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Eagle Scout project honors veterans

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

When Michael Valenti was looking for his Eagle Scout project, he didn't have to look very far.

He belongs to Boy Scout Troop 12, in Lutz, and it meets just a couple of blocks away from the Lutz Memorial Park.

The 16-year-old said he had noticed that the Lutz Memorial Park, at 98 First Ave.,

N.W., needed a bit of sprucing up, and he decided it would be a fitting Eagle Scout project.

So, he organized a team of helpers, secured donations and got busy.

The base for the flagpole was already there, but it wasn't in good shape, Valenti said.

"There was just grass all around here, so when the mowers would come, they would chip out the base," he explained. "Some of

the paint was peeling off."

The plaque wasn't in great shape, either. "We removed the sign, scraped all of the paint off. We repainted it, and we got these two new signs," Valenti said. The new plaques came from Crown Trophy in New Tampa.

Before the project began, crews from Hillsborough County's Parks, Recreation and

See SCOUT, page 11A



B.C. MANION

Pasco County Schools Superintendent Kurt Browning is excited about the opportunities that students will have at Bexley Elementary School, which is set to open in August

Collaboration is key at Bexley Elementary

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

When visitors step into the REC center at Bexley Elementary School, they won't be surrounded by game tables or basketball hoops.

