascokidsfirst.org.

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Domestic & Sexual Violence Center

CALL TO SCHEDULE PICKUP

May is Awareness Month for Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD)

BPD Is A Serious, But Treatable, Mental Illness

BPD is a serious mental illness that centers on the inability to manage emotions effectively. Most people with BPD have difficulty regulating their emotions and thoughts; exhibit impulsive and sometimes reckless behavior; and have trouble maintaining relationships.

While this condition is serious, it is important to know that BPD is highly treatable. With compassionate, evidence-based treatment, the frequency and intensity of the disorder's symptoms can be greatly reduced.

People with BPD are often under-diagnosed, or misdiagnosed. But thankfully, awareness, research and treatment are improving each year.

According to the National Educational Alliance of Borderline Personality Disorder, more than 14 million Americans have been diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder. In fact, BPD is more common than bipolar disorder and schizophrenia combined.

Because BPD is widely misunderstood, people experiencing this disorder are often misdiagnosed as having a bipolar disorder, since both illnesses experience mood instability.

Additionally, BPD frequently occurs at the same time as other illnesses (anxiety, depression, eating disorders, addiction), which further complicates and delays an accurate diagnosis.

People with BPD may have recurrent suicidal or self-harm behavior, angry outbursts, intense and highly changing moods and chronic feelings of emptiness. They may engage in spending sprees, unsafe sex, substance abuse, reckless driving and binge eating.

Effective treatment can help to reduce these behaviors. It is important to remember that people experiencing

BPD are in a lot of pain due to their emotional sensitivity, and their difficulty regulating emotions.

Current research shows that treatment can decrease the symptoms and suffering of people with BPD. While there are many forms of treatment, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, developed by Marsha Linehan, is the most common treatment.

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy focuses on the concept of mindfulness, or paying attention to the present emotion. It teaches skills to control intense emotions, reduce self-destructive behavior, manage distress and improve relationships. It seeks a balance between accepting and changing behaviors.

Families can play an important role in supporting loved ones who are suffering from BPD. Research has shown that families who learn evidenced-based problem solving strategies can become therapeutic partners with their loved ones.

Sadly, BPD is often met with widespread misunderstanding and blatant stigma. Many clinicians will refuse to treat people with BPD because they are taught that the illness is too difficult to treat, or that people with this disorder do not get better.

In most societies, mental illness is too often viewed as an imperfection, a flaw in character. Discomfort, fear and silence are typical responses to mental illness, personality disorders and mood disorders.

Instead of withdrawing from people with BPD, what they need most is for people to show more empathy, compassion and a willingness to help, when they can.

Today, this month, and each and every month to follow, let us all become educated and shout that BPD is a treatable disorder and recovery is attainable. To learn more about Borderline Personality Disorder, get involved and find local resources in Tampa Bay, please visit www.fbpd.org.

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AMERICAN STROKE MONTH

During May, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association encourages people of all ages to recognize the signs and symptoms of a stroke, and to take healthy steps to reduce stroke risk.

Stroke claims an average of nearly 900 lives every year in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, and is a leading cause nationally of serious, long-term disability. Stroke is largely preventable and treatable.

Normal blood pressure is below 120/80 mm Hg. Nearly one in six American adults with high blood pressure does not know it.

AHA/ASA teaches the acronym F.A.S.T., to help people recognize the most common stroke warnings signs and what to do if one occurs:

- **F – Face drooping:** Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile.
- **A – Arm weakness:** Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **S – Speech difficulty:** Is speech slurred, is the person unable to speak, or is the person hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence like, "The sky is blue." Is the sentence repeated correctly?
- **T – Time to call 911:** If the person shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 911 and get them to the hospital immediately.

For more information, please visit StrokeAssociation.org/strokemonth.

BREAST-FEEDING CLASS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a breast-feeding class May 13 from 9 a.m. to noon, for expectant mothers and their support person.

Topics will include latching and positioning, benefits of immediate skin-to-skin



COURTESY OF REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Volunteers elect board members

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point's Volunteer Association has elected its new board of directors. From left: Diane Ricca, president; Colleen D'Amario, vice president; Debbie Hennessy, secretary; Shirley Dunn, treasurer; Vikki Nettleberg, assistant treasurer; and, Elliot Lorenzi, Otto Ottaviano, Dixie Cagle, Joe D'Amario and Tom Runnions as directors at large.

contact, newborn hunger signs, tips for returning to work, breast-feeding lifestyles, and when to call a health care provider or lactation consultant for help.

The cost is \$25. To register, call (813) 443-2046.

BIRTH CENTER TOURS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer free birth center tours and orientation programs for the entire family at 2 p.m., on May 14, May 21 and May 28.

Registration is required. Call (813) 443-2046.

SENIOR HEALTH

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will offer these senior health events:

- May 15 at 11 a.m.: Easy Meals for One or Two: Making them healthy and well-balanced
- May 16 at 11 a.m.: Importance of Exercise: Never too late to begin a healthy routine
- May 17 at 1 p.m.: Fire Prevention and Extinguisher Safety: Protect yourself
- May 19 at 1 p.m.: Handling Depression: Healthy ways to relieve it
- May 22 at 11 a.m.: 50 Ways to Exercise:

Ways you may not have thought of to stay fit

• May 31 at 10 a.m.: National Senior Health and Fitness Day: Celebrate with fresh-air Tai Chi

For information, call (813) 264-3804.

INFANT/CHILD CPR

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer an infant/child CPR class, according to American Heart Association guidelines, May 16 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The cost is \$40 per person. There also is an \$10 fee if a completion card is required.

To register, call (812) 443-2046.

CHILDBIRTH PREP

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will offer a Childbirth Prep Course (four weekly meetings) on May 16, May 23, May 30 and June 6 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Reservations are advised. For information, call (727) 834-5630.

VITAMINS & SUPPLEMENTS

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will present "Vitamins and Supplements 101" May 16 at noon, in the fourth floor hospital classroom.

Dr. Sonal Patel, internal medicine, will discuss the basics of vitamins and supplements, and how they may help you live a healthier life. A meal will be provided.

For more information and to register, please call (844) 504-9378, or visit FHWesleyChapel.org/events.

LUNCH AND LEARN

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will present a Lunch & Learn Health Education Series on breast cancer awareness May 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Moffitt Cancer Center community education specialist will share information on important health-related issues.

The program will be presented by Moffitt and Premier Community Healthcare.

