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There's *no place* like *home*
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inside this week

Budget includes more library hours

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

Pasco County commissioners didn't care for the lean 2018 budget, with no frills, they received at a June 13 workshop.

So, they added in about \$7.6 million in reserve funds to pay for a litany of items for libraries, parks and public safety.

At about \$1.34 billion, the proposed fiscal year budget is slightly more than the

\$1.3 billion offered up by Pasco County Administrator Dan Biles.

His version of the budget balanced revenues and expenses without dipping into reserves.

Even so, the budget path taken by county commissioners is

about \$40 million lighter than the 2017 budget.

It also maintains the current property tax rate. Some owners, with homestead ex-

emption, could see slight increases due to a 2.1 percent increase in property values.

"There's a desire to maintain a level of service as we grow," said Biles. "The issue is, how do we do that?"

Since 2011, more than 60,000 new residents have moved to Pasco.

A 2018 referendum on an additional \$25,000 in homestead exemptions, if ap-

See **BUDGET**, page 19A



COURTESY OF RICHARD K. RILEY

Dale Sloan, of Dade City, holds a salute during the Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of 'God Bless America.'

Festivities planned to celebrate the nation's independence

By **Mary Rathman**
mrathman@lakerlutznews.com

Independence Day — a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America — gives people a chance to celebrate the Fourth of July. There are many events planned across the Tampa Bay region, and

here are a few of the choices.

• **Connerton's annual Nation Celebration**, in Land O' Lakes, will take place July 1 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., with a neighborhood party in its New Town community. There will be Build-A-Buddy, free games, a disc jockey, live music by GottagrooveBand, food trucks, local crafters, free bounce houses, and fireworks spon-

sored by Benedetto's Ristorante Italiano. Guests can register by June 30 at Connerton.com/event-signup, to be eligible for a \$250 gift card.

• **Chief Ryan Andrew Anthony of Station 1 Tampa** (now open at State Road 54 and U.S. 41 in Land O' Lakes), and All

See **FESTIVITIES** page 19A



FILE

Pasco County Schools would like to see more scenes like this around the district. The Pasco County School Board has asked district staff to research how much money a half-cent sales tax could generate and possible projects the revenues could support.

School construction needs outpace funding

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

The Pasco County School Board has begun exploring the idea of asking voters to support a half-penny sales tax to help pay for school construction.

During a June 20 workshop on the district's capital needs, School Board member Cynthia Armstrong asked staff to come back with a projection of how much the half-penny tax would generate in 10 years and a list detailing the types of projects the revenues would support.

Her request came during a board workshop immediately after the Pasco County Commission's first public hearing on a proposal to boost school impact fees.

The County Commission appears to be leaning toward an increase, but it's not clear how much that increase will be, or when it will take effect.

Even if the full amount of the proposed impact fees is approved, the district construction needs far outstrip its expected revenues, said Deputy Superintendent Ray Gadd. It is unlikely the money the district needs will be provided by the state Legislature, Gadd said.

The district has identified these projects to be partially supported by the proposed impact fees:

- Cypress Creek Middle School
- Starkey Ranch, kindergarten through eighth grade
- A new high school
- A new elementary school in the Wesley Chapel area
- A new elementary school in State Road 54 corridor area

Those projects are based on current growth patterns, Gadd said.

See **FUNDING**, page 19A

Vote set for July 11 on school impact fees

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

It's not clear yet how much Pasco County will increase school impact fees charged against new residential development, but there appears to be a consensus on the board that some increase is merited.

School district officials and the building community also agree that higher fees will help address the district's problem of providing school facilities to accommodate the district's burgeoning enrollment growth.

But, homebuilders and apartment developers don't support the full amount of proposed rate increases.

They say the building community is being asked to shoulder too much of the burden.

They've asked the Pasco County Commission to reduce the proposed impact fees that were recommended by a school board consultant.

All of these issues came up during the first public on an ordinance that would increase the impact fees.

The second public hearing is set for July 11 at 1:30 p.m., at the historic Pasco County Courthouse in Dade City.

The Tampa Bay Builders Association expressed its concerns in a May 1 letter to commissioners.

"The School District proposes very significant increases in the impact fees for single family detached (+ \$4,152, 85%); single family attached (+\$1,877, 107%); multifamily (+\$3,421, 183%) and mobile homes (+\$2,673, 93%).

"However, even if the impact fees were increased to these levels the deficit (as projected by the School District) would be a staggering \$284 million," the letter notes.

"We want to be part of the solution for funding, but we know we cannot be the only source of revenue. We support an in-

See **IMPACT**, page 19A

American Legion Post 108 marks 80th anniversary

The group wants a home of its own

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

When American Legion Post 108 formed 80 years ago, it had its preliminary meeting in an old house on Denny Johnson's old grove, on Lake Fern Road, according to club records.

About 10 veterans gathered for that initial 1937 meeting.

Next, they met in an old store building on U.S. 41, then known as Route 41, near the Superette.

After that, the group met for several years at the old Boy Scout Hall, with the Auxiliary members gathering in another room at that hall, according to an account published in a 1963 club newsletter.

Flash forward eight decades to the present: The group is still active, but is seeking a permanent home — and more members — to increase its vitality.

"We're in a Catch-22. We need more members, and we need to meet in a place to get more members," said Lyle Watson, the post's adjutant. "We need fundraisers. We need a place to hold fundraisers. You can't hold bingo if you don't have a building to hold bingo in."

The post currently meets monthly at Harvester United Methodist Church.

It would like to expand its activities, but it is difficult to fit into another organization's schedule and it doesn't have the financial means to purchase a permanent home.

Still, the post has a proud history.

When Post 108 was formed, it had 22 charter members. Over the years, membership has waxed and waned.

The post's charter members must have been veterans of World War I, Watson observed.

Post chaplain Fred Wilsky has firsthand knowledge of how the post got started: "The guy who went out and recruited those members was my dad. He was a member of the Sulphur Springs Post.



COURTESY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 108
From left are Joe Dilimone, Ray Mason, Lyle Watson and Hunter Arnstine, during the American Legion Post 108's 80th birthday celebration.

It was during the Depression, he noted. "It was expensive for everybody to drive all of the way down there for a meeting, so they wanted to have a post out here," said Wilsky, a member of the Army Air Corps who served in Guam.

N.B. Shewfelt, the post's adjutant in 1963, offered a glimpse into the organization's character in a February 1963 issue of the Lutz Legion News.

"Post No. 108 somehow keeps going right along doing their job of looking out for the interests of veterans, their widows and orphans," Shewfelt wrote.

Over time, the name of the post was changed from Lutz Post 108 to Lutz-Land O' Lakes Post 108. Post meetings now attract about 20 members.

Some members have been lost to death, said Post Commander Ray Mason. "We lost two veterans this year," noted Mason, who served from 1962 to March 1968 in the Navy as a commissary store keeper.

One of those veterans who died was Granville Kinsman, a fighter pilot in World

War II.

"He supported ground troops and escorted bombers to their destination," Mason said.

"He was a paid-up lifetime member of Post 108. He was 95 years old," Mason added.

The attendance at his funeral was gratifying, Mason said.

"Oh, my God, it was packed," Mason said.

Post members say their experiences in the armed forces give them a particular kind of camaraderie with others who have shared the military life.

Currently, the post's main activities are awarding school medals, providing an oratorical contest, supporting the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes and posting flags on veterans' graves.

The organization presents two medals and two certificates at several local elementary and middle schools. The schools select the recipients. One medal goes to a boy and one goes to a girl. An honorable mention certificate also is awarded to a boy and to a girl.

"Sometimes we get invited," Watson said. "The schools sometimes tell us what these kids have done to get selected. It is fantastic. It gives you a whole new perspective on public schools."

At the high school level, there's an oratorical contest, with cash awards.

The national winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship, Mason said.

Want to help?

American Legion Post 108 is looking for a permanent home. Members believe that having a home of their own would help to increase membership, which, in turn, would bolster the group's vitality. For more information, contact Lyle Watson at (813) 996-5917 or Ray Mason at (813) 994-1214.

Presenting the awards has been a long tradition, Wilsky said.

"The post has been doing that since the beginning. My sister (Virginia) won it in 1939 or 1940," he said. It was quite an honor, he said. It was "an affirmation of good character and studying hard and everything good about a person."

The post needs more members so it can be of greater service, according to Watson, who is retired Navy and served from 1956 to 1974. The post could also participate in more programs that are available that are supported by the national organization.

Jim Evans said the post owes deep thanks to Vince Nasso, a former adjutant for the post.

"Without him, we probably wouldn't have a post.

"When I joined here, I actually came from a Tampa post. There was probably no more than four or five active members. It was terrible," said Evans, who was an Army intelligence analyst in France for three years, served in the Army Reserve for 15 years, then went back on active duty in the first Gulf War as a senior counterintelligence agent.

When Evans attended his first meeting, Nasso was the only one there. Nasso, who has since passed away, was determined to keep the post going, Evans said.

Belonging to the post is important, Evans said, because he wants to support the American Legion's mission.

Plus, he enjoys reconnecting with people who served, he said.

"You live in communities that probably have veterans, but you may not even know it," Evans said, adding he has a special affinity for veterans.

"I realize what most of them have been through," he said.

Elaine Stoots, the post's new historian, said she wants to help keep the organization alive because "we are losing some of the American ideals that founded this country.

"A lot of the rest of the world is looking to us for leadership and example. Who is going to provide it?" asked Stoots, who served from 1984 to 1990, stationed at Hahn Air Base Germany and at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

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Cuttings offer an excellent way to propagate plants

By Nicole Pinson
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

Plants can be successfully grown from cuttings – a method that saves you money and provides you — or your friends — more plants.

Another plus? You don't need any special equipment.

A cutting is a method of asexual reproduction. The new plant will have the same characteristics of the parent plant.

One popular method of propagation is stem cuttings.

Tender new growth forms at the tip of the stem; the stem becomes woodier toward the bottom and the roots.

Stem cuttings of the new growth is easier for beginner gardeners. Cuttings from the woody part of the stem are more difficult to propagate. For instance, you could propagate a croton plant by taking a stem cutting and planting it in a pot.

Use your clean pruners to remove a 4-inch- to 6-inch-section, or cutting, from the main plant. It's important to note that some plants require cuttings to be longer. For example, plumeria cuttings are 12 inches to 15 inches long.

Be brutal. Remove any flowers from the cutting, and strip off the lower leaves from the stem. You'll want to keep a few leaves for photosynthesis, but you also want to reduce transpiration and encourage the cutting to put its energy into producing new roots. Some cuttings, like plumeria, need to dry first so a callus forms at the cut end of the stem. If it's not possible to plant your cutting right away, wrap it in several layers of paper towels and place in a zip-top bag to keep the cutting moist until you're ready to plant.

Choose an appropriate pot for your cutting. Use clay or plastic containers, but make sure the container has drainage holes so the cutting does not stay too wet. Many people prefer plastic containers (similar to the 4-inch pots you find at the nursery) because they don't dry out as quickly as clay pots.

Place the cutting upright in a sterile potting mix, planting them about 1-inch deep. Longer cuttings, such as those for plumeria, will need to be planted about 3-inches deep so they stand upright in the pot. Choose potting soil that drains well.

You can try using a rooting hormone. Dip the cutting about ½-inch in the rooting



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NICOLE PINSON

hormone before planting in the soil. Rooting hormones are available at garden centers and nurseries.

Locate your cutting in bright, indirect light so it gets some light but not the hot, afternoon sun. Keep the soil moist until the cutting establishes roots and begins to put out new growth. You may transplant your cutting into the garden once it has established roots and you see new leaves. This process may take a few months, depending on the plant. You could also share your plant with friends or give them as gifts.

Some of my favorite plants to root from cuttings include croton, Chinese rain bell, Dracaena, hibiscus, Euphorbia graminea,

African blue basil and firespike. My colleagues, Lynn Barber and JoAnn Hoffman, suggest growing salvia and cat's whiskers. The publication Gardening with Perennials in Florida lists perennials that may be grown from cuttings. See this link <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP48900.pdf> for more information on plant propagation and how to design your own



Crotons are available in many different leaf shapes and colors. Cuttings are a great way to grow a variety of crotons.



Not only is African blue basil a good plant to propagate, it's also a pollinator magnet, attractive to bees and other insects.

“small-scale propagation unit.” For additional information, contact Nicole Pinson at pinsonn@hillsborough-county.org or (813) 744-5519, ext. 54145.

Nicole Pinson is the Urban Horticulture Agent in Hillsborough County. The author gratefully acknowledges Master Gardener Nancy Ham for contributing to this article.

REFERENCES USED FOR THIS COLUMN WERE:

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READING CLUBS

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer these summer reading clubs June 29. For kindergarten through third grade, "Reuse-A-Palooza" will start at 11 a.m., and for preteens, a "Midway Party" will start at 3:30 p.m. Each event is one hour. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

MAGIC AND COMEDY

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host magician Cesar Domico June 29 at 10 a.m. Domico's show combines magic, humor and a touch of hypnosis. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

ESCAPE ROOM

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host an Escape Room for grades eight to 12 on June 29 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Participants will work together to find a cure and escape the room before the zombie apocalypse takes over. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

DUCT TAPE CRAFT

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Build a Better World program June 30 at 2 p.m., for grades four to seven. Participants can make a duct tape craft. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

NEW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The newly formed Land O' Lakes Democratic Club will meet June 30 at 6:30 p.m., at 21320 Wilderness Lake Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. The goal of the club is to increase voter turnout and have a positive impact on upcoming elections. For information, visit FB.com/LOLDemocraticClub, or email oldemclub@gmail.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dade City Christian Church, 11800 Windsorwood Blvd., will host a Vacation Bible School June 30 and July 1 from 9 a.m. to noon, for kids up to fifth grade. The theme is "Camp Out," with lively music, singing, crafts, snacks, games and learning God's word. For information, call (352) 518-0072.

FARMER'S MARKET

New Port Richey FarmNet will be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, for people who want to buy organic produce and other products. The market is at the West Pasco Habitat for Humanity, 4131 Madison St., New Port Richey. Shoppers also can order online at tinyurl.com/ycgxx6tx, and pick up their order on a Saturday.

