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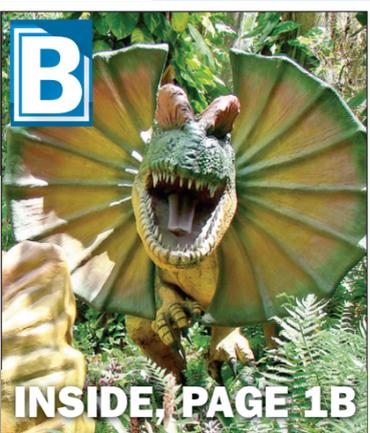


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**INSIDE, PAGE 1B**

## Pasco gives boost to community gardening

By Kathy Steele  
ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County could soon be the first in the state with a countywide ordinance to permit residents to grow community gardens.

The proposed ordinance also would be the first countywide ordinance of its kind for Pasco.

At a June 6 Pasco County Commission meeting in Dade City, county staff members explained what a community garden is and how it would operate.

Commissioners are scheduled to vote on the proposed ordinance at a July 11 meeting in New Port Richey.

"This not only helps our agriculture in



**Dwarf Fire bush blooms in the garden add color to the greenery in front of the New River Library in Zephyrhills.**

Pasco County, but this could be a big tourism thing, too," said County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey. "There are so many cool benefits this can bring."

Community gardens are gardens where crops and ornamental plants, including flowers, are grown and harvested, as described in the proposed ordinance.

Daily vehicle trips to tend the gardens generally are more than 14 per day but less than 100, with limited use of heavy vehicles, the county estimates.

Community gardens may be any size.

Applications will provide information such as location, operating hours, the number of parking spaces and a designated

See GARDENING, page 11A



B.C. MANION

This trio of girls are heading to Washington D.C., to find out a few things about leadership. They are, from left, Alice Mooneyham, Kaitlyn Britton and Kylie Flynn. They'll be participating in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference.

## They're off to learn the ins and outs of leadership

By B.C. Manion  
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

While some kids are heading to the beach or to a theme park this summer, a trio of girls who just wrapped up fifth grade at Lutz Elementary are gearing up for a trip to Washington D.C.

Kylie Flynn, Kaitlyn Britton and Alice Mooneyham will be participating in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference.

The students were nominated by their

former teacher, Cindy Morrissey.

The girls can't wait to check out the nation's capital.

"I've never been to Washington D.C., and I've wanted to go there," said Alice, who is 11. "I think it's going to be a really cool experience."

Eleven-year-old Kaitlynn shares her enthusiasm.

"It's going to be fun. My sister went in eighth grade. She got a lot of really cool photos. It was really pretty there."

Plus, Kaitlyn added: "It will be fun to learn all about the statues."

Ten-year-old Kylie is eager to make the trip, too.

"I can't wait for the experiences to go to the different places," she said. "I was really happy that I was nominated."

Alice is particularly interested in visiting the Lincoln Memorial, while Kylie is looking forward to visiting Harper's Ferry. Kaitlyn is

See LEADERSHIP, page 11A



In the Loop Brewing owners Mark Pizzurro, left, Peter Abreut and Joe Traina stand by the outdoor serving window at their Land O' Lakes brewery.

## In the Loop wants more hours, live music

By Kathy Steele  
ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Owners of In the Loop Brewing want to expand the hours of operation and bring live music performances to their outdoor beer garden.

It's about staying competitive in the local market and building on their success, they say. Members of the Pasco County Planning Commission approved both requests at its June 7 meeting in New Port Richey.

The Pasco County Commission, which has the final word, is likely to consider the matter at its July 11 meeting in New Port Richey.

In the Loop opened in 2016 at 3338 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in a restored two-story home, with an on-site brewery, tap and tasting room. A landscaped beer garden, with a deck, over-

looks Lake Padgett and its lakefront residences.

As approved by the planning commission, In the Loop would be open from 7 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. Live music would be allowed from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday through Friday; and, from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Noise levels which currently apply to recorded music would remain the same, and also would apply to live music. Those levels are equivalent to conversational speech, background music or an air conditioner, according to comparative decibel charts.

"We want to be able to offer the same hours of other breweries," said In the Loop co-owner Joe Traina.

See LOOP, page 11A

## Pasco names new assistant county administrator

By Kathy Steele  
ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

The Pasco County Commission has named Kevin Guthrie as an assistant county administrator for public safety.

The appointment took effect on June 12, and Guthrie will receive an annual salary of \$135,000.

Guthrie had been serving as the county's emergency services director.

Commissioners promoted Guthrie during their June 6 meeting in Dade City, acting on a recommendation by County Administrator Dan Biles.

Since 2015, Pasco County Fire Chief Scott Cassin has served as acting assistant county administrator for public safety. Cassin now will return full-time to his position as fire chief.

Pasco County Emergency Manager Laura Black will be in charge of the Division of Emergency Management during non-disaster operations. Capt. Dan Olds, of the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, will lead the Division of Public Safety Communications.



Kevin Guthrie

See ADMINISTRATOR, page 11A

# Respecting 'Old Glory' throughout the year

By B.C. Manion  
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

While the nation sets aside June 14 to celebrate Flag Day, a local group of U.S. Marine Corps veterans wants to honor local residents and business owners who respect Old Glory every day of the year.

The Marine Forever Detachment No. 1440 has established the American Patriot Award to do just that.

The group, which meets in Land O' Lakes, recognizes that it takes time and care to properly maintain the flag, and it already has bestowed awards to selected individuals and business owners in northern Hillsborough County and Central Pasco County.

The award goes to the business or resident/homeowner displaying the American Flag in new or like-new condition and must be visible, day or night.

So far, more than 100 awards have been presented, said L. David Kirk, the detachment's commandant.

"We're getting such reception from this, you won't believe it," Kirk said.

He said he received a call from an Army veteran in Land O' Lakes who said the award "lifted his spirits" and that a widow of a veteran who lives in Oakstead broke into tears when she received the award.

"The businesses like it, too. They've been flying a flag all along, religiously," Kirk said. They appreciate the recognition.

To nominate your business or residence for an award, send your request to info@marine4ever.com.

To find out more about the group, call L. David Kirk at (813) 956-2469.

To see a list of the recipients, visit



FILE  
A local group wants to honor residents and businesses who fly Old Glory all year long, not just for special occasions such as Flag Day, June 14, Memorial Day or Veterans Day.

## Flag Day

Flag day was established officially by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916, according to the website USFlag.org.

Although Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it wasn't until Aug. 3, 1949 that President Harry S. Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 as National Flag Day.

Marine4Ever.com, or check the organization's Facebook page at Facebook.com/MarineForeverDetachment1440MarineCorpsLeague.



COURTESY OF RAY CARR

The Lutz-based Trinity Dragons Team 6430 finished eighth among more than 500 teams, during the 2017 VEX World Competition in Louisville, Kentucky.

# Lutz robotics team ranks eighth at international event

By Kevin Weiss  
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

The Lutz-based Trinity Dragons ended the robotics season on a high note, with another top-10 showing at worlds.

Team 6430 ranked eighth among more than 500 teams, during the 2017 VEX World Competition in Louisville, Kentucky; they finished ninth last year.

They also earned the Teamwork Award in the event's Research Division, and were recognized as competition finalists.

The world championships, at the Kentucky Exposition Center, drew over 16,000 participants from across 37 nations; it marks the fourth consecutive season Team 6430 has received an invitation.

Throughout the weeklong event, Team 6430 joined forces with clubs from Galveston, Texas; Glen Allen, Virginia; Carrollton, Georgia; and Sichuan, China.

The VEX robotics challenge, titled "Starstruck," is played on a 12-by-12 square field, in which two alliances consisting of two robotics teams each, square off in matches comprising of a 15-fifteen second

autonomous period, followed by 1 minute and 45 seconds of driver-controlled play.

The object of the game is to attain a higher score than the opposing alliance by having each robot place "stars" and "cubes" in designated zones, and remotely hang robots onto a hanging pole.

It otherwise was a fruitful 2016-2017 robotics campaign for the local club.

Team 6430 won the Florida State High School VEX Robotics Championship in February, outscoring 56 other high school teams at the Florida State Fairgrounds; the team also went undefeated in each of its regular season tournaments.

And, at one point this season, Team 6430 ranked fourth internationally, of 8,500 teams worldwide, in autonomous programming skills.

Next year's VEX robotics challenge, titled "In The Zone," requires robots to essentially stack as many "cones" as possible.

The Trinity Dragons, coached by Ray Carr, was formed about six years ago.

The team is sponsored by Occam Technology Group, Pharmaworks and Broten Garage Doors.

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Front row, from left, Jake Piller, Rowan Heyman, Justin Acosta, Jason Sherman, Mina Melaika, Isabell Barrios and Sam Cappelluti. Back row, from left, Veronica Acosta, Matt Whaley and Janet Heyman.

# They took on the world – and they won

By B.C. Manion  
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Wesley Chapel Elementary's "Catch Us If You Can" team has returned as champions from the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, which took place at Michigan State University.

The victory thrilled the team's members — Jake Piller, Sam Cappelluti, Isabell Barrios, Mina Melaika, Rowan Heyman, Jason Sherman and Justin Acosta, and the team's coaches — Janet Heyman and Veronica Acosta.

Before heading to the international competition, the fourth- and fifth-graders had already demonstrated that they were 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.

Still, it was the team's first appearance on the world stage, so team members were hopeful, but also realistic.

"It was our first time going," explained Jason Sherman, 10. "Most people on our team — like me and my friend, Jake — we knew we'd be OK if we didn't win.

"When I was pin trading, I overheard people talking, saying, that they'd been there for over seven straight years, and they hadn't won anything.

"I was OK, knowing this was our first time, and we probably weren't going to win anything," he said.

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.

Ten-year-old Justin Acosta said he thinks the team succeeded because of its experience in working together and continual efforts to improve.

"The first year, we practiced. The second year, we practiced some more," he said, and the third year, it all came together.

Ten-year-old Jake Piller said winning the competition is a pretty big deal.

"I definitely think it's the biggest thing that's ever happened in our school, and in our county," he said, adding it's "pretty big for Florida," too.

Ten-year-old Sam Cappelluti said he was

really nervous, as they awaited the results.

When they found out they had defeated China to win first place, they all screamed, he said.

"It was crazy," said 11-year-old Isabell Barrios. "We all started crying."