Guests must preregister by calling (813) 780-0064.

DIABETES EDUCATION

Bayfront Health Dade City, 13100 Fort King Road, will offer a free diabetic education class May 19 at 10 a.m., at Medical Plaza I, Classroom 108.

Topics of discussion will include nutritional information, how to read food labels, what to look for when dining out, monitor-

Continued on next page

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For information and to RSVP, call (352) 567-6763.

HEALTH CARE GALA

Guiding Star Tampa hosted its annual Light of Hope Benefits Gala benefit attended by more than 300 community partners, contributors, friends and residents.

Guiding Star is a comprehensive women's health care practice that offers medical services, education and ongoing support to women and their children, from puberty through menopause, in the Tampa Bay area. The center offers natural, holistic and whole-life medical health care.

Located in north Hillsborough County, the facility has medical examination rooms, classroom/meeting rooms for English and Spanish Mommy Support Groups, and consulting rooms for one-on-one educational sessions.

Guests can schedule a facility tour by calling (813) 948-7734.

For more information, please visit GuidingStarTampa.org.

NEUROPATHY CLINIC

CARE Tampa Bay provides education and support for coping with neuropathy, dealing with physical limitations, home safety, and symptom management.

The free volunteer-run clinic is taking appointments for May and June. Space is limited

For information, contact Cindy Toftshagen at (813) 396-9441 or neuropathyhelp@care-tampabay.org.

NAMI SUPPORT GROUPS

The Pasco County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers two types of support group meetings each month.

The NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group is a structured closed group, open only to those with a mental illness diagnosis. This group is for individuals age 18 and older, interested in the recovery process, sharing coping skills, and being with others who understand the daily challenges of living with a mental illness.

Local meetings are the second and fourth Friday of the month from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Atonement Lutheran Church, 29617 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel.

The NAMI Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of someone with a mental illness diagnosis.

The family group also meets at Atonement Lutheran Church the first and third Tuesday of the month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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

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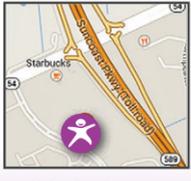


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Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

DQ Grill & Chill In Lutz Comes to Ballantrae Village Shoppes

Special to The Laker / Lutz News

It's been a successful opening for DQ Grill & Chill at Ballantrae Village Shoppes in Lutz.

Franchise owners Carlos and Pam Saenz, along with their 15-year-old daughter, Madison, are thrilled to see steady traffic inside and through their drive-through lane as neighborhood families and folks just passing by order meals and ice cream treats.

The restaurant is located on the north side of State Road 54, at the entrance to the master-planned communities of Ballantrae and Bexley.

More than 50,000 vehicles travel the state road daily, and high traffic in one reason why the Saenz family chose this location for their first fast-food restaurant.

Another reason is because the family lives just down the road in the Oakstead subdivision, where Pam is a teacher at Oakstead Elementary, and Madison a student at Sun Lake High.

Carlos stepped away from a long career in the insurance industry, including stints at Aetna and UnitedHealthcare, to open his Dairy Queen. He is proud to remain on active duty with the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

When Carlos researched restaurant franchises, he zeroed in on Dairy Queen for a personal reason — it was one of his first fast-food meals in Florida after he moved here from Puerto Rico when he was in middle school.

Carlos feels many others are also nostalgic about the restaurant chain, which began in 1940 with its iconic menu of



Owner, Carlos Saenz

burgers, hot dogs, fries, Peanut Buster parfaits, Dilly bars and ice cream cones. Dairy Queen celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2015, and these old favorites remain.

Over the years, DQ has expanded its menu to include the incredibly popular Blizzard as well as other tantalizing dairy treats. This includes custom-decorated ice cream cakes perfect for upcoming events, such as birthdays, graduations and Mother's and Father's Day.

The chain also added many new food items, including chicken strip baskets and sandwiches, honey-flavored barbecue and most recently, the high profile Kansas-style pork sandwich on pretzel bread.

Through its DQ restaurant, the Saenz family supports special fund-raising events for area schools, with a portion of proceeds benefiting each school.

"We're excited to be engaged with our neighborhood elementary, middle and high schools, and to partner overall with the Lutz/Land O' Lakes community, where we proudly live and work," Carlos said.

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DADE CITY CHAMBER HONORS STUDENTS

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce recognized its April Citizens of the Month with a breakfast.

The students that were honored were Miles Carter, Academy at the Farm; Bobby Rivera, East Pasco Adventist Academy; Jaylen Matos, Saint Anthony Catholic School; Haylee Wall, Centennial Elementary; Kimberly Aburto, Lacochee Elementary; Cruz Alvarez Diaz, Pasco Elementary; Eduardo Alvarez, Cox Elementary; Dalton Duncan, San Antonio Elementary; Courtney Thomas, Centennial Middle; Jada Formby, Pasco Middle; Lamour Lowe, James Irvin Education Center; and, Blake Swonger, Pasco High.

The chamber also will host a Chamber Scholarship Presentation May 16 at 7 a.m., to award three \$1,000 college scholarships to graduating seniors from Pasco High. The scholarship winners are Courtney Graham, Kasey Szwast and Sydni Sinka.

ESE TALENT SHOW

Pasco County Schools will celebrate the talents of its exceptional education students with a show May 17 at 11 a.m., at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel, 30651 Wells Road.

The students will perform in various disciplines, including dancing, singing/duets, lip syncing, unique talents (recalling facts, dates, etc.), comedy/telling jokes, puppet shows and more.

Admission is free, and open to the families and friends of the performers, as well as district staff and other county schools' students to watch.

For information, call Heather Farnsworth at (813) 794-8802.

TEACHER ART SHOW

Pasco County Schools' inaugural "MyArt" teacher art show will take place through May 20, at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel, 30651 Wells Road.

Pasco Schools teacher-artists from kindergarten through 12th grade will exhibit a diverse array of 2-D and 3-D artwork, with the aim to inspire students-artists to be passionate about their own work.

Students and the community also will have an opportunity to interact with the teacher-artists during a closing reception May 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For information, email Tom Viking at tviking@pasco.k12.fl.us.

STUDENT ARTWORK EXHIBIT

Pasco-Hernando State College's Rao Musunuru MD Art Gallery will exhibit "Artistic Articulation: A Student Showcase" through May 31.