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Harvester United Methodist Church, 2432 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, will host a time of prayer for the community and other local church prayer warriors July 1 at 6 p.m., in the sanctuary. Prayers will be offered for the ongoing joys and struggles present in the world, the nation and the community. For information, call Sheila Fitzgerald at (813) 948-2311.



Benefit concert

Freedom Rock '17 will take place June 30 at 7 p.m., at Bridgeway Church, 30660 Wells Road in Wesley Chapel, to benefit the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program and Celebrate Recovery.

Musician Chris August and Drisco, the Salvation Army's Second Hand Band, will perform. General admission is \$14, front row state right tickets are \$15, and the artist circle is \$20. Doors open at 5 p.m.

For tickets, visit iTickets.com and search for "Freedom Rock," or call (800) 965-9324.

REPTILE PROGRAM

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host Pinellas County Reptiles July 1 at 2 p.m. Participants can learn about reptiles and their habitats. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

SATURDAY BOOK CLUB

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host the First Saturday Book Club July 1 at 11 a.m., to discuss "A Land Remembered" by Patrick Smith. Copies of the book are available at the checkout desk. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY FILM

Cobb Grove 16 Theatres in Wesley Chapel will show "Despicable Me 3" July 1 at 10 a.m., as part of its sensory-friendly film series. Auditoriums will have brighter lights and a lower sound level, so family members with varying abilities can

interact with the movie - dance and sing - without the worry of disturbing others. Tickets will be available in person the Wednesday prior to the movie. The sensory-friendly films are regular movie prices.

FREEDOM CELEBRATION

Cricket Wireless, 2436 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, will host a Freedom Celebration July 1 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., with free food, face painting for kids, a bounce house and more. Food will be provided by Hungry Harry's Family Bar-B-Que. For information, call (813) 428-5927.

LUTZ GUV'NA CELEBRATION

A Lutz Guv'na Celebration will take place July 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Beef O' Brady's, 18421 U.S. 41 in Lutz, hosted by the honorable Lutz Guv'na Greg Gilbert. There will be live music by Andy Bryant, a classic car contest (entrants get a free meal), raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing,

and a buy one-get one free any breakfast or lunch entrée.

CAKE CONTEST

The Lutz 4th of July celebration will include a cake contest at the Lutz Community Center, 98 First Ave., N.W. There will be a variety of categories, including youth best decorated, best tasting, Guv'na favorite, most patriotic and more. Cakes can be dropped off July 3 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and July 4 from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Cakes can be no larger than 9x13. Cakes or pies requiring refrigeration will not be accepted. For information, call (813) 786-8461.

LUTZ SENIOR CENTER

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 N.W. First Ave., will host these upcoming events:

- July 3 at 1 p.m.: July 4th Celebration
 - July 5 at 1 p.m.: "The Unconquered Florida Seminoles" presented by the Tampa Bay History Center
- For information, call (813) 264-3803.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All local libraries: Land O' Lakes Library, Hugh Embry Library, New River Library, Zephyrhills Public Library and Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, will be closed for the Fourth of July holiday. Regular hours will resume July 5.

FREE KIDS MOVIES

Cobb Grove 16 Theatres, 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 July 4, July 5 and July 6 are "Trolls" and "The Peanuts 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.

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, will host a movie matinee for "The Secret Life of Pets" July 5 at 2 p.m., in the community room. The movie is rated PG. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

LEARN FACE PAINTING

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a face-painting program July 5 at 3:30 p.m., for teens, and July 6 at 3:30 p.m., for preteens, to learn the art. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

WORLD OF COLORS

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a Build a Better World program, "A World of Colors" July 5 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., for kindergarten through third grade. There will be crafts, games and stories. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

MOANA MOVIE

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will show the movie "Moana" July 5 at 2 p.m. The movie is rated PG; some material may not be suited for

Continued on next page



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Family fun day

Plantation Palms Golf Club, 23253 Plantation Palms Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, will host a Family Fun Day July 2 from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be two live bands, raffles, prizes, hot air balloon rides, bounce houses, a putting contest, a patriotic golf cart and bicycle parade, face painting, balloon artist, caricature artist, mini golf specials, games and more. Admission and games are free.

children. Families can bring snacks. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

DIVERSE FILM

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will show a movie based on the play "Fences," by August Wilson, July 5 at 2 p.m. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

ESSENTIAL OILS 101

Marti and Deanna Jacobs will present a free Essential Oils 101 class at the New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel July 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants can learn what essential oils are and how to use them to support health, and for toxic-free personal care,

toxic-free home cleaning, pet care and more. There will be free oil gifts. For information, call (813) 479-7724.

YOUTH RIFLE PROGRAM

The Dade City Rod & Gun Club will offer the NRA First Steps Rifle Program July 8, for ages 10 through 18. The program is about five hours and is designed to teach firearm safety and proper rifle handling. Rifles, ammunition, training materials and a light snack will be provided. Upon completion, participants will receive an NRA certificate. The cost is \$40 per child. For information and to register, contact Larry Shrewsbury at LShrews1@aol.com or (813) 245-9588.

THRIFT SHOPS NEED 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.

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 16 Theatres 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.

THE ART OF THE BRICK

The Vinik Family Foundation invites visitors to experience "The Art of the Brick" through Sept. 4 in downtown Tampa, at 802 E. Whiting St. The free exhibit will showcase 100 artworks made out of Lego bricks, by artist Nathan Sawaya. Guests also can construct their own creations in The Brickyard, a hands-on and interactive build space. The exhibition will be open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information, visit ArtOfTheBrickTampa.com.

Bexley Market

SATURDAY, JULY 8TH
6PM - 9PM

16950 Vibrant Way
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638
813-491-4866

VISIT WEBSITE FOR DIRECTIONS
www.BexleyFlorida.com

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PASCO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
36722 State Road 52
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TICKET INFORMATION
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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CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

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FREE FIREWORKS SHOW & ADMISSION

The 4th of July is a time to reflect on our proud history and observe our nation's independence. Connerton invites you to join us in honoring our great country. On July 1st, we're going to start the celebration by hosting a good old fashioned neighborhood party in our New Town community.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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- ★ Live Music by GottagrooveBand
- ★ Food Trucks ★ Local Crafters
- ★ Fireworks sponsored by Benedetto's
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Land Liberty SALUTE



We're proud to paint Land O' Lakes red, white and blue this 4th of July with patriotic bows along U.S. 41. Our bows will be on display from July 1 to July 8 to celebrate our country's independence and to honor our military personnel who have given so much to protect our freedom.

~Wesley Chapel Noon Rotary Club,
LAND O' LAKES SATELLITE

LAND O' LIBERTY SPONSORS

This celebration would not be possible without our sponsors, who are also recognizing their chosen member of the armed forces to honor or memorialize. The freedom and liberty we enjoy in our great country is made possible by the sacrifice of these soldiers.

The W.C. Noon Rotary Land O' Lakes Satellite Club is proud to honor our first 50th Vietnam Commemorative recipient, George Voorhes, who served 20 years in the United States Army and 3 tours of duty in Vietnam and awarded a Bronze Star. He also served during the Korean War conflict.

Speaker Designate, Representative Richard Corcoran in Memory of his parents:
Robert John Corcoran, Sgt. United States Army Air Force (USAAF) WWII
Alice Josephine Corcoran, Women's Air Force of Great Britain (WAF) WWII

Dr. Susan and Dr. Lou MacManus in Memory of their father and brother:
H. Cameron MacManus, Navy flight instructor, Pensacola, WWII and H. Cameron Mac Manus, Jr. Navy Reserve Physician.

Dixie Bell Painting Company would like to honor the service of Kevin R. Fulford, United States Navy, Sr. Chief Yeoman, Alan J. Goodwin, United States Navy, Petty Officer, 3rd Class, and Susan S. Devoe, United States Air Force, Lt. Colonel. Thank you!

Emma Lou Harvey, Harvey Hardware in memory of her husband Ted Harvey, United States Navy, WWII

Mary Lynn and Gary Gorsline in memory of Mary Lynn's father, Dr. Charles R. Cooper, United States Army, Korea. Served as a Lt. Colonel.

Congressman Gus Bilirakis in honor of all the members of the Armed Forces that sacrifice daily for the sake of freedom and in memory of all those that gave their lives to preserve that freedom.

Sandy and Steve Graves in memory of MSGT Leo Graves, US Air Force, Korea and in memory of SGT Robert Pye, WWII, Battle of the Bulge and Normandy. In honor of our Brother, Robert Graves, SSGT United States Air Force, Vietnam. In honor of our Brother-In-Law, John Luck, Petty Officer 3rd Class United States Navy, Vietnam.

Sean Donovan, Law Office of Butash and Donovan, would like to honor Rick Cocoran who served in the United States Airforce. He continued his service with the Hillsborough Sheriff's Office and now serves the Pasco Sheriff's Office.

Troy Stevenson, Acme On The Go Mobile Media, in memory of his father Joseph P. Hughes, Marksman of the Vietnam War.

Barb Goiran in Honor of her husband Tony Goiran, CDR United States Navy, currently serving. In memory of G.T. Wright, Army Air Corps, WWII. In memory of Roger Goiran, United States Army, OSS/CIA, WWII.

Colleen Beaudoin, Pasco County School Board Member, is proud to honor her father, Robert G. Palmer Jr., United States Marine Corps, Vietnam Conflict, 1960-1964.

Larry Giannone, Christian Brothers Automotive, in honor of his sons Sgt. Steven Giannone-82nd Airborne Division and SPC. David Giannone-1st Cavalry Division, US Army.

Elayne and Hal Bassinger in memory of Hal's father, Harold Bassinger Sr., United States Navy, WWII and Pearl Harbor survivor and honor the memory of Elayne's father, Robert Cockcroft, United States Air Force, WWII.

Elayne Bassinger and Yvette Behmer in honor of Jeff Lucas, United States Army Veteran. Thank you for your service.

Richard Barnes, Financial Advisor, in honor of John Gordon and Dr. Dennis Sharkey, Jr.

Commissioner Kathryn Starkey in honor of her son-in-law, Major Tino Diaz, United States Air Force

County Commission Chairman Mike Moore, in loving memory of his grandfather Bill Moore, United States Army WWII. Bronze Star Medal recipient.

Dr. Jorge Santana 1 Source Chiropractic and Physical Medicine, Inc., in honor of his father Jorge L. Santana, Sr. who served as a Sergeant, 7 CosCom DPC, United States Army.

Sherri L. Sins, American Home Title of Land O' Lakes, in memory of her Dad, Leonard Martin Choate, who served proudly in the United States Army.

Kurt Conover recognizes in memory Gerrit W. Conover, United States Navy, and is proud to honor Donald E. Conover, United States Marine Corps.

Steve Valeri in honor of his father Richard Valeri and his service as a United States Navy officer in World War II.

Chris Poole, Principal of PACSCON, in memory of his father Edward B. Poole, Lieutenant JG, United States Navy, and in honor of his goddaughter, Alyssa K. Poole, Petty Officer Second Class, United States Navy and his father-in-law Donald W. Potter, Specialist 3rd Class, United States Army. Thank you all for your service!

Bruce Shindelman, Wells Fargo Advisors, in honor of his father, 89 year old United States Army Veteran, Edwin L. Shindelman, who served in Occupied Japan.

Lee Meredith, Meredith Tire and Auto, in memory of his grandfather, Bradley Meredith, who served as a Sergeant in the United States Army during WWII, in memory of his father-in-law, Albert Argenbright, United States Navy, and in honor of his uncle, Torrey Hansen, an United States Airforce veteran who served in Vietnam.

The Law Offices of Lucas Magazine in honor of YN1 Lauren Price, retired from the United States Navy and in memory of Raymond W. Simmons, United States Coast Guard.

Representative Danny Burgess in grateful memory of our seven Navy Sailors who sacrificed their lives on the USS Fitzgerald and in honor of their families.



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Lutz Location and Top-Rated Schools Attract Families to Birchwood Preserve

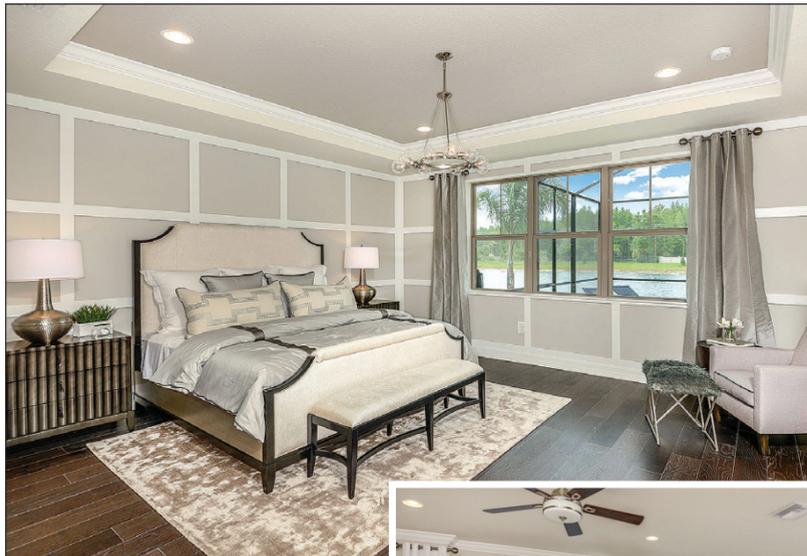
Many families are looking to move up to a new home in a planned community in the highly desirable areas of Lutz, Odessa, Land O'Lakes and Wesley Chapel.

Families want the latest in home designs and resort-like amenities in developments that also offer outstanding schools and fast access to key transportation routes. Which is why the gated community of Birchwood Preserve, the newest Pulte Homes community in Tampa Bay, is the top choice for many families.

Birchwood Preserve is centrally located in Lutz on Geraci Road, just minutes from the Veterans Expressway and St. Joseph's Hospital-North. Its zoned schools are all A-rated and are some of the best schools in Hillsborough County. The community also offers no CDD (Community Development District) fees.

"The combination of all A-rated schools, a fantastic location and Pulte's Life Tested home designs have made Birchwood Preserve a huge draw for families in search of a new home in the prestigious Lutz area," said Sean Strickler, president of Pulte's West Florida division.