Barrios thinks the team stepped up its game for the competition.

"In the World performance, I think we did our best. We talked a lot louder and clearer," Barrios said.

Barrios also noted that team members made sure they had all of their bases covered.

"This year, after we had everything done, we went through a checklist to make sure we had everything," she said.

Sherman said the team turned it up a notch for the world competition.

"Right before we went on, we were all talking about adding more drama to it," Sherman said.

Ten-year-old Mina Melaika thinks that the team's ability to work well together, and to recover quickly when things didn't go exactly as planned contributed to its victory.

"We all know each other really well," Melaika added. Besides being teammates, many of them share the same classes.

Ten-year-old Rowan Heyman thinks a strong performance in the spontaneous portion of the competition was an important element in winning. "We worked as a team."

As the winners were announced, the coaches kept hearing names of other countries and weren't sure if their team would take home anything beyond the great experience it had at the competition.

So, they were ecstatic when they heard that they had won.

"I was crying," Janet Heyman said, adding she's proud of the team's hard work and perseverance.

Coach Veronica Acosta said the kids have worked so closely together that "they've become one family."

They've learned from mistakes, too, she said.

"That's what Odyssey is about: Failing and picking up the pieces, and moving forward and going onto the next step. Not giving up — because these problems are not easy," Coach Acosta said.

The coaches also thanked Freda Abercrombie, regional director for Odyssey of the Mind.

Without her, they said, their program wouldn't exist.

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# Father's Day – A perfect time to grill

By Betsy Crisp, MS, LD/N  
Special to The Laker / Lutz News



Sometimes food just needs a little extra something — besides just the usual salt and pepper — before going onto the grill.

Indeed, marinades and rubs can be just the thing to enhance a cut of meat.

With that in mind, here are some recipes for marinades and rubs that may help add some flavor to this Father's Day cookout.

## MARINADES

Marinades are a combination of ingredients — herbs, spices and so on — in a liquid base that can add considerable flavor to any cut of meat before grilling.

Usually the base is an oil or acid, such as citrus/lemon juice, wine, vinegar, and sometimes it is even dairy. Often a sweet ingredient — brown sugar or cola — is added to help caramelize on the outside of the meat to produce a crisp coating.

To marinate, seal the meat in an airtight container or plastic freezer zipper top bag. Allow the meat to marinate in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. But, letting the meat marinate for 2 hours to 4 hours is generally recommended. To allow the spices to permeate the meat even more, you can let it marinate overnight.

So as not to spoil your Father's Day celebration, there are a few food safety tips worth mentioning:

- If you plan to use some of the marinade as a dip or basting sauce later, set aside a portion before adding raw meat/poultry.
- Always marinate in the refrigerator.
- Do not reuse any of the marinade from the raw meat unless you boil it for several minutes to destroy any bacteria from the raw meat juices.
- Throw away any leftover marinade that contains raw meat juices.



BETSY CRISP

Add cola to caramelize the outside of the meat to produce a crisp coating.

## Marinade recipes

**Lemon Juice base:** Add oil and herbs to season and tenderize meat. Also add mixture to vegetables before grilling.

**Soy Sauce base:** Combine Soy sauce with honey, garlic and herbs. This is sometimes called teriyaki marinade and is used on meat or fish.

**Tomato base:** Use tomato juice or sauce as the acid, and combine with soy sauce, garlic, oil and seasonings. This will tenderize tough meat and even wild game before cooking.

**Vinegar base:** Add oil with herbs to make a vinaigrette marinade or simply substitute bottled oil and vinegar-based salad dressing (Italian, French, etc.) to flavor meat and vegetables to grill.

**Wine Base (usually red):** Combine wine with oil, spices and garlic to season and tenderize meats (less tender steaks: sirloin, flank, etc.).

## RUBS

Rubs are a mixture of dry seasonings rubbed onto the food surface before grilling to add flavor.

Meats such as ribs, chops, and roasts are most commonly treated in this manner, but cut potatoes also do nicely.

The best rubs enhance the flavor of the meat without being overbearing. Rubs are

**Yogurt base:** Yogurt can be used alone or combined with lemon juice and other seasonings (dill) to flavor and tenderize chicken before grilling or baking.

## Rub recipes

### BARBECUE:

- 2 Tablespoons salt
- 4 Tablespoons sugar
- 4 Tablespoons ground black pepper
- 2 Tablespoons chili powder
- 4 Tablespoons paprika

### CAJUN:

- 3 Tablespoons paprika
- ½ teaspoon cayenne
- 1 Tablespoon garlic powder
- 2 Teaspoons dried oregano, crushed
- 2 Teaspoons dried thyme, crushed
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg

### HERB (NO SALT)

- 1 teaspoon dried tarragon leaves, crushed
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- ½ teaspoon dried marjoram leaves, crushed
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme, crushed

### MEDITERRANEAN (NO SALT)

- 1 Tablespoons dill weed
- 1 Tablespoons dill seed
- 1 Tablespoon fennel seed
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
- 1 teaspoon lemon pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder

### PEPPER-SAGE (NO SALT)

- 1 Tablespoon dried parsley flakes
- 1 Tablespoon seasoned pepper
- 1 teaspoon rubbed sage
- 1 teaspoon onion powder

### SAVORY ORANGE (NO SALT, BUT HAS SUGAR)

- 2 Tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 Tablespoon grated orange peel
- 1 Tablespoon dried thyme, crushed
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder

### SPICY HERB:

- 1 teaspoon dried marjoram leaves, crushed
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger

**Instructions:** Simply mix all the seasonings together in a bowl or plastic zip-top storage bag. To apply a rub, pat the surface of the food dry with a paper towel and rub with the desired amount of seasoning mixture. Once rubbed, either cook immediately (roast, broil, grill or pan fry) or cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for up to 24 hours to increase the flavor.

**Note:** If after trying all these you find a particular favorite, you may want to make it in quantity and keep handy in an air-tight container. These mixes also make great gifts when neatly packaged in a decorative, tightly sealed container and labeled.

usually a blend of strong and mild herbs and spices.

This mixture applied directly on the meat is called a "dry" rub, but when a wet substance is included, it is called a "wet" rub. A little moisture such as oil or honey helps the rub adhere to the meat.

Once coated with the rub, let the meat rest 15 minutes before placing on the grill.

For any longer than that, rubbed meats must be held in the refrigerator and can be kept as long as overnight to allow the spices to better permeate the meat and increase flavor.

Betsy Crisp is a Professor Emeritus, UF/IFAS Extension - Family & Consumer Sciences

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<b>B.C. MANION</b> Editor bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com	<b>KEVIN WEISS</b> Staff Writer kweiss@lakerlutznews.com	<b>KATHY STEELE</b> Staff Writer ksteeler@lakerlutznews.com	<b>MARY RATHMAN</b> Editorial Assistant mrathman@lakerlutznews.com
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# What's Happening

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

## SCHOOL BASH NEEDS PARTNERS

The annual Cobb Grove 16Theatres Back-to-School Bash, scheduled for Aug. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., is looking for partners to showcase their businesses in the community and make an impact on kids. If interested, call Demene Benjamin at (813) 948-5444.

## SENIOR GAMES

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host senior games June 15 from 10 a.m., with cards, board games and video games. Adult refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Land O' Lakes Library. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## BUILD A BETTER WORLD

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host two Build a Better World programs June 15. There will be "Buggin' Builders" at 2 p.m., for kindergarten through third grade, with stories, crafts and games; and gaming at 4 p.m. for grades eight to 12, with board games, card games and video games. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## GARDEN MEETING

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host a community garden meeting June 15 at 6:30 p.m., for anyone interested in learning about gardening. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## BALLOON ANIMALS

The Hugh Embury Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer "Make Balloon Animals for Fun & Profit" June 15 at 3:30 p.m. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## SAFE DRIVER CLASS

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host the AARP Safe Driver Class June 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To register, call Eugene Pool at (813) 949-8585.

## EMOJINATION

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a preteen Build a Better World: Emojination June 16 at 2 p.m., for grades four to seven. There will be emoji-themed crafts and games. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## ADULT COLORING

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will offer "Color Us Creative" June 16 at 10 a.m., for adults. Bring your own coloring pencils, pages and supplies, or use the library's stash. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN CLUB

The African American Club of Pasco County will host its free Juneteenth Festival June 17 from noon to 5 p.m., at the Old Booker T. Washington School House, 6105 Pine Hill Road in New Port Richey. The theme is "Celebrating Diversity Thru Music." There will be an open mic, musical entertainment, a bounce house, a waterslide, face painting, the Pasco Sheriff's Mounted Posse, sno-cones, a fire truck and more. For information, call (727) 849-5582, email [aacofpasco@yahoo.com](mailto:aacofpasco@yahoo.com), or visit the African American Club of Pasco Florida on Facebook.

## KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host a Kiddush luncheon June 17 after the 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services. Admission is free, but non-members are asked to RSVP at (813) 962-6338.

## COMMUNITY EXPO

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will host a Community Expo June 17 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Guests can meet representatives from local organizations to learn about programs, services and community resources. Students can learn how to earn service hours for



## Father's Day celebration

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will host a Father's Day celebration June 16 at 1 p.m. Everyone should wear a tie. For information, call (813) 264-3804.

## MOSI free for dads

The Museum of Science and Industry, 4801 E. Fowler Ave., in Tampa, will kick-off its Rockets' Red Glare Festival June 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guests can meet real rocket engineers from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, who will show how to design, build and launch your own rocket made from paper. The festival is included in a MOSI admission. Dads get in free on Father's Day weekend, June 17 and June 18, with a paid child's ticket, and can also experience the Cardboard Space Adventures.

## Daddy & Daughter Dance

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will host a Daddy & Daughter Dance June 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Carrollwood Jukebox Big Band will perform. The daughter's ticket is free. Tickets are limited. The cost is \$16, or \$12 for members. For information, call (813) 269-1310.

## Free dad admission

The Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water St., in Tampa, will celebrate Father's Day with free admission for dads, with one paid adult admission, June 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There also will be free arts and crafts for kids. For information, visit [TampaBayHistoryCenter.org](http://TampaBayHistoryCenter.org).

## Dads play for free

The Glazer Children's Museum, 110 W. Gasparilla Plaza in Tampa, will offer free admission to fathers June 18 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. For information, call (813) 443-3861.