The annual exhibition showcases diverse talent achieved without the influence from staff or faculty. Gallery visitors can experience completed works of photography,



SUNLAKE ACADEMY NAMES NEW PRINCIPAL

The governing board members for Sunlake Academy of Math and Science, and the executive management team from Charter School Associates, has announced the appointment of Suzanne Elder as principal of the academy, effective July 1.

Elder comes from Channelside Academy of Math and Science, a K-8 charter school operated by Charter School Associates in Tampa's Channelside District, where she served as principal since 2014.

Elder has a Bachelor of Science in telecommunications from the University of Florida and a master's in educational administration and supervision from the University of Phoenix.

Sunlake Academy will open to 650 students, kindergarten through seventh grade, in August, at 18711 Dale Mabry Highway in Lutz.

For more information, please visit SunlakeAcademy.org, or call (813) 616-5099.

drawing and mixed media, from past and present art students.

Summer gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Art exhibits are free.

For information, call (727) 816-3231.

HILLEL ACADEMY

Hillel Academy Tampa, a private Jewish community day school, has appointed Wendy Leigh to the position of director of development and community relations. Leigh will be responsible for raising awareness, increasing enrollment and spreading the word about the historic school.

Leigh has degrees in both education and theater, and taught for seven years in the Hillsborough County school district.

The academy also recently hosted its Gift of Gold Gala and broke a fundraising record by raising more than \$100,000, through sponsorships, donations and silent auction proceeds.

Proceeds from the gala will help fund scholarships, financial aid, teacher education and campus improvements.

For information on Hillel, call (813) 963-2242, or visit HillelAcademyTampa.com.



COURTESY OF GARY HATRICK

Chamber recognizes students

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce honored nine Student Citizens of the Month for April, during a ceremony at The Church at Chancey Road. The students are chosen by teachers and administration of their schools for exemplary effort, achievement, and contribution to their school, family and community. From left: Ashley Ayers, Heritage Academy; Carolyn Sentelik, president, chamber board of directors; Kaylee Weirich, Woodland Elementary; Melonie Monson, chamber executive director; Laila Woolfolk, Taylor Elementary; Zechariah Mitchell, Zephyrhills Christian Academy; Hailey Turner, Stewart Middle; Roxxy Geisenheimer, chamber marketing and events coordinator; Hope Holloway, East Pasco Adventist Academy; Katy Boyd, chamber ambassador chairperson; and, Jodi Baldwin, The Broach School. Also recognized, but not present, were Christian Redmond, Hope Ranch Learning Academy; and, Kaylan Turlich, West Zephyrhills Elementary.

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COURTESY OF PATRICIA SERIO

Helping to provide meals for kids

Members of the GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club collected a large amount of breakfast cereals to be donated to the Cereal for Schools Program. The donations will be distributed to area schoolchildren who may be 'food insecure' during the summer months when they are not provided with breakfasts and lunches at their schools. The club will continue collecting cereal for the next several months. The first collection resulted in a vehicle stuffed with boxes of cereal and breakfast fare, with more donations to follow. Pat Wagner shows just a portion of the donations. For information, visit GFWCLutzLandOLakesWomansClub.org.

Convention brings back Roaring '20s

Members of the GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club attended the annual Spring Convention of the GFWC- Florida Federation in Orlando with a 'Roaring '20s' theme. The ladies took part in seminars and symposia on various state volunteer projects, and brought fresh ideas on fundraising and awareness back to the home club. After workshop-filled days, the women enjoyed the festivities and award ceremonies, and returned with many well-deserved honors and recognition of their club's community service work and volunteerism. Lois Cohen, left, and Jane Mason are all smiles at the convention. For information, visit GFWCLutzLandOLakesWomansClub.org.



COURTESY OF PATRICIA SERIO

OFFICERS, from page 1A

Under economic prosperity and promotion, homelessness, affordable housing, affordable daycare, and promoting women in the political and government arenas are on the list.

Going forward, the commission will decide on priorities and set up committees.

The commission must meet at least six times annually, but can meet more frequently. Meeting dates are scheduled into February 2018, though no meetings are planned for July, September and January.

Efforts to create the commission began more than two years ago with discussions between Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey and Land O' Lakes attorney Michele Hinton.

More women joined the conversation and took the matter to the county commission.

Research turned up an ordinance from 1979 that had established a women's commission. But, it is unclear if its members ever met.

The county's legal staff updated that ordinance to create the current commission.

County commissioners appointed five of the commission members, with 10 selected from area agencies, schools and nonprofits. They are African-American Club of Pasco County Inc.; Hispanic Professional Women's Association Inc.; Metropolitan Ministries; Pasco Economic Development Council; Pasco-Hernando State College; Saint Leo University; Sunrise of Pasco County Inc.; United Way of Pasco County Inc.; and Women Lawyers of Pasco Inc.

BUDGET, from page 1A

"That will make our decisions more difficult," said Pasco County Transition Manager Michele Baker.

Baker is retiring as county administrator. Her replacement is Dan Biles, who started his new job on May 1.

One of the biggest ticket items for 2018 will be the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. A requested increase of \$8.1 million would be used for pay raises, equipment and new job hires. About \$5.5 million of the increase is for the last phase of a 3-year pay raise plan for deputies.

A somewhat smaller amount of about \$4.8 million had been anticipated, said Goehrig.

Several other departments made presentations requesting budget increases.

Over three years, library officials want to restore operating hours to 2008 levels of 40 hours a week at each library, and to hire eight full-time employees. The total cost over three years would be about \$985,000.

In the first year, the Land O' Lakes Public Library and Regency Park Public Library would add hours and staff at a cost of about \$325,000. In later years, service would increase at the Hudson Regional Public Library, Hugh Embry Public Library, New River Public Library, Centennial Park Public Library and

South Holiday Public Library.

"We should be doing this," said Pasco County Commissioner Ron Oakley. "But, we've got to come up with a funding source."

The county's parks department needs about \$15 million to pay for deferred maintenance and about \$6.4 million to replace aging infrastructure. Based on a long-range master plan for parks, about \$134 million is needed to provide amenities to meet population growth for the last 10 years and for the next 10 years.

At a prior workshop, county commissioners requested information on eliminating \$2 parking fees at county parks, and \$60 annual passes.

That would mean a revenue loss of about \$332,000 a year, said

Kelley Boree, the county's parks, recreation and natural resources director.

To cover the loss, general funds could be used or, Boree said, the county could end three programs - aquatics, horticulture at sports field and summer camp.

"I'm just totally against taking any money from parks," said Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey.