Zoned schools include Steinbrenner High, Martinez Middle and Mckitrick Elementary, all located just three miles from Birchwood Preserve. Just one mile away is a new charter school, Sunlake Academy of Math and Science, which opens this fall, as well as several private schools close-by, including Academy at the Lakes, Carrollwood Day School and



Corbett Preparatory School of IDS.

"Lutz is very attractive to many homebuyers because of its convenient proximity to North Dale Mabry and the Veterans Expressway, which provides quick and easy access to Tampa International Airport, the Westshore business district, International Plaza and the Gulf Coast beaches," said Strickler. "Plus, we are surrounded by parks, trails and beautiful golf courses, which offer great entertainment and recreational opportunities."

Birchwood Preserve opened its sales center in May and has already sold more than a dozen homes. A total of 169 homes are planned for the community, including 108 in its first phase. Many home sites boast nature views, including waterfront lots.

Birchwood Preserve offers 10 sin-

gle-family floor plans ranging from the one-story, 1,904-square-foot Cascade home design to the two-story, 4,600-plus square-foot Heatherton home design. Homes start at \$318,990 and offer three to six bedrooms, two to six bathrooms and two- or three-car garages.

Energy Efficient packages. Pulte's interactive online design tools allow buyers to preview its Life Tested personal options to help them get the most out of their new home.

"The ideas for our Life Tested options come from our homeowners, whose suggestions we value and take seriously," said Strickler. "An example is the Pulte Planning Center® — a unique, multifunctional area designed with counters and cabinets to help a family get organized in one place that is conveniently located off their garage or gathering room."

Pulte Homes' designs also offer Everyday Entry® drop zones with built-in shelving, hooks, and storage to accommodate backpacks, shoes, purses, and jackets.

The entrance to Birchwood Preserve is gated and beautifully landscaped. Amenities include a luxury community swimming pool with cabanas and hammocks, a multi-purpose clubhouse room with a kitchen, and a children's exploration climbing dome playground that includes swings and additional discovery play equipment.

The community's model home is the Millstone, which features up to six bedrooms and 4.5 baths. The 3,427-square-foot home starts from \$420,990. The Millstone model is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.



All floor plans are designed for the way families live today, and include Environments for Living Diamond

climbing dome playground that includes swings and additional discovery play equipment.

Introducing Birchwood Preserve

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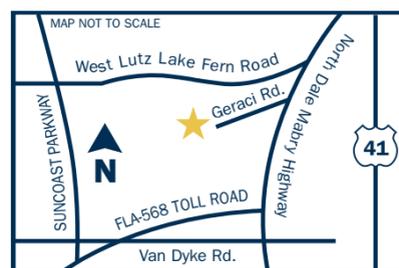
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Birchwood Preserve

18709 Birchwood Groves Drive
Lutz, Florida 33558

888-500-2107 | pulte.com/BirchwoodPreserve



DIRECTIONS:

FROM THE SOUTH: Travel on FL-589 Toll North/Veteran's Expressway. Keep right at the fork to continue on FL-568 Toll West/Veteran's Expressway and follow the signs for FL-597/Dale Mabry Highway. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto FL-597 North. Make a U-turn at Sunlake Boulevard and then make a right onto Geraci Road.

FROM THE WEST: Travel on US 19 North towards FL-590 E / Northeast Coachman Road. Turn left onto North McMullen Booth Road. Continue onto East Lake Road South and turn right onto Keystone Road. Continue onto County Road 587. Turn right onto Lutz Lake Fern Road. Turn right onto Sunlake Boulevard and then right onto North Dale Mabry Highway. Turn right onto Geraci Road.

FROM THE NORTH: Travel on FL-589 Toll South/Suncoast Parkway to West Lutz Lake Fern Road in Keystone. Take Exit 16 from FL-589 Toll South toward County Road 582. Continue on West Lutz Lake Fern Road, and then turn right onto Sunlake Blvd. Turn right onto FL-597 S/Dale Mabry Highway, and then turn right onto Geraci Road.

Tour Our New Millstone Model - Open Daily

* Flex Cash offer is available on new contracts that are accepted by Pulte Homes between 6/1/17 through 7/31/17. This offer includes Birchwood Preserve only, and is not valid with other promotions or discounts or on contract re-writes. If buyer participates in the Affiliate Incentive Program with financing through Pulte Mortgage LLC, buyer will receive a credit at closing in an amount up to \$4,000 for the payment of approved closing costs and prepaids. This credit may not exceed 3% of the purchase price. In addition, any buyer, including a buyer not participating in the Affiliate Incentive Program, will receive a credit at closing of up to \$16,000 which may be applied toward closing costs, prepaids and design center options. Total amount of credits may not exceed lesser of \$20,000 or 6% of purchase price of the home. Buyer is responsible for paying cost of closing costs, prepaids or options that exceed the incentive amount. Any unused amount of these credits is the property of Pulte Homes, and may not be applied to purchase price. Offer may not be redeemed for cash or equivalent. Financing available through Pulte Mortgage LLC. All loans are subject to underwriting and loan qualifications of the lender. Rates, terms, and conditions are subject to change without notice. Pulte Mortgage LLC is an Equal Opportunity Lender. NMLS Entity Identifier #1791. www.pultemortgage.com (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) ** The Built-In Appliance Package Incentive on quick move-in homes only, includes certain kitchen appliances in locations selected by the builder. Please see a sales consultant about Built-In Appliance Package offer details for home being purchased. The items included in the Built-In Appliance Package are a type, grade, manufacturer or a model selected by builder, vary by home, and builder reserves the right to substitute or modify the types, manufacturer or models offered at any time without notice. Approximate retail value of Built-In Appliance Package varies based on individual home. Offers may not be redeemed for cash or equivalent. These offers may affect the amount of a loan for which a buyer may be eligible, check with your lender for details. The photographs depict models containing features or designs that may not be available on all homes or that may be available for an additional cost. Community home prices shown are estimated base prices, do not include lot premiums, upgrades and options, and are subject to change without notice. Optional features for individual homes may be available for an additional cost. Community Association fees required. Square footage is approximate and may vary in actual construction. This material shall not constitute a valid offer in any state where prior registration is required or if void by law. Additional terms, conditions and restrictions apply. Contact a sales consultant for details. CGC1519936 © 2017 Pulte Home Company, LLC. All rights reserved.

Asturia Opens Second Phase and Celebrates With a Luau!

It's been just two years since Asturia, Hines' master-planned community along the State Road 54 corridor in Odessa, began selling homes, and already the award-winning development has moved into its second phase.

The first phase of 248 home sites has been completed, with beautiful single-family homes built by Asturia's exclusive builders, David Weekley Homes and Ashton Woods. Phase I also included the completion of the community's luxurious, 5,800-square-foot Amenity Center and resort-style pool, its enchanting parks and playgrounds, and an expansive trail network for walking and bicycling.

In addition to David Weekley Homes and Ashton Woods, Hines recently announced that ICI Homes has been selected as its third homebuilder for the second phase of the community.

Many families have been waiting for Asturia to open its second phase of 157 additional home sites, because they offer some of the best woodland conservation views in the entire community.

"The second phase of Asturia features some of the most beautiful lots in all of Pasco County," said Kevin Jund, the community's project manager. "It's really an enclave surrounded 360-degrees by protected preserves of mature cypress and lush native vegetation. These lots truly have the best views, and offer the most privacy — there's nothing quite like them along the SR-54 corridor."

There are a total of 157 large lots in Phase II, which are 65-foot or 55-foot wide. The majority of these lots back up to conservation areas, and all provide homeowners privacy and a peaceful, quiet surrounding.



A boardwalk has been built to connect the two smaller neighborhoods within Phase II, which will tie into the community's multi-use pathway that meanders for miles through residential areas, parks, playgrounds and the Amenity Center.

When Asturia's development is complete in a few years, it will likely have a total of less than 550 single-family homes.

"What makes Asturia stand out from other new home developments

in the area is our smaller size. Other communities are looking at 3,000 to over 5,000 homes, and many years of construction. At Asturia, our community is significantly smaller. Many families prefer the intimate neighborhood experience that comes with our modest size," said Jund.

It's this neighborhood feeling that Asturia is already enhancing with regular community events. Every month, the community has been sponsoring "Front Porch Friday," which brings together residents,

friends and folks looking to make Asturia their home, for wine, appetizers and warm conversation.

Asturia homeowners quickly become friends with their new neighbors, coming together at family activities hosted by the developer. Hines' most recent event was a Summer Luau, which was held the afternoon of June 10, and included Hawaiian food, a fabulous rum punch and tropical music, dancing and flame throwing entertainment. Over 200 guests attended this free event and toured the community's model homes.

Events are held at the community's unmatched Amenity Center, which in addition to its zero-entry pool, offers an expansive lawn area for recreational games and activities, a state-of-the-art fitness facility and a contemporary-designed community center.

Families also meet their friends and neighbors walking and bicycling on Asturia's nature trails, and letting children play together at the community's creative and challenging playgrounds.

Asturia offers a variety of single-family home sites and home styles from award-winning builders Ashton Woods Homes, David Weekley Homes and newly introduced ICI Homes. Models are open daily.

Asturia's central location on State Road 54, a half mile west of the Suncoast Parkway, also offers close proximity to U.S. 41, U.S. 19 and I-75. With the Suncoast Parkway just five minutes away, Asturia also gives residents a fast, direct route to Tampa International Airport and the Westshore business district.

For more information about Asturia, go to AsturiaFlorida.com, or call (813) 227-4148.

Asturia

A NATURAL PLACE TO...

PHASE 2
NOW OPEN



Cross-over bridge to Lot 1 in Phase 2

**Preserve Homesites Now Available in Phase 2
in The Most Desirable Master-planned Community in Tampa**

Build the home and lifestyle of your dreams where preserved woodlands respectfully intertwine with the best lots in Pasco County. Asturia's unrivaled amenity package features a modern community clubhouse, a fully-equipped fitness center and a luxury resort-style swimming pool. The community is home to recreational parks, walking trails, lush picnic areas and an incredible Explorer Dome playground located next to our model homes. Parcels for retail and office are also available. **Reserve your lot today.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US TODAY.

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A **Hines** Community

Lakeshore Preserve in Lutz Now Offering Pre-Construction Sales

Close to excellent schools and the Veterans Expressway

A new townhome community is coming to Lutz that is ideal for homebuyers looking for affordable new construction that offers virtually maintenance-free living, excellent neighborhood schools and fast access to the Veterans Expressway.

Pre-construction sales by appointment have just begun for Lakeshore Preserve — a Mattamy Homes community of only 102 townhomes located on Van Dyke Road and Lakeshore Road, west of Dale Mabry Highway.

Construction is underway for three beautifully decorated models opening in late August when the community celebrates its Grand Opening. Quick move-in homes are also available.

“Lakeshore Preserve’s superb location and thoughtfully designed townhomes make this community unique to the north Tampa area,” said Lisette Minnick, director of sales.

“We have had a great response from interested buyers, and just held a successful VIP Pre-Sale Event. We look forward to having our first Mattamy homeowners move in this year.”

Lakeshore Preserve is situated in a desirable Lutz location, just minutes from St. Joseph’s Hospital-North, and convenient to shopping, dining and entertainment venues in Land O’ Lakes, Carrollwood and Wesley Chapel. The proximity to the Veterans Expressway makes it an easy commute to Tampa.

Schools zoned for the community are top-rated Steinbrenner High, Martinez Middle and Schwarzkopf Elementary. Charter school Sunlake Academy of Math and Science opens this fall, and several private schools are also close-by.



Lakeshore Preserve offers five townhome plans that feature Mattamy’s signature design style, distinctive architectural features and maximum livability. Meticulous attention was paid during the architectural design process to ensure that all usable living space is optimized and will enhance any lifestyle.

Townhomes range in size from 1,667 to 2,608 square feet, and have three bedrooms, 2.5 to 3.5 baths, and 1- to 2-car attached garages. Base prices will begin from the \$230s.

Some of the interior features that are included with every home are granite kitchen countertops, hard-

wood 42-inch upper cabinets, 9’4” ceilings on the first floor, and sod with lawn irrigation. In addition, a first-year builder warranty and 10-year transferrable structural warranty are included.

On select homes, options are available such as an expanded kitchen island and a second owner’s suite, which combines the space of two smaller bedrooms and creates a second private retreat. One of the five floor plans, of which only nine homes are available, features the owner’s bedroom on the first floor.

The community encompasses 20 acres, and several of the buildings have conservation views.

Lakeshore Preserve

- Van Dyke Road and Lakeshore Road location— 5 minutes from Veterans Expressway
- Close to A-rated schools, shopping and dining
- Gated entrance
- Resort-style community pool and cabana
- Island kitchens
- Covered lanais
- Mattamy Homes’ quality and commitment to excellence

Mattamy Homes is offering pre-construction sales by appointment only for Lakeshore Preserve. This is a great opportunity for interested homebuyers to take advantage of special pre-construction pricing and incentives. To learn more, please visit MattamyHomes.com/Tampa or call (813) 659-5854.

Mattamy Homes is the largest privately owned homebuilder in North America. It was founded in 1978 and has sold more than 90,000 homes in hundreds of communities, including the metropolitan areas of Tampa, Sarasota, Naples, Orlando, Jacksonville, Phoenix and Tuscon.

mattamyHOMES



LAKESHORE PRESERVE

Prices starting in the low-to-mid \$200s

DISCOVER NEW TOWNHOMES IN DESIRABLE LUTZ

PRE-CONSTRUCTION SALES NOW AVAILABLE ONLY BY APPOINTMENT

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRE-CONSTRUCTION PRICING & SPECIAL INCENTIVES



COMMUNITY LOCATION
Van Dyke Rd. near Lakeshore Rd. Lutz, FL 33558

- Five Townhome designs offering 1,670 Sq.Ft. – 2,620 Sq.Ft. with 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath, and 1-2 Car Garages (Limited number of First Floor Master Bedroom)
- Open and airy homes with thoughtful design features to enhance your lifestyle
- Gated entrance, community pool, cabana & more
- Fabulous location - On Van Dyke Road (near Lakeshore Drive and the Veteran’s Expressway)
- Close to A-rated schools, shopping, dining and recreation
- The quality and commitment to excellence of Mattamy Homes, North America’s largest private homebuilder

TO LEARN MORE OR SCHEDULE YOUR VIP APPOINTMENT, CALL 813-659-5854 OR VISIT MATTAMYHOMES.COM/TAMPA

MATTAMYHOMES.COM/TAMPA



All dimensions are approximate. Prices, specifications, terms and conditions subject to change without notice. All content is for illustration only. See New Home Counselor to review construction documents. E.&O.E. Builder’s #CGC1524054



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is a full service real estate company representing both buyers and sellers of residential and commercial property primarily in Pasco, Hernando and Hillsborough counties. Inventory is EXTREMELY low. If you are thinking about selling your home, please contact us for a free market analysis.