Florida Bright Futures scholarships. OneBlood will be on-site for blood donations. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

## HOMEOWNERSHIP INFO

The Path to Homeownership Community Event will be June 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at King Forest Park, 8008 E. Chelsea St., in Tampa. Guest speakers will be Jackie Callaway and Lissette Campos from ABC Action News. Participants can learn homebuyer education and about mortgage assistance. Admission is free. For information, call (813) 231-4362, ext. 3600.

## ART EXHIBIT

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host an art exhibit by Bill Bengraph June 18 to June 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. Bengraph is known for his realistic landscapes, portraits and animals. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

## BROMELIAD GUILD

The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay will meet June 19 at Christ the King Catholic Church, 821 S. Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa. The guest speaker will be Tom Wolfe on "Basic Bromeliad Culture." Doors open at 7 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:30 p.m. For information, email Carol Wolfe at [bromstudio@hotmail.com](mailto:bromstudio@hotmail.com).

## VENDOR BOOTHS NEEDED

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club has vendor booth openings for its annual July 4th Celebration in downtown Lutz. Booth spaces are available for \$20, or \$25 with electricity. The application deadline is June 19. For information, call (813) 210-5779, or email [lutz4thofjuly@gmail.com](mailto:lutz4thofjuly@gmail.com).

## SANDCASTLE COMPETITION

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host an outdoor sandcastle competition June 20 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., for grades four to seven. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## MOBILE LICENSING

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host the Mobile Licensing Bus June 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., to renew driver's licenses, tags and more. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

## PLANTS AND POLLINATORS

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will offer "Easy to Grow Native Plants and Their Pollinators" June 20 at 2 p.m. The presentation will discuss pollinators, mainly butterflies and bees, and the relationship to native plants. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer teen volunteer training June 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Participants must fill out a form on the library's website and register. For assistance, call (813) 929-1214.

## FREE KIDS MOVIES

Cobb Grove 16Theatres, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, will offer free summer kids' movies every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10 a.m. The movies for June 20, June 21 and June 22 are "Open Season 3" and "Surf's Up." Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Same-day ticketing only. Large groups, schools and camps are invited. The theater also will offer sensory-friendly films to provide families with

varying abilities the opportunity to watch a movie where kids can be kids, in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums will have brighter lights and the sound level turned down. Participants can interact with the movie (dance and sing) without the worry of disturbing others. The theater will show "Cars 3" June 17 at 10 a.m. Tickets will be available in person on the Wednesday prior to the broadcast. For information, call (813) 948-5444.

## BOOK DISCUSSION

The Hugh Embury Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a book discussion on "The Wright Brothers" by David McCullough June 20 from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. New members can attend. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## TIE DYE FUN

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a Build a Better World tie dye fun program June 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., for grades eight to 12. Registration is required. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## CIRCUS FUN

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host "Bucky & Gigi Present Fun, Funny & Fit" June 21 at 2 p.m., for all ages. The duo combines circus skills, mime, juggling and magic. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

## READ TO ME

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host "Read to Me" June 21 at 11:30 a.m., for babies and preschoolers. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## LEARN STRATEGY GAMES

The Hugh Embury Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a Summer Reading Club for teens to learn Yu-Gi-Oh, Magic and other strategy games, June 21 and June 22 at 3:30 p.m. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## WOODWORKING MEETUP

Join the Arts Council of Hillsborough County at Franklin Street Fine Woodwork, 1609 N. Franklin St., in Tampa, for a June social and networking meetup June 21 at 6:30 p.m. Meet other artists, and hear about two artists and their art woodworking studio. Guests can bring business cards, promotional flyers and brochures to exchange. All artists can attend. Admission is free. To sign up, visit [tinyurl.com/ycwe8x6n](http://tinyurl.com/ycwe8x6n).

## CARROLLWOOD TOASTMASTERS

The Carrollwood Toastmasters will meet June 21 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Tampa. For information, visit [Carrollwood.toastmastersclubs.org](http://Carrollwood.toastmastersclubs.org).

## BIG BAND MUSIC

The Florida Jazz Express, a 17-piece big band, will be at the Dockside Grille, 5015 U.S. 19, New Port Richey, June 22 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. The band will play an assortment of classic and modern big band music, perfect for dancing and listening. There also will be drinks and food. There is no cover charge. Visit, [Facebook.com/FloridaJazzExpress](http://Facebook.com/FloridaJazzExpress).

## AGING SERVICES SENIOR PROM

Aging Services will host its annual Senior Prom, "Paradise in the Orient," June 22 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Regent, 6437 Watson Road in Riverview. There will be food, entertainment, music and door prizes. A king and queen will be crowned. Hillsborough County active adults can attend, but reservations are required. For information and to RSVP, call Gerry Randolph at (813) 625-2570.

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# Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

## Superb First Year at Jo-z Wilder State Farm

Special to The Laker / Lutz News

It's been a busy year-and-a-half since Jo-z Wilder opened her State Farm Insurance office along the State Road 54 corridor in Pasco County.

"We have been so welcomed by the community, that we've surpassed all the goals we set for ourselves when we opened," said Jo-z, owner of the State Farm agency.

Jo-z attributes part of her success to being in the center of the booming business district of Lutz, Land O' Lakes and Wesley Chapel. Her office is located on the south side of State Road 54, just east of Livingston Avenue, and minutes from I-75 and U.S. 41.

"We're convenient to so many people — which is important because our clients like to come to the office to work with our agents," said Jo-z. "Of course, we also conduct business online, or telephone but many people prefer sitting down with their agent face-to-face to talk about their insurance needs."

"We find that people appreciate our old-fashioned, personal touch. Plus, they appreciate that we're open Tuesday and Thursday until 7 p.m., and are available by appointment outside of regular office hours," she said.

For many families, Jo-z's office provides all their insurance and banking needs — auto, homeowners, renters, life and business policies, as well as checking and savings accounts.

"State Farm writes more auto, life & homeowner insurance than anyone else. It's our goal to be a one-stop service for our customer — providing all the insurance they need to protect themselves and their families," said Jo-z.

When it comes to auto or homeowners insurance, which State Farm is perhaps best known for, Jo-z and her team can offer discounts for good drivers, good students, low mileage and good driving habits. Plus, they can apply discounts to multiple vehicles or policies in the same household.

"Right now, we are offering a huge discount on auto insurance for customers who also have their homeowner's insurance with us," said Jo-z. "In addition to great rates, our homeowner's



State Farm's new office in Lutz is staffed by licensed agents (left to right) Joshua Dike, Dominique Sinson, Jose Pomales, Claudia Montes & Jo-z Wilder (principal).

policies provide more comprehensive coverage and higher limits — up to \$500,000 — than most other companies."

Roofing and pet liability are good examples of State Farm's comprehensive homeowner coverage. State Farm policies can provide full replacement cost of roof damage, and liability coverage in case a pet is involved in an incident with injuries.

Working with Jo-z are four experienced, licensed agents — Joshua Dike, Dominique Sinson, Jose Pomales, & Claudia Montes who additionally speaks Spanish.

"I have an incredible team that makes people feel at home in our office," says Jo-z. "We genuinely care about our customers and our community. We don't just write insurance policies — we find out what's most important to our customers, and then present products best suited for them."

Jo-z is an active member of The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce. Her office primarily serves families in Lutz, Land O' Lakes, Wesley Chapel and New Tampa.

"Please feel free to call or stop by anytime," said Jo-z. "My team looks forward to meeting with you and helping you find the best insurance services at rates you can afford."



**Jo-z Wilder, State Farm Agent**  
23604 State Road 54 • Lutz, FL 33559  
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## QUIT YOUR WAY

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



### Class Schedule

Wednesday, July 5, 2017 | 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Morton Plant, North Bay Hospital  
6600 Madison Street New Port Richey

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 | 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Good Samaritan Clinic  
5334 Aspen Street New Port Richey

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 | 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Florida Hospital, Wesley Chapel  
2600 Bruce B Downs Blvd Wesley Chapel

Friday, July 14, 2017 | 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Pasco Health Department  
10841 Little Road New Port Richey

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 | 11:00am – 1:00pm  
Hudson Library  
8012 Library Road Hudson

Thursday, July 20, 2017 | 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Florida Hospital, Wellness Center  
38233 Daughtery Road Zephyrhills

Friday, July 21, 2017 | 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
CareerSource  
4400 Grand Blvd New Port Richey

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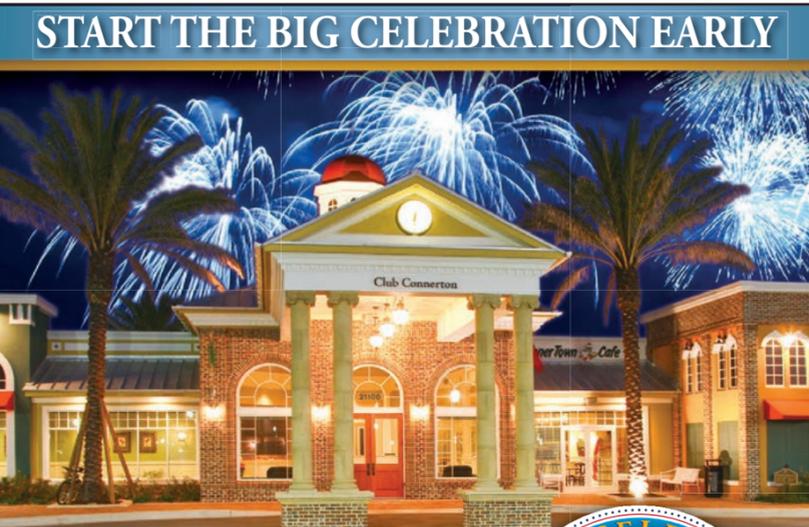
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- ★ Food Trucks ★ Local Crafters
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ADMISSION: \$5.00 | PARKING: \$5.00  
KIDS: FREE (AGES 12 & Under)

- Fireworks Approx. 9:15 PM by Zambelli (Time is subject to change)
- Kids Bounce Houses
- Children's Activities
- Watermelon Eating Contest
- Pony Rides & Petting Zoo
- Hot Dog Eating Contest
- Hula Hoop Contest
- Food Court
- Blood Mobile
- Dennis Lee Show
- FREE Face Painting & Balloons
- Elvis Tribute - Billy "Elvis" Lindsey
- Karaoke Contest with Cash Prizes

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COURTESY OF RICHARD RILEY

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards ceremony on June 8. Pictured, from left to right: Jill Evans, San Antonio Federal Credit Union; Mark Pinson, Entangle Media; Todd Batchelor, Beef O' Brady's; Harold Sample, Office of the Pasco County Clerk; Grady Cunningham, Lori Anne's and Church Street Shoppe; Chief Ray Velboom, Dade City Police Department; Richard Riley, Riley Productions Inc.; and Amanda Keith, The Thomas Promise Foundation.