But, Pasco County Commissioner Jack Mariano said he wants to see fees eliminated and suggested a higher tax rate would save programs from being cut. "You increase access and quality of life; I think that's great advertising for the county."

HIKE, from page 1A

hands by forcing them to go out and raise the sales tax. That makes me uncomfortable," Commission Chairman Mike Moore said.

"It's not my job as a county commissioner to tell the school board members what they should do," Moore said. "I do not want them to feel that we're forcing them to do something."

Commissioner Mike Wells agreed: "I don't think we should tell them what to do."

Wells also agreed with Commissioners Kathryn Starkey and Jack Mariano, who said the board needs to help the school district to tackle the need for new schools.

"We've got to help our youth. It comes down to 'What's the amount?'," Wells said.

Starkey, a former school board member, said, "I believe the school district needs help. It's unfortunate that our state is, in my opinion, not funding needs at an adequate level, and I guess now it comes to the local government to help schools."

Mariano added: "I think it's clear that everyone agrees they need the full fee."

The new fee would be tiered, based on the square footage of a house. As it stands now, the proposed school impact fee would be \$7,539 for a house with less than 1,500 square feet; \$9,785 for a house larger than 1,500 square feet, but less than 2,500 square feet; and \$12,028 for a residence exceeding 2,500 square feet.

The ordinance also would include a provision that allows the fee to go up or down each year, based on construction costs.

Those figures are subject to change, based on the County Commission's vote after the Development Review Committee's meeting and the two public hearings.

Any new impact fee would take effect 90 days after approval by the County Commission.

Even if the county adopts the highest rate, school district officials estimate a \$284 million shortfall in revenue needed for capital construction during the next decade.

The district says that the impact fees would be used to build Cypress Creek Middle, Starkey Ranch Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, a high school with a location to be determined and an elementary school in the Wesley Chapel area.

The district is already feeling the squeeze and conditions are expected to worsen, as an estimated 20,000 students are projected to arrive in the district during the next 10 years.

Some relief is expected, as Bexley Elementary and Cypress Creek Middle High are set to open in the fall.

But, as residential growth continues to march through Pasco, the school district will have to come up with additional revenues to pay for schools needed to accommodate increased enrollment, said Ray Gadd, deputy superintendent for Pasco County Schools. Boosting impact fees is only part of the solution, he said.

SHOW, from page 1A

and reading but also the arts.

"One of the things that we do try to implement is allow the kids a little bit of direction in their learning as well," she said.

For instance, the school had planned to do Shakespeare's tragic play, "Julius Caesar," but the kids voiced a greater interest in putting on "Much Ado About Nothing," a romantic comedy, Rodriguez said.

"They're definitely a funny bunch," Rodriguez said, describing the students who are presenting the play.

"I know a lot of the parents are going to come, but we wanted to open it up to the community, to reach out more — to give the kids a chance to perform for people other than their family," Rodriguez said.

She expects the production to last between 20 minutes and 30 minutes.

Despite the range in age, the performers have been preparing as a troupe.

"They've been working together and

'Much Ado About Nothing'

WHERE: Nye Park, 630 Sunset Lane, Lutz

WHEN: May 11, 1 p.m.

COST: Free

DETAILS: Bring a chair or a blanket and get ready to watch a group of second- through eighth-graders present their take on Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing."

INFO: Call Lutz Learning Center at (813) 949-3484.

practicing together," Rodriguez said.

She thinks the experience helps the students to develop confidence, and she's confident they're going to put on a good show.

"These kids are just so animated. They really go into the role, 100 percent. They are using gestures, facial expressions. They are just completely into it, 100 percent," Rodriguez said.



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STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN



Academy at the Lakes poised for breakout season

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

After three consecutive losing seasons in the eight-man football ranks, Academy at the Lakes looks to make a splash in 2017, under fourth-year head coach Shawn Brown.

The Wildcats are coming off a 2-8 mark in 2016, after finishing 4-7 and 3-5 the prior two seasons.

But now — with a fruitful combination of talent, depth and experience — the Wildcats appear primed for a breakout year.

“This is the first year we have everybody coming back since I’ve been here,” Brown said, during a late April spring practice at the Lake Padgett Estates East Sports Complex.

After having no seniors in 2016, the Wildcats expect to field a dozen on the 2017 roster.

Among them is Florida Christian Association of Private and Parochial Schools (FCAPPS) All-State linebacker Danny Gonzalez, who registered 165 tackles in 2016, the highest among all Florida eight-man players.

Doubling as a tailback, the 6-foot, 205-pound team captain was also the Wildcats leading rusher (608 yards, 10 touchdowns).

And, throughout his sensational 2016 campaign, Gonzalez received some national recognition, becoming a three-time nominee for MaxPreps/USA Football Player of the Week.

His performance has drawn the attention of multiple college scouts, including Millsaps College (Jackson, Mississippi), Florida Tech University (Melbourne, Florida) and Hillsdale College (Hillsdale, Michigan).

Impressive, considering Gonzalez didn’t begin playing football until his freshman year.

Instead, he played basketball through the eighth grade.

“He has come a long way,” Brown said. “He’s just turned into a pure football player in the last four years.”



COURTESY OF JOE WINN, WINNING PHOTOGRAPHY

Academy at the Lakes running back/linebacker Danny Gonzalez is one of a dozen seniors on the 2017 squad. He was named to the Florida Christian Association of Private and Parochial Schools (FCAPPS) All-State team in 2016.

Understanding football’s nuances was foremost to his development as a player, Gonzalez said. He acknowledged he “didn’t know a single thing” about the game when he first signed up.

“I think a lot of it was just learning the game a little bit more,” Gonzalez said. “Coach Brown was always helping me at the linebacker position, just teaching me.”

Seeing Gonzalez’s triumphs have encouraged other Academy at the Lakes students give football a shot.

Currently the 2017 squad has nearly 30 players, about a dozen more than last year.

“All the other kids have come out,” Brown said, “because they see Danny didn’t play before, and he’s been successful.”

Beyond the gaudy statistics and football skillset, Gonzalez’s best quality is his work ethic, the Wildcats coach said.

“Everything he does is at 100 percent. He doesn’t take plays off,” said Brown.

That mindset, too, translates to the classroom, where Gonzalez boasts a 3.8 grade

point average.

“He’s a perfectionist, so he doesn’t like to fail at anything,” Brown explained. “I think that shows in his grades. If you say we’re going to play basketball one-on-one, he’s going to do everything to beat you. If you play pool, he’s going to try to beat you. If you play chess, checkers — I think it’s that he takes everything so seriously.”