13127 OLD FLORIDA CIR, HUDSON, FL 34669
This stunning, meticulously maintained 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home with 1,975 sq ft is a MUST SEE! Upgraded kitchen with wood cabinets, Corian counter tops and all appliances included. Home located on conservation. Priced at \$193,500. Contact Patrick Harpe at 813-382-8888.



22503 SOUTHSORE DR, LAND O LAKES, FL 34639
One of the last waterfront lots in Lake Padgett Estates. Vacant lot located on wide canal to East Lake only short distance from lake. Lake Padgett community has 3 ski lakes and 1 fishing lake plus horse stables, tennis courts and parks on East Lake and Lake Padgett, boat ramps on East Lake, Lake Padgett and Lake Saxon. Fishing dock on Lake Joyce. Priced at \$150,000. Contact Sharon Molnar Johnson at 813-245-4971



537 PAINTED LEAF DR, BROOKSVILLE, FL 34604
Picture perfect, move in ready 4/2/2 with 2,200 sq ft that shows like a model home! Trillium has a resort-style pool and cabanas, a playground and beautiful common areas. This home sits on a premium lot with no rear neighbors, just an open field. Must see the Grand Piano Walnut floors! Open floor plan with a huge kitchen and family room. Priced at \$187,400. Contact Linda Ruhlig at 813-494-5433.



8205 PONKAN RD, LAND O LAKES, FL 34637
Super maintained, upgrades abound! Beautiful courtyard 2 bedroom 2 bath with 1,749 sq ft located in the gated 55+ community of The Groves. Upgraded kitchen with maple cabinets, Corian countertops and includes all appliances. Relax on your extended screened in paver lanai. Priced at \$235,000. Contact Karen Hernandez at 813-918-5765



21410 HOPSON RD, LAND O LAKES, FL 34639
Super sweet LAKE FRONT Old Florida style home features 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1,370 sq ft and huge screened in porch. Property is very private with lush landscaping make this home a must see. Priced at \$249,900. Contact Karen Hernandez at 813-918-5765.



3010 MARBLE CREST DR, LAND O LAKES, FL 34638
Wonderfull 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3273 sqft home located in the gated community of Stonegate. Home offers an open, 3 way split floorplan with stunning hardwood floors, beautiful upgraded kitchen, separate office, formal dining, and a bonus room. Not to mention an 1100 sqft screened lanai all overlooking a serene pond on almost a 1/4 acre. Priced at \$409,000. Contact Heather Patierno at 813-833-7804



NOW INTERVIEWING AGENTS!

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MIKHAIL MALYUGIN - FOTOLIA.COM

Refreshing Summer Sippers to Serve Your Guests

From pool parties to evenings around a bonfire, summer is the ultimate time to entertain. Artisanal cocktails make a statement at any gathering, so become the trendsetter in your neighborhood by using interesting spirits at your parties.

The key to a successful creative cocktail is simple — keep an open mind and use the best possible ingredients. Combining quality spirits and seasonal ingredients make for intriguing and delicious drinks.

Don't be afraid to think outside the box when crafting cocktails. Use a hidden gem that you may already have in your bar collection, such as cognac liqueur, which can be served chilled or made into refreshing cocktails.

One example is the award-winning Belle de Brilllet, which uses the original Pear Williams & Brilllet Cognac Liqueur produced by the 10th generation, family owned Maison Brilllet, which comes from the heart of the Cognac region in France.

Belle de Brilllet is a pear liqueur made by infusing Brilllet cognac with the essence of Williams Pear. The liqueur is served in an elegant pear-shaped bottle, which adds charm to your summer spread.

Here are some cocktail recipes that use this refreshingly tart liqueur. All can be easily prepared ahead of time, so guests can help themselves when they arrive at your party.

Belle de Brilllet liqueur pairs nicely alongside summer salads, grilled seafood and fresh summer fruits like melon, strawberries or raspberries. This summer, delight your guests' palates with these cocktails for a new taste sensation.

Courtesy StatePoint Media

BELLE OF THE BALL

- 1.5 oz. Belle de Brilllet Liqueur
- 1.0 oz. Light Rum
- 0.75 oz. Lime Juice
- 3 Raspberries
- Club Soda
- Sprig of Rosemary

Add raspberries, ice and alcohol ingredients into a shaker. Shake and strain into a highball with fresh ice. Top with club soda. Garnish with rosemary sprig.

BRILLIANT BELLE

- 1.0 oz. Belle de Brilllet Liqueur
- 0.5 oz. Lime Juice
- 1.5 oz. Premium Vodka
- 0.25 oz. Green Chartreuse
- 3 dashes Orange Bitters
- 3 Red Grapes
- 1 Basil Leaf

Muddle red grapes and a basil leaf in a shaker then add all ingredients. Shake and evenly strain to the rim of the martini glass.

SUMMER IN THE CITY

- 1.0 oz. Belle de Brilllet Liqueur
- 0.5 oz. Lime Juice
- 2.0 oz. Joto Junmai Sake
- Cucumber Slices
- Mint Leaves

Muddle cucumber and mint and add all ingredients with ice into tin shaker. Shake and strain into a highball glass with crushed ice. Garnish with mint sprig and cucumber.

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Includes AK 20 battery and AL 101 charger.

Lightweight handheld blower – just 7.3 lbs. with AK 20 battery

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Celebrate Independence Day with Connerton in Land O' Lakes

Connerton is extending an invitation for Saturday, July 1 to all who want to celebrate Independence Day this coming weekend.

The community is kicking off the biggest holiday of the summer with its fourth annual Nation Celebration.

The festivities are free and take place from 5p.m. to 9 p.m. If you're looking for some good, old-fashioned fun, then gather family and friends, and head to Connerton, the "Community of More," in Land O' Lakes.

Live music by Gottagroove Band, games, local crafters, a live DJ, and bounce houses for kids are just some of the activities at the celebration. This year, Benedetto's Ristorante Italiano is providing some of the food and drink, and is also the major sponsor for the gala fireworks show at 9 p.m.

All ages will find something to keep them busy, whether it's bungee jumping, simply relaxing and listening to live music or enjoying a beer under the covered big top. Connerton is expecting a large crowd this year, so plan on coming early to set up your chairs and blankets in the outdoor amphitheater for a front row seat for the fireworks.

Connerton is also raffling a \$250 gift card to those who sign up to attend the Independence Day event. To register, go to Connerton.com/event-signup/.

While you're at Connerton, you will want to tour this beautiful "New Town" that was chosen as the Showcase Community for the 2017 Parade of Homes by the Tampa Bay Builders Association.

Hundreds of people attended the Parade to view model homes by Taylor Morrison, M/I Homes, Lennar and Homes by WestBay. Many parade-goers also became Connerton homeowners, and as a result of the Parade and the current new home sales market, 85 homes have been sold in Connerton since the opening of the Parade on April 1.



Connerton's commitment to nature and conservation, with its winding trail system and preservation of trees and wetlands, has made this community a place to enjoy the camaraderie of neighborhood living with natural protected spaces for generations to come. In addition, residents enjoy a clubhouse with resort-style pool, top-rated schools, and the Arbor Square retail center with Publix and other retail stores, a bank and restaurants.

If this sounds like the place where you can enjoy good old-fashioned fun on a holiday weekend, then join the party and celebrate our Nation's Independence on Saturday, July 1, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Connerton is located on U.S. 41, 7 miles north of State Road 54, and 3 miles south of State Road 52.



START YOUR BIG CELEBRATION EARLY AT CONNERTON



CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY *twice in one year!*

FREE FIREWORKS SHOW & ADMISSION

The 4th of July's a time to reflect on our proud history and observe our nation's independence. Connerton invites you to join us in honoring our great country. On July 1st, we're going to start the celebration by hosting a good old fashioned neighborhood party in our New Town community.

..... **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- ★ Build-A-Buddy ★ Free Games ★ Live DJ ★ Food Trucks
- ★ Live Music by GottagrooveBand ★ Local Crafters ★ Free Bounce Houses
- ★ Fireworks sponsored by Benedetto's ★ \$250 Giveaway Gift Card

..... **SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**

Sign up today to be a part of the extended celebration event!

REGISTER BY JUNE 30TH AT CONNERTON.COM/EVENT-SIGNUP/ TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE \$250 GIFT CARD



**JULY 1ST, 2017
5:00PM ~ 9:00PM
AT CONNERTON**

**REGISTER ONLINE FOR
A CHANCE TO WIN A \$250
PRE-PAID GIFT CARD!**



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MIKHAIL MALYUGIN - FOTOLIA.COM

Flip the Switch to a More Beautiful Home

The average home has 45 light sockets, which means you probably have more light bulbs than any other home product. With the right knowledge about lightbulb options, you can save money, protect the environment and bring the best features of your home to life.

HERE ARE FOUR QUICK LIGHTING TIPS

- **Opt for LED.** By 2020, half of all residential sockets will have converted to LEDs. This is good news, because LEDs can last over 10 years, and use up to 85 percent less energy than traditional lighting. LEDs are available in a variety of shapes, sizes, wattages and color temperatures, and are becoming increasingly affordable. Just a few years ago, LEDs topped \$40, but today you can find a high-quality LED for less than \$5.

- **Pay attention to color temperatures, wattages, shapes and quality of light.** For example, an average 60-watt replacement bulb would require about 800 lumens. The higher this number is, the brighter the light will be.

- **Identify how you use each**

room, as well as the mood you want to create. Use comfortable, soft white light in cozy places like bedrooms, family rooms and dining rooms. Active spaces like laundry rooms and playrooms benefit from an energetic daylight bulb. Feature pure, clean lights in kitchens, bathrooms and craft and hobby spaces because they benefit from light that delivers exceptional color contrast and brightness. A warm white light will have a lower K (Kelvin) number, while a cool daylight will have a higher K number.

- **Put your home in its best light.** Even with the right colors, perfect accessories and trendy furniture, a home can look lackluster without the proper lighting. Look for new options that are engineered with a higher color rendering index for greater color contrast and boldness. They make colors and features in each room look even better.

Imagine making over a room in just five minutes by simply changing your light bulbs. With today's advanced options, there's no better time than now to shed some new light in every room in your house.

Courtesy StatePoint Media

Shopping Local Can Benefit You and Your Community

If you have home improvement plans, it's important to consider where you will be doing your shopping. For many people, the first stores they think to shop are big box retailers, because they mistakenly assume that chains offer better selection and prices.

Keep in mind, though, that when it comes to items needed for your home projects — whether it be new flooring, paint or a kitchen renovation — more often than not, your local independent retailer can offer competitive pricing and product selection that is as good, or even a better, than big box stores.

And perhaps just as important, a local business owner hires locally and supports community charities and organizations.

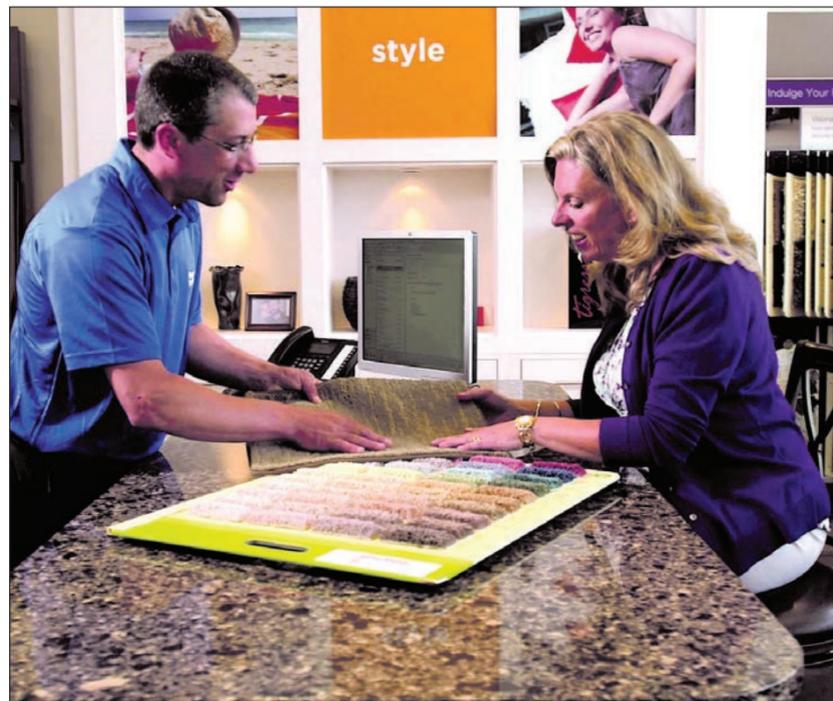
Independent retailers also offer the same benefits as a large chain. For example, when small business

owners belong to a cooperative, they come together to scale buying power, access goods and services at a lower cost, and create opportunities not available to them as individual businesses. For you, this can mean more and better choices of products, and better pricing and affordability.

Because of this buying power, most locally owned stores are able to offer a wide selection of products, including hard surfaces like hardwood, laminate and tile, and soft surface flooring, paint, cabinets for kitchen renovations and even closet organization solutions.

If you're planning improvements for your home, be sure to check out your local suppliers and retailers for their great product selection, and because they contribute to your community in a positive way.

Courtesy StatePoint Media



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Executive Style Homes with Homesites of Half-Acre or Larger in the Heart of Lutz.

Cordoba Estates is a prestigious new community with 286 executive-style homes situated on approximately 800-acres. Located in the heart of Lutz, homeowners will enjoy large homesites and elegantly appointed estate homes in the acclaimed rural, Old-Florida charm of this area, while being within easy reach of New Tampa, Carrollwood and Downtown Tampa.

Private amenity complex includes beach-entry pool, sports courts, dog park, children's playground and more.