## Dade City chamber announces 2017 community awards

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce announced its 2017 Community Awards during a ceremony June 8, at the Tampa Bay Golf & Country Club.

The annual President's Award will be presented to a worthy recipient by chamber president Randy Surber at the group's Business Breakfast and Board Installation Ceremony on Oct. 17 at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd.

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce is a member-based not-for-profit trade association dedicated to the promotion of business development and quality of life in the Greater Dade City area. It represents more than 450 businesses and organizations throughout east Pasco.

For information on The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, contact John Moors at (352) 567-3769 or [jmoors@dadecitychamber.org](mailto:jmoors@dadecitychamber.org).

### Award recipients

- **Business Leader of the Year:** Grady Cunningham, owner of Lori Anne's and Church Street Shoppe/Toys, Kites & More
- **Large Business of the Year:** San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union
- **Small Business of the Year:** Beef O' Brady's
- **Civic Association of the Year:** The Thomas Promise Foundation
- **Citizen of the Year:** Dade City Police Chief Ray Velboom
- **Chamber Ambassador of the Year:** Mark Pinson, Entangle Media
- **Chamber Member of the Year:** Richard Riley, Riley Productions Inc.
- **Richard Tombrink Lifetime Achievement Award:** Harold Sample, Pasco County Clerk's Office

## Back To School Supply Drive

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### Thrift Shoppe

School supplies will be given to elementary students in need through the Kiwanis Club of Greater West Pasco.

## June 10 – July 22

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**DAIKIN**

# BUSINESS DIGEST

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

## GRAND OPENING

Renaissance Senior Living will have a grand opening June 15 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at 16001 Lakeshore Villa Drive in Tampa. A ribbon cutting will be at 5:15 p.m.

The Renaissance-themed event will feature "noble nibbles," knights, musicians, jugglers and fire eaters, overseen by a Renaissance King and Queen. Sponsors are the Carrollwood Area Business Association (CABA) and the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce.

The senior living facility is managed by Allegro Management Company.

The event is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is requested.

For more information, you can visit [RenaissanceSrLiving.com](http://RenaissanceSrLiving.com). An RSVP can be made at [bit.ly/RenaissanceRSVP](http://bit.ly/RenaissanceRSVP).

## CENTRAL PASCO AWARDS BANQUET

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will have its 42nd Annual Awards and Installation Banquet June 16 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Harbor Terrace Restaurant at the Heritage Harbor Golf & Country Club, at 19502 Heritage Harbor Parkway in Lutz.

Business attire, cocktail dresses and long gowns are recommended. No jeans or shorts will be allowed.

Banquet tickets are \$50 per person or \$90 for two tickets, if registered by June 14. Afterward, and at the door, the cost is \$60 per ticket.

For more information, please contact the

chamber office at (813) 909-2722 or [office@CentralPascoChamber.com](mailto:office@CentralPascoChamber.com).

## HISPANIC LEADERS LUNCH

The Hispanic Business Leaders of the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will host a Hispanic Business Leaders Luncheon, open to all chamber members and guests, June 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd.

Guest speaker will be Kristen King of Keep Pasco Beautiful.

The cost is \$20 for chamber members at the door, or \$15, if preregistered by June 15. For non-members, the cost is \$20, and they can preregister or pay at the door.

For information, email Ignacio Ruiz at [ignaciou.ruiz@gmail.com](mailto:ignaciou.ruiz@gmail.com).

## NORTH TAMPA 70TH BIRTHDAY

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will celebrate its 70th anniversary June 21, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe, at 3825 Northdale Blvd., in Tampa.

Enjoy free food, a silent auction, drawings and an evening of fun.

Please RSVP by June 19 for a head count.

For more information, please contact the chamber at (813) 563-0180 or [ContactNTCC@gmail.com](mailto:ContactNTCC@gmail.com).

## LAKESIDE PROS GRAND OPENING

Lakeside Heating, Cooling, & Plumbing will have its grand opening June 21 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at 4608 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

Enjoy fun, food, beer, wine, networking, music and prizes. Event hosts include The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, please visit [LakesideComfortPros.com](http://LakesideComfortPros.com).

## SMARTSTART ROUNDTABLE

The SMARTstart Entrepreneur Roundtable will meet June 22, from 8:30



COURTESY OF FIFTH THIRD BANK

Fifth Third Bank provided more than a million meals in the month of May during the national campaign, 'Feeding Our Communities.' Area employees helped Metropolitan Ministries with food donations.

## BANK FIGHTS HUNGER

Employees and customers of Fifth Third Bank provided more than a million meals in May to fight hunger during the bank's annual "Feeding Our Communities" campaign, according to a press release from Fifth Third Bank.

Surpassing the million-meal mark is a first for Fifth Third.

The bank partnered with more than 65 organizations in 10 states during the campaign. Each region identified needs in their local communities and designed volunteer efforts in support.

In Florida, employees and customers provided nearly 59,000 meals during the campaign. Employees provided 438 service hours to area food bank partners, according to the press release.

In the Tampa area, donations went to Metropolitan Ministries. Volunteers helped with food sorting and preparation.

Fifth Third Bancorp is a diversified financial services company headquartered in Ohio.

For more information, please visit [53.com/commitment](http://53.com/commitment).

a.m. to 10 a.m., at The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce, at 6013 Wesley Chapel Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

Entrepreneur Roundtables bring small business owners and early-stage venture founders together on a monthly basis for an exchange of information. Groups typically include six members to 10 members from diverse industries, in a confidential setting, to share the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship and how it affects life at work and home.

For information, contact SMARTstart Incubator Dade City at (352) 437-4861.

## ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Visit [WesleyChapel.com](http://WesleyChapel.com) will have a ribbon cutting and one-year anniversary June 23 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., at Cantina Laredo

at The Shops at Wiregrass, at 2000 Piazza Ave., in Wesley Chapel.

Enjoy live music, special entertainment, a \$10 taco bar and a \$5 Mojito drink special.

Please RSVP if you plan to dine at the taco bar.

For more information, please send an email to [tara@visitwesleychapel.com](mailto:tara@visitwesleychapel.com).

## TOP REALTORS

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

Top listing agent by units is Penny Trovillo; by volume, is Kristy Thurber. Top selling agent by units is Lynette Krull; by volume, is Carolyn Hill. Top producing agent by units is Lynette Krull; by volume, is Diane Laoudis.

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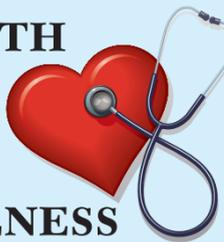
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# HEALTH & WELLNESS

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tioning, benefits of immediate skin-to-skin 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.  
For information and to register, call (813) 443-2046.

## MEN'S HEALTH SEMINAR

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point will offer a tutorial on "Health Risks for Men" June 20 at the Rao Musunuru M.D. Conference Center, 14100 Yosemite Drive in Hudson.

Registration and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by the tutorial at noon.

Admission is free. A complimentary lunch will be served. Reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 869-5498.

## WOMEN'S HEALTH PANEL

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will host "Ask the Experts: Women's Health Panel" June 20 at noon, in the fourth floor hospital classroom.

Female experts in gynecology, family medicine and pelvic health will moderate the panel and answer questions.

A meal will be provided. For information and reservations, call (844) 504-9378.

## OILS FOR HEALTH

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer a free introductory essential oils class June 20 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Participants can learn what essential oils are and how to use them to support a healthier, cleaner life.

There also will be a raffle for an oil gift.

For information, call Deanna Jacobs at (813) 479-7724.

## ROSECASTLE EDUCATION SERIES

Rosecastle of Zephyrhills, 37411 Eiland Blvd., will offer a Summer Education Series on the latest information and discussion about senior-related health topics.

The series begins with Part One on June 22 at 5:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Craig Mayers from Olympian Clinical Research, on Alzheimer's and memory care.

Part Two will be June 29 at 5:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Julie Richards from Therapy Solvers, on the importance of maintaining balance. There also will be free balance testing and training.

Both sessions include a complimentary dinner. Reservations are required.

For information, email Jennifer Hancock at [dhancock@rosecastle.life](mailto:dhancock@rosecastle.life).

## MEDICARE 101

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth



COURTESY OF NANCY WHITENER

## Staywell honors NAMI

Staywell, a WellCare company, recognized NAMI Pasco (National Alliance on Mental Illness) as its community partner for the month of May. NAMI was recognized for its hard work, commitment and dedication to serving families in the region. Staywell also donated meeting space for NAMI Connection Support Groups. From left: Michael Piper and Michelle Gesaman, NAMI; Emily Fregger, office coordinator Staywell; and, Meghan Shattuck, Beth Piecora and Toni Roach, NAMI.

NAMI info line: (727) 992-9653.

St., in Dade City, will offer Medicare 101 on June 22 at 2 p.m., to answer Medicare questions, complete forms and more.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## DONATE TO MEDICAL MISSION

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Land O' Lakes is collecting for Operation Haiti, a medical mission. Items needed are old medication bottles (remove labels and rinse), and supplies for hygiene kits, including shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Hotel sizes cannot be accepted.

A bin at the church entrance, 2348 Collier Parkway, will be available for donations.

For information, call (813) 949-4565.

## NEUROPATHY EDUCATION

CARE Tampa Bay offers free peripheral neuropathy education and support the second Saturday of each month by appointment.

Topics include symptom management, coping, maximizing your physical function, and medications and nutritional supplements.

To make an appointment, contact Cindy Toftshagen at (813) 396-9441 or [neuropathy-help@caretampabay.org](mailto:neuropathy-help@caretampabay.org).

## ZUMBA FOR FITNESS

Land O' Lakes Family Fitness, 7016 Land O' Lakes Blvd., will have Zumba, Zumba

Gold, and boot camp every week for members and non-members.

Zumba Gold is on Thursday at 10:30 a.m., \$6 per class.

Zumba also is on Thursday at 6:30 p.m., \$6 per class.

Boot camp is every Wednesday at 6 p.m., \$25 per class.