Yet, Gonzalez doesn’t figure to be the only Wildcat filling up highlight reels.

The 2017 squad features several other impact players, including senior wide-out Isaiah Smith (28 receptions, 592 yards, seven touchdowns), junior tailback/defensive back Jamaal Johnson (702 all-purpose yards) and freshman quarterback Jalen Brown, who started as an eighth grader in 2016, passing for 1,116 yards, 14 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

“I think we have a good group where a lot of guys can make some plays,” Shawn Brown said. “Now we have the experience, we shouldn’t have as many mistakes in games, and we should win more games.”

His star pupil concurs.

“We’re just all trying to come together as a team this year,” Gonzalez said. “We’re just working together and make sure everyone works as hard as the next guy..”

Besides shedding tackles, the Wildcats look to shed perceptions about eight-man football, where games are played on a compacted 40 by 80-yard field.

“Some people give eight-man a bad rap,” Shawn Brown said. “They’re like, ‘kids can’t get recruited,’ but I look at a guy like Danny Gonzalez. A lot of colleges will recruit (eight-man) because it’s a skill-based game.”

To Brown, “football is football,” whether it’s six-man, eight-man or the standard 11-man.

“We do everything everybody else does,” he said.

The Wildcats will wrap up spring practices on May 25 with a jamboree against other FCAPPS programs.

CHECK THIS OUT

SEND SPORTS NEWS TO KWEISS@LAKERLUTZNEWS.COM



COURTESY OF KYLE LOJACONO

Ryan Russell

LOCAL COMMITS AND SIGNEES

Wharton High senior Ryan Russell has signed a letter of intent to run track for Boston College, a Division I school in Boston, Massachusetts. Russell is expected to compete in both the 200-meter dash (PR 22.06) and 400-meter dash (PR 50.01).

Freedom High product Taylor Emery has verbally committed to play women’s basketball at Virginia Polytechnic University, a Division I school in Blacksburg, Virginia. The 5-foot-10 shooting guard most recently was named national junior college women’s basketball player of the year after leading Gulf Coast State (Panama City, Florida) to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I championship as a sophomore in the 2016-2017 season.



Taylor Emery

A four-year varsity starter at Freedom, Emery averaged 36.4 points per game in her senior prep season, and set Hillsborough County’s all-time scoring mark (2,689 career points).

Emery signed with Tulane University (New Orleans, Louisiana) out of high school, but elected to transfer after her freshman season.

Wesley Chapel High junior Isaiah Bolden has verbally committed to play football at the University of Oregon, a Division I school in Eugene, Oregon. The 6-foot-3, 180-pound defensive back previously committed to Florida State University last June.

A highly touted four-star recruit and consensus top-200 player for the 2018 recruiting class, Bolden holds nearly 30 scholarship offers.



Isaiah Bolden

2017 Hillsborough County All-Western Conference Baseball

The 2017 All-Western Conference baseball teams are selected solely by Hillsborough County’s public school head baseball coaches. Only players from

public school programs are eligible for the teams. Athletes from The Laker/Lutz News coverage area were represented in both the American and National divisions.

AMERICAN DIVISION

FIRST TEAM

Catcher — Danny Gutcher, Jr., Gaither High
Infielder — Chipper Holland, Sr., Gaither High
Infielder — Jose Cadenas, Sr., Gaither High
Pitcher — CJ Van Eyk, Sr., Steinbrenner High

SECOND TEAM

Outfielder—Cam Coakley, Sr., Steinbrenner High
Outfielder—Jordan Lala, Jr., Steinbrenner High

NATIONAL DIVISION

FIRST TEAM

Infielder—Drew Ehrhard, Sr., Wharton High

SECOND TEAM

Pitcher—Austin Appel, Sr., Wharton High
Infielder—Leo Alfonzo, Jr., Wharton High



FILE

Joey Ivie

AREA ATHLETES JOIN NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Pasco High product Joey Ivie (University of Florida) was picked by the Dallas Cowboys in the seventh round with the 228th overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft. The 6-foot-3, 301-pound defensive tackle, who was one of eight Florida Gators selected in the draft, registered 26 tackles and 2.5 sacks in 11 games last season. Ivie graduated from Pasco High in 2013.

Freedom High product T.J. Mutcherson (University of Central Florida) has signed an undrafted free agent contract with the Houston Texans. The 5-foot-11, 195-pound safety tallied 73 tackles and two interceptions in 13 games last season. Mutcherson, who graduated from Freedom High in 2010, also played for Iowa State University, but was dismissed in 2015 for violating team rules.



T.J. Mutcherson

CENTRAL PASCO CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce is hosting its 31st annual golf tournament May 19 at the Heritage Harbor Golf & Country Club, 19502 Heritage Harbor Parkway in Lutz. Check-in begins at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Cost is \$70 for an individual, and \$260 for a team of four. Registration includes greens fees, golf cart, range balls and a barbecue awards dinner.

For information about registration and sponsorships, visit CentralPascoChamber.com, or call (813) 909-2722.

LUTZ BASKETBALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Registration has been extended through May 15 for the Our Lady of the Rosary Summer Basketball League. Youth (ages 5 to 18 years old). Adult leagues also are being offered. Spots are limited to the first 32 players per division.

The season runs from June 6 through July 29. Games are played at the Saint John Paul II Youth Center, 17512 Lakeshore Road in Lutz.

For information, call (813) 949-4565, or email sportsdirector@ladyrosary.org.

ADULT SOCCER LEAGUE REGISTRATION

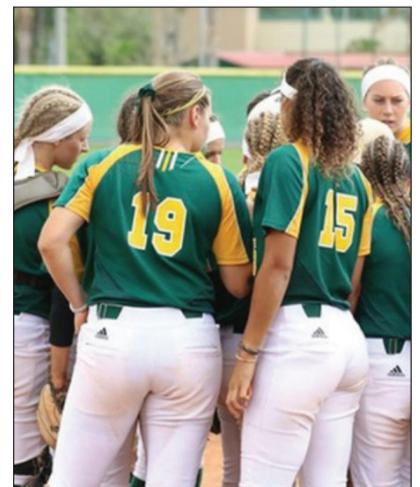
The NewAPSL (Adult Premier Soccer League) is accepting teams and individual players its Wednesday night and Sunday afternoon spring leagues. Games are played at Benito Middle School, 10101 Cross Creek Blvd., in New Tampa.