- Gated Entry with exclusive Envera® virtual gate concierge attendant.
- Half-acre plus homesites, providing unrivaled space and privacy between you and your neighbors, compared to other new home communities.

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



RIDO - FOTOLIA.COM

Buying a Home: How to Know How High to Go

Shopping for a home? Before you begin your search, it's important to figure out what you can comfortably afford.

"The interesting thing about home buying is that it isn't a one-size-fits-all process," says Mike Dawson, Vice President of Single-Family at Freddie Mac. "After all, it's your budget and these are your housing needs. Doing your homework to figure out what those needs are is the critical first step."

Before you start shopping, learn how much you can borrow. Free online resources, such as Freddie Mac's "How Much You Can Afford" calculator, found at calculators.freddiemac.com, can help you get a handle on this figure during the preliminary stages of your search. This estimate is based on income, fixed monthly payments such as auto loans and student loans, and the terms of the loan you plan to take out.

You may also consider speaking to a lender at this early stage. If you qualify for a loan, a lender can provide you with a pre-approval letter stating how much home you can afford and the maximum amount you are qualified to borrow. Having this letter will help show the seller that you are a committed and qualified buyer.

Keep in mind that the amount your lender is willing to lend is not always how much you should borrow. You should borrow only what you feel you can comfortably repay through monthly mortgage payments. Wait to

take this step until you are actually on the hunt, as pre-approvals are usually good for only a limited time.

When determining your budget, consider the length of your loan and the type of loan you want. Do you want to pay back the money that you borrow over 15 years or 30 years? The longer your loan term, the smaller your monthly payments, but you'll pay more interest over time.

The type of mortgage loan is important, too. With a fixed-rate loan, the interest rate stays the same through the life of your loan, as will your monthly payments. While this can offer some peace of mind, it's important to know that such loans tend to have higher interest rates because the lender isn't protected against a rise in its costs over the course of your loan.

On an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) however, the interest rate may re-set every one, three or five years based on the movement of a specific index and the terms of the loan. Homebuyers may have low interest rates when they first take out their mortgage loans, but the rates may increase over the loan term. If your rate changes at a reset, then your monthly payment will change too.

One of the most important aspects of home buying is getting a handle on how much home you can afford. Do your research before you begin house-hunting, so you can be well-informed throughout the process.

Courtesy StatePoint Media

Same Day Service at Air Hawk A/C



Joe Massa, Owner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Gator Cleaning named to 2016 'Companies to Watch'

Gator Cleaning Solutions is one of just nine Tampa-area companies, and one of 50 in Florida, to be recognized by Florida Companies to Watch, a statewide program managed by the economic development group GrowFL.

Gator Cleaning Solutions was named to the organization's 2016 list because of its exceptional year-after-year growth and addition of new employees.

"The outstanding management team at Gator Cleaning Solutions, its competitive market position and strong community involvement factors put them in contention for the award," said Dr. Tom O'Neal, vice president at the University of Central Florida's Office of Research and Commercialization.

Based in Odessa, Gator Cleaning Services provides a full array of cleaning services for homes, businesses and industry, including

carpets and area rugs, hardwood and laminate flooring, marble and stone floors, tile and grout, upholstery and wood floor refinishing without sanding.

"It's an extreme honor to be recognized for this award," said Marcus Meyer, the company's president. "We strive to provide a quality experience for our customers, as well as our employees, and are humbled by this recognition. We look forward to continuing to provide excellent customer outcomes and employment opportunities."

Marcus Meyer and his wife, Erin, founded Gator Cleaning Solutions eight years ago. The company also offers general cleaning services, commercial window cleaning, construction clean-up and restoration services. The company recently merged with Trinity Carpet Care.

For a free quote on a cleaning service, call (813) 929-1122 or go to gatorcleaningsolutions.com.



11,612 Reasons



32% of our readers are planning home improvement projects, including remodeling and additions.*

That's 11,612 local homes becoming more beautiful this year!

And 11,612 reasons to advertise your service!

The LAKER/Lutz NEWS
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*June 2016 CVC Audit

Selected a 2016 "Florida Companies to Watch."
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for only \$99

Up to 200 sq ft per room.

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2 room minimum.

Some restrictions may apply. Limited time offer.

IT'S TIME WE ADDRESS A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE TOPIC



Did you know that your electric bill can be impacted by the amount of humidity in your home?

Temperature is not the only factor that affects your comfort. Ever notice how 80° on a spring day with low humidity feels great and you don't break a sweat, but 80° in the summer with 100% humidity feels unbearable and you are drenched? This is because lower humidity allows water to evaporate more quickly. The evaporation of sweat from your skin is how your body cools itself. Air conditioners work similarly.

Consider this. Hot air holds more humidity than cold air. That's why water droplets form on a cold glass of ice water. The air around the glass drops in temperature, reducing the amount of moisture the air can hold. The air condenses, resulting in condensation on the glass.

The same is true for the air in your home. As the air temperature rises above your desired temperature setting, your air conditioner kicks on. The warm air is then blown over the cold evaporator coils in your air handler. The moisture in the air condenses onto the coils, is captured and drained away. The warm, damp air is quickly exchanged with the cooler, drier, conditioned air, which is then returned to the living space of your home.

So what does that mean for you? It means the new high-efficiency variable speed air conditioning systems like Bryant's Preferred and Evolution Series comfort systems, give you the ability to dial in a lower humidity setting, allowing you to operate your air conditioner at a higher temperature. You'll have optimal comfort and reduce your overall power consumption. To put it in a more simpler form...it keeps you and your wallet more comfortable.

IT KEEPS YOU & YOUR WALLET MORE COMFORTABLE.

SEE THE DIFFERENCE HUMIDITY MAKES.

Use the chart below

STEP 1) Place your index finger on the "50%" mark in the Relative Humidity column.

STEP 2) Slide your index finger down the 50% column until you reach the temperature which you find the greatest comfort.

STEP 3) Now slide your index finger to the far left until you reach the "ACTUAL AIR TEMPERATURE" number. This final number is what you would set your thermostat to if you had a system that would allow you to dial in your humidity level at 50%.

EXAMPLE - If you currently keep your A/C set at 74° to be comfortable, by controlling your humidity and dialing it in at 50%, you could raise the thermostat setting to 78° and the air would feel like 74°.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENTAGE

ACTUAL AIR TEMPERATURE	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
76°		60°	63°	67°	70°	73°	76°	79°	82°	85°
78°		63°	67°	70°	74°	76°	79°	82°	85°	89°
80°	62°	66°	70°	73°	77°	80°	83°	86°	90°	93°
82°	63°	68°	73°	76°	80°	83°	86°	90°	93°	97°
84°	66°	71°	76°	79°	83°	86°	90°	94°	98°	103°
86°	68°	73°	78°	82°	86°	90°	94°	98°	103°	
88°	70°	76°	81°	85°	89°	93°	98°	102°	108°	
90°	73°	78°	84°	88°	93°	97°	102°	108°		
92°	75°	82°	87°	91°	96°	101°	106°	112°		

FEELS LIKE TEMPERATURE

For more information about Bryant® Comfort Systems with Humidity Control, contact your Local Bryant Factory Authorized Dealer - IERNA's Heating, Cooling & Plumbing at 813-948-6355

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Your BFAD dealer is committed to providing a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. If for any reason a customer is dissatisfied with their Bryant® equipment

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FILE

Fireworks and the Fourth of July seem to go together. The National Council on Fireworks Safety offers some pointers to help prevent injuries during this long holiday weekend.

Wishing you a happy — and safe — Fourth of July

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

As people gather to celebrate the nation's independence, one element of the merry-making tends to be fireworks.

Some are content to watch the shows staged by professionals, but it's not uncommon for friends and neighbors to create their own fireworks displays.

With that in mind, we've gathered some safety tips in an attempt to help people avoid injuries during this upcoming holiday weekend.

Here are some pointers from the National Council on Fireworks Safety:

- Obey local laws regarding the use of fireworks. (Check local law enforcement websites for guidance).
- Read the labels on your fireworks to understand the precautions you should take and the performance descriptions of the firework, before you ignite it.
- A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities.
- Do not give fireworks to children.
- Remember that alcohol and fireworks

do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.

- Be sure to wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
- Use fireworks outdoors, in a clear area. Be sure you are not near buildings or vehicles.
- Do not relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Have a bucket of water nearby, as well as a water hose that's ready to use.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pockets or shoot them into a metal or glass container.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by getting them wet and placing them in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials. Leave them there until the next day.
- Do not attempt to transport fireworks in your checked baggage or carry-on luggage. Possessing or transporting fireworks in checked or carry-on baggage violates the Federal Aviation Administration regulations.



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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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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, please visit FIMedCannabis.org.

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.

BIRTH CENTER TOURS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer birth center tours at 1 p.m., on July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23 and July 30.

The tour is designed to introduce the services available to the entire family. Admission is free.

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

SLEEP DISORDERS

Morton Plant North Bay Hospital, 6600 Madison St., in New Port Richey, will offer free CPAP/BI PAP clinics July 3, July 10, July 17, July 24 and July 31, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in the Sleep Disorders Center, Medical Arts Building.

For information or to register, call (727) 953-6877, or visit BayCareEvents.org.

VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point awarded its first quarter volunteer Star Awards.

Elizabeth Celia, Five Star winner, has volunteered at the hospital for more than two years with 4,600 hours of service. Celia helps on special projects, has served as chairperson for comfort carts, and is cur-

rently a courier and helps make heart pillows for patients.

Ted Zapoliski, Five Star, has volunteered for more than three years with 1,200 hours of service as a courier, two shifts a week.

Midge Nelson, Five Star, has been a volunteer for six years with 2,500 hours of service as a courier, taking extra open shifts.

Dorothy Cassels, One Star, has volunteered since 2007 with 1,600 hours of service in the CSU waiting room and the CPRU waiting rooms.

Nancy McCann, One Star, has been a volunteer since October 2000 with more than 3,600 hours of service working in the hospital's gift shop.

BREAST-FEEDING CLASS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a breast-feeding class July 8 from 9 a.m. to noon, in Garden Classroom A.

Topics will include latching and positioning, the 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.

GRANTS FOR OPIOID CRISIS

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) has commended new efforts to combat the nation's opioid crisis with more than \$70 million in grant funding to help communities and health care providers prevent overdose and treat addiction.

Florida state and local government, as well as non-government organizations, are eligible to apply.

The grants are authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, legislation supported by Bilirakis in Congress, and will be administered through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

For information on the grants, visit HHS.gov.

To apply for a grant, visit SAMHSA.gov.

SPECIAL DOCTOR SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Parikshith Singh, CEO of Access Health Care Physicians, was recognized with an award from iLa. Ganeshan, a member of Parliament in India, for his outstanding contributions toward health care.

The award is called the Shreshtha Vaidya Seva Ratna Award, or the Special Doctor Service Award, and was presented to Singh in the presence of his Holiness Swami Brahmayogananda, Founder Acharya, Yoga Shanthi Gurukulam, Chennai, India.

Ganeshan is an Indian politician and senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party.



Mitchell Jessie



Shawna Mulherin



Dr. Dwayne Ledesma

Hospital recognizes nurses, doctor

The Medical Center of Trinity has given its Nurse of the Year and New Nurse of the Year awards.

Mitchell Jessie, RN, Behavioral Health Services, has been honored as the Nurse of the Year. Jessie puts patient needs first and has been identified as a top performer in patient surveys, and is perhaps the most complimented of all staff members. Team members admire him for his skills of empathy and his sunny disposition, sense of humor, and the ability to make everyone laugh.

Shawna Mulherin, RN, is the New Nurse of the Year. Mulherin has served on 4 West for seven months. She has dis-

played professionalism, responsiveness and teamwork in all her interactions with staff and patients.

The hospital also has named Dr. Dwayne Ledesma, general and vascular surgeon, as Physician of the Year. The award is nurses' choice based on integrity, professionalism, accountability, responsiveness, teamwork, nurturing, empathy and respect.

Ledesma received his medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School and completed his residency at Baylor University, and fellowships at Union Memorial Center for vascular intervention in Baltimore and the University of Texas.



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Flag Day Celebration



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American House Zephyrhills celebrated Flag Day with decorations, a display of World War II memorabilia, and a ceremonial flag raising by 80-year-old Jerry English, of Lutz, who is a veteran of the Vietnam War. After the celebration, a tour of the facilities and lunch were provided for visitors.



U.S. Army veteran Jerry English, 80, served in Vietnam, from 1962 to 1964, assigned to Military Police. He presently participates in re-enactments and has a display of Vietnam War memorabilia including 'K' rations and hand arms.

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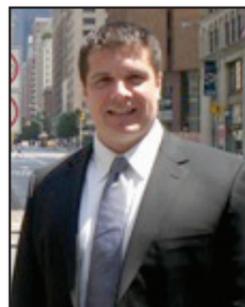


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Chalk Talk

Send school news to news@lakerlutznews.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, please visit PascoCommunityJobFair.eventbrite.com.

For more information, contact Lori Perreault at (813) 794-2845 or email her at lperreault@pasco.k12.fl.us.

COLLEGIATE WORLD SERIES

Saint Leo University will host the International Collegiate World Series June 28 to July 2, for the first time.

The National Hispanic Institute will bring about 120 students from the Dominican Republic, Panama and across the United States, who have a high potential to become leaders within the U.S. and global Latino communities.

The forward-looking leadership program utilizes immersive-disruptive learning, a self-directed, student-centered method that encourages critical thinking and challenges society's assumptions and conventions.

It also introduces students to core NHI concepts, as well as helping students to prepare for the college admissions program and to practice inquiry-based learning.

For information about the National Hispanic Institute and its programs, visit NationalHispanicInstitute.org.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADERS

Pasco-Hernando State College honored 11 students with the Dr. Felisha R. Barker Outstanding Student Leader award, presented in memory of Barker, a former PHSC financial aid advisor, instructor, and academic and club advisor. Barker was employed at the school for nearly a decade.

The local area outstanding student leaders in 2017 included Devon Chavarria and Samantha Politano, Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, Wesley Chapel; and Jessi Perez and Ashley Puckett, East Campus, Dade City.

Additionally, these local area military veteran students were recognized: Aryan Szczurowski, Porter Campus; and Dustin Thomas, East Campus.