For information, call Jennifer Glickman at (813) 388-2520.

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CLASS

Saint Leo University's Human Services Department will offer the public, students, faculty and staff a free opportunity to learn more about mental health first aid and how it can be beneficial.

The classes will focus on recovery and resiliency, the belief that individuals experiencing mental health challenges can and do get better, and that they can use their strengths to stay well.

Participants can learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

The class for adults will be at Saint Leo University, 33701 State Road 52, on July 17 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration is required. For more information, please call (352) 383-2099 or email [marina@befreelake.org](mailto:marina@befreelake.org).

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# Closer Look

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Todd Boudreau understands better than most that a small business can provide better expertise and customer service than a large company, because the owner can be involved in every job.

He knows this firsthand, because before starting Air Conditioning Solutions, for 10 years he and his wife, Teresa, owned a large mechanical and plumbing company with more than 30 employees in their home state of Kansas.

While that business was very successful, it grew to become larger than they wanted to manage. So the couple sold the business in 2001, and Todd went to work for a large distributor.

A few years later, the Boudreaus and their three young children moved to Land O' Lakes for its good schools, excellent youth sports programs and the opportunity to be a part of Tampa Bay's fast-growing economy.

Initially, Todd worked for area HVAC companies. His extensive mechanical experience was in demand, especially his knowledge of geothermal heating and cooling systems, in addition to his 30 years experience in plumbing and traditional air conditioning systems.

By 2006, Todd and Teresa were ready to be business owners once again.

"When we decided to open another business, we knew we wanted to keep it small," said Todd. "We believe staying small keeps us closer to our customers, and allows me to do what I love best —using my mechanical skills and years of experience to help people find the best solution to their air conditioning, heating and plumbing needs."

And, that is just what Todd, Teresa and their oldest son, Brandon, do every day from their new Land O' Lakes location on U.S. 41, directly across from the McDonald's at Arbor Square at Connerton.

"We purposely plan to keep the business at fewer than 10 employees, because we believe staying small is the best way to control quality, pricing and customer service," said Todd.

While there are many air conditioning companies in the area, Air Conditioning Solutions is one of few that specialize in geothermal heating and cooling systems, which makes up about 30 percent of the company's business. The remaining 70 percent comes from repairing and installing traditional A/C systems and plumbing jobs.

Geothermal technology is an underground system that takes advantage of the earth's steady, 72-degree temperature to efficiently cool and maintain a building's temperature. Thousands of feet of tubing are buried in the earth, and then water circulates through these pipes to efficiently cool and heat.

There are many advantages to geothermal cooling systems, including a savings of up to 50 percent in utility bills. A geothermal system has a life span of 30 to 40 years, compared to eight to 12 years typical for standard HVAC systems with outside compressors continually exposed to Florida's extreme weather. Plus, heating a swimming pool is a free byproduct of geothermal air conditioning.

"I have sold around 300 geothermal systems — nearly all closed-loop systems — in the past 10 years," said Todd. "Our customers find the return on investment is usually six to eight years after they calculate their monthly utility savings and the cost to replace a standard A/C unit every 10 years or so."

For smaller homes, a geothermal system begins at \$25,000, and for large homes on the water, the cost can top \$250,000. Pricing includes building and installing the metal ductwork that Todd and Brandon custom build for every job.

Brandon, who is 25 and a graduate of Sunlake High School, recently returned from helping family in Kansas to join the family business. He has worked alongside his father since he was 14, and like his dad, is an expert at installing geothermal systems.

The Boudreau family also includes son Logan, who will be studying mechanical engineering at the University of Central Florida, and daughter Morgan, a junior at Sunlake High, who plays on the school's softball team.

In 2012, the Boudreaus purchased the building and property owned by Miller's Sheet Metal Shop. They expanded and renovated the building and outside areas to house all of its services, under one roof — sheet metal, air conditioning, plumbing, geothermal and spray foam insulation.

"We were told by many people to level the old building and build a new one," said Todd. "But, with the help of many people, we were able to revitalize the Miller property and honor its long history. We feel very fortunate and thankful to own such a perfect parcel of property right here in Land O Lakes."



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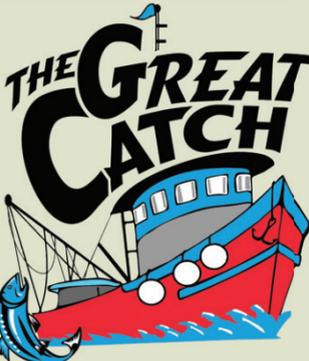
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# Chalk Talk

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

## STUDENTS INDUCTED TO HONOR SOCIETY

These Lutz students have been initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at the University of South Florida: Catherine Elko, Mark Giddarie, Maylenid Oyola, Jennifer Ron and Jana Woodall.

Brian Longbottom, of Odessa, was also inducted into Phi Kappa Phi.

## FOURTH QUARTER TOP DOGS

The Pilot Club of Zephyrhills hosted the Top Dog winners from Stewart Middle School at Hungry Howie's for lunch.

The club started the program more than 30 years ago to honor students for academics and leadership roles in the school.

The fourth quarter Top Dogs were: Kabre Mathews, Carlos Morales Garcia, Joyla Tenryk, Savannah Baptist, Emily Kirk, Caitlyn Eudy, Madison Aquilera, Rosmy Cruz Luis and Jorden Soule.

Each student received a certificate and a gold dog tag.

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce recognized nine Students of the Month, chosen by the teachers and administration of their individual schools for exemplary effort, achievement and contribution to their school, family and community.

The Zephyrhills chamber has recognized students with this program each month of the school year for nearly 20 years.

The students receiving honors for May

2017 were Katie Aspedon, Zephyrhills High School (Aspedon also was a recipient of a The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce Scholarship); Aliza Hernandez, East Pasco Adventist Academy; Jose Polo, Hope Ranch Learning Academy; Joyla Tenryk, Raymond B. Stewart Middle; Kali Deshane, Chester W. Taylor Elementary; Zelia Betz-Merrill, The Broach School; Savanna Best, West Zephyrhills Elementary; Tristan Geist, Heritage Academy; and, Parker Howry, Woodland Elementary.

Students and their families get breakfast, and the students are awarded with gifts and recognitions from businesses who sponsor or support the program.

## SAINT LEO ADDS ONLINE DEGREES

Saint Leo University has added two new online, technology-related degree programs that are ready to enroll students for the fall semester.

A new Associate of Arts in cybersecurity can prepare people to pass certain industry certification tests, which will allow them to compete for entry-level jobs. Additionally, associate degree holders can move into the existing Bachelor of Science program in cybersecurity, also online.

At the graduate level, Saint Leo is offering its Master of Business Administration degree with a specialization in data analytics. Students can receive 15 graduate credit hours in courses that can teach them how to approach "Big Data" to extract and evaluate patterns and improve business planning.

For information, visit [SaintLeo.edu](http://SaintLeo.edu).

## THIRD-GRADERS IMPROVE SCORES

The percentage of Pasco County Schools third-grade students scoring a 3 or higher on the Florida Standards Assessment in English language arts increased by three percentage points in 2017, improving from 57 percent to 60 percent.



COURTESY OF RENEE GERSTEIN, SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

## ROTC Cadets take oath

Saint Leo University commissioned four Army ROTC cadets, calling the individuals to take the oath of office, have gold bars pinned to their uniforms by family members, and receive their first salute. The new Army officers are, from left, 2nd Lieutenant Alex Swonger, 2nd Lieutenant Jason Douglass, 2nd Lieutenant William LaPierre, and 2nd Lieutenant Cody Walker. The cadets are standing in front of the 'For Those Who Serve' statue at the school.

Pasco students also surpassed the state proficiency rate by two percentage points.

Deer Park Elementary School led the schools making significant progress, moving up 24 percentage points, from 56 percent proficient to 80 percent proficient.

Lake Myrtle improved 18 percentage points, from 61 to 79 percent.

Chester Taylor progressed from 52 to 68 percent, up 16 percentage points.

Other schools that improved by 10 percentage points or more include Pasco and Watergrass (up 13 percentage points), Pine View (up 12 percentage points) and Sanders (up 11 percentage points).

Pasco charter school improvement was

led by Athenian Academy, which garnered a 25 percent point increase, from 39 to 64 percent proficiency.

Other charters that improved by 10 percentage points or more include Pepin Academies (13 percentage points) and Countryside Montessori (12 percentage points).

Sixty-seven percent of the 50 Pasco County elementary schools with scores, improved the percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher.

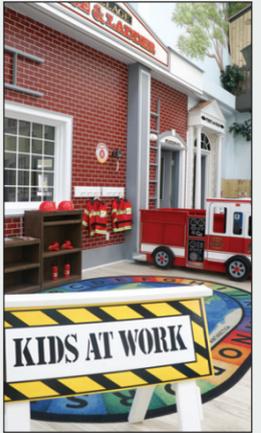
Sixty-three percent of Pasco's charter schools with scores showed improvement in the percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher.



## Local preschool gets makeover

Country Village Preschool, 17727 Mentmore Blvd., in Land O' Lakes recently had a complete renovation to its campus. Main Street, which includes a grocery store and a fire station, is located in the center of the school. It gives students a chance to take part in an interactive classroom with lessons geared toward hands-on learning based on a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) curriculum. For information, call (813) 920-8700.

COURTESY OF COUNTRY VILLAGE PRESCHOOL



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## Proudly Welcoming Jenny Buck, MD, FACOG



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.

Obstetrics and Gynecology of Trinity is pleased to welcome Dr. Buck to our team of physicians.

Our skilled and friendly team provides high quality, comprehensive and personalized medical care for women in all stages of life. Services include routine gynecological and pregnancy care, family planning and surgical procedures.

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## LEADERSHIP, from page 1A

looking forward to an activity-packed schedule.

"There's going to be a lot of stuff to do in the day," Kaitlyn said. "You'll get to learn the history behind the monuments."

The conference includes sessions on leadership traits and historic topics, as well as visits to national memorials, museums and a sleepover at the Maryland Science Center, amid mummies, dinosaurs and space exhibits.

Kaitlyn thinks the conference will be a good experience, but she's not sure if it will help her with her future career. She wants to be a chiropractor when she grows up.

Alice wants to be a teacher.

Kylie wants to be a teacher, too. But, she said: "If that doesn't work out, I want to be a lawyer. I want to be a lawyer that helps people get custody of their kids."