For information, visit NewAPSL.com, or call Colin Eke at (813) 610-2278.

SPORT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS

Senior Sports/North Tampa Bay Senior Softball organizes a variety of sports programs for senior adults. The organization’s over-60, coed, slow-pitch softball is accepting new players. Other programs include volleyball, golf, bowling and tennis.

To find out about upcoming programs, call Walt Bockmiller at (813) 527-8211.



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO ATHLETICS

The Saint Leo softball team won its second consecutive Sunshine State Conference title on April 28.

SAINT LEO SOFTBALL CLAIMS CONFERENCE TITLE

The 14th-ranked Saint Leo softball team won its second consecutive Sunshine State Conference title, and third in five years, after posting a 17-7 record in conference.

Saint Leo (37-13) won their final series over Rollins College on April 28 to push to the top of the SSC standings. The Lions, who are currently ranked No. 1 in the South Region, will receive the conference’s automatic qualifier to the postseason. Meanwhile, the Lions’ 37 wins mark the 17th time in program history the team has eclipsed 30 wins in a season and the 11th time they have recorded 35 or more wins.

ROLLER DERBY BENEFIT MAY 28

Revolution Roller Derby, a coed flat-track roller derby league, is hosting a battle between two all women’s teams — Valkyries and Sugar Sands Roller Dolls — May 28 at 5:45 p.m., at SpinNations Skating Center, 8345 Congress St., in Port Richey.

Entry fee is \$12 at the door. A portion of event proceeds will benefit the Boys and Girls Club; school supplies will also be collected.

For more information, visit online at RevolutionRollerDerby.com, or email info@RevolutionRollerDerby.com.

WIREGRASS RANCH BOYS TENNIS FINISH STATE RUNNER-UP

The Wiregrass Ranch High varsity boys tennis team finished state runner-up at the 2017 FHSAA (Florida High School Athletic Association) Class 4A State Finals, at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs on April 27.

The Bulls defeated Fleming Island High (4-1) and Steinbrenner High (4-1), before falling to Douglas High (1-4) in the championship match.

The tournament marked Wiregrass Ranch’s fifth consecutive state appearance and first runner-up title after winning state championships in 2014 and 2015.

The 2017 season also marked the Bulls’ ninth conference title, eighth consecutive district title, and fifth regional title.

Woman unleashes creativity through soaps

By B.C. Manion

bcmalion@lakerlutznews.com

Step in Melissa Brown's workshop, and you'll see a woman focused on creating handmade soaps at her home business in Lutz.

Brown launched her business — Nautilus Soap Company LLC — more than a year ago, and hopes one day to open her own storefront. Besides making scented and unscented soaps, she also makes bath bombs and shampoo bars.

She sells her products at local markets, such as the Lutz Arts & Crafts Fair, the weekly market in Indian Shores, the downtown Dunedin and other events. She offers wholesale pricing and handles custom orders.

Brown is a member of the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce and was one of the vendors at the chamber's Land O' Lakes Music Fest in March.

When Brown ventured into soap-making, she was beginning at Ground Zero.

So, she has spent a fair amount of time researching how to make soap, source suppliers and find out which markets work for her, and which ones don't.

She's chatted with other soap-makers to glean pointers — to help her avoid potential mistakes.

And, she's done a fair amount of experimentation, too, learning through trial and error.

She began soap-making after trying her hand with candles and discovering that she didn't find that engaging enough to suit her.

"I actually started making soap last January, really more of a hobby than anything. It just continually progressed," Brown said.

"This is my absolute passion. It's what I live, eat, breathe, and sleep every single day. I've never been this way about anything before," she said.

She sells all sorts of soap. There's Almond Milk & Honey, Bare Naked Soap, Bay Rum & Bergamot, Bed of Roses, Chill Out, Mother Nature, and Orange Blossom, just to name a few.

One recent day, Brown was experimenting with a batch of pink grapefruit soap.

While soap-making is an ancient art, Brown uses sophisticated equipment.

She uses a computer software program to formulate her recipes.

As she mixed the sample batch, she explained her process.

"What I have in here is my oil blend. I use an oil blend of five different oils. I use canola, castor, coconut, rice bran oil and olive oil.

"What is in this pitcher right here, is my lye and water mixture. It's a specific strength that I use, and it has been formulated by my program, chemistry-wise, to make sure that it activates all of the molecules of the oils that I have in here. It's a very specific ratio," she said.

The lye mixture is critical, she said.

"If you do not have this, you will not get soap. You will just get oil," she added.

Pink grapefruit essential oil, Australian pink clay and melted cocoa butter were the other ingredients she used, for this batch of soap.

The clay is good for the skin, but also provides some color for the soap.

"Once I mix the oils and the lye together, after that is when I add the cocoa butter, because the cocoa will be free floating



Melissa Brown uses a cutting device to create 11 bars of soap from a single mold.

B.C. MANION



Melissa Brown's Nautilus Soap Company LLC creates soaps of many colors and fragrances.



These bars of soap are on the curing rack. They'll cure for six weeks before being sold.



Nautilus Soap Company LLC can custom make orders.



molecules within the soap, so it will more moisturizing," Brown said.

"I give it a little stir, and then I go with the stick blender," she said.

She's careful while mixing the ingredients, because she doesn't want the soap to harden too quickly. She also adds the color gradually to make sure she gets the shade she desires.

Her sample batch makes 11 bars.

After pouring the mixture into the mold, it rests overnight.

"Once I cut it," she said, "it goes on these drying racks, it cures for six weeks."

These pink creations add fizz to a luxurious bathing experience.

Sometimes, the soap doesn't come out like she expects.

But, some creations she views as "mistakes" turn out to be quite popular with customers, Brown said.

In addition to learning the ins and outs of soap-making, Brown has broadened her knowledge on many other fronts, including figuring out how much to charge for her soap, how to market it, and about taxes and other business requirements.

"I learn as I go," Brown said.

Her husband, Doug, helped her to price her goods.

"We looked at basically everything that was out there. We looked at markets. We looked at soap companies online. We looked and actually broke it by how much they were charging by ounce of soap. And, that's how we kind of came up with it, so we were in line.

"I didn't want to be too high, because then people are turned off by the price; but, I didn't want to be too low, because then it would seem like it was a cheap product," Brown said.

Brown said most of her working life has been devoted to medical work, in one form or another.

She didn't feel able to unleash her creativity.