Community service awards were given to Phi Theta Kappa, Porter and East campus chapters.

SAINT LEO PROMOTES MELANIE STORMS

Saint Leo University has promoted Dr. Melanie Storms to senior vice president for Worldwide Operations.

Storms was named vice president of the Worldwide division in June 2016. She will continue to be responsible for Saint Leo's education centers, graduate programs, and Center for Online Learning, as well as provide strategic leadership and oversight of the university's marketing and enrollment functions.

Storms earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Central Florida, and her master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from the Florida Institute of Technology.

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

The following students have been named to the spring Dean's List at their respective schools:

- Alexia Faith Acebo, of Lutz, University of Alabama
 - Gleb Barkovskiy, of Lutz, Bucknell University, Pennsylvania
 - Courtney F. Bobo, of Lutz, Samford University, Alabama
 - Kelsey Bogner, of Lutz, Hofstra University, New York
 - Alexis Burnette, of Wesley Chapel, Furman University, South Carolina
 - Natalia Campos, of Lutz, Valdosta State University, Georgia
 - Amanda Clifford, of Lutz, University of Alabama
 - Nicholas Tyler Eicholtz, of Odessa, University of Alabama
 - Alexandra C. Fietsam, of Wesley Chapel, Iowa State University
 - Brycie Gauthier, of Lutz, Oklahoma City University
 - Seriah Groen, of Odessa, Wheaton College, Illinois
 - Gabrielle Harrison, of Lutz, University of Alabama
 - Jessica Howell, of Lutz, Furman University, South Carolina
 - Fiona Lefresne, of Lutz, Missouri State University
 - Nathan Mansour, of Odessa, University of Dayton, Ohio
 - Jordan Mark, of Lutz, Mercer University School of Engineering, Georgia
 - Ebonee Nicholes, of Lutz, University of Alabama
- Also, Grace Korta, of Lutz, was named to

Credit union awards scholarships



COURTESY OF JILL EVANS

Dawn Newsome, vice president Business Lending and Scholarship Committee member, presented Anthony Conti with a \$2,500 scholarship on behalf of San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union. Conti is a recent graduate of Torchbearers' Christian Academy in Dade City, and plans to study criminal justice/pre-law at Saint Leo University in the fall.



Tim Baldwin, president and CEO of the San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union, awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to member Rose Phelps, of San Antonio. The surprise presentation took place at Keystone Park in Odessa, while Phelps' home-school co-op was hosting a meeting. Phelps plans to attend Northeast Catholic College in New Hampshire in the fall.

the President's List at Mercer University Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics.

The University of Alabama awarded a UA Away scholarship to Alexia Acebo, of Lutz. Acebo also has been named to the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Cody Burger, of Lutz, graduated from

Mercer University College of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy.

Natalia Campos, of Lutz, earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Valdosta State University in Georgia.

Missouri State University awarded a Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Development to Bridget Soltau, of Land O' Lakes.

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

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BUDGET, from page 1A

proved, could cost the county about \$10 million in revenues beginning with the 2020 budget.

County commissioners met in a workshop in New Port Richey for their first look at the new budget. They must approve the property tax rate on July 11.

Two public hearings will be scheduled before a final vote in September. The fiscal year begins on Oct. 1.

County commissioners quickly zeroed in on initiatives that they wanted to restore to residents, including extended library hours, new ambulances, park upgrades and fire trucks, and new hires for the Pasco County Sheriff's Office.

"I am not happy with the amount of money we're giving our parks," said Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey. "Because at \$9 million, we're closing our parks. We can't continue at this level...I'm not happy having our libraries closed."

Starkey suggested creating taxing units to dedicate money to libraries and parks. But, budget deadlines stymied that idea, and county commissioners opted to go again, to the reserve funds.

Pay raises for county employees were a priority.

Pasco County Commissioner Mike Wells said employees went for years without raises during the downturn of the economy.

"I hope we can eventually get to performance-based (pay raises)," Wells said. "There were some folks that were very, very,

very underpaid."

The initial budget, as presented by Biles, didn't have money for more library hours or much for parks. It did have about \$5 million for a third installment of promised pay raises to sheriff's deputies. But, that left only about \$557,000 in new revenue, and about \$8 million in unfunded requests.

There is potential for additional revenues from property taxes when Pasco County Property Appraiser Gary Joiner gives his final numbers by July 1. The current budget proposal includes preliminary estimates of about \$24.2 million in tax revenues. That is about \$1.3 million more than last year, or about a 5.8 percent increase.

If final data exceeds that projection, commissioners can put money back into reserves, or opt to fund additional items.

The following items were among those added to the budget:

- Additional 2 percent pay raise for county employees (for a total of 4 percent)
- Upgrades for parks in danger of being closed
- 14 new hires at the sheriff's office, including a crossing guard and traffic control officers
- Two new hires at property appraiser's office and equipment upgrades
- Six new hires at the Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller's office
- A "One Stop Shop" for community services in Dade City
- More library hours and design work to modernize the New River and Centennial libraries
- Four new hires to aid administration in rewriting land development codes

IMPACT, from page 1A

crease in the school impact fee for single family detached homes of \$2,300," the letter says.

Mark Spada, president of the builders' association, reiterated those positions during the public hearing.

The association also advocates an effective date of Jan. 1, 2018, for the higher fees.

The current proposal calls for the new fees to take effect 90 days after the ordinance is adopted.

Representatives for the multifamily industry and a land broker also expressed concerns about the proposed fees.

The multifamily industry representatives said the fees are disproportionate for multifamily and will undermine new apartment development in Pasco County. They also questioned the data used to compute how many students are generated from multifamily developments.

A land broker urged commissioners to look at the big picture, noting the proposed fees will raise development costs so significantly that it will drive away new projects. Besides hurting land owners who want to sell their land, she said, it will also damage the county's potential tax base.

On the flip side, others urged commissioners to boost the impact fees to the level recommended by the consultant.

They said that residential growth has put a squeeze on the school district and that it cannot keep pace with enrollment demands.

Deputy Superintendent Ray Gadd said the district is trying to address the issue before the district has schools at 200 percent capac-

ity, which it has in the past.

"The answer to solving school overcrowding is not by adding portables.

"Kids can learn just as well in a portable as they can in a concrete building," Gadd said. But, he noted, the bathrooms, cafeteria, media center and other facilities are built to accommodate a school's permanent capacity.

When too many portables are added, he said, the infrastructure in the school building doesn't work.

Commissioners appear to be leaning toward an increase, based on their questions and remarks during the public hearing, but it is unclear how much of an increase they will support — or when the increase would take effect.

"I'm in favor of doing something," said Commissioner Mike Wells. "The issue is affordable housing. Affordable housing is multifamily."

"I know we need to do something on impact fees," added Commissioner Kathryn Starkey.

"I do have a concern on these multifamily numbers. If we have a sliding scale on the houses, why are we charging a studio the same price as say, a three-bedroom apartment? That doesn't make sense to me, if it's about student generation."

It may be possible to have a tiered system for apartments, said David Goldstein, chief assistant county attorney, but he would need to talk with the school board's consultant about it.

"We're happy to look at the multifamily issue," Gadd said.

The second public hearing is set for July 11 at 1:30 p.m., at the historic Pasco County Courthouse in Dade City.

FESTIVITIES, from page 1A

Hazard Response will host a Red White and Blue Station 1 Dedication and Fire and Police Salute on July 2 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The event is for police, fire, emergency responders, their families and the community. Festivities include food, prizes and more. For information, call (813) 728-4251.

• **The Wesley Chapel Noon Rotary Land O' Lakes Satellite** will "paint" Land O' Lakes red, white and blue from July 1 to July 8, with patriotic bows along Land O' Lakes Boulevard, to honor military personnel and veterans. Bows will include the business or personal name and the name of the person being honored or recognized in memoriam. Names also will be placed in an advertisement in The Laker/Lutz News. For information, call (813) 817-3011.

• **Lutz-Land O' Lakes American Legion Post 108** will place flags on veterans' graves at the Lutz Cemetery on U.S. 41 on July 1 for Independence Day. The flags will be retrieved July 5. Members of the post and other volunteers are needed to help. Call Lyle Watson at (813) 996-5917.

• **Sparklebration will take place July 4 at the Pasco County Fairgrounds.** There will be festival food, entertainment, a hotdog-eating contest, a watermelon-eating contest, a vendor mall, balloon creations, face painting, bounce houses, pony rides, a petting zoo, a Hula Hoop contest, a karaoke contest, fireworks (weather permitting) and more. Gates open at 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for kids ages 12 and younger. Wristbands for unlimited play are \$10. Parking is \$5. For information, or to sign up for a contest, visit

PascoCountyFair.com, or call (352) 567-6678.

• **The annual Lutz Fourth of July celebration and parade** will take place in downtown Lutz, near the Train Depot. The parade will start at 10 a.m., and there will be a race and festivities before and after the parade. Admission and parking are free.

• **Avalon Park West, 5227 Autumn Ridge Drive in Wesley Chapel,** will host a July Fourth Celebration from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., with food trucks, bounce houses, vendors, community performances, and fireworks at 9 p.m. For information, visit AvalonParkWest.com.

• **The American Victory Ship,** docked behind the Florida Aquarium at 705 Channelside Drive, will host its Fourth of July Family FunFest on July 4 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. There will be music, games, food, beer, wine and family fun. Guests can watch the Channelside fireworks at 9 p.m., from on board the ship. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$7 for kids age 12 and younger, and \$10 for military and veterans. Group discounts are available for 10 people or more. The price does not include food and beverages. For tickets, call (866) 468-7630, or visit TicketWeb.com.

• **The Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park** at Channelside in Tampa will be the site for a Red White & Blue Festival on July 4 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be live jazz by the Riverwalk, a watermelon-eating contest, a patriotic fashion show, a food court, a photo booth, games and activities, arts and crafts exhibits, a best-dressed competition for adults, children and pets, fireworks at 8:45 p.m., and more. No backpacks, large bags, luggage, coolers, outside food and beverage, alcohol, seating/chairs, tents, blankets or personal fireworks will be permitted. Get a free ticket at CityFestivals.org.

FUNDING, from page 1A

Meanwhile, the newly built Cypress Creek Middle High School, off Old Pasco Road, is scheduled to open this fall. Initially, it will serve students in grades six through 11, but it will add grade 12 during the second year. Its boundaries affected Rushe, John Long and Weightman middle schools, and Sunlake, Wesley Chapel and Wiregrass high schools.

Bexley Elementary School, 4380 Ballantrae Blvd. in the Bexley subdivision off

State Road 54, also is set to open in the fall. It is intended to reduce crowding at Oakstead and Odessa elementary schools.

The district also is proceeding on massive remodeling projects at Land O' Lakes High School in Land O' Lakes and Woodland Elementary School in Zephyrhills.

Armstrong also urged supporters of the proposed school impact fee increase to show up to make their views known at the Pasco County Commission's second public hearing on school impact fees. That meeting is set for July 11 at 1:30 p.m., at the historic Pasco County Courthouse in Dade City.

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Saint Leo coach seeks to 'win at a high level'

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Rick O' Dette won nearly 500 games coaching baseball in the Midwest — now he's looking for similar results down south in Pasco County.

O' Dette, who coached at Division II Saint Joseph's College of Indiana for 17 seasons, was named Saint Leo University's new baseball coach on June 15.

He replaces Saint Leo alumnus Sean O' Connor, who surprisingly was let go after a 23-26 record in 2017 — his first losing campaign in five seasons (155-90-1 record).

O' Dette, 41, most recently steered Saint Joseph's to a 35-22 record and the program's fourth berth in the NCAA Midwest Regional — despite the knowledge that the university would be suspending all operations following the 2016-2017 academic year.

The achievement earned him Great Lakes Valley Conference's 2017 Coach of the Year. He also was selected as HERO Sports Division II Coach of the Year by a fan poll.

Other college programs expressed interest in his services, but O' Dette picked Saint Leo, calling it a "hidden gem" among the Division II baseball ranks.

Besides the sunny Florida climate, O' Dette pointed to Saint Leo's conference affiliation (the highly competitive Sunshine State Conference), the university's facilities and resources, and its academic reputation as key reasons the gig is so attractive.

"I thought it was an extremely appealing place...that we could win, and win at a high level," he said.

He's done plenty of that.

At Saint Joseph's College, O' Dette amassed a 494-407-4 overall record.

In fact, he will begin his first season in the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) ranked fourth among active SSC head coaches in total wins behind University of Tampa's Joe Urso (744), Rollins College's Jon Sjogren (680), and Barry University's Juan Ranero (542).

Throughout his 17-year ledger at Saint



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Rick O' Dette was named Saint Leo's new baseball coach on June 15. He replaces Sean O' Connor, who was let go following a 23-26 losing season. O' Dette coached the past 17 years at Division II Saint Joseph's College of Indiana, where he amassed a 494-407-4 overall record.

Joseph's, O' Dette coached 56 All-GLVC (Great Lakes Valley Conference) selections, 25 All-Region honorees and four Division II All-Americans.

Moreover, 24 of his players have gone on to play professional baseball, including eight who were drafted or signed as free agents by Major League Baseball teams.

Victories on the diamond aren't the only hallmark of O' Dette's squads.

His players also are known for their classroom success.

Every baseball student-athlete that exhausted his eligibility — during O' Dette's tenure at Saint Joseph's College — has earned a degree.

Additionally, 84 players have earned GLVC Academic All-Conference honors during O' Dette's time at the helm of Puma baseball. His most recent squad finished the academic year with a 3.38 team grade point average.

It's a trend he plans to continue at Saint

Leo.

"We want to make sure they're well-rounded," O' Dette said. "It's just not going to be majoring in baseball, they're going to have to do something when baseball is over."

He continued: "We have to recruit the right students. If we're chasing that guy to go to class, we're wasting time."

O' Dette, meanwhile, can best be described as a baseball lifer.

He was a 15th round pick of the Boston Red Sox in the 1997 MLB First-Year Player Draft, and played at four different levels within the Red Sox organization, until injuries halted his career.

He began his coaching career at 23 years old, almost immediately after his playing days ended.

O' Dette worked as a professional instructor for Championship Sports Academy in Tinley Park, Illinois, as well as the Chicago White Sox Training Center. He spent two

summers as the head coach for the Upper Deck Cougars Baseball Organization out of Palos, Illinois, guiding the club to consecutive fourth place finishes at the World Championships.

O' Dette also spent the 1999-2000 academic year as the pitching coach for Andean High School in Merrillville, Indiana.

In a release, Saint Leo athletic director Francis X. Reidy said O' Dette "was exactly the type of coach we were looking for" in the hiring search.

"He has proven his ability to develop a program built on academic success, athletic excellence and a commitment to the Division II ideal, and I am confident he will bring Saint Leo baseball back to the upper echelon of Sunshine State Conference baseball," Reidy said.

Additionally, several of O' Dette's former players expressed support for the hire on Facebook and Twitter, while fans and alums of Saint Joseph's College lauded his coaching acumen.

The hire also received support from industry leaders in the sport, including University of Illinois head baseball coach Dan Hartleb, the 2015 Big Ten Coach of the Year and National Coach of the Year finalist.

"Rick O' Dette is an outstanding hire for Saint Leo. He's one of the most respected recruiters in the Midwest and Chicagoland area," Hartleb said, in a statement.

"He is a tireless worker, develops great relationships with players, with people in the community and from a recruiting standpoint. Rick will develop the same type of recruiting relationships and reputation in Florida in a short amount of time. Rick will do whatever it takes to ethically build Saint Leo's program into a national contender."

Interestingly, O' Dette isn't the first ball coach to make the trek from Rensselaer, Indiana, to east Pasco County.

Academy at the Lakes varsity softball coach Diane Stephenson worked for Saint Joseph's College in 2014 and 2015. She was hired by Academy at the Lakes in July 2016, and last season she led the private school to a 20-3 mark and the Class 2A regional finals.

Sizing up Saint Leo's baseball prospects

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

The Saint Leo baseball program just experienced its first losing season since 2012 — a mark newly named head coach Rick O' Dette looks to quickly reverse.

Throughout the 2016-2017 season, the Lions fared well at the plate (.320 team batting average, 6.6 runs per game), but struggled mightily on the mound (6.56 team ERA, 73 home runs allowed).

The Lions' 23-26 record (8-16 Sunshine State Conference), can partially be blamed on a rash of injuries and a lack of depth.

"Obviously, last year they had a lot of injuries on the mound, so we're just trying to evaluate the health of each guy, and then our needs. So, getting the pitching staff healthy and adding some depth to it is our first priority," O' Dette said, analyzing last year's team.

Besides strengthening the pitching staff, creating positional stability — particularly at catcher — is another initial focus for O' Dette and his new staff.

"There's only one catcher on the roster, so our next thing is to find two catchers that can come in. Ideally, one older, transfer type guy and one high school type," he explained.

Just a few reinforcements could make a drastic difference, considering the team lost

five games by just one run.

Saint Leo appears to have a workable nucleus, led by outfielder/third baseman Dylan Harris, a Land O' Lakes High School graduate who paced the team in batting average (.448), on-base percentage (.472), hits (99) doubles (20) and stolen bases (15).

Other expected key returnees on offense include rising juniors Brett Coffel (.297 average, seven home runs, 28 RBIs) and Derek Gibree (.323 average, 23 RBIs, nine steals), and seniors Lane Stancil (.317 average, eight doubles, 17 RBIs) and Chase Turner (.323 average, seven doubles, 23 RBIs).

Moreover, the pitching staff — if healthy — has a decent base, and figures to be anchored by a pair of seniors in lefty Tyler Bauman (4.75 ERA, 81 strikeouts in 85.1 innings) and righty Oscar Gordillo (4.26 ERA, 25 strikeouts in 31.2 innings).

An early signing recruiting class highlighted by former Land O' Lakes High ace McCabe Sargent should help, too.

The 6-foot-2, 190-pound right-hander displayed one of the top arms in Pasco County last season, recording a 1.97 ERA and 84 strikeouts in 67.2 innings; he also exhibited an elite bat, posting a .455 batting average with four home runs and 28 RBIs.

Meanwhile, O' Dette will look to bolster Saint Leo's roster by pursuing prospects from the high school and junior college ranks, as well as utilizing the Division I and

Division II transfer market.

Though much of his recruiting ties span major cities such as Chicago and Indianapolis, and states including Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, O' Dette will first strive to make inroads within the Tampa Bay region — a collective "hotbed" of baseball talent.

"Our goal is to try to get the best player we can out of that area at first, and then try to expand if we need to get the rest," he explained. "There's a lot of really good baseball in (Florida), and we're excited to get with those guys."

"We're going to use every resource we can, no matter where they're from," he added. "The idea is we can sell the weather; the next step, obviously, is to sell the education and the baseball."

Once on campus, the Lions' new skipper will meet face-to-face with current players, and begin to lay the groundwork for his program, which emphasizes a team-based culture.

Perhaps more than ever that can be a challenge, especially with the proliferation of travel ball, baseball showcases, social media and other distractions.

"You've got to care about who else is on your team, before you can win," O' Dette explained. "I think if you put (players) in the right setting and they trust the coaching staff, you can get them to buy into what



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Saint Leo outfielder/third baseman Dylan Harris figures to be a key part of coach Rick O' Dette's first season at Saint Leo.

you're trying to do from a team concept; I think kids will do anything you ask them to do, if you get them to trust you."

He added: "If you put some structure up there and get them to work within some guidelines, usually you'll have some success."

Historically, O' Dette's rosters at Saint Joseph's College of Indiana featured "an exciting style of play" predicated on pitching and being "middle strong" defensively — largely the catcher, second base, shortstop and center field positions.

"You've got to be able to pick the ball up, and you've got to be able to throw strikes," he said.

"We like to run when we have the right team, and we'll make adjustments as needed, to make sure that we're not stuck in one system with the wrong type of player, especially in the first couple of years."



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Steinbrenner High alumnus and former University of South Florida shortstop Kevin Merrell agreed to terms with the Oakland Athletics on June 20, signing for \$1.8 million.

STEINBRENNER ALUMNUS SIGNS WITH OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Steinbrenner High School alumnus and former University of South Florida (USF) shortstop Kevin Merrell has signed with the Oakland Athletics, inking a \$1.8 million signing bonus on June 20.

Merrell, the No. 33 overall selection in the 2017 MLB Draft, graduated from Steinbrenner in 2014 and played three sea-

sons at South Florida.

Merrell was viewed as one of the fastest players in all of college baseball last season.

He led the American Athletic Conference with a .384 batting average and became the only player in USF history to lead the team in hitting for three consecutive seasons; he scored 48 runs and stole 19 bases in 2017.

The 6-foot-1, 190-pound Merrell also displayed gap power last season, notching 11 doubles, three triples and seven home runs.

At Steinbrenner, Merrell was a four-year letter winner in baseball for coach John Crumbley; he also lettered in golf and track, where he recorded a 10.6-second, 100-meter dash.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS PASCO SWIM MEET JULY 15

Special Olympics Pasco student-athletes will put their talents on display at the County Aquatics Meet July 15 at 5 p.m., at the New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center, 6630 Van Buren St., New Port Richey. The aquatic athletes, who have trained two months for the event, will compete in a variety of swimming strokes and relays, ranging from 25-meter to 100-meter races. The event also will prepare them for the Area Games, on Aug. 12, in Dunedin. Competing athletes registered prior to the meet and participated in training at a Special Olympics Pasco Site. To become a volunteer for the event, contact Valerie Lundin at (727) 492-8413.



COURTESY OF JOHN MEDVID

Heavy haul!

At the South Pasco Bassmasters' June 17 tournament at Johns Lake in Clermont, Kevin Corcoran, left, and Mike Mathews teamed up to win first place, reeling in a total weight of 18.59 pounds. The winning weight was caught using topwater baits and plastic frogs on the offshore grass line. The next tournament is slated for July 15, at the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes. For information on joining the club, visit SouthPascoBassmasters.com.



FRED BELLET

Betty Villafane, 82, raises her arms in victory as she takes on three players in a domino game at the Lutz Senior Center. From left, looking on, are Marta Gallucci, 68, of Wesley Chapel; Mabel Macaluso, 91, of Lutz; and Tina Lisojo, 72, of Tampa.

Laughter fell like dominoes, during these friendly games

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

If you're age 50 or older and you enjoy dominoes, the Lutz Senior Center, is a great place to go.

One recent day, the winners were clearly enjoying their victories — but even those who didn't win seemed to be having fun.

The center, at 112 First Ave., N.W., in Lutz, draws quite a few competitors to the dominoes games it offers on weekdays.

Dominoes is just one of many activities offered at The Lutz Senior Center, which is open with no membership fees to Hillsborough County adults age 50 and older.

Other amenities at the center include computers, classes, Internet access, nutritional services, public parking and Wi-Fi.

Meal services are available to registered participants who are 60 and older.

The center's hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

To find out more, call (813) 264-3804.



Seventy-five-year-old Hermita Duarte, left, of Tampa, took on a challenge by 83-year-old Carmen LoBianco, right, also of Tampa, during a game of dominoes at the Lutz Senior Center. Other players also joined in the fun.



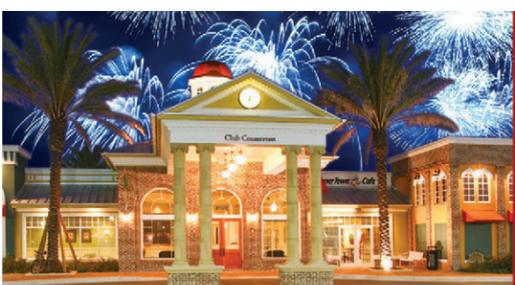
Sixty-eight-year-old Marta Gallucci, of Wesley Chapel, lays her six to match a six that is already down. Gallucci and 66-year-old Maria Leguisino, of Lutz, took on competitors in a friendly dominoes game.



Hermita Duarte prepares to put down a five tile against Carmen LoBianco. The two were battling for a win. The senior center offers domino games on weekdays.



Seventy-two-year-old Tina Lisojo, of Tampa, contemplates her next move.



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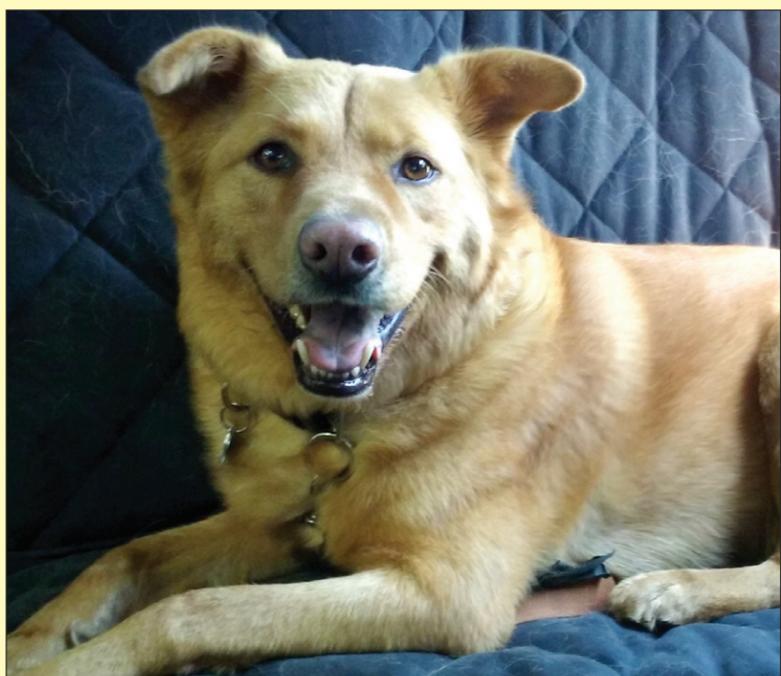
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Jersey is a fur baby

Jersey is a chow/golden mix rescue dog. He was sick with kennel cough and underweight when he was adopted, but today he is a healthy, smart and obedient dog. Jersey loves his long walks in the community, and sits nicely for his food and treats. Phyllis Ferretti, of Land O' Lakes, is Jersey's proud owner.

PET OF THE WEEK FAMILIES RECEIVE A \$25 SHELL'S FEED & GARDEN GIFT CERTIFICATE TO USE IN ITS STORE FOR TREATS, TOYS, COLLARS, LEASHES & HOME GROOMING PRODUCTS.

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, ATTN: Pet of the Week

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

LOCAL WILDLIFE



A favorite watering hole

These mourning doves are frequent visitors to the birdbath and bird feeders in the yard of Bob and Kathie Cabral, in Connerton, a community in Land O' Lakes.

Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



Angel is outgoing

Angel has shown quite some personality. She has a sweet and outgoing disposition. Despite the shelter being a new and scary place, Angel has taken it in stride and keeps up with greeting everyone she meets. She is in need of a loving home and a restricted diet. Angel currently weighs almost 18 pounds, and it is highly recommended she lose some of those pounds. She is 12 years old and is accustomed to dogs.



Jordie is spunky

Jordie is a young girl. She has shown very good behavior while at the shelter and enjoys fetching in the yard. Jordie will need some work learning to walk on a looser leash, but this smart and spunky girl is ready to work with you. She is spayed, vaccinated and microchipped, and ready to go to her new home today. Jordie is heartworm positive, but it is not contagious to other pets who are on heartworm prevention, and the condition is treatable. The shelter does recommend a meet-and-greet if you have other dogs in your home.

If you would like to adopt Angel or Jordie, 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

CAT CRUSADERS ADOPTIONS

Cat Crusaders will be at the New Tampa PetSmart, 6248 Commerce Palms Drive, on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 3 p.m., during the month of July.

The adoption specials will be two cats or kittens for \$85, which includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations, microchipping and deworming.

For more information, please visit TampaCatCrusaders.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.

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 visit GHPPC.org.

SHARE YOUR PET NEWS

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

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.

Send submission to news@lakerlutznews.com.



Pet Loss Support Group



Last Thursday of the Month from 3 - 4:30 p.m.
Upcoming Dates: May 25, June 29 & July 27

Gulfside Center for Hospice Care
5760 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills

Facilitated by Chaplain Mike Merritt

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

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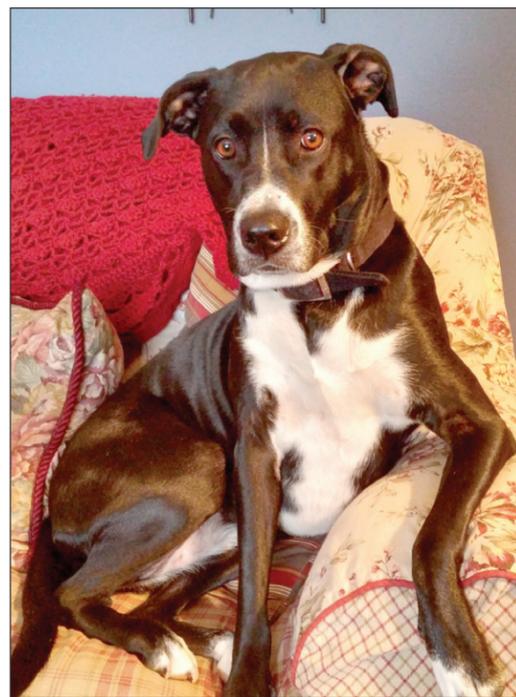
For more information or to RSVP, call 727-845-5707.



Beau is a German Shepherd who loves going for rides and always wants to drive, too. He loves to bark at cows and play with any toy he hasn't eaten. Beau's proud owners are Corey, Kim and CJ Dickerson of Land O' Lakes.

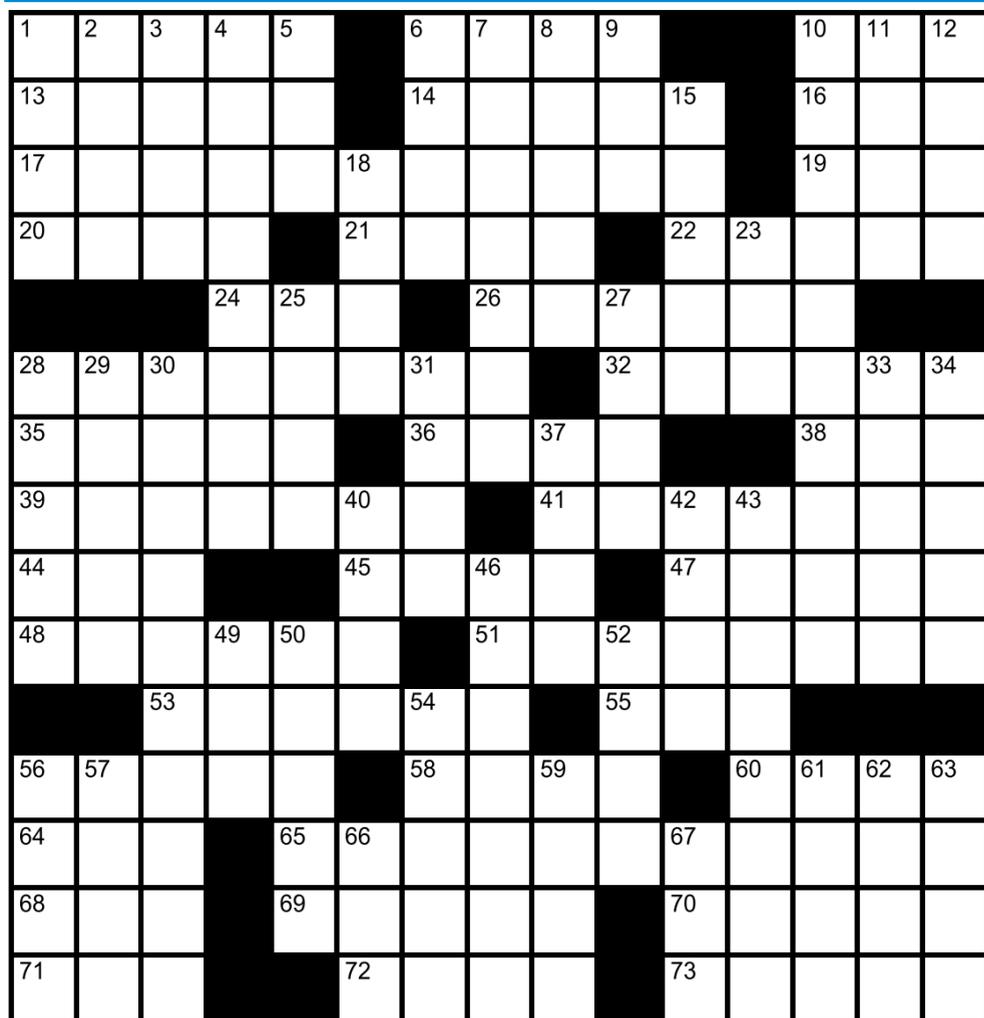


Ember is a rescue Dalmatian. She looks for every opportunity to show her 'pearly whites.' Ember's previous owners were firefighters, hence the name. Ember's proud owner is Claudia Rysdon of Land O' Lakes.



Magick is a 2-year-old mixed breed adopted from the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. She is a big ham for the camera and thinks she is a human at times. Her proud owner is Lorrie Mandanici of Tampa.

The LAKER / Lutz NEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Relating to the foundation
6. Home, informally
10. Corn holder
13. "Home ____"
14. Broadcasting (hyphenated)
16. ____-Wan Kenobi
17. Quality of enduring
19. "____ any drop to drink": Coleridge
20. They're tapped
21. "____ bitten, twice shy"
22. Adjust
24. "____ alive!" (contraction)
26. Common law action to recover value
28. One of three divisions of psyche
32. Overhaul
35. Biscotti flavoring
36. Kuwaiti, e.g.
38. ____ Appia
39. Well
41. Futile
44. Decay
45. Biology lab supply
47. Will notes
48. Arctic jacket
51. No visual aid
53. Multiply 10 and 9
55. "____ we having fun yet?"
56. Trash hauler
58. Allergic reaction
60. Level
64. "Wheel of Fortune" buy
65. State containing on nationality
68. "My boy"
69. Bum
70. Loses color
71. Decline
72. "Trick" joint
73. Bouquet

DOWN

1. Endorse
2. ____ vera
3. Spiritual, e.g.
4. The most anxious
5. "Fantasy Island" prop
6. It may be proper
7. One who put a law into effect
8. More rational
9. ____-tac-toe
10. To oppose
11. "O" in old radio lingo
12. Monetary unit of Ethiopia
15. Tear away
18. Barely beat, with "out"
23. "My Name Is Asher ____" (Chaim Potok novel)
25. Certain surgeon's "patient"
27. Eyes, poetically
28. Pelvic bones
29. Kind of jack
30. Seal between piston & cylinder wall
31. Jets or Sharks, e.g.
33. Humid and foggy
34. Past one, Aô's prime
37. Halo, e.g.
40. Autumn tool
42. The America's Cup trophy, e.g.
43. Guide
46. Whenever
49. Fix, in a way
50. About
52. American architect
54. Hyperion, for one
56. Low in pitch
57. Small buffalo
59. Endure
61. ____ brace (device used to immobilize the head and neck)
62. Any thing
63. ____ Verde National Park
66. "Raiders of the Lost ____"
67. Marienbad, for one

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to news@lakerlutznews.com

THE SALT ROOM RIBBON CUTTING

The Salt Room has scheduled a ribbon cutting for June 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at 2718 Windguard Circle, Suite 102, in Wesley Chapel.

The health spa offers salt therapy and skin care.

Light refreshments and beverages will be served.

For information, please contact The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce at (813) 994-8534 or office@WesleyChapelChamber.com.

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

The Wednesday Morning Network Group will meet July 5 at 7:30 a.m., at Hungry Harry's Family Bar-B-Que, at 3116 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. Each attendee will be able to present a 30-second pitch. The cost is \$7 for members, if preregistered by June 29, or \$10 for members and non-members at the door.



COURTESY OF RICHARD K. RILEY

Christina Bryant, owner of the Brick Farmhouse, holding scissors, cuts the ribbon at her new shop, surrounded by friends and members of The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce.

THE BRICK FARMHOUSE OPENS

The Brick Farmhouse Antiques & Coffee Shop had a ribbon cutting June 17, at 14220 Eighth St., in Dade City.

The shop offers the chance to browse for antiques or relax awhile with a cup of

gourmet coffee. The shop also has an array of crafts and handmade originals, and will host live music events on weekends.

Classes will be offered in adult and child chalk painting, calligraphy, watercol-

or painting, rock painting and more.

Business hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For information, call the shop at (352) 437-4249, or visit Facebook.com/the-brickfarmhouse/.

Please register online at CentralPascoChamber.com.

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

INTERNET MARKETING SEMINAR

Pasco Hernando SCORE will have a free seminar on internet marketing technologies July 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the

New Port Richey Library, at 5939 Main St., in New Port Richey.

Participants will learn how small businesses can use the Internet to reach customers, and communicate about brand, products and services.

The seminar focuses on search engine marketing, search engine optimization, web analytics, social media and email marketing. It serves as a prerequisite to more advanced

e-marketing or e-business workshops that will follow.

The seminar also is part of a curriculum addressing doing business on the Internet. A seminar on Using the Internet in Your Business also is available.

RSVP to Pasco Hernando SCORE at (727) 842-4638 or visit PascoHernando.score.org.

More BUSINESS DIGEST, page 7B

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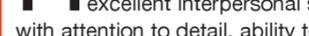
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Harvester United Methodist is seeking a part-time Director of Children Ministries. Qualified candidates should have excellent interpersonal skills, proven organizational skills with attention to detail, ability to coordinate/develop volunteer leaders, & the ability to work with & lead the children education committee.

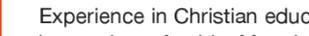
Experience in Christian education as either an employee or volunteer is preferable. Most importantly, you should be excited about building relationships with children & their families as they develop their spiritual growth.

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to news@lakerlutznews.com

BUSINESS BREAKFAST

SMARTstart CO.STARTERS will host the monthly "Common Ground Pitch Breakfast" July 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at 37837 Meridian Ave., No. 309, in Dade City.

Each month, two individuals present a five-minute pitch to introduce their business ideas to the local entrepreneurial community in Pasco County. Each pitch is followed by a question and answer, and feedback, opportunity.

The event is free. The SMARTstart pro-

grams are supported by the Pasco Economic Development Council.

To register, visit SmartstartPasco.com/events, or call the PEDC at (352) 437-4861.

NORTH TAMPA LUNCHEON

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will have a general meeting July 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Iavarone's Steakhouse & Italian Grill, 3617 Humphrey St., in Tampa.

Guest speaker is Devon Anderson, associate director of development for Children's Home Network.

For early bird registration, RSVP online with credit card or to the chamber office at ContactNTTC@gmail.com by 5 p.m., on July 11, at the discounted rate of \$20 (whether you eat or not). After that date, the cost is \$25 (whether you eat or not), payable at the door by cash, check or credit card.

For more information, call the chamber office at (813) 563-0180, or you can visit NorthTampaChamber.com.



COURTESY OF RICHARD K. RILEY

Saint Leo hosts chamber breakfast

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce hosted a business breakfast at Saint Leo University. Chamber members and guests were given an update of the school's happenings and advancements by Denny Moller, vice president of University Advancement and Communications. Moller, left, was welcomed by John Moors, chamber director.

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DOES YOUR AUTO club offer no hassle service and rewards? Call American Auto Club (ACA) & Get \$200 in ACA Rewards! (new members only) Roadside Assistance & Monthly Rewards. Call **800-519-6058** (z)

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BOAT FOR SALE? ADVERTISE with *The Laker/ Lutz News* **813-909-2800**

AUTOS

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KAWASAKI-- Z1-900(1972-75), KZ900, KZ1000(1976-1982), Z1R, KZ1000MK2(1979.80), W1-650, H1-500(1969-72), H2-750(1972-1975), S1-250, S2-350, S3-400, KH250, KH400, SUZUKI--GS400, GT380, HONDA--CB750K(1969-1976), CBX1000(1979.80)



\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$
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1-310-721-0726
usa@classicrunners.com

Real Estate

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LAND FOR SALE

5 ACRES WITH 1/1 cottage, fenced, built in 2008, north of Pensacola, Florida, 5220 Highway 164, \$95,000. **850-619-6915**. (u)

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MOUNTAINS OF NC Located near Chimney Rock Cabin on 2+ acres with loft, stone flp, large deck, pict windows, mtn views. Only \$154,900 Call **828-286-1666** (x)

ROOMMATES

WESLEY CHAPEL ROOM FOR RENT! \$500+deposit, SR54 near Curlew Rd. Call Angelo, 9-5. **(813)505-4841**

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11,612 Reasons

32% of our readers are planning home improvement projects, including remodeling and additions.* That's 11,612 local homes becoming more beautiful this year! And 11,612 reasons to advertise your service!

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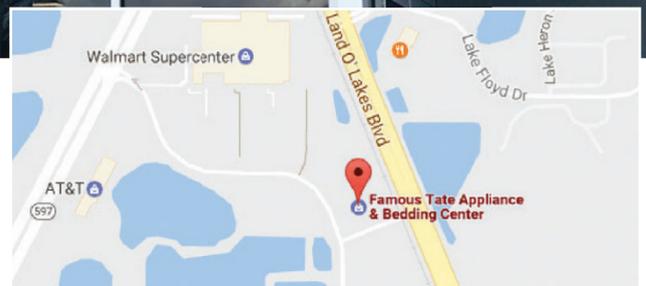
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Your local, independent appliance & mattress dealer since 1954 is proud to celebrate the *Grand Opening* of our beautiful new Lutz showroom!

JUNE 22ND - JULY 4TH



21385 Walmart Way, Lutz, FL 33548
(813) 995-6600
1/2 mile South of SR 54 on US41



Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of our 11th showroom with incredible low prices and special **BONUS offers on the most popular major appliance and mattress brands.** While our people make the difference, you'll love our beautiful kitchen & laundry displays as well as a huge selection of mattresses and the most power foundation options you'll see under one roof! As a member of Brandsource, a national buying group...we are big enough to serve you, but small enough to know you!

Register to win great prizes like:

- Tempur-Pedic Mattress Set
- Yeti Cooler
- Premium Stainless Steel Cookware Set
- Hotel Get-A-Ways
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Grand Opening

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THEN STOP IN TO SEE OUR AMAZING SHOWROOM!