Both Kylie and Kaitlyn live in Lutz, and Alice just moved from Lutz to Land O' Lakes.

Kaitlyn will be attending Terrace Community Middle School in Temple Terrace. Kylie will be attending Buchanan Middle School in Tampa, and Alice will be at-

tending Cypress Creek Middle High in Wesley Chapel.

Alice's mom, Michelle Milone, is thrilled that Alice was nominated for the program.

"All three of you should be so super-duper proud of yourselves," Milone told the girls, during a recent interview with The Laker/Lutz News.

"I think it's really, really great," Milone said.

"When I was in high school, I went to something called GHP, the governor's honors program. It was paid for by the state. It was a big deal. I learned a lot.

"I went to law camp, one year," she added. "I went to Spanish camp."

"I met people. I learned things," Milone said. She's glad the girls can take advantage of this opportunity.

Like Milone, Andrea and Kiel Flynn are delighted that the girls were nominated.

They estimated the conference cost for each of the girls to be around \$3,000, and that doesn't count the expenses that Flynn, Milone or Dave and Melissa Britton will incur because they'll be on their own.

While it's pricey, Milone and Flynn think it's worthwhile because they believe the experience will have a lasting impression.



COURTESY OF PATRICIA SERIO

## Welcoming veterans home

Members of the Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club, along with District 8 sister-club members, gathered at the Clearwater-St. Pete Airport to welcome the incoming Honor Flight of returning World War II veterans from their trip to Washington D.C. Members waved flags, greeted and cheered for our veterans.

## LOOP, from page 1A

The live music would be "acoustic guitar playing" - typically on weekends - that suits the relaxed atmosphere of In the Loop, he added.

"We want to be good neighbors," Traina said.

County staff members had recommended an increase in operating hours, but not as many as the planning commission.

County staff recommended against live music.

No one spoke against the proposal at the June 7 public hearing.

In the Loop started with a friendship and a home-brewing hobby in a garage on Cherbourg Loop.

In 2016, Traina, Mark Pizzurro and Peter Abreut took the leap and opened their brewery.

Traina said they want In the Loop to be a catalyst for redevelopment in Land O' Lakes, along U.S. 41.

"We want a nice, classy place like in Seminole Heights, in Tampa," Traina said.

In the Loop is a destination on beer bus tours organized by Tampa Bay Brewing Tours, with headquarters on Florida Avenue in the Seminole Heights' neighborhood.

Yoga classes are held every other Sunday in the beer garden.

Chambers of commerce and other organizations want to use the business for breakfasts, parties and special events, Traina said. Current operating hours can't accommodate that, he said.

At present, In the Loop is closed on Monday and Tuesday. It opens at 4 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday, and, at noon on Sunday. Current closing times are 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 8 p.m. on Sunday.

## ADMINISTRATOR, from page 1A

Former Pasco County Administrator Michele Baker hired Guthrie in 2016 as the county's emergency management director. Within months, he was promoted to emergency services director.

"I'm excited about what we've accomplished in the emergency services department over the past year, and I look

forward to leading the entire public safety team," Guthrie said.

Guthrie served for 24 years as a law enforcement officer for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in Duval County. He also served seven years as emergency preparedness coordinator.

He retired from law enforcement, but was Flagler County's emergency management director for three years before his hire in Pasco.

## GARDENING, from page 1A

garden manager.

Members of the Pasco County Food Policy Advisory Council spent about two years discussing and gathering public opinions on community gardens before submitting the ordinance for review.

The council is one of only three in the state.

"It's really exciting to see it really coming together," said Travis Morehead, the council's chairman. "I think we have something here that is very powerful."

Three to four community garden requests have been stalled because the county didn't have a process for community gardens to take root through the permit process.

A permit process would be an easier and less expensive route than having to rezone property to allow the gardens, Morehead said.

Some community gardens already are flourishing, including ones in New Port Richey, which approved a city ordinance. In 2016, a community garden sprouted on land owned by Florida Hospital Zephyrhills.

The Pasco County Extension Office has discussed a community garden as part of its

proposal to relocate from the Pasco County fairgrounds to the Stallings Building in downtown Dade City.

The proposed ordinance also defines other types of gardens.

For instance, a market garden primarily sells and buys produce grown on-site or off-site, and is less than 5 acres.

A community farm grows produce, including fruits, vegetables and other edibles, for sale off-site. Farms may be any size.

Discussion on community gardens in Pasco began several years ago.

A master marketing and redevelopment plan for The Harbors district in west Pasco included community gardens and the concept for a food policy council.

Starkey also gives credit to another community movement.

"The food policy council's history began with emails from residents who wanted to have backyard chickens," she said.

She is a proponent of permitting the backyard fowl, but no ordinance has been drafted as yet.

The emails and community activism led to discussion of how to use public space and Starkey said, "All these people came out of the woodwork to start the food policy council. This is just the first ordinance that has come out of the council."



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## Local gymnast reaches 'elite' status

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Hard work is paying off for Kristen Ng.

The 17-year-old, who will be a senior at Wiregrass Ranch High School, can lay claim to being one of the nation's premier rhythmic gymnasts.

Last month she earned Level 10 Elite status — the highest level possible — at the USA Gymnastics Rhythmic National Qualifier in Lake Placid, New York.

Only the top 20 senior finishers in the qualifier earn Level 10 Elite status, while the remaining 20 percent of competitors earn Level 10 status.

Ng placed 17th, recording an all-around 44.50 score, earning her a bid to the 2017 USA National Gymnastics Championships in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The national event, which runs from June 27 through July 2, is reserved for the top 20 qualifying seniors and top 25 juniors from rhythmic.

If Ng finishes in the top eight, she'll be selected to the USA Gymnastics Rhythmic National Team, to compete internationally.

For Ng, reaching elite status was a "life goal" — nearly a decade in the making.

"I was so happy," said Ng, who lives in Wesley Chapel. "They called up my name, and I started crying; it was just an amazing feeling."

The achievement was likewise moving for Ng's longtime instructor, Tyana Marlowe.

"It was a big cry fest of happy tears," said Marlowe, who owns and operates Tampa Bay Rhythmics in Riverview.

Ng's journey to the top wasn't easy.

For years, she's practiced more than 20 hours a week, in four-hour sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays — all to perfect four, 90-second routines, using a ribbon, a hoop, a ball and clubs.

Ng competed as a Level 4 gymnast at age 9, but began training with Tampa Bay Rhythmics about two years before that.

Her potential was evident early on.

But, first she had to correct some flaws.

For instance, Ng's hand-eye coordination needed development.

Her turn-out (supination in thigh joints) needed refinement, too.



COURTESY OF ANGIE NG

**Kristen Ng earned Level 10 Elite status at last month's USA Gymnastics Rhythmic National Qualifier in Lake Placid, New York. She now will compete at the 2017 USA National Gymnastics Championships in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ng, 17, will be a senior at Wiregrass Ranch High School.**

"She's come a long way," Marlowe said. "We saw that she had a lot of natural flexibility, but she had a lot of things we had to work on."

Her rhythmic expression always stood out, however.

It's what consistently earns her high marks from judges today.

"She's very clean," Marlowe explained. "She has the nice extended legs, pointed toes — those are her two strengths."

Ng's ability to be graceful and dramatic also makes her a "well-rounded gymnast," Marlowe added.

Typically, Ng and other gymnasts at Tampa Bay Rhythmics stretch for an hour then work on their skills, using each rhythmic apparatus.

The ribbon is attached to a stick and must be kept in motion showing patterns, such as spirals, snakes and figure eights. It also is used in the air and on the floor.

In the ball exercise, gymnasts roll, throw, bounce, catch and trap the ball while trying to make it appear to be an extension of their body. The hoop, similar to a Hula-Hoop, is decorated with tape to match the athlete's leotard. The hoop can be circled, rolled, spun and tossed. A gymnast can pass over or through the hoop. One typical movement is the "boomerang," rolling the hoop forward with a snap of the wrist to make it roll back.

### GYMNASTS MUST BE PRECISE, GRACEFUL, STRONG

Routines — and corresponding music — are developed and interchanged each year.

The gymnasts need to be smart, strong and have adequate stamina.

"It's a high-intensive sport," Ng said.

"It's a nice combination of gymnastics and dance," Marlowe said. "You don't have the danger of the gymnastics, and you have a little bit more than the dance."

"It's not just dance, it's a little bit more like a challenge to it," the coach said.

According to Marlowe, the sport is quickly growing, thanks to better USA Olympic performances.

"It's mostly a Russian-Bulgarian dominated sport, but the USA has really been climbing the ladder," Marlowe said.

Ng also has noticed the heightened interest.

"In school, a lot more people know it now," Ng said. "They'll be like, 'Oh, rhythmic gymnastics — I know what that is,' versus before they were like, 'What?'"

Like artistic gymnastics and figure skating, rhythmic gymnasts are judged on their technical skills and artistry.

It's why countless hours of repetition are required.

Finding ways to stay motivated year-

round is a must, too.

"We work a lot on goals, and setting goals," Marlowe explained. "There's always something you can make better, so we always try and do little specific things."

Meanwhile, Ng's passion for the sport has remained steady.

Her favorite routine is ball-based, which she describes as "upbeat and spunky."

"You have to be able to enjoy it; that's why it's lasted so long," Ng said.

"The fact that you add one extra (apparatus) makes everything all the more challenging; making these cool tricks with the equipment is like my favorite thing."

### STAYING CALM WHILE SHE COMPETES

Her talents have taken her all over North America.

Besides local competitions throughout Florida, Ng has traveled throughout the United States, from New York to California to Las Vegas, and made stops in Canada and Puerto Rico.

Often, she wins.

At the Florida State Championships in March, Ng placed first in the Level 9 Senior division for her hoop routine.

In April, she won first-place all-around at the 2017 Rhythmic Gymnastics Region 6 Championships in Dania Beach, Florida.

She later became the highest-ranking all-around American at the 2017 Caribbean Star Rhythmic Gymnastics Invitational in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

And, wherever she goes, she follows her competition regimen.

Before each event, she makes sure to get a good night's sleep.

And, immediately before hitting the main stage, she prays and takes calm, deep breaths.

Instead of judging herself against others, she likes to compare herself against her previous achievements.

The formula has worked well.

"Of course, you're competing against other competitors, but if you look at it that way, you're going to get way too nervous," her coach explained. "You have to compete against yourself."