She decided to give soap-making a try and discovered a new source of joy.

The feeling reminded her of advice she'd heard during a talk, many years ago, by Debbi Fields, the founder of Mrs. Fields Cookies.

"She (Fields) said, 'Do what you love, and love what you do.' I never ever forgot that. And, that's when it came to me, 'You know what? I love this, and I want to do this.'"

"It just blossomed from there," Brown said.



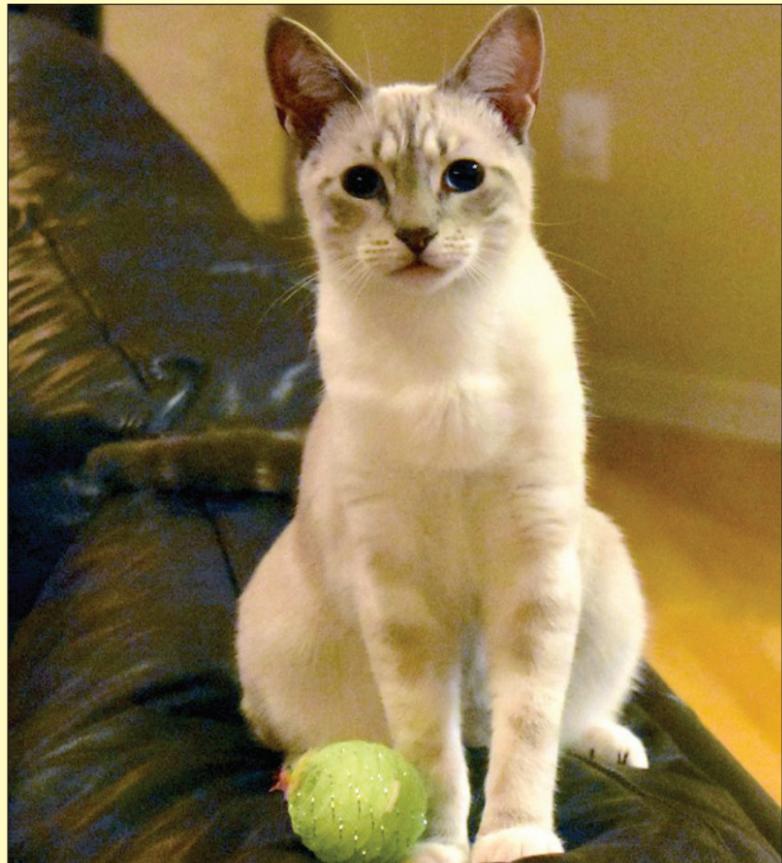
Melissa Brown stands in front of her Lutz home, where her soap company is based.

Upcoming markets, fairs and festivals

You can buy handmade soaps produced by Nautilus Soap Company LLC, based in Lutz, either through the company's website, or at these upcoming markets:

- **Indian Shores Sunday Market**, on May 14 and May 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Indian Shores Town Hall Municipal Center, 19304 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores.
 - **Clearwater Mall Weekly Market**, May 16, May 23 and May 30, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., southeast corner of U.S. 19 and Gulf-To-Bay Boulevard, in front of Target.
 - **Downtown Dunedin Weekly Market**, May 12, May 19 and May 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Pioneer Park, Main Street and Douglas Avenue.
 - **Armed Forces Day**, May 20, noon to 8 p.m., at Frankie's Patriot BBQ, U.S. 19 and Ulmerton Road in Clearwater.
- For more information, call (813) 438-3507, or visit NautilusSoap.com.

PET of the WEEK



A kitten with mittens

Leo is part Siamese, with Lynx markings, beautiful blue eyes, and cute white mittens, and just turned 1-year-old. He is pictured with one of his favorite toys, of which he has so many that he has his own little toy box. Leo's favorite game is retrieving and bringing his toys back to be thrown again. He was adopted from Cat Haven Rescue. Leo's proud parents are Velma and Bill Herrig, of Land O' Lakes.

Send us a picture and information on your favorite pet!

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

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

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Snickers is a young boy

Snickers is looking for his forever home. He is quick to meet and greet you. Snickers is one of the many kitties that are coming in this kitten season. If you are not interested in adopting, perhaps you are interested in fostering. The shelter has many bottle babies coming through that need the help.



Stephen John Photography

Marky could be a model

Marky is a handsome man who is happy and ready to smile for his photos. If you are looking for the perfect model, here he is. Marky has even earned his AKC Canine Good Citizen certification, which means he has proven his good manners. Come by and meet Marky.

If you would like to adopt either Marky or Snickers, 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.

LOCAL WILDLIFE



Fishing around for a meal

This 7-foot gator was photographed by Liz LaFalce, of Trinity East, in her backyard, and of all days, on Good Friday. It seems even alligators adhere to the tradition of eating fish on Friday during Lent. Adult alligators eat rough fish, snakes, turtles, small mammals and birds. LaFalce lives on a large lake, and gators are a pretty common site.



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| 34 - 66 lbs | \$65 | 23 - 44 lbs | \$70 |
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PET PAWS

ADOPTION DAY

Quality Pet Market and Carter's Canine Rescues will host an adoption day May 13. Buddy Carter and two of his rescues organizations will be onsite from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a meet-and-greet, and any questions about dog adoptions.

Quality Pet is located at 1408 Dale Mabry Highway in Lutz.

For information, call the rescue center at (813) 235-6366 or Quality Pet at (813) 909-1767.

DO IT 'FUR' LOVE

Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano's five offices will feature CARES (Community Aging & Retirement Services) as its charitable organization for the month of May.

The campaign slogan is "Do it Fur Love," with all proceeds to benefit CARES' program

to help the elderly take care of their pets.

Donations can be made at any of the tax collector locations in Pasco County, and will be used to supply pet food, pet care products and other supports to assist the elderly in keeping their pets well cared for.

For information, call Jemith Rosa at (727) 863-6868, or visit CARESFL.org.

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. We also need a contact name and number; in case we have questions.

There is no guarantee of publication.

If you'd like to make a submission, send it to news@lakerlutznews.com.



