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INSIDE, PAGE 1B

Dog flu hits Florida — and it's contagious

By Kevin Weiss

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It's called the dog flu, and it has hit the Sunshine State.

The first confirmed case of the new H3N2 strain was reported in Deland over Memorial Day weekend.

According to the University of Florida, the strain entered the state from dogs and people who have attended a dog show.

Now, more than 30 cases of canine influenza have been reported across the state, mainly in northeast and central Florida.

No cases have been reported in Hillsborough or Pasco counties, but it has reached Orlando.

The "highly contagious" H3N2 virus first in-



COURTESY OF AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

The new dog flu virus is characterized by persistent coughing, along with sneezing and nasal discharge.

fecting about 1,000 dogs in Chicago in 2015, and since has spread to more than 30 states.

And, it's more perilous than the H3N8 strain, first identified in Florida in 2004 in racing greyhounds.

The new virus is characterized by persistent coughing, along with sneezing and nasal discharge.

Many infected dogs experience a fever, decreased appetite and lethargy during the first few days of illness.

Unlike other forms of dog flu, which have symptoms and risk of contagion lasting only for about a week, the H3N2 strain is contagious for at least 26 days and can live on surfaces for up to 24 hours, health officials

See DOG FLU, page 11A

Serving the community is her motto

By B.C. Manion

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When Rosie Heim decided to toss her hat into the ring to run for honorary mayor of Land O' Lakes, she had a purpose in mind.

She wanted to raise the profile of the GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club in the community of Land O' Lakes.

She wants the club to become "a household name in Land O' Lakes."

She explained: "We are very well-known in Lutz because we do the parade, we do the art show. "But, Land O' Lakes didn't know the ladies in the green shirts. I wanted some of the businesses to know who we are, and some of the community to know the wonderful work that we do," she said.

The club is active in many ways.

It pitches in at the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes.

It sponsors the annual Lutz Arts & Crafts Show.

It has an annual flea market, supports survivors of domestic abuse, helps to plant trees, decorates graves of veterans, packs boxes to ship to troops stationed overseas, and does all sorts of other things to support



FILE

Gloria Dale and Rosie Heim worked a booth at Land O' Lakes Music Festival, as Heim made an effort to drum up support for her bid to become the new Honorary Mayor of Land O' Lakes. Dale is the deputy honorary mayor, a title she's been given for life.

the communities of Lutz and Land O' Lakes.

It uses the money it raises to help local community groups, and support scholarships.

So, Heim has learned a thing or two about fundraising.

In her quest to become the honorary mayor, she hosted eight events.

When she began the race, she was competing against Andre Pamplona. But, he needed to divert his energy to his family when owners of Royal Lanes decided to close the bowling center that Pamplona managed, Heim said.

That didn't slow her down, though.

The woman's club will get a portion of

the money she raised, she said. "The chamber will get the rest for the community services that they do."

Heim said she doesn't have a clique that she hangs out with, but she has loads of connections.

Besides the woman's club, she's involved with Women-N-Charge, which is a networking group. She's also involved with AARP, churches and other groups.

Heim said she wants to recruit more ladies to be involved with the woman's club because more help is needed.

"There is a need in the community to

See SERVING, page 11A

New center could help Pasco's homeless

By Kathy Steele

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Pasco County wants to open the county's first homeless shelter as part of a comprehensive plan to help an estimated 3,300 homeless people.

There are about 100 camps across Pasco County where people live, according to the Pasco County Sheriff's Office.

The chosen location for what is proposed as a "one-stop navigation center" is in two county-owned buildings in west Pasco, formerly leased to the Boys & Girls Club.

The Pasco County Commission was set to vote on June 20 (after The Laker/Lutz News deadline) on two federal grants that would be used to rehabilitate buildings.

The goal is to open the navigation center in 2018.

Pasco County and the Homeless Coalition of Pasco had public meetings on June 7 and on June 14 in New Port Richey to explain the navigation center and get public input.

While most support the homeless shelter in concept, nearby neighbors in Crane's Roost and representatives of a nearby mall object to the proposed location at 8239 Youth Lane, off Little Road in New Port Richey.

They worry about increased solicitation, crime and lowered property values.

Studies have shown the opposite, including decreases in crime, said Raine Johns, chief executive officer of the Homeless Coalition of Pasco.

"You'll find this decreases dramatically," she said.

However, a representative of Ridge Plaza, anchored by Hobby Lobby and a Walmart Neighborhood Market, said tenants have expressed concerns about impacts to their businesses. He also said no one had reached out to mall representatives to discuss the navigation center.

"It certainly merits that we get together," he said.

Pasco County Commissioner Jack Mariano was the only commissioner to vote against the navigation center in November. He proposed putting the center in the Mike Fasano Regional Hurricane Shelter in Hudson.

He said the program could be operated cheaper, safer and quicker if the shelter were used.

Others said the hurricane shelter was in the "middle of nowhere," with no bus service and few job opportunities.

"The last thing we want to do is institutionalize the homeless population," said Johns.

The navigation center is modeled after one in San Francisco. It would be a one-stop shelter that would work to place people into housing. They also would receive help in finding jobs, job training and health care, and receive personalized case management.

The efforts would focus on one camp at a time, with as many as 75 single adult men and women housed an average of 90 days at the navigation center.

"Housing first. That's the end goal," said Cathy Pearson, assistant county administrator for public services. "A lot of partners are coming together. We believe in this."

The count done by the sheriff's office found homeless camps in all areas of the county, including west Pasco, Zephyrhills, Land O' Lakes and Dade City.

"This is a serious topic. We know that," said Pasco County Sheriff's Capt. James Steffens. "We're trying to do something other than put handcuffs on people and take them to jail."

The sheriff's office is one of the partners for the navigation center. Others include the United Way of Pasco, the Pasco County Housing Authority, and the Public Defender's Office of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

United Way will contribute about \$100,000. About 50 housing vouchers will be dedicated to the navigation center. And, the public defender's office plans to send its mobile medical unit to the center.

Pasco also plans to contribute about \$50,000 for a program that would hire some of the homeless individuals for county labor. The goal is to help them learn skills and establish a work history.

The County Commission is expected to be asked in September to transfer the navigation center property to the homeless coalition.

As a nonprofit, the coalition has more access to additional grants.



COURTESY OF SIMPLY EVENTS

The third annual Zephyrhills SummerFest features a 30-minute fireworks display.

SummerFest offers fireworks, fun

By Kevin Weiss

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It's the only fireworks show in Zephyrhills.

And, it promises to offer wholesome family fun.

The 2017 Zephyrhills SummerFest is slated for June 24 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave.

Besides offering free admission and parking, the event is pet friendly, too.

However, alcohol sales will not be allowed.

Entering its third year, Zephyrhills SummerFest is the only 4th of July celebration in the city, promoting "summer, families and our great country."

Arguably, its biggest attraction is a 30-minute fireworks show, which is set to begin sharply at 9 p.m.

The vibrant display — by Patriot Fireworks—is set over Zephyr Lake, the park's centerpiece pond.

Besides nighttime fireworks, there are loads of daytime activities aimed at keeping families entertained on the last Saturday in June.

Alongside dozens of food and business vendors, there's a watermelon-eating contest and dance contest, plus a water balloon toss,

See SUMMERFEST, page 11A

Tree house tutoring blossoms in nature

By Kathy Steele

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Teaching is not a profession that Sarah Christiansen expected to pursue.

As a child growing up in the Virgin Islands, she hated going to school.

"I had a difficult time listening and writing. I struggled with comprehension."

She couldn't picture herself as a teacher. Times change.

Christiansen, these days, lives in rural Pasco County where she tutors students - usually working with them on mathematics - inside a tree house in her backyard.

A few yards away, a second tree house is nearing completion.

The treehouses are taking her Yes You Can Tutoring service down a new path.

For nearly 10 years, she has taught in her home, at 13050 Curley Road, near Dade City.

Students could enjoy window views of the woodlands and open spaces, and sometimes a walk in the woods for a timely break in studies.

Christiansen now is moving students even closer to nature.

"There's something about a tree house that everybody loves," she said. "You're right in with nature. It's a really nice feeling."

Research has found there is a link between nature and learning, she said.

"Environment plays a key part in the learning process," the tutor said. "Nature reduces mental fatigue. I know it did for me."

In addition to one-on-one tutoring sessions, the tree house will be the setting for a summer math retreat for girls in July.

It's her third summer camp, but the first all-girls camp.

There is a stereotype that women don't do well in math, Christiansen said.

"It saddens me," she said. "We have to empower our girls. I just want to let them know they can do this."

The tree house in her backyard is life coming full circle.

Traditional schools and home-schooling were never the right fit for her in St. Croix. But, as a teenager, she connected with her teachers at an alternative school with outdoor classrooms, in gazebos.



Sarah Christiansen, left, owner of Yes You Can Tutoring service, enjoys a moment with former student, Alexis Sandoval, outside Christiansen's tree house.



Sarah Christiansen tutors students inside a tree house in her backyard.

Teachers usually instructed only five or six students. The largest class size was about 15 students, Christiansen recalled.

"I loved the outdoors," she said. "I was able to excel."

She earned her high school diploma, and went to the University of Virgin Islands for two years. Her father, who taught marine biology, insisted she was meant to be a teacher. She didn't agree.

Her life path included marriage, family and a home-based business as a clothes designer of sarongs. At one time, she had a kiosk at University Mall.

A life-changing event turned her life around.

Her son was diagnosed as borderline ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). She zeroed in on how to help him. She researched and studied the disorder,

and then decided it was time to go back to school.

Christiansen enrolled in Saint Leo University in 2000, setting a goal of becoming a special education teacher. She worked in the Pasco County school system for nearly nine years.

Then, she returned to St. Croix to care for her father until his death.

While there, she taught at a small private school.

She was expected to teach subjects she wasn't familiar with - health for one. And, administrators also tossed in drama.

"Because they said you're dramatic," Christiansen said. "I could sink or swim."

She swam, and relied on some advice from her father.

"He told me always be kind to every child. You never know their background or what's going on in their home."

"He treated every child with respect," she said.

Back home in Pasco, Christiansen decided against going back into public schools. She wanted to do private tutoring.

Her attitude was: "Okay, God, I'm going to put this in your hands."

"It was kind of a gamble," she said.

Alexis Sandoval is one of her student successes.

She came to Yes You Can as a high

school student before the tree house was built.

Sandoval appreciated the quiet rural setting of Christiansen's home.

"I was failing, and I wasn't going to graduate," said Sandoval.

She gained confidence with one-on-one tutoring, and learned "to think for myself," she said.

Today, she is at Pasco-Hernando State College where she makes A and B grades. "I was never like that in high school," she said.

Long-range, Sandoval plans to open a restaurant.

Her older sister Karissa Sandoval, 25, also received tutoring from Christiansen after failing repeatedly to pass the reading portion of the FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test). It is a requirement to earn a high school diploma.

She has since passed the test, and is in school now to become a nurse, Christiansen said.

Helping children find direction and purpose is part of the tutoring process, she added.

"We're put here on this Earth for a reason," Christiansen said. "You have to have a purpose, what you're meant to do."

For more information, visit YesYouCanTutoring.com, or call (352) 585-6327.

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Dade City Garden Club is a community mainstay

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

The Dade City Garden Club took root in the home of Thelma Gilbert, on May 9, 1947 — and the organization has been part of the civic and social glue of the city ever since, based on scrapbooks compiled by club members through the decades.

Club member Madonna Wise, who happens to be a local historian, gained an appreciation for the role the club has played in community life, as she paged through the volumes that were faithfully compiled through the years.

It has been involved in nearly every civic event during the past 70 years, said Wise, an author who has written a book about Dade City's history.

One example of that involvement, she said, was when there was a send-off for troops leaving for Afghanistan. The garden club was there, providing desserts for the event.

"They're just an integral part of Dade City's fabric," Wise said.

Gail Stout, the club's outgoing president, said "the greatest impact we have are our partnerships with the community."

It was Gilbert's love of gardening that led to the club's creation, Stout said.

"She heard that this organization in Florida (The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs) existed and was growing, and that's what she decided to pursue," said Stout, who recently helped to organize the Dade City Garden Club's 70th anniversary celebration.

Within a year, the Dade City club was accepted for federation with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. And, less than a year later it had its first flower show, based on the theme, "The Spirit of Spring," according to club records.

Through the years, the club has had the twin goals of beautification and advocacy.

"Early on, they're saving the trees at the courthouse," Wise said. "They started a junior garden club at the elementary school."

They also have advised Dade City commissioners on decisions regarding landscaping, Wise added.

During its heyday, the club had a radio



Some members of the Dade City Garden Club wore 1940s' attire to the club's 70th anniversary celebration at the Garden Club on May 15.

show, Stout said.

It had a column in a local newspaper, too, Wise added.

In the beginning, the club met in its members' homes and then later, at civic locations.

In 1959, it purchased 2 acres on South Fifth Street for \$9,000. By 1966, the club had paid it off.

Soon after that, the organization sought to build a clubhouse.

"Our building story is unique," Stout said. "Somehow, St. Rita's Catholic Church, which is up by Old Dade City Grammar School, offers to donate the building," Wise said. "That building (which was St. Rita's mission church) dates back to 1913. It was quite the thing when they moved this building all across town."

The structure was near what is now Cox Elementary School. Movers took the structure down Seventh Avenue and had to get the power company to move power lines so they could get the building through.

"It was really quite a move that they orchestrated," Stout said.

A contractor named Michael Giella advised the club on how to renovate the building and held the \$35,000 mortgage. Giella's contributions were recognized during the 70th anniversary celebration, when a paver dedicated to his memory was presented to his widow.

The club had its first meeting in the building in September of 1977 and hosted an open house later that year — attracting members of garden clubs from Tampa,



This is a current view of the Dade City Garden Club building. The club has been a community mainstay for 70 years.

Lakeland, Clearwater and across Pasco County.

There were 57 charter members of the garden club.

"The last charter member was just deceased," Stout said.

The club officially has 113 members, but there are some older members who are too frail to attend meetings, she said.

Through the years, the garden club has fostered leadership opportunities for women, and has helped to build connections throughout Dade City, Wise said.

It also has provided a forum for members to learn "the political ways of trying to influence legislators and local government for environmental purposes, that type of

thing," Stout observed.

"Two years ago, we had a fracking (hydraulic fracturing) seminar, to talk about the pros and cons of fracking, mostly the cons. We were leaning toward that," Stout said.

Dade City has since banned fracking from within the city limits.

Although membership has declined, the club has staying power. It has several second- and third-generation members, and many come from families that have played an influential role in the life and development of Dade City, Wise noted.

The club is divided into smaller groups, called circles, which are named after flowering trees or plants.

"We had seven circles at the height of our glory," Stout said.

Now, it has these six circles: Azalea, Poinsettia, Magnolia, Holly Hock, Hibiscus and Dogwood.

The club has traditions, too.

It decorates the Pioneer Museum at Christmas and also hosts "Uncorked," a wine-tasting fundraiser.

It helps keep the memory of the community's history alive, too, by creating an ornament each year to honor a local place or organization. Proceeds from the ornament sales help support the garden club's upkeep and help pay for club projects.

The club also hosts a flower show every other year — which is a popular event, and which garden club members view as their gift back to the community, Stout said.

Members join the club for different reasons.

Stout became a member after she bought a 1925 bungalow that came with more than 90 camellias.

Stout decided she needed to join the club so she could learn everything she could about camellias.

Later, she learned that Gilbert had obtained camellias from Georgia.

Quite likely, Stout said, some of those camellias can be traced back to the garden club's original founder.

Now, that's what some would call coming full circle.

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What's Happening

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

THRIFT SHOPS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

All six Gulfside Hospice thrift shop locations across Pasco County are looking for volunteers. Duties include accepting and sorting donated items, organizing merchandise displays, greeting customers, operating a cash register and more. Volunteers must be age 15 and older, and willing to commit to four hours per week. Teens and high school students can earn community service hours to meet graduation and scholarship requirements. For information, locations and online application, visit GHPPC.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](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaJazzExpress).

TRIBUTE TO FLORIDA

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will present a Musical Tribute to Florida with Bonnie Whitehurst, a local musician, June 22 at 10 a.m. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

CRYSTAL BOWLS CONCERT

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will present a crystal bowls concert June 22 at 7:30 p.m., for adults. Crystal bowl musician Patricia Nielsen will use harmonizing sounds and music to help guests attain a wholeness of being. Participants should wear comfortable clothing, and bring a mat or towel. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

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.

BLACKLIGHT PAINTING

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will offer a blacklight painting program June 22 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., for grades eight to 12. Participants can create a work of art that glows in the dark. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

BAT PRESENTATION

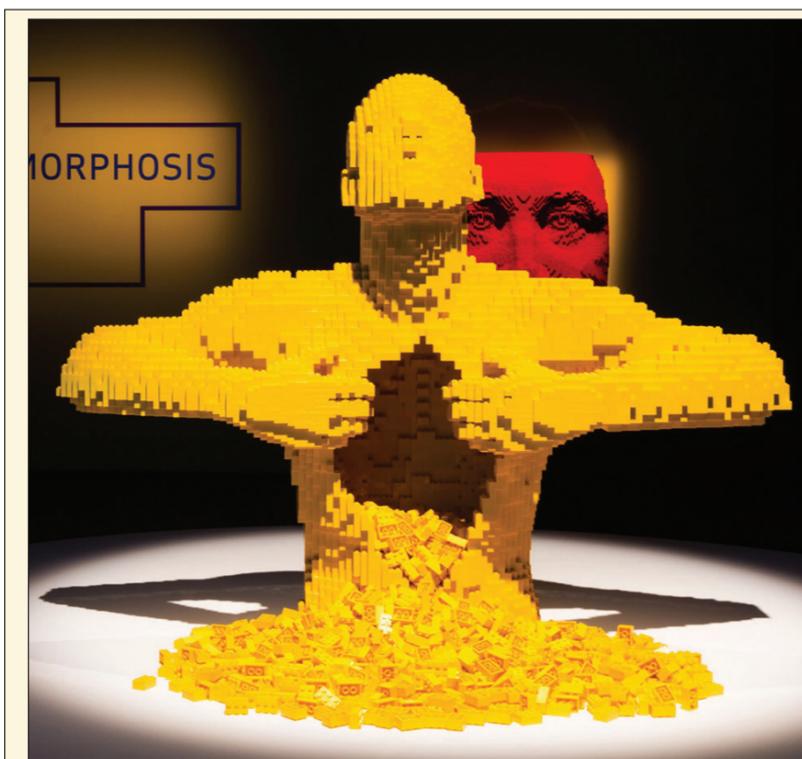
The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host an educational presentation on bats throughout the world June 23 at 2 p.m. Guests can see live bats. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

YOUTH BAKING CONTEST

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will host its annual youth baking contest June 24 at 10 a.m., for age groups 5 to 10 and 11 to 17. Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries in each group, plus awards for Most Unusual, Best Tasting and Best Library Theme. Contest rules and permission slips are available at the library. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

FAMILY FIELD DAY

Color Me Abstract, a nonprofit organization, will host its first Family Field Day at the Pioneer Florida Museum and Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road in Dade City, June 24 from noon to 3 p.m. The event will include bounce houses, face painting, music, food and games. CMA will collect donations of canned food, shoes, clothing and toiletries



COURTESY OF ARTOFTHEBRICKTAMPA.COM

The Art of the Brick

The Vinik Family Foundation invites visitors to experience "The Art of the Brick" debuting June 23 in downtown Tampa, at 802 E. Whiting St.

The free exhibit will showcase 100 artworks made out of Lego bricks, by artist Nathan Sawaya.

The collection will feature original sculptures, as well as re-imagined versions of iconic art masterpieces, made entirely of Lego bricks. Examples include Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" and Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa." There also will be a T-Rex dinosaur skeleton and a giant skull.

Guests can construct their own creations in The Brickyard, a hands-on and interactive build space.

The exhibition will run through Sept. 4, and will be open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For information, visit ArtOfTheBrickTampa.com.



for Sunrise of Pasco County and Bright Hopes. Admission is free. For information, visit IColorMeAbstract.com.

TODDLER PICNIC PROGRAM

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Play, Make Discover: Let's Have a Picnic program, for toddlers and preschoolers, June 24 at 10:30 a.m. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

SUPER SCIENCE

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., will present "Super Science" June 24 at 3 p.m., for kindergarten through fifth grade. The program includes hands-on discovery stations about space. The program is limited to 50 children plus their caregivers. Participants should check in at the reference desk after 2 p.m. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

SUMMER FEST

Summer Fest will take place June 24 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave., in Zephyrhills, to benefit The Samaritan Project. There will be a kids' area with bouncers, face painting, food vendors, music, watermelon-eating and dance contests, and a fireworks show over the lake at sundown. Guests can bring lawn chairs or blankets. The event is pet-friendly and free. For information, call Simply Events at (727) 674-1464.

TAMPA THEATRE BEERFEST

The Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., in downtown Tampa, will host its sixth annual beerfest fundraiser June 24 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., for ages 21 and older. The theme is "Barley's Angels," and the event will feature craft beers and local brewers, plus snacks and samples from restaurants. There also will be live music and photos with entertainers, courtesy of Busch Gardens. Guests can dress as their favorite Charlie's Angels' character or in a costume inspired by the movie. Tickets start at \$45. For information, visit TampaTheatre.org.

AUTHOR MEET 'N GREET

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., will host a Local Authors Meet 'N Greet June 25 at 2:30 p.m., for adults. Participants can visit with local authors and hear their stories. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

REPRESENTPASCO

RepresentPasco will host a showing of "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy: A Tale of Billionaires & Ballot Bandits" June 25 at 4 p.m., at Beef O' Brady's, 21539 Village Lakes Shopping Center in Land O' Lakes. Admission is free. For information, visit MeetUp.com/PascoActivists.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Grace Lutheran Church of Carrollwood,

3714 W. Linebaugh Ave., will host Vacation Bible School June 25 to June 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., for kindergarten through eighth grade. The theme will be "Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God," with interactive Bible fun, music, super science, crafts, mission work, games and snacks. There also will be an adult class focusing on the same stories the kids will learn. The cost is \$10 per child and includes a week of activities, a T-shirt and a music CD. Register online at GraceTampa.org.

BOOK CLUB

The CCC Book Club will meet at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road, June 26 at 7 p.m., to discuss the book "The Cold Dish" by Craig Johnson. For information about the club, email David Brayshaw at david8463@verizon.net.

FAIRY GARDEN PROGRAM

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host a fairy garden program June 27 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., for grades four to seven. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

TAMPA ORCHID CLUB

The Tampa Orchid Club will meet June 27 at 10 a.m., at the Northdale Recreation Center, 15550 Spring Pine Drive. There will be a potluck lunch after the meeting, a bloom table and a silent auction. For information, call Sharon Hartley at (727) 202-8505.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay will host an orientation and training session June 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Wesley Chapel Honda, 27750 Wesley Chapel Blvd., for anyone interested in becoming a mentor. Participants do not need to make a reservation. For information, contact Deb Kristol-Irwin at (813) 997-6881 or DebK@bbbstampabay.org.

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 27, June 28 and June 29 are "Storks" and "The Lego Movie." Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Same-day ticketing only. Large groups, schools and camps are invited. For information, call (813) 948-5444.

COOKBOOK BOOK CUB

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host the Cookbook Book Club June 28 at 11:30 a.m., on desserts. Participants can browse the library's cookbooks, choose a recipe to make at home, and bring your review and recipe samples (optional) to the meeting to share. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

CLASSIC MOVIE

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will host a classic movie matinee with popcorn June 28 at 1 p.m. For information, call (813) 264-3804.

MEALS ON WHEELS SURVEY

Meals on Wheels of Tampa is conducting a brand awareness survey from the community. The online survey takes less than five minutes, and all responses are voluntary, anonymous and confidential. The information is being collected by a local agency in partnership with the University of Tampa. To access the survey, visit tinyurl.com/non-profit-survey-2017.

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.

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- FREE Face Painting & Balloons
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- Karaoke Contest with Cash Prizes

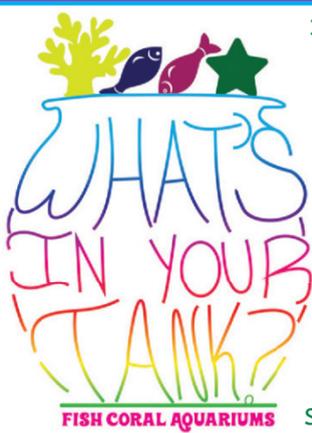







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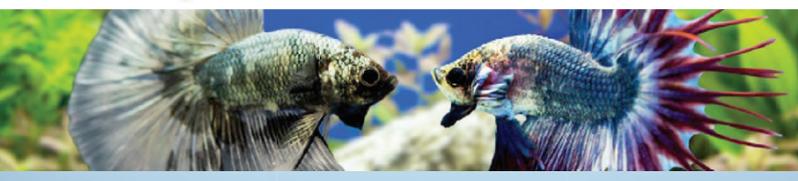
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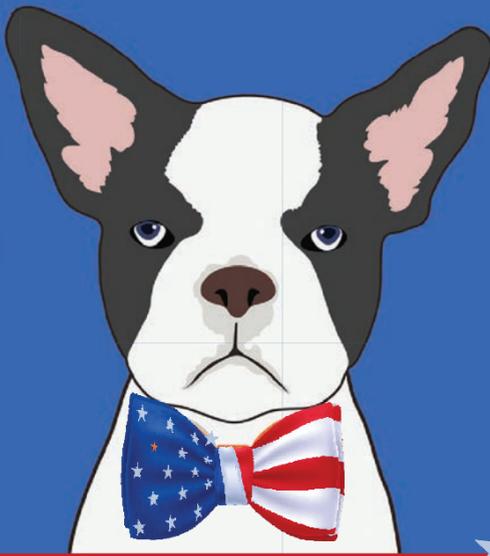
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Carrollwood: 5020 Gunn Highway #250

Westchase: Coming Soon! (Fit Body Boot Camp Now; Personal Training in July)



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SAFE SITTER COURSE

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a safe sitter course with CPR June 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for 11 years and older, in Garden Classroom B.

Participants can learn about minor to emergency situations, infant/child choking rescue, CPR training (not certifying), safety behavior and entertainment.

Bring a bag lunch and a drink. Parents must be present for check-in and pickup.

A permission slip must be completed and handed in at check-in.

The cost is \$65 per child.

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

MEMORY MOBILE

The Legacy at Highwoods Preserve, 18600 Highwoods Preserve Parkway in Tampa, will host the Alzheimer's Association's Memory Mobile June 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Guests can get information on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, referrals to community services, care consultations and caregiver training.

For information and to RSVP, call (813) 375-9858.

NEWBORN CARE CLASS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a newborn care class June 24 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., in Garden Classroom A.

The interactive class will cover various aspects of infant care, including feeding, diapering, bathing safety, signs of illness and newborn characteristics.

The cost is \$25, and covers expectant mother and a support person.

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

BIPOLAR AWARENESS SEMINAR

Pasco-Hernando State College and North Tampa Behavioral Health will host a Bipolar Disorder Awareness Seminar June 27 at 2 p.m., at the Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, 2727 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.



COURTESY OF KETH LUKE

Brewfest raises \$7,500 for hospice

The inaugural Brewfest for Hospice raised \$7,500 to benefit Gulfside Hospice patients and families. Guests had the opportunity to make a toast and raise a glass on stage in memory of a loved one, for a donation to Gulfside. There also was a silent auction, as well as a grand prize ticket drawing. The Jase Randall Band entertained, while the crowd sampled beer and wine.

Topics will include risk factors, signs and symptoms, and diagnosis and treatment of bipolar disorder and other mental illnesses.

Admission is free.

For more information, please visit PHSC.edu/calendar.

MEDICAL CANNABIS AWARENESS

The Florida Medical Cannabis Clinic, 6761 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, will offer a free workshop June 29 at 1 p.m., to educate patients on the use of cannabis in health care.

Sign up by calling (352) 616-9892. Other workshops also will be available.

For more information, you can visit FIMedCannabis.org.

OAK HILL WELCOMES DR. BRIAN HUDSON

Dr. Brian Hudson, osteopathic medicine and pharmacy, has joined the Oak Hill Hospital family.

Hudson's experience includes a fellowship in neurosurgical oncology at USF Moffitt Cancer Center in 2015; an enfolded fellowship in neuro trauma at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, Advocate Christ Medical Center; and, an enfolded fellowship in trauma and

neuro critical care at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

He completed his residency at A.T. Still University/Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, Advocate Health Care in Illinois; a residency at Clinical Pharmacology Services in Tampa; and, received his Doctor of Osteopathic medicine degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton and his Doctor of Pharmacy from Nova Southeastern University College of Pharmacy in Fort Lauderdale.

Hudson practices at two locations: one in Brooksville, and one at 16541 Pointe Village Drive, Suite 209, in Lutz.

For information, call (813) 336-4461.

JOIN VOLUNTEER TEAM

Florida Hospital Connerton is looking for individuals to join its volunteer team. The hospital's mission is to extend the healing ministry of Christ.

Volunteers can have the opportunity to apply their skills and talents to create a positive experience in the lives of the patients, visitors and staff, and make a difference.

For information, contact Anthony Cappellini at (813) 615-7286 or anthony.cappellini@ahss.org.

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.

NEW DIRECTOR OF ER SERVICES

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point has appointed Walter E. Weston as director of emergency services.

Weston comes to RMCBP from Tampa Community Hospital where he also served as director of emergency services and the intensive care unit since 2011.

He has more than 14 years of clinical nursing experience in emergency/trauma medicine.

Weston has a Bachelor of Science degree in health science from Saint Mary's College of California; a national registered EMT-P certification from Western Medical Institute in San Jose, California; and, an

Continued on next page

Tuesday Tutorials

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Associate Degree of Nursing from Excelsior College in Albany, New York.

He also is certified in basic life support, advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, crisis prevention institute training, and disaster management.

Weston is a member of the Emergency Nurses Association.

SAFETY DURING THE SUMMER

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a leader in orthopedic conditions, spinal cord injuries, burns and other specialty care, and wants parents to remind kids of simple precautions for a summer of safety.

- At the playground, slide feet first, and swing sitting down.
- Keep children inside when lawn mowers are in use.
- Keep at least 3 feet away from fire pits, campfires or grills.
- Swim only when an adult is present, and wear lifejackets on open water.
- Protect yourself from the sun with hats and sunscreen.

For more information, visit ShrinersHospitalsForChildren.org/safesummer.

CAPITAL CITY BANK DONATES TO SERTOMA

Sam Shrieves, the market president of Capital City Bank, presented \$250 to the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation, to be used for program services.

The bank has supported Sertoma services in Pasco, Hernando and Citrus counties for almost 20 years.

The mission of the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation is to enhance individual potential and quality of life through better hearing.

For more information, please visit FamilyHearingHealth.org.

BAYFRONT RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

The American College of Cardiology has recognized Bayfront Health Dade City for its demonstrated expertise and commitment in treating patients with chest pain.

Bayfront Health Dade City was awarded Chest Pain Center Accreditation with Primary PCI and Resuscitation based on rigorous onsite evaluation of the staff's ability to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack.

Hospitals that have earned this accreditation are required to meet the criteria of the accreditation designation, complying with standard Chest Pain Center protocols and being equipped with a hypothermia program for post-cardiac arrest treatment.

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.

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AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

Grand Opening At Lakeside Heating, Cooling & Plumbing

Special to The Laker / Lutz News



(L to R) Owner Ron, A/C technician Eric Rapp, office manager Jackie Horruitiner and EPA-certified technician Omar Matos.

The official grand opening of Lakeside Heating, Cooling & Plumbing in Land O' Lakes is being celebrated June 21 with a ribbon cutting co-hosted by the Central Pasco and Wesley Chapel chambers of commerce.

The public is invited to the event, which takes place from 5p.m. to 7 p.m. at Lakeside's office on Bell Lake, at 4608 Land O' Lakes Blvd. Chamber members, customers and friends can enjoy food catered by Hungry Harry's Bar-B-Que and raffles for A/C cleanings, thermostats and gift cards.

Lakeside Heating, Cooling & Plumbing opened in March and has already earned an "A Rating" from Angie's List and the Better Business Bureau, as well as being designated a "5 Star Contractor" with HomeAdvisor.

"We are very happy with the positive reception we've gotten from the community," said owner Ron. "It is gratifying to have helped so many local families with their air conditioning needs, and also to support several local sports teams and special events with our sponsorships."

Ron is a respected and longtime HVAC technician with 22 years experience in Pasco and Hillsborough counties. Before establishing Lakeside Heating, Cooling & Plumbing, Ron was a partner in an HVAC company based in Lutz.

Working alongside Ron at the company is Omar Matos, a highly qualified HVAC technician with 15-years experience who is also EPA certified. Eric Rapp also works for the company as an HVAC technician, and Jackie Horruitiner is the office manager.

"I'm taking all that I've learned from my previous business and applying it to make Lakeside successful," said Ron, who plans to keep his new company small, so he can offer low prices and be closely involved in customer service.

"After 22 years in the business, I've seen every problem there is, and can quickly and accurately assess the best course of action when someone calls with a problem," said Ron.

Lakeside Heating, Cooling & Plumbing specializes in helping families with A/C units that are 10 to 15 years old.

"We believe in being proactive, instead of waiting for an emergency

when your A/C stops working in the heat of the summer," said Ron.

"There are thousand of homes in Lutz, Land O' Lakes and Wesley Chapel that were built in the early 2000s, whose air conditioning systems need service and upgrades. We can save you money, if you call before your system breaks down."

Lower energy cost is another reason to upgrade your A/C system, Ron explains.

"Most people see savings of 20 percent to 50 percent when they upgrade to a new system with a higher SEER rating," he said. All the units we install have a minimum SEER rating of 14, and our top-rated, quietest Rheem system offers an unbelievable rating of 20.5."

Higher SEER ratings result in dramatic energy savings — often more than \$100 a month on your utility bills. "For people installing new systems, this energy savings make for an excellent return on investment," Ron said. In addition to Rheem, Lakeside also installs air conditioning systems manufactured by Goodman, Frigidaire and Mitsubishi.

Both Duke Energy and TECO offer rebates of up to \$800 to customers who replace their old system with a new unit that has a SEER rating of 15 or higher. Lakeside takes care of all the rebate paperwork for its customers.

The company also installs whole house filtration systems, hot water heaters, and secures rebates up to \$550 for customers who install tank-less, gas-powered tanks that are serviced by People's Gas and Clearwater Gas.

"We take our responsibility very seriously when you place your trust in us," said Ron. "Please give us a call for your A/C service needs, and see what you've been missing."

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Land O' Lakes, FL 34639



www.LakesideComfortPros.com

Chalk Talk

Send school news to news@lakerlutznews.com

ZEPHYRHILLS HIGH REUNION

The 47th annual Zephyrhills High School Alumni, Teachers & Friends Reunion will take place June 25 at the Zephyrhills Lions Club, 5827 Dean Dairy Road.

Registration starts at 11 a.m., followed by a covered-dish luncheon at 1 p.m. There also will be announcements and recognitions at 2 p.m.

The reunion is for anyone who attended, taught or worked at any of the Zephyrhills schools from elementary through high school, and their families.

Dress is casual. Bring a dish to share. Admission is free.

For information, contact Clereen Morrill Brunty at (813) 782-8763 after 6 p.m., or Clereen@tampabay.rr.com.

PASCO SCHOOLS JOB FAIR

Pasco County Schools is partnering with the Pasco County Sheriff's Office to host a job fair June 29 from 4 p.m. to 6

p.m., at River Ridge High School, 11646 Town Center Road in New Port Richey.

Representatives from government agencies are looking for applicants for various positions, including bus drivers, clerical, information services, accounting, law enforcement, instructional and maintenance. Other positions also may be available.

To register, you can visit PascoCommunityJobFair.eventbrite.com.

For information, contact Lori Perreault at (813) 794-2845.

SAINT LEO NAMES NEW DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. William J. Lennox Jr., president of Saint Leo University, has appointed Christian Schindler as vice president of marketing and enrollment.

Schindler has served in a variety of leadership roles in marketing and enrollment, including vice president of strategic recruitment and global marketing at Laureate Education, vice president of marketing and enrollment at Straighterline, and senior director of international global marketing at LeapFrog Enterprises.

Schindler is a graduate of the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario, where he also received a Bachelor of Arts in political science.

College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship Winners

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced more than 3,200 winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities. Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the Finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institution.

These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

An additional group of scholars will be announced in July.

Nathaniel W. Edgar (Land O' Lakes), home-school

Probable career field: computer science
National Merit University of Florida Scholarship

Maxwell W. Keenan (Land O' Lakes), Land O' Lakes High School

Probable career field: computer science
National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship

Elle D. Hazlett (Lutz), home-school

Probable career field: medicine
National Merit Calvin College Scholarship

Bailey M. Zinckgraf (Lutz), Steinbrenner High School

Probable career field: industrial engineering
National Merit University of Florida Scholarship

Riley L. Troyer (Odessa), Carrollwood Day School

Probable career field: engineering
National Merit Purdue University Scholarship

Michael Gendreau (Wesley Chapel), Land O' Lakes High School

Probable career field: aerospace engineering
National Merit University of Central Florida Scholarship

Navya Jampani (Wesley Chapel), Land O' Lakes High School

Probable career field: medicine
National Merit University of South Florida Scholarship

Lauren E. Payne (Wesley Chapel), Wiregrass Ranch High School

Probable career field: medicine
National Merit University of Florida Scholarship

Local students graduate

These local students have graduated from their respective schools:

Cami Ash (Lutz), Harding University, Arkansas

Gleb Barkovskiy (Lutz), Bucknell University, Pennsylvania

Samantha Nicole Cuffe (Odessa), Clemson University, South Carolina

Nicholas Eicholtz (Odessa), University of Alabama

Stephanie Leeanne Erickson (Odessa), Clemson University

Ashleigh Fults (Lutz), Georgia Tech, Georgia

Karen Kegel (Lutz), Georgia Tech

Michael Muhammad (Lutz), Troy University, Alabama

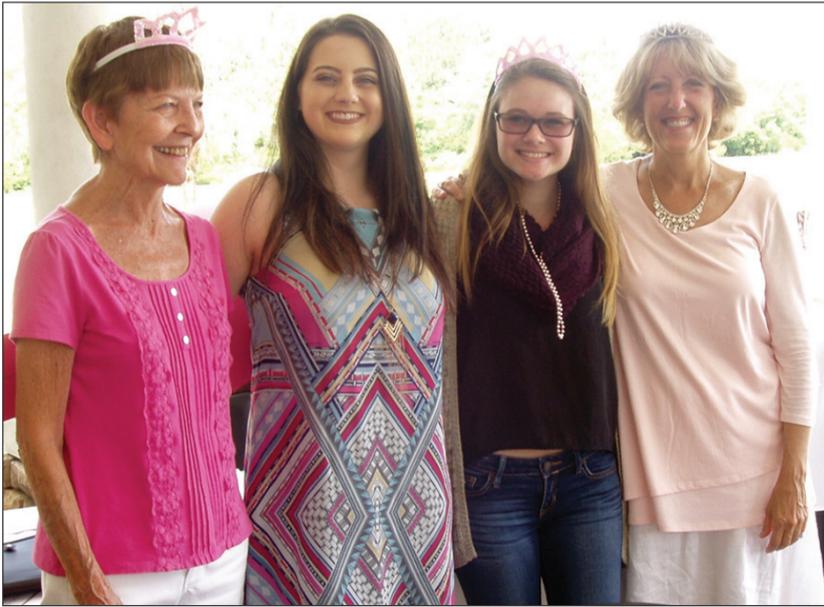
Amanda Victoria Owens (Lutz), Greensboro College, North Carolina

Michelle Price (Lutz), Troy University

Tyler Scarboro (Lutz), Samford University, Alabama

Caleb Turner (Odessa), University of North Georgia

Chadd Williamson (Land O' Lakes), Heidelberg University, Ohio



COURTESY OF MARY HANCHAR

Women's Club gives merit awards

The Lexington Oaks Women's Club presented a \$500 merit award to each of three deserving students who reside in Lexington Oaks. From left, Margaret Wilhelm, treasurer; recipients Madison Riggle and Bethany Berry; and, Cindy Cox, president. Natalie Klopfenstein, the third merit winner was not present.

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.

Our physicians are especially skilled in the areas of minimally invasive surgical procedures, including those utilizing the daVinci robot.

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DOG FLU, from page 1A

say. That means it can spread through toys, leashes, kennel crates, dishes and floors, along with contaminated hands and clothing; frequent hand washing with soap and water, normal laundering of clothing and bedding, and washing food/water bowls and toys with soap is strongly advised.

The University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine says there is no evidence the disease can infect humans, but it can spread to cats.

Dr. Cynda Crawford, of the University of Florida's Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, said the virus is an "imminent threat" to dogs statewide.

"We're probably just seeing the tip of the iceberg," she said. "It is very important for both veterinarians and dog owners in the state of Florida to have very heightened awareness of the presence of this virus in the state."

The flu can infect all canine dogs, regardless of breed, age or health status, according to Dr. Moses Kawalya, of Pet Point Animal Hospital in Lutz.

"All dogs are at risk; there's no preferential breed," he said.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the H3N2 disease is an avian flu virus that adapted and since spread to dogs. It was first detected in South Korea in 2007 before making its way to the United States in 2015.

No end appears in sight. "Viruses generally have aggressive potential for mutation, so it's possible that you can get one strain under control, and then another comes later on, which could be more contagious than the other ones before," Kawalya explained.

Fortunately, most dogs recover from H3N2 without complications, health officials say.

But, some can develop "life-threatening" pneumonia, if the dog isn't under the care of a veterinarian with proper treatments.

The best prevention is vaccination. "The more dogs that we can vaccinate and build up community immunity, the better chance we have of keeping this virus out of a community," said Crawford. "It is all about using vaccines to build a wall — an immune barrier to stop the virus from entry."

Dogs are most at-risk when around other dogs that may be sick or in areas other dogs hang out at. Nose-to-nose contact with other dogs is one of the ways dogs can contract the virus. Dog parks, pet stores, pet day care centers and grooming salons are also examples of places canines can contract the dog flu from, if a contagious dog has been there.

Besides public places, dog shows are particularly risky, Crawford said.

"This is a clear problem in the dog show population," she said.

"I think it is a high risk to take dogs to dog shows at this time, because there could be dogs that are infected and contagious to other

dogs," Crawford added.

She also noted canines that mainly stay within the confines of their homes or yard are least at-risk.

Though she still recommends vaccination, in case an emergency arises.

"Most dogs are probably in a risk group for exposure," Crawford said. "Their risk for exposure increases significantly, if the virus has been documented to be circulating in the community and state where they live."

Despite the virus' rise, some local residents don't plan to vaccinate their dogs, yet.

Sharon Espinola, a Lutz resident who owns a 5-year-old border collie mix, said she doesn't believe her dog, Leo, needs the flu vaccine.

"Given his age and health status, and the fact that we don't go to dog parks, I feel like he's not at risk," she said. "Now, if it looked like it was more widespread and was something that was really going to impact his health negatively, I would certainly take a second look at it."

Nevertheless, she's still monitoring the disease to see if it reaches the Tampa Bay region.

"I think being aware is really important," she said, "and, if you have a dog with a compromised immune system, I think it would definitely be something to look at."

Terri Garey, a Lutz resident who owns two Yorkillons, hasn't vaccinated, either.

"I haven't had the dogs vaccinated because their contact with other dogs is very limited. We don't board them or take them to the dog park," Garey wrote in an email to The Laker/Lutz News.

For pet owners who think their dog has become infected, Kawalya suggests calling their veterinarian ahead so they can take precautionary measures.

"The vet has to make sure they minimize any exposure to any dog that may be at the vet's office," he said. "They may want to bring the dog through a separate door or entrance."

Meanwhile, the Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center is taking steps to protect against the latest, highly contagious mutation of canine influenza.

The facility, at 440 N. Falkenburg Road, is now closed to the public on Mondays to give veterinary staff more time to examine dogs and allow shelter staff to conduct weekly deep cleanings for added disease prevention; the closure will give the dogs and cats a day of rest from constant human interaction.

Beginning July 1, pet intake will end an hour earlier, at 6 p.m., to allow more time for the veterinary staff to examine dogs that are received at the end of the day.

Also beginning July 1, owners who surrender dogs will be asked to make appointments so the facility can proactively combat outside contamination. Additionally, county residents bringing in dogs or cats that are coughing or sneezing will be asked to keep the pet outside of the Pet Resource Center and contained in the resident's vehicle to avoid possible contamination, whereby veterinary staff will provide an initial examination prior to the pet entering the building to ensure the safety of the pets inside the building.

SERVING, from page 1A

help with community services," Heim said.

Many of the women in the club are getting older and aren't able to do as much as they once could, she said.

"Not all of the ladies are physically able to move tables and set up crafts," she said. "We would love younger people with better backs."

Besides working to increase the woman's club's ranks, Heim hopes she can attract more members to the Central Pasco Chamber, too.

She plans to be an ambassador for the organization — reaching out to new businesses and giving them a warm welcome from the chamber.

"I'll do the ribbon cuttings," she said.

She'll also be participating in the Lutz Fourth of July Parade.

"They're going to get me a convertible," said Heim, who joined the woman's club 10 years ago, after retiring from her job as a special needs school assistant at Denham Oaks Elementary.

She said she's happy to be the face of the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce, and will do what the chamber would like her to do to spread its goodwill.

"If any of the schools asks me to come and speak and give awards to the kids, I'm available to do that," Heim said.

Being involved is rewarding, said Heim, noting she was overwhelmed during a recent pasta dinner fundraiser she had.

Ninety-six people turned out. "I was just so honored and overwhelmed by the love shown in that room," she said. "They were chanting my name, 'Rosie, Rosie.'"

It was incredible, Heim said. "When you give, it's always returned to you 10-fold."

SUMMERFEST, from page 1A

couples' relay race and sack race.

For youngsters, there's a designated Kid's Area featuring multiple bounce houses, waterslides and face painting.

Zephyr Park's full playground and wet zone also will be open for children.

Between the family friendly entertainment, DJ Express will be spinning upbeat tunes all afternoon, at the Zephyr Park gazebo.

Patrons are advised to bring lawn chairs or blankets, and arrive early for prime parking spots.

Sponsored by the City of Zephyrhills, the festival is organized by Clearwater-based Simply Events Inc.

The company organizes several events in the city, including the popular Zephyrhills Pie Festival, Zephyrhills Artsy Farmer's Market and Snowbird Palooza.

Drew Cecere, co-owner of Simply Events, said the idea for Zephyrhills SummerFest stemmed from the city not having a fireworks show for "many, many years."

"There wasn't a whole lot that went on in the area for families when we started doing events out here," said Cecere, who has relatives living in Zephyrhills.

"We make a full event out of it."

While the festival still lacks major corporate sponsors, Cecere said attendance increased substantially last year, with thousands of people turning out — especially for the 30-minute firework display.

"The first year was good, the second year...was really amazing," he said.

"A lot of people on Facebook videotaped it, and were just shocked by how long the fireworks show was."

The event also benefits the Samaritan Project of Zephyrhills, a nonprofit organization that assists the short-term financial needs of people and families.

The local organization will get a portion of the funds generated through the festival's bounce houses, and auctions and raffles.

"We love to give back," Cecere said. "In every event that we do, we have a local nonprofit involved. This event, we have to do fundraising because there's no entry (fees), there's no parking (fees), there's no alcohol sales, and that's normally the stuff that would go to a nonprofit."

Should inclement weather arise, deciding whether to reschedule the festival will "be played by ear" between city officials and event organizers, Cecere said.

"We're going take every effort to make sure it goes on (June 24)," Cecere said.

"If it's a downpour that just lasts thirty minutes, we'll just wait and do the fireworks thirty minutes later. But, if it's like a long couple hours' storm where we just can't hold it, then we would have to get with the city and figure out a new date."

Considering the expenses for fireworks alone, Cecere added the show "definitely would be something that would be rescheduled" in case of thunderstorms or heavy rain.

Regardless, the festival doesn't appear to be going away anytime soon, as its attendance increases and support from the city continues, Cecere said.

For information about Zephyrhills SummerFest, visit SimplyEventsFL.com.

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FHInspiredByYou.org

Locals fare well in 2017 MLB Draft

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Dreams of playing professional baseball are about to come true for several local athletes.

The 2017 Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft wrapped up on June 14, and several baseball players with ties to The Laker/Lutz News Coverage Area were selected.

The first-year player draft is Major League Baseball's primary mechanism for assigning amateur baseball players, from high schools, colleges and other amateur baseball clubs, to its 30 teams — which offer up millions of dollars in signing bonuses to its top draftees.

There were 40 rounds and 1,205 picks in total, over the three-day draft.

Of those picks, 135 were from the state of Florida, second to only California, which produced 192 selections.

Remarkably, four former Steinbrenner High School players were selected — Kevin Merrell (first round), Patrick Morris (14th round), Josh Falk (17th round) and CJ Van Eyk (19th round).

The draft was also kind to Odessa natives — Bishop McLaughlin product Nate Pearson (first round) and Alonso High's Jordan Butler (33rd round).

Other local talent selected included Sunlake High right-hander Tommy Mace (14th round) and Bishop McLaughlin outfielder Paul Coumoulos (40th round).

Just two players with local ties were selected in last year's draft: Saint Leo's Troy Sieber was picked in the 24th round by the Houston Astros, while Gaither High's Camryn Williams was picked in the 39th round by the Seattle Mariners. Sieber, a first baseman, is currently assigned to the Greenville Astros, a rookie-level affiliate in Tennessee. Williams, a shortstop, opted to hold off a pro career to attend Dallas Baptist University, in Texas. He'll again be draft-eligible in 2019.

NATE PEARSON

Toronto Blue Jays—first round, 28th pick

The Odessa native graduated from Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School in 2015, where he was one of the top pitchers in the state (1.24 career ERA). He attended Florida International University as a freshman, then transferred to College of Central Florida in Ocala. In his lone season there, he posted a 1.56 ERA and 118 strikeouts in 81 innings, and was named JUCO Pitcher of the Year by Perfect Game.

An imposing 6-foot-6, 245-pound right-hander, Pearson is lauded for a blistering fastball, which touches 101 miles per hour.

Baseball America ranked him as the state's second best draft prospect, just behind University of Florida ace Alex Faedo.

Based on his draft position, Pearson could receive a signing bonus upwards of \$2.3 million.

KEVIN MERRELL

Oakland Athletics—first round, 33rd pick

The Steinbrenner High product and University of South Florida shortstop is widely viewed as the fastest college player



COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Nate Pearson, an Odessa native, was drafted 28th overall by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 2017 MLB Draft. Pearson graduated from Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School in 2015.



COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

University of South Florida shortstop and Steinbrenner High alum Kevin Merrell was selected 33rd overall by the Oakland Athletics in the 2017 MLB Draft. Merrell graduated from Steinbrenner in 2014, where he was a four-year letter winner for head baseball coach John Crumbley; he also lettered in golf and track.

in the 2017 draft class. On his high school track team, the 6-foot-1, 189-pound Merrell ran a 10.6-second, 100-yard dash. Those wheels translated well to the baseball diamond, where he stole 56 bases in his three-year college career, eighth-most in program history. Besides pure speed, the left-handed hitter boasts an elite bat, posting a career .353 average, and becoming the only player in South Florida history to lead the team in hitting three-straight seasons.

He also showed power in 2017, slugging seven home runs and 15 extra-base hits.

Merrell's on-field performance earned him several end-of-year accolades, including 2017 American Athletic Conference First Team and 2017 Baseball America Second Team All-American.

Meanwhile, he was ranked as the state's seventh best draft prospect and 51st overall, according to Baseball America.

Based on his draft position, Merrell is slotted to receive a signing bonus upwards of \$2 million.

TOMMY MACE

Cincinnati Reds—12th round, 347th pick

One of the most effective prep arms in the Tampa Bay area, Mace tallied a 1.29 ERA and 92 strikeouts in 70.2 innings, with an 8-2 record in 11 appearances — and helped guide Sunlake High to the Class 7A regional finals.

A lanky 6-foot-7, 200-pound right-hander,

average with four home runs, nine doubles and 28 RBIs. Other players from The Laker/Lutz News coverage area selected to the senior all-star team were Gaither High outfielder Jose Cadenas and Sunlake High pitcher Tommy Mace.

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration is ongoing for the Pasco County Parks & Recreation Fall Adult Softball League, beginning the week of July 31. Open team spots are available for coed games on Mondays, and men's games on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Cost per team is \$475, plus an additional \$25 for a National Softball Association sanctioning fee. The price includes an 11-game regular season, and a single elimination tournament. All games are played at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. For information, call (813) 929-1229, or email A.J. Fernandez at afernandez@pascocountyfl.net.

LAND O' LAKES HIGH LEADS AREA ON SOFTBALL ALL-STATE TEAMS

With the high school softball season complete, the 2017 Miracle Sports All-State teams were released June 9, honoring the top players in the state of Florida.

The Land O' Lakes High Gators had the most representatives from The Laker/Lutz News Coverage area in all classifications, with a total of five selections in Class 6A —



Steinbrenner High's CJ Van Eyk was selected by the New York Mets in the 19th round of the 2017 MLB Draft.



COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Josh Falk, a University of Pittsburgh pitching standout, attended Steinbrenner and Bishop McLaughlin Catholic high schools. He was selected by the Oakland Athletics in the 17th round of the 2017 MLB Draft.

Mace has developed a consistent 90 mph fastball, along with a tight curveball and usable changeup. Previously a University of Kentucky commit, Mace has since elected to play baseball at the University of Florida. If he temporarily forgoes a pro career, he'll be draft-eligible again in three years, likely improving his draft stock.

Should he sign with Toronto, it could mark solid draft value at pick No. 347 for the pro club, as Baseball America ranked Mace the state's 12th best draft prospect and 88th overall.

PATRICK MORRIS

Toronto Blue Jays—14th round, 429th pick

A power-hitting, left-handed first baseman, Morris possessed extra-base and home run power the past two seasons at Steinbrenner High, racking up eight home runs, 17 doubles and 43 RBIs cumulatively. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound Morris also was a solid pitcher, posting a career 2.71 ERA, with 82 strikeouts in 95.2 innings.

Baseball America ranked Morris as the state's 89th best draft prospect. He is a Florida Atlantic University commit.

JOSH FALK

Oakland Athletics—17th round, 501st pick

Falk began his prep career at Steinbrenner High, and then transferred to Bishop McLaughlin, where he graduated in 2013. He started his college career at

Hillsborough Community College, before winding up at the University of Pittsburgh, where he developed into the pitching staff's ace. The 6-foot-1, 205-pound right-hander finished the season with a 3.92 ERA, with a record of 3-7 in 14 appearances. He also ranked among ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) leaders in innings (85), strikeouts (75) and batting average against (.228). Falk, who faced elite competition at Pitt, can locate all three of his pitches for strikes which includes an effective breaking ball.

CJ VAN EYK

New York Mets—19th round, 577th pick

A highly touted prospect, Van Eyk possibly dropped in the draft due to medical and signability concerns as a firm Florida State University commit. This past season at Steinbrenner, Van Eyk threw just 38.1 innings and was shut down in April with arm soreness. In his limited action, however, the 6-foot-2, 195-pound righty was virtually unhittable, posting a 0.73 ERA and 56 strikeouts. Besides a blazing 95-mph fastball, Van Eyk possesses a devastating curveball and effective changeup.

Last summer, the Steinbrenner star jumped onto the national radar, as a member of the USA Baseball 18 and under team's pitching staff, helping the squad win gold at the Pan American Championships.

Also in 2016, he led Steinbrenner to its first state baseball title and was crowned the Florida Dairy Farmers' Class 8A Player of the Year.

Baseball America ranked Van Eyk as the state's 18th best draft prospect and 109th overall.

Some believe he could develop into a future first-round selection after seasoning at Florida State.

JORDAN BUTLER

New York Yankees—34th round, 1,022nd pick

The Odessa native starred at Alonso High for three years, morphing into one of the state's top two-way high school players. On the mound this past season, the 6-foot-2, 195-pound southpaw registered a miniscule 0.85 ERA and 122 strikeouts in 82 innings, with a record of 9-2. At the plate, he hit .451, with eight home runs and 35 RBIs.

Butler will likely forgo a pro contract to attend the University of Florida, where he can raise his draft stock.

Baseball America ranked Butler as the state's 41st best prospect and 251st overall.

Also of note: he was a teammate of Van Eyk on the USA Baseball 18 and under squad last summer.

PAUL COUMOULOS

Philadelphia Phillies—40th round, 1,193rd pick

A four-year varsity player at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School, Coumoulos proved one of the best pure hitters in Pasco County each season. In 104 career games, the 6-foot, 205-pound outfielder posted a career .378 batting average, .471 on-base percentage, 21 doubles and 62 RBIs. Also a capable runner, Coumoulos racked up 31 steals on 33 attempts in his career.

He is a College of Central Florida commit.



COURTESY OF LORRAINE SARGENT

McCabe Sargent

LAND O' LAKES HIGH'S SARGENT SELECTED TO FACA ALL-STAR TEAM

Land O' Lakes High School's baseball standout McCabe Sargent was selected to the FACA (Florida Athletic Coaches Association) West Senior All-Star Baseball Team. Sargent, a Saint Leo University signee, was one of the region's top two-way players last season. On the mound, Sargent, a right-handed pitcher, won seven games, compiling a 1.97 ERA and 84 strikeouts in 67.2 innings pitched. Also a third baseman, Sargent posted a .455 batting



COURTESY OF PASCO COUNTY

The Land O' Lakes High varsity softball team was recognized at the Pasco County Commissioners June 6 meeting. Last month, the Gators won the 2017 Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) 6A State Championship.

four first-team, one second-team. Moreover, Gators head coach Mitch Wilkins and sophomore pitcher Callie Turner were named Class 6A Coach of the Year and Pitcher of the Year, respectively.

Wilkins guided the Gators (29-3) to its first fastpitch title last month — a first for a Pasco County program since Ridgewood High won in 1992.

Turner, meanwhile, was an integral part of the Gators' success, proving to be one of the state's most dominant aces. The University of Tennessee commit won 17 games, tallying a 0.21 ERA and 249 strikeouts in 132.2 innings pitched.

In her 20 starts, Turner tallied 18 complete games, 10 shutouts and four no-hitters.

Also a standout hitter, Turner posted a

.319 batting average with 14 RBIs.

Besides Turner, Gators outfielder Jessie McCallister, utility player Ashley Smith and designated player Tia Williams were first-teamers, while sophomore infielder Shelby Westbrook was a second-team selection.

Other schools in our coverage area also were well represented on the All-State list.

Academy at the Lakes, Steinbrenner, Sunlake and Wharton high schools each had three representatives — as either first or second team selections or honorable mentions.

Carrollwood Day School, Pasco High and Wesley Chapel High each had one representative in their respective classifications.

There were no All-State representatives in our coverage area from Classes 9A, 5A, 4A or 1A.

Fort De Soto Park: A recreation destination



Worth the Trip

Karen Haymon Long
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

The Tampa Bay area has all sorts of places to escape and feel like you're on vacation without having to drive very far or fly off somewhere.

And, when you get company from afar, there's always someplace wonderful like Fort De Soto Park to take them. Here, all in one place, are a world-class beach, views of both the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay, two fishing piers, boat launches, a historic fort, a ferry ride to Egmont Key, nature trails, kayak rentals, picnic shelters and the chance to see dolphins, manatees and more than 300 species of birds.

If you like to camp, the park - Pinellas County's largest, with 1,136 acres - offers 238 camp sites for tents, pop-ups and RVs.

When my niece, Katie, visited recently from Georgia, we spent the day at the park soaking up sun, touring the fort and its museum, and strolling on Gulf Pier, where we saw five dolphins leaping from green, choppy water.

I had promised she'd see dolphins around the pier, attracted by thousands of tiny bait fish that always seem to be around.

And, there they were, cruising close to the pier and arching out of the water in pairs - perfect for a picture she sent to her mom.

All sorts of fishermen - from regulars with their wheeled carts overflowing with fishing gear to sunburned tourists - try their luck on the 1,000-foot-long pier, so it's a good place to people watch.

A friendly fisherman, obviously a regular, helped us spot dolphins, while a younger man, who looked like a spring-breaker, hung his rod over the railing, trying hard to catch bait fish clustered under the pier. A cheering section - probably his family - rooted him on.

We saw all sorts of birds that day - seagulls soaring over the pier, pelicans in the bayou fronting the campgrounds, great blue herons and snowy egrets keeping watch at the beaches and curlews, which we call "chickens," pecking around the camping and picnic grounds.

At the campground, we watched a man fishing in Mullet Key Bayou, water up to his thighs, oblivious to kayakers slipping silently behind him. Many sites line the bayou, with open views of water. We liked the fact that tents - which we prefer - and smaller pop-ups have their own area, separate from spots that allow RVs, which are known to run noisy generators, even at night.

Campers with dogs have yet another area - far from campers who prefer to travel without pets. The opposite was true at Jonathan Dickinson State Park on the east coast when we visited recently. Giant RVs overshadowed tiny tents and lots of campers had dogs in the campground we saw.

Fort De Soto's campsites also offer lots more shade: most are nestled among trees that provide a natural barrier between sites. Bathhouses - some recently updated - were clean on our visit. A camp store sells everything from food to camping supplies and



KAREN HAYMON LONG
A fisherman in Mullet Key Bayou in Fort De Soto Park is so intent on his task he doesn't seem to know that two kayakers are sliding past him.



Many campsites at Fort DeSoto Park face Mullet Key Bayou, making them perfect for launching kayaks. Some campers head out just before sunset to watch the sun go down and the sky light up.



Fort De Soto Park - Pinellas County's largest park - boasts one of America's best beaches. It's not even overcrowded on some weekdays.

Florida souvenirs.

And, it's a bargain to camp there at right around \$40 a night for tent or RV.

A walking, biking trail leads to the boat launch area, with 11 floating docks, where we saw kayakers heading out for a ride. The trail also goes to the beach, and to the Gulf and Bay piers, the fort, picnic areas and shelters, and to a concession/snack bar/souvenir shop next to the fort.

After checking it out, we decided to eat there, since it would have taken too much time away from the park to drive to eat lunch somewhere else. We were happily surprised to find that the food was very good - fresh and cooked right there by a short-order cook. And, the price was good, under \$10, for an excellent Caesar salad with grilled chicken. We ate at picnic tables just outside the concession with mostly British tourists on holiday.

It was an easy stroll to the fort, built in the late 1800s to protect the Tampa Bay area during the Spanish-American War. We walked around the remaining fortifications and studied the two British rapid-fire rifles built in 1890 that once protected Egmont Key, when it was home to Fort Dade and later moved to Fort De Soto so more people could see them.

And, we checked out the last four 12-inch

TIPS FOR THE TRIP

How to get there: Fort De Soto Park is at 3500 Pinellas Bayway South in Tierra Verde. From St. Petersburg, take I-275 south, then exit 17 onto Pinellas Bayway/FL 682 west. After 3 miles, turn left onto Pinellas Bayway (FL 679). Go 6.6 miles to the park. Park entrance is \$5.

For information on the park, maps, camping and picnic shelter reservations, see PinellasCounty.org/parks, and choose Fort De Soto Park. For reservations for the ferry to Egmont Key, call (727) 398-6577.

Where to eat: We liked the concession snack shop next to the fort in the park. On another visit, we enjoyed lunch close to the park at the Island Grille & Raw Bar, 210 Madonna Blvd., Tierra Verde. It has good seafood, friendly service and a signature marlin mounted over the entrance. See IslandRawBar.com.

Fun fact: The park stretches over five keys: Mullet Key, St. Jean Key, St. Christopher Key, Madelaine Key and Bonne Fortune Key.

M 1890-MI mortars remaining in North America. The only others are in the Philippines. Surprisingly, very little signage - or historical information - is available at the fort. But, we later discovered a free history museum that offers all sorts of information about the fort in a building next to the Gulf Pier's parking lot.

A park brochure online at PinellasCounty.org (select Fort De Soto Park) also features a historic walking tour of the fort with pictures and lots of good information.



The Gulf Pier in Fort De Soto Park in Pinellas County is a great place to fish, and to see dolphins and freighters heading out into the Gulf of Mexico. In the background is Egmont Key and its lighthouse. A ferry from the park goes out to Egmont Key.



A British rapid-fire rifle, built in 1890, once protected Egmont Key when it was home to Fort Dade and was later moved to Fort De Soto so more people could see it. The fort within Fort De Soto Park is open to the public.



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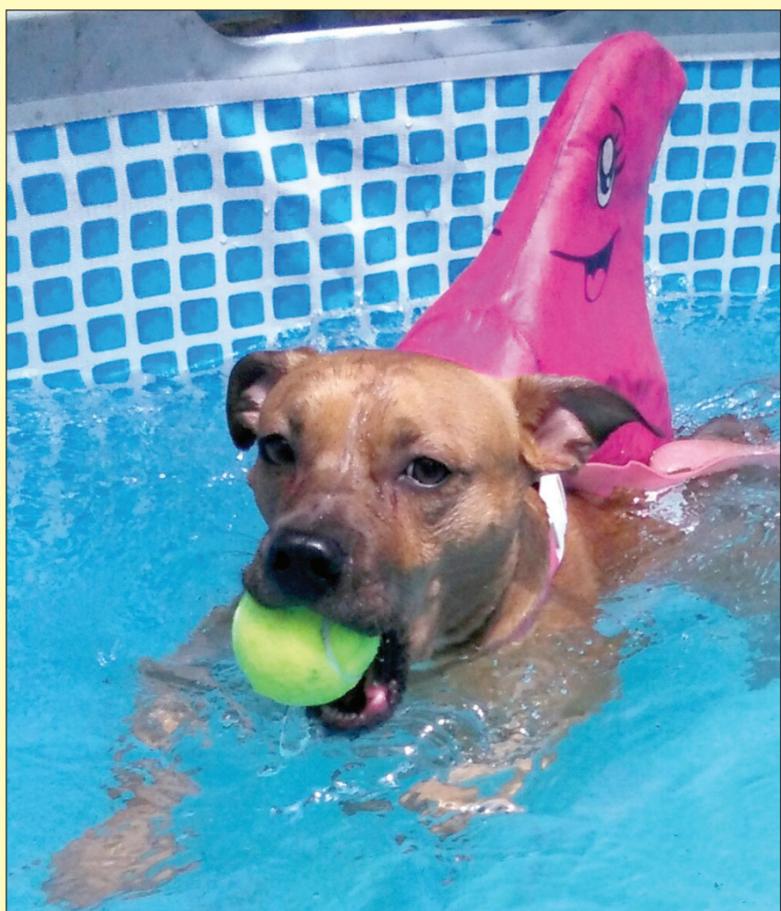
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Happy in the water

This is 2-year-old Robert. He loves his best friend, 8-year-old Abby, who is human, and he loves to go swimming. Robert's proud owner is Abigail Dempsey of Dade City.

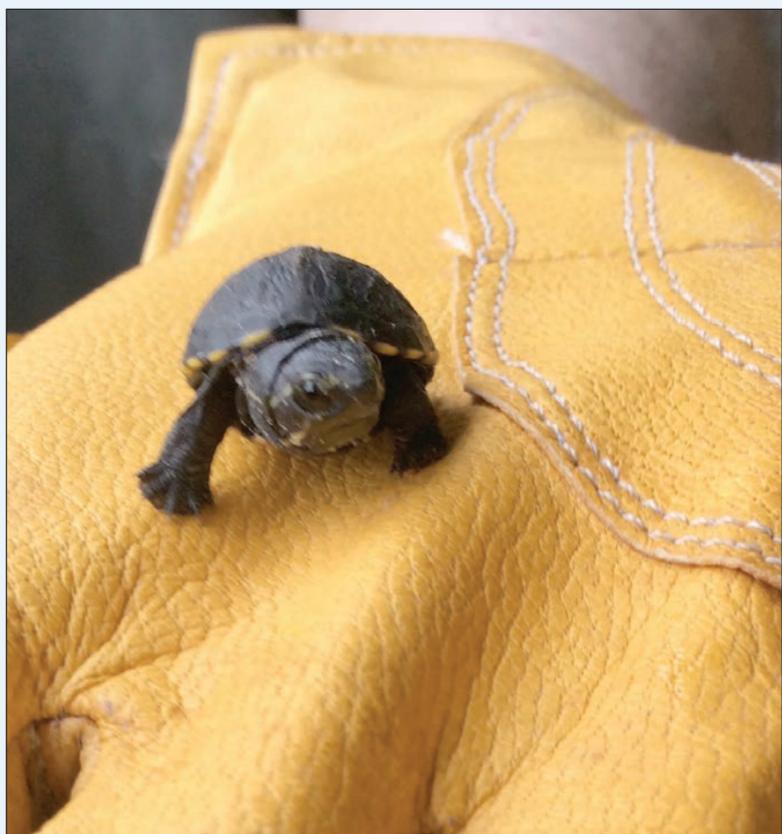
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PLEASE NOTE: OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS MUST BE INCLUDED FOR YOUR PET TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION.

LOCAL WILDLIFE



Pocket-size reptile

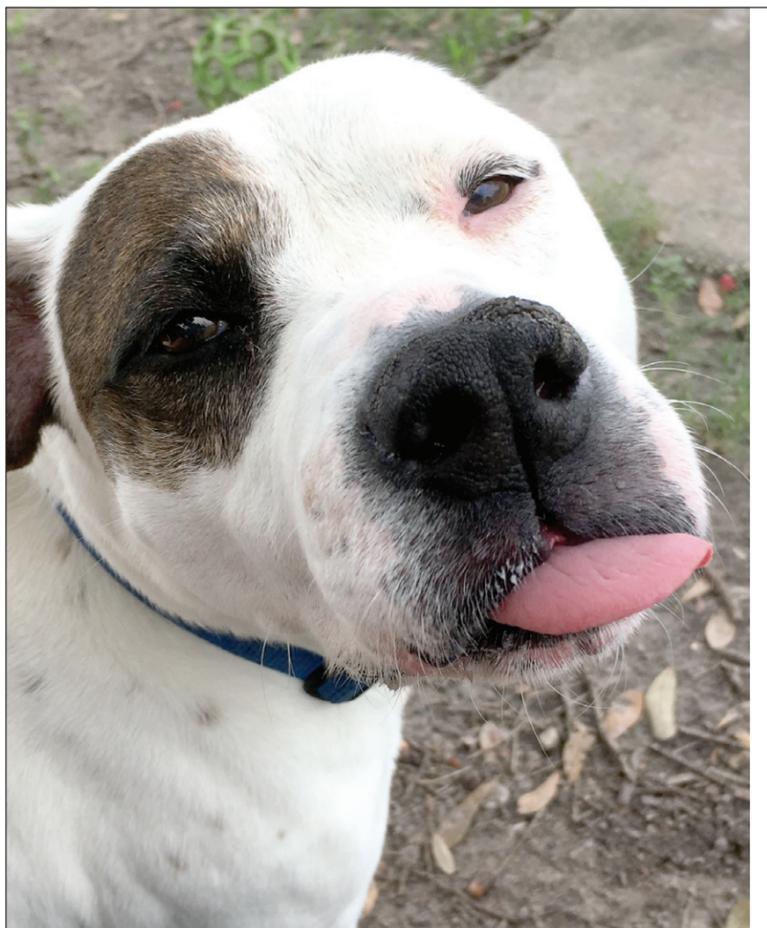
This may be the tiniest turtle Patricia and Mark Battler, of Land O' Lakes, have ever seen. At first, the Battlers thought it was a rock, until the turtle tried climbing the wall by their front door. Mark put on gloves, picked it up and placed the tiny creature close to the marsh, where the turtle dove right in.

Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



Scarlett is quite fickle

Scarlett is a younger kitty that came to the shelter injured. She is quite a fickle little girl, and likes to grab quick bites in between the love she gets from the staff and volunteers.



Emma is a sweet senior

Emma is quite light in her feet despite her 7 years of age. She is quite bouncy and loves to interact with people. Emma has been patiently waiting for eight months to find her 'forever' home. Animal Services recommends that she be an only fur-child in the home.

If you would like to adopt Emma or Scarlett, 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.

PET PAWS

PET PEACE OF MIND PROGRAM

Gulfside Hospice is looking for volunteers for its Pet Peace of Mind program, which assists pets of hospice patients by providing free veterinary care, providing pet food and cat litter, providing exercise, transportation to veterinary appointments, flea and tick treatment, routine grooming care, boarding and pet sitting, and assistance with finding a home if family is not able to keep the pet after the patient's death.

For information, call (800) 561-4883, or complete an online application at GHPPC.org.

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 includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations, a microchip with free registration, and a Hillsborough County pet license tag.



COURTESY OF REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Mr. McTrouble receives pin

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point's most veteran therapy dog, Mr. McTrouble, was awarded his 500-hour volunteer pin by Donna Owen, manager of Volunteer Services. McTrouble is a 7-year-old Sheltie, owned by Chuck Andrews, and has been volunteering at the hospital for four years.



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89 - 132 lbs \$120

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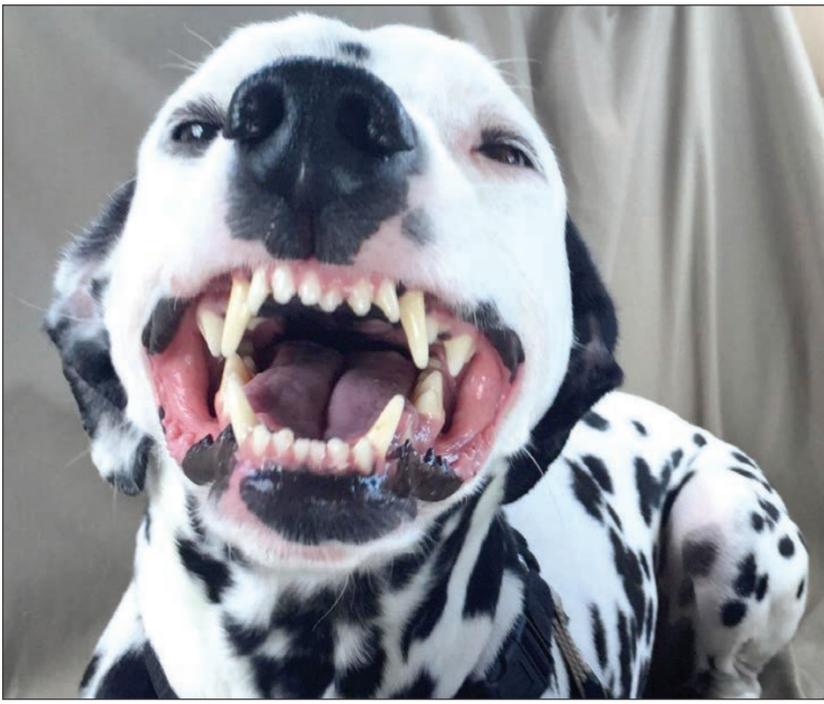
• Rabies 1 yr \$15.00 • Rabies 3 yr \$30.00

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www.gentlecarepethospital.com

[Facebook.com/Gentlecare Pet Hospital](https://www.facebook.com/GentlecarePetHospital)



Ember is a rescue Dalmatian. She looks for every opportunity to show her 'pearly whites.' Some people call her Miss Personality. Ember's previous owners were firefighters, hence the name. Ember's proud owner is Claudia Rysdon of Land O' Lakes.



Maggie Mae is a 2-year-old golden doodle (golden retriever/poodle mix), and her little sister, Miss Molly, is a 7-month-old bordoodle (border collie/poodle). The duo is often referred to as "M&M" or "the girls." Maggie loves to catch the ball and drop it for Molly to bring back. Their proud owners are Paul and Betsy Crisp of Land O' Lakes, who name their dogs after popular songs.

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SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

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BUSINESS DIGEST

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DIXIE BELLE PAINT NOMINATED

Dixie Belle Paint Company is a finalist in the 2017 Florida Companies to Watch, sponsored by GrowFL and the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Dixie Belle Paint is located at 1641 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Lutz. It is the leading American owned and operated provider of chalk mineral paint, which can be used without sanding, priming or other prep work. The company opened in 2014 and employs 20 area residents.

Dixie Belle Paint distributes its paints and other products to more than 800 small businesses across the country.

Finalists in the competition will be evaluated on criteria such as marketplace performance, innovative products, services, and philanthropy.

The awards were developed by Edward Lowe Foundation to highlight second-stage businesses from a range of industries from all areas within Florida.

Winners will be announced in mid-July.

Honorees will receive their awards at a ceremony Oct. 14 at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa.

For information, visit GrowFL.com or DixieBellePaint.com.

PASCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly economic development briefing luncheon June 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Pebble Creek Golf & Country Club, at 10550 Regents Park Drive in New Tampa.

Guest speakers will include the leadership team for Lexus of Wesley Chapel. They will talk about the November opening of the Lexus dealership, at 5300 Eagleston Road in Wesley Chapel.

The cost is \$15 including lunch.

For more information, contact the chamber at (813) 994-8534 or email them at office@WesleyChapelChamber.com.

PASCO COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

The purchasing department of Pasco County will have two workshops for vendors June 23, in the first floor boardroom at the West Pasco Government Center, at 8731 Citizens Drive in New Port Richey.

The first workshop is from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and will focus on "Doing Business with Pasco County." Participants can offer suggestions and feedback on how the county can better address vendors' needs.

COPPERSTONE EXECUTIVE SUITES WINS

Copperstone Executive Suites is the third quarter winner of the "Heart of Pasco" award, according to a press release from the Community Affairs Committee of the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce.

An award ceremony is scheduled at Copperstone Executive Suites for June 28 at 8:30 a.m.

The award is given to businesses that promote the chamber's mission "to advance the general welfare of our area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community will prosper."

Copperstone Executive Suites, at 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd., fulfills that mission by promoting the "incubator" business model in Pasco County.

Copperstone Executive Suites is the winner of previous awards, including the Pasco Economic Development Council's Service/Distribution Industry of the Year. Copperstone also supports community organizations including Oasis Pregnancy Center, Bizz Buzz, Big Brother Big Sister and Mission to Honduras.

For more information, contact the chamber at (813) 909-2722 or send them an email at office@CentralPascoChamber.com.

The second workshop, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., will provide training on how to put together bids and proposals.

For information and to RSVP, contact Stephanie Nunn (727) 847-8194.

FAMOUS TATE RIBBON CUTTING

Famous Tate will have a ribbon cutting and "warm welcome" to the community June 29 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at 21385 Walmart Way in Lutz.

The appliance and bedding store will be the third location in Pasco County for Famous Tate. It is located on an outparcel in front of the Walmart Supercenter, off U.S. 41.

For more information, please visit FamousTate.com, or email the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce at office@CentralPascoChamber.com.

WOMEN-N-CHARGE

Join the Women-n-Charge July 7 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Pebble Creek Country Club, 10550 Regents Park Drive in New Tampa. The women share their talents and resources, and they build relationships with other women in business.

The cost is \$15 for members and \$18 for all guests.

No guest speaker is scheduled, so there will be plenty of time for networking.

To register, visit Women-n-charge.com. For information, call (813) 600-9848, or email admin@women-n-charge.com.

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LUTZ BUSINESS OWNER ON NATIONAL BOARD

Eric D. Garcia is one of 18 people selected nationwide to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board of the magazine, Veterinarian's Money Digest, according to a press release from Michael J. Hennessy Associate Inc.

Garcia is founder, chief executive officer, and IT and digital consultant for Simply Done Tech Solutions. The company provides support services for veterinary practices in marketing communications and social media.

The magazine's advisory board includes experts in business management, practice management, law, valuation, accounting, marketing, human resources and financial services. Many board members, including Garcia, are part of VetPartners, a nonprofit

association of business specialists who serve the veterinary profession.

For information, visit VMDToday.com or SimplyDoneTechSolutions.com.

PULTE HOMES HAS NEW MODEL HOMES

Pulte Homes hosted a grand opening at Starkey Ranch May 13, with tours of three new model homes: the Heatherston, Arbordale and Valleybrook.

Pulte is selling 16 one- and two-story homes at Starkey Ranch, ranging from about 1,900 square feet to nearly 4,400 square feet.

The homes offer open floor plans, granite countertops, ceramic tile floors, covered lanais, two- and three-car garages and paver driveways. Sales prices range from about \$284,000 to about \$440,000, with each home loaded with ultra-fast fiber connectivity.

About 165 homes are planned in the 90-acre Homestead Park district of Starkey Ranch, off State Road 54.

For more information, please visit Pulte.com/starkeyranch.



COURTESY OF PASCO COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

Fundraising for seniors in the community

The offices of Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano raised \$11,524.27 to benefit the featured charity for the month of May. CARES (Community Aging & Retirement Services) is a Pasco County-based organization that provides services to seniors so they can stay in their homes and be as independent as possible. For information about CARES, call Jemith Rosa at (727) 863-6868, or visit CARESFL.org. Fasano presented a check to officials at the annual CARES "Celebrity Waiter" fundraising event. From left, Charles Sobel, CARES chief financial officer; Jemith Rosa, CARES president and chief executive officer; and Mike Fasano.

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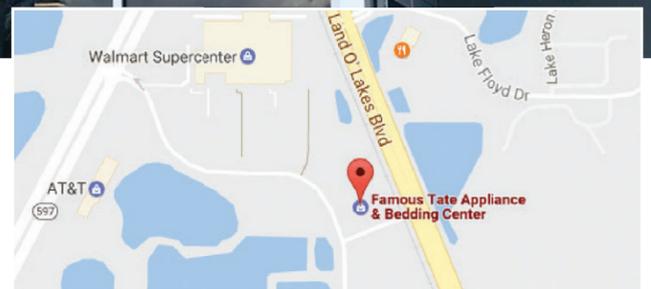
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