Despite Ng's national success, the upcoming 2017-2018 season might be her last, as there are no college scholarships for rhythmic gymnastics.

However, Ng wants to stay involved with the sport, likely as a coach and judge.

She's also considering a part-time dance career, aiming for premier Cirque de Soleil shows.



### LAND O' LAKES HIGH SOFTBALL DINNER FUNDRAISER

The Land O' Lakes High School varsity softball program is hosting a dinner fundraiser June 20, at Benedetto's Ristorante Italiano, 2159 Village Lakes Shopping Center in Land O' Lakes. A reception begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by a five-course meal served at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go toward the purchase of the team's championship rings. Land O' Lakes won the 2017 FHSAA Class 6A state title on May 20. To RSVP, email [Nothingsoftaboutit@gmail.com](mailto:Nothingsoftaboutit@gmail.com).

### LAND O' LAKES' HALL OF FAME ADDS MEMBERS

The Land O' Lakes Gators Athletics Foundation inducted five new members to the school's athletics Hall of Fame during a dinner ceremony May 25.

The inductees for the 2017 class were: Allen Claggett Jr., a longtime varsity football and track coach; Desiree Croteau, a varsity softball pitcher in the late '90s; Michael Keough, a standout three-sport athlete in the mid '70s; Doug Hutchinson, a longtime athletics volunteer; and, Stephen Querns, the starting quarterback for Land O' Lakes High's first district football championship in 1978.

The ceremony marked the school's fifth Hall of Fame induction class, which began in 2013 after the Gators Athletics Foundation was established as a 501c3 non-profit organization.

William Floyd, a former NFL fullback and current color radio analyst for Florida State University football, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony.

The foundation's purpose is to "raise funds through donations and fundraising events for the direct benefit of the athletic programs at Land O' Lakes High School."

Funds raised through the booster club are currently being allocated to build an athletic field house at the school, perhaps within the next five years.

### HALL OF FAME BIOS

**Allen Claggett Jr.**

(Coach/Administrator)

Claggett moved to Land O' Lakes in 1971 when Sanders Elementary experienced a hiring spree. There, he taught language arts and coached football for sixth-graders through

eighth-graders. He joined Land O' Lakes High in 1975, when it opened. He taught language arts and coached football and track until he retired in 2009. During his tenure, the Gators football program won 13 district titles, six conference titles, and made 17 playoff appearances. As head track coach, his teams won four district and four conference, and two county championships.

### Desiree Croteau (Female Athlete)

Croteau (Class of '97) excelled on the softball field as a pitcher, playing for former longtime Land O' Lakes coach Jerry English. Croteau was named area player of the year in 1995 and 1997, and was a 1997 Florida Athletic Coaches Association All-Star. She later played softball at Saint Leo University and earned induction into the Saint Leo Athletic Hall of Fame. Croteau is now a corporal with the Tampa Police Department's K-9 unit.

### Michael Keough (Male Athlete)

Keough (Class of '76) came to Land O' Lakes High from St. Petersburg shortly after the school opened in 1975 after his father, Judge Lawrence Keough, was appointed to the Sixth Judicial Circuit in west Pasco County. Keough played football, basketball and track, earning All-Area honors in both football and basketball, including being named to the Tampa Tribune's Class 2A, Section 2 All-Star Football Team as a first-team quarterback. He then earned an athletic scholarship to play football at Tennessee Technological University — the first student to do so from Land O' Lakes High. He graduated from Tennessee Tech and earned a law degree from Stetson University. Today, he has his own law practice in New Port Richey.

### Doug Hutchinson (Lifetime Service Award)

Hutchinson received the Lifetime Service Award for his volunteer efforts in supporting Land O' Lakes High School athletic programs over the past 35 years. Over the years, Hutchinson has assisted the Land O' Lakes Little League, Police Athletic League and the Land O' Lakes Athletic Booster Club. He's also acted as chairman for the local SwampFest event, sponsored by the LOLHS Boosters. While volunteering, Hutchinson was also a paramedic for Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, earning recognition as Paramedic of the Year in 2009.

### Stephen Querns (Posthumously Lifetime Achievement Award)

Querns was a standout both on and off the field. At Land O' Lakes High, Querns

## Saint Leo golfer nominated athlete of the year

Saint Leo senior Marie Coors has been named the 2017 Division II Honda Athlete of the Year nominee for golf, as announced by Chris Voelz, executive director of The Collegiate Women Sports Awards (CWSA).

Coors is now designated one of 11 finalists for the prestigious Division II Honda Athlete of the Year, which will be voted on at the end of the academic year by national balloting among 1,000 NCAA member schools as part of the CWSA program, now in its 41st year.

Coors, the Women's Golf Coaches Association Division II Golfer of the Year and a First Team All-American, captured the individual championship at the 2017 NCAA Division II Women's Golf Championship in May, after carding a seven-over 295 over 72 holes. She finished the season with a 72.16 stroke average over 32 rounds, and had the lowest stroke average of any Division II women's golfer.

The Gross-Zimmern, Germany, native earned First Team All-SSC honors and was also named to the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) At-Large Academic All-District team.

She also won the NCAA Elite 90 award for the 2017 NCAA Division II Women's Golf Championship for having the highest grade point average of any competitor in the national championship.

Coors was the recipient of Saint Leo's Clara McDonald Olson Scholastic Excellence Award, presented to the mem-



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

**Saint Leo golfer Marie Coors**

ber of the graduating class with the highest GPA attained over four years at Saint Leo University.

Coors won three tournaments during the 2016-17 campaign with 10 top five finishes. She finished among the top 10 in all 12 events in which she competed during the season.

All Honda Sports nominees from Division II and Division III become a finalist for the prestigious 2017 Honda Woman Athlete of the Year in their respective divisions, presented in a live telecast on CBS Sports on June 26, 2017, in downtown Los Angeles. The Honda Sports nominees are recognized in 11 Division II and Division III NCAA-sanctioned sports; cross-country, basketball, field hockey, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, volleyball, and track and field.

played football and baseball, earning recognition on local All-Area teams for both sports. Querns also was starting quarterback for the school's first district championship football team in 1978. Upon graduation, Querns stayed close to home to attend the University of Tampa on a baseball scholarship, later transferring to the University of

South Florida where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. Querns eventually worked for Johnson & Johnson, where his medical design work led to 13 U.S. patents and several European patents. Querns died at age 37 from cancer. His research and design work in the medical field, however, continues to help others.



SUSAN GREEN

Visitors to Dinosaur World on the outskirts of Plant City find themselves surrounded by towering dinosaur statues as soon as they set foot in the park. There are more than 200 sculptures on the 20-acre property, according to park staff.

## A theme park without a roller coaster?

### Get prehistoric at Dinosaur World



#### Worth the Trip

Susan Green  
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

There's something about dinosaurs that captures the human imagination. Perhaps that's why, in a time when many theme parks beckon their guests with towering roller coasters and thrill rides, Dinosaur World reels them in with a pair of life-size Tyrannosaurus rex sculptures looming off the north shoulder of Interstate 4, near Plant City.

The T-rexes don't move or roar, and neither do the 200 or so life-size dinosaur statues inside the park. But, for thousands of dinosaur fans who visit the park each year, they certainly do enthrall.

Myrta Figueroa, of Tampa, is one of the many passing motorists who just couldn't pass up the chance to peek behind the walls of Dinosaur World. After three years of eyeing the imposing display from the highway, she decided to take her 4-year-old grandson, Ethan Ortiz, who is already a bit of a dinosaur expert, to see the park.

As soon as the pair stepped inside on a sunny spring afternoon, they found themselves surrounded by life-size replicas of prehistoric beasts. Without even glancing at the identification signs in front of each statue, Ethan began rattling off the dinosaur names to his grandmother.

"My favorite dinosaur is the T-rex," the preschooler declared, uttering a preference that would be echoed over and over by young visitors interviewed at Dinosaur World on the same day. For Ethan, though, it wasn't a totally unwavering decision.

"I like the T-rex," he said, then whirled and pointed at one dinosaur replica after another, meat- and plant-eaters alike, "and that one, and that one, and that one, and that one."

Just as enthusiastic were Isaiah, 11, Elijah, 3, and Noah, 2, who were visiting Dinosaur World with their parents, Aracely and Bobby Chavarria of Dallas, Texas. Aracely said the family was happy to take a break from the Walt Disney World trip that had brought them to Central Florida on vacation.

"We actually went to Disney World, and we didn't like it that much," she said, noting that the lines were so long at Florida's best-known theme park that her sons were able to experience only two rides. When the family saw the giant roadside dinosaur statues between Orlando and Tampa, they decided



Families with small children are among the biggest fans of Dinosaur World near Plant City, but the park sees its fair share of adult dinosaur lovers as well, according to park staff.



The T-rex sculptures at Dinosaur World may look fearsome, but they're actually formed from fiberglass, putty and concrete, according to park staff.

to give Dinosaur World a try. "They love dinosaurs," Aracely said of her sons. "They're having a blast."

Dinosaur World is the brainchild of Christer Svensson and his family, who had been frequent winter visitors to the area from Sweden before developing the park. In 1997, the Svenssons bought the swampy site where Dinosaur World is located with plans to develop the dinosaur-themed attraction, according to published reports.

Prehistoric dinosaurs never traversed this spot - or any place in Florida, which was underwater when the giant reptiles roamed the earth. But, the lush acreage of ferns and palm trees once teemed with alligators, widely considered living relics of the dinosaur age. The alligators were part of a tourist attraction known as Gator Jungle that previously occupied the property.

Gator Jungle had been closed for years, but hundreds of alligators still roamed the property until shortly before Dinosaur World opened in late 1998, said Angelica Roque, the park's assistant manager. Over the years, she said, adjacent land purchases have brought the size of the park to 20 acres, to make

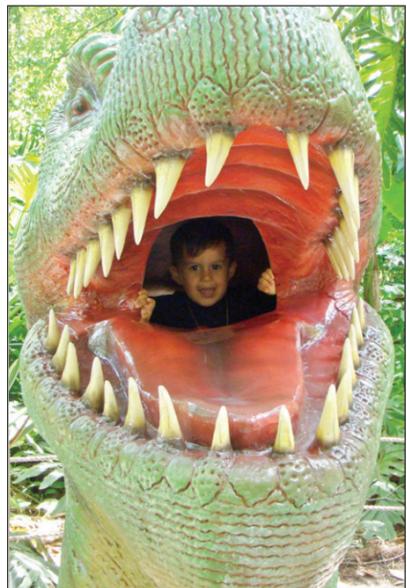
room for more and more dinosaur statues crafted from fiberglass, putty and concrete.