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| Chooses | Noted | Stalks |
| Chose | Nylon | Steals |
| Contrasting | Others | Steel |
| Crust | Ounce | Steer |
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| Doubt | Reeds | Teach |
| Drawn | Relay | Threw |
| Dress | Responsibility | Trees |
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SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B



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| SUBJECT | DATES | TIME |
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| Math | 5/30, 6/1 | 10 AM - 1 PM |
| Reading & Writing | 5/30, 5/31, 6/1, 6/2 | 2 PM - 4 PM |

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| SUBJECT | DATES | TIME |
|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| Math | 6/5, 6/7 | 10 AM - 1 PM |
| Science | 6/5, 6/7 | 1:30 - 4:30 PM |
| Reading & Writing | 6/6, 6/8 | 10 AM - 1 PM |

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MIDFLORIDA OPENS NEW BRANCH

MIDFLORIDA Credit Union opened a new branch at 23551 State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes. Bank officials had a grand opening April 28.

The teller desk layout operates with open counters and no partitions or visible office equipment. Operating hours include Saturday service, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. drive-through service, a drive-up ATM, and safe deposit boxes.

The credit union also offers business loans, mortgages and investments. Members can enjoy free coffee in the lobby every day, and free popcorn on Fridays.

MIDFLORIDA is a state-chartered financial institution with headquarters in Lakeland. The credit union serves 270,000 members with assets totaling more than \$2.9 billion, according to a news release.

For information, visit MidFlorida.com.

LAKESIDE HEATING, COOLING & PLUMBING OPENS

Ron Ierna has opened Lakeside Heating, Cooling & Plumbing at 4608 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

The business is located by Bell Lake, on a site previously occupied by Bay Area Water Sports. Ierna bought the property in January, and renovated the existing 2,500-square-foot building and parking lot.

Lakeside Heating, Cooling & Plumbing employs licensed technicians and craftsmen who specialize in designing, engineering, servicing, and installing HVAC systems and water heaters.

For information, please call the office at (813) 444-9474, or you can visit LakesideComfortPros.com.

SKIN CARE PRODUCTS

Marilyn Boss is now working full time as a representative of Nerium International, selling the company's line of skin care products. Boss began working for Nerium as a part-time representative in 2015, but decided in retirement to go full time. She offers one-on-ones, events and parties, and free samples to first time clients.

For information, call Boss at (813) 892-4004, email marilynboss58@gmail.com, or visit MarilynBoss.nerium.com.

EPOCH BUILDING APARTMENTS

Epoch Residential plans to build Lakeside at Bexley, a 300-unit apartment complex in eight buildings. The complex will have a clubhouse and a 1-acre park. One-, two- and three-bedroom apartments will be available with attached and detached garages.

Bexley opened in fall 2016 as a master-

planned community being developed by Newland Communities in Land O' Lakes, off State Road 54 by the Suncoast Parkway.

Single-family and townhomes, in the low \$200,000 to more than \$600,000, are available. There are 10 miles of multi-use, soft surface trails by Avid Trails, with a planned connection to the 42-mile Suncoast Trail.

Lakeside Walk is expected to open in fall 2018.

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

POSSIBLE 7-ELEVENS COMING

7-Eleven representatives are eyeing two new locations in Pasco County. One would be at the southeast corner of Mansfield Boulevard and County Line Road in Wesley Chapel. The other would be at the northwest corner of Weeks Boulevard and Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

Representatives were scheduled for pre-application meetings with county planners May 1 for the Wesley Chapel location and May 15 for the Land O' Lakes location, according to county's scheduling calendar.

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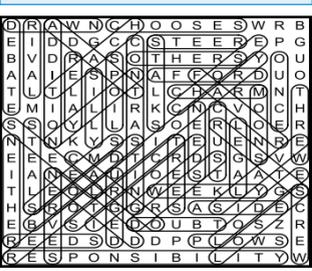
A public hearing will be conducted in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Pasco County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Meeting on Thursday, May 25, 2017. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Pasco County Historic Courthouse (2nd Floor Boardroom) located at 37918 Meridian Avenue, Dade City, Florida.

This hearing will afford the public the opportunity to express their view on the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinated System in Pasco County. Written comments must be received by May 21, 2017 for presentation to the Board. Verbal comments will be addressed at the meeting. Please limit your comments to three minutes or less.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled to the provision of certain assistance. No later than two working days before meeting, please contact Pasco County Public Transportation dispatch office, 8620 Galen Wilson Boulevard, Port Richey, Florida 34668; (727) 834-3322, option 2 in New Port Richey; (352) 521-4587 in Dade City; or via TTY Florida Relay 711 if you are hearing impaired. The dispatchers will coordinate a ride. Please mention that this is for the Local Coordination Board Public Hearing on May 25 in Dade City, FL.

If you have any questions concerning the meeting, please contact, Mr. Kurt Scheible, at (727) 834-3200.

GAME PAGE ANSWERS



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ARE YOU BATHING SUIT READY? WE CAN GET YOU THERE!

"A few years ago, I was suffering from headaches and severe back pain, so much so that I was walking bent over all the time. The doctors told me I needed to strengthen my core, but I was in so much back pain I couldn't and I didn't know how to do it. The second thing happened after I went to a wedding and saw the photos of me afterwards. I was embarrassed and couldn't believe that was me in the photos. Shortly afterwards, my friend challenged me to try out Samantha Taylor Fitness, so I tried it and I am so happy I did. I can't believe I have lost 50 lbs. AND I don't suffer from headaches or back pain anymore!"

- Roxanne M., a Transformed Member.

Find success and get results with private or semi-private personal training sessions or group boot camp workouts and a delicious eating plan. Fun, effective 30 minute workouts that have helped 5,000 women lose weight and get healthy. Make the Call Today! There's Still Time to Make 2017 the Year of YOUR Transformation.



Lost 50 lbs. & has no more back pain!



Age 50, Lost 51 lbs. in 7 Months!



Age 64, Lost 51 lbs. in 9 months!



Lost 21 lbs. in 6 Weeks!



See her inspiring story on our website that aired on ABC's Morning Blend

FREE NUTRITION SEMINAR: "What Fat to Eat to Lose Weight and Be Healthy."

Wednesday, May 17th at the Land O' Lakes Studio 7:30 p.m.

Reserve your spot at: SamanthaTaylorSeminars.com

Hosted by Samantha and Guest Speaker with Bachelor's in Food Science and Nutrition

What Will *You* Look Like in a Couple of Months?

- ◆ Pure Health Personal Training, specializing in the Baby Boomer Generation
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- ◆ Friendly, Supportive Women's Environment.
- ◆ Offering fat-burning sessions from 5:25 a.m. - 8 p.m. for your busy schedule
- ◆ No Diet, Shots or Pills...only natural, lasting results.



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