The park features a lengthy walking path lined with replicas of dinosaurs, many accompanied by signs detailing where the species' fossils were discovered. The park also includes a large sand pit where children can dig for fossils and another sandy expanse dubbed the "Boneyard," where they can dig to expose the skeleton of a dinosaur buried in the sand.

In the Exploration Cave, visitors can listen to tour guides describe the painstaking methods that paleontologists use to uncover and preserve the remnants of dinosaurs that are often millions of years old. In addition, there's a walkway called "Mammoths, Giants of the Ice Age" that includes several statues and educational information about the prehistoric elephant-like beasts that once inhabited the forests of Florida.

There's also a museum with exhibits of authentic relics discovered by paleontologists, including oviraptor eggs, a woolly mammoth's teeth and a triceratops toe.

And, just for fun, there's a dinosaur-themed playground and a mock mining



Noah Chavarria, 2, of Dallas, Texas, poses for a photo in the mouth of a meticulously sculpted head of a Tyrannosaurus rex, the boy's favorite dinosaur.

#### If you go

**WHERE:** Dinosaur World, 5145 Harvey Tew Road, Plant City, FL 33565 (Exit 17, off Interstate 4)

**WHEN:** Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

**COST:** Adults, \$16.95; children 3-12, \$11.95; children 2 and younger, free. Tickets that include gem mining cost extra.

**INFO:** (813) 717-9865 or DinosaurWorld.com.

sluice where guests can try their luck at panning for gemstones.

Families will also find dozens of sheltered picnic tables where they are welcome to bring food and drink from home, and enjoy eating together or just take a break from strolling through the exhibits. Dinosaur World does not offer food for sale, other than what's available from a few vending machines.

Although toddlers, preschoolers and elementary school students make up a large segment of the Dinosaur World fan base, they're not the only age group to find something to love about the park.

"We have a lot of little ones that come," Roque said. "But, we also have a lot of adults. ... It depends on their passion for the dinosaurs."

About 110,000 people visited the Plant City attraction last year, she said, adding that tourists have come from Europe, Canada, South America and Australia, as well as from all over the U.S.

"A lot of them say they were commuting on I-4 and they saw the big dinosaurs," Roque said. "They come back and check it out."



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## Best buddies all around

Lacey is a black lab mix who has Addison disease and needs a shot every three months to keep her healthy. Chevy is a Chatahoula who thinks he is a human. They are rescue dogs and are best buddies, and like to cuddle and play. Mark Jordan, of Land O' Lakes, thinks Lacey and Chevy are the finest dogs.

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

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

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

## LOCAL WILDLIFE



## In search of a snack

This red-bellied woodpecker stopped by a grapefruit tree in Karen Whitenton's backyard, in Lutz. The woodpecker forages by searching for insects on tree trunks and major limbs. It climbs and perches among branches to pick berries and nuts, and sometimes catches flying insects in the air.

## Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



## Kittens of every color

Are you looking for a tiny new addition to your home? The shelter is in the midst of kitten season. Litters are coming in daily that need fosters, and babies are ready to go to their homes in adoptions. Animal Services has every color coat and plenty of kitten personality to go around. Remember, if you see a litter of kittens, give their momma cat several hours to come back before you pick them up. The mother has to find food for herself and does leave the kittens alone at times.



## Ronni needs some patience

Ronni is a sweet girl that has been at the shelter since September 2016. She arrived as a stray and was very fearful. Ronni has started to come out of her shell more and more; but, she is in need of a home that can provide patience. She loves to run in the yard and is excited to get outside. Ronni sometimes needs a couple meets to learn that you're a safe person.

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

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### PET PAWS

#### FIRST SATURDAY CELEBRATION

The Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center, 440 N. Falkenburg Road in Tampa, will host a First Saturday Celebration July 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Guests can meet pets available for adoption, and donate needed items. There will be exhibitors, music and refreshments.

Admission and parking are free.

The shelter will offer \$20 adoptions for all ready-to-go pets, which include spaying/neutering, vaccinations, a microchip with free registration, and a Hillsborough County pet license tag.

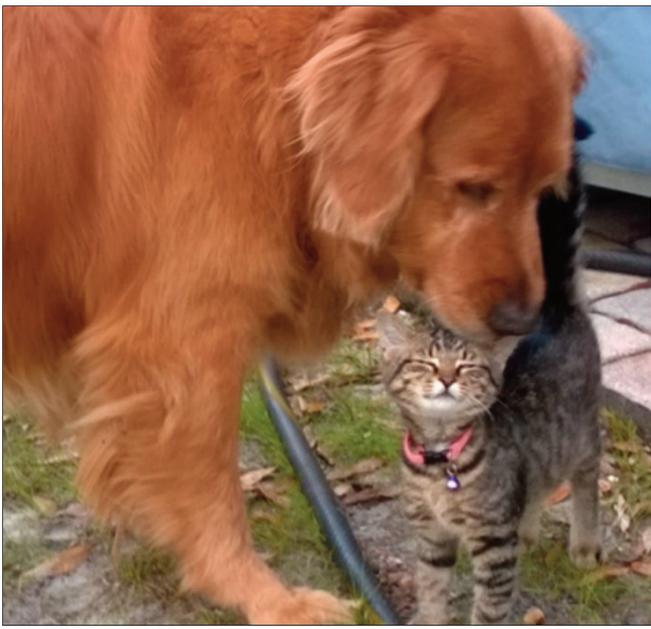
#### SHARE YOUR PET NEWS

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

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

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

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



Apollo (in memoriam) greets a smiling Sugar Bear, a kitten that was rescued from in the wall of a cabin in Roan Mountain, North Carolina. Linda Saeger, of Lutz, fell in love with the kitten who has helped fill the void that Apollo left in her heart.



Bailey is an 8-year-old shorthair and the runt of her litter weighing 7 pounds. She is mischievous — jumping anywhere to get food. Bailey loves chicken and tuna, and will meow when she knows you're holding out. Bailey spends her day bird and squirrel watching or lounging around the house. Her proud owner is Chelsea Conner of Tampa.



Shady is an 8-year-old poodle who loves to go for walks. She has a super personality and is great company. Shady's proud owner is Deana Edwards of Thonotosassa.



Mindy is a 5-year-old Yorkie and weighs 4.5 pounds. She is as lovable as can be and wakes up every morning at 6 a.m., to go outside. Mindy's proud owners are Hilda and Steve Hellwig of Zephyrhills.



Leo, a 5-year-old rescue border collie mix, and Gabby, a 5-year-old rescue black Bombay cat, are just two of the pets of Lutz residents, Kenny and Sharon Espinola. Despite their differences, Leo and Gabby demonstrate that love can thrive and exist.



Monkey is a chocolate Chihuahua who loves the beach and enjoys swimming in the ocean. She also likes to play fetch and to catch lizards and bugs. Every night, Monkey sleeps under the covers to cuddle. Her proud owners are Chris and Rebecca Florence of Land O' Lakes.

SEE MORE PETS ON PAGE 5B

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# The Laker/Lutz News pet appreciation



Angel and Phoebe are miniature poodles adopted from Florida Poodle Rescue. They are not related, but have been raised together. Both love to run and play, even at the age of 14. The poodles' proud owner is Darryln Caudill of Land O' Lakes.



Jake and Sugar are a brother-and-sister team of Yorkie/Papillion who do everything together. Both are very smart and full of personality, love to perform tricks for treats, and are on guard against pesky dogs and cats on TV. Jake is loving and laid back, and Sugar is a little firecracker. Their proud owners are Terri and Bob Garey of Lutz.

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3 lines of text, with 35 characters and spaces per line, FOR FREE\*!

Call Rachel at 813.909.2800  
Ask about discounts for community garage sales & display ads!

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Pasco-Hernando State College is now accepting applications. To print out a PHSC application and to obtain more information concerning this Adjunct, Temporary Instructor position, visit our website at [www.phsc.edu/jobs](http://www.phsc.edu/jobs). Position opened until filled. EOE/ADA Compliance

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**Pending Board Approval**

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### MEDICAL / DENTAL

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### GENERAL EMPLOYMENT

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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58					59					60		
61					62					63		

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

- ACROSS**
- Mud dauber, e.g.
  - Ziti, e.g.
  - Block
  - \_\_\_-bodied
  - Brace
  - Dressing ingredient
  - Showed up again
  - Bad day for Caesar
  - Chester White's home
  - Elegance
  - Firstborn
  - Soul mate
  - Certain surgeon's "patient"
  - Monetary unit of Portugal
  - Wuss
  - Knight fight
  - Pepsi, e.g.
  - Goya's "Duchess of \_\_\_"
  - Furnace output
  - Match play?
  - Adjudge
  - Shrek, e.g.
  - Freshman, probably
  - Broad valley
  - Looks for
  - \_\_\_-\_\_ appointment
  - Washington locale, with "the"
  - Acute

- A place in which devotion is paid
  - Preserve, in a way
  - Marienbad, for one
  - Get better
  - Yellow sports ball
  - Farm call
  - About to explode
  - Length x width, for a rectangle
  - Crumb
  - Escapade
  - "Buenos \_\_\_"
- DOWN**
- "Star \_\_\_"
  - "Not on \_\_\_!" ("No way!")
  - Cut down
  - Energy
  - False start?
  - Loss of bodily movements
  - Arid
  - Golf ball support
  - Elected member of a council
  - Commanded
  - Long, long time
  - Home, informally
  - Type of saddle for women
  - Slog

- Grassland
- Liquid left after churning cream
- Claw
- Character
- Surrounding and blockading a fortress
- "The Nutcracker" lead
- He took two tablets
- Cheerless
- Ancient symbols marking a questionable passage
- Headquarters of a Chinese government official
- Angler's basket
- Sporty
- Jail, slangily
- More artful
- Song and dance, e.g.
- "La vita nuova" poet
- "Beat it!"
- Prince of Wales, e.g.
- Bluster
- Become unhinged
- Delhi dress
- "Guilty," e.g.
- "Ah, me!"
- Victorian, for one
- Good, in the 'hood

**ADOPTIONS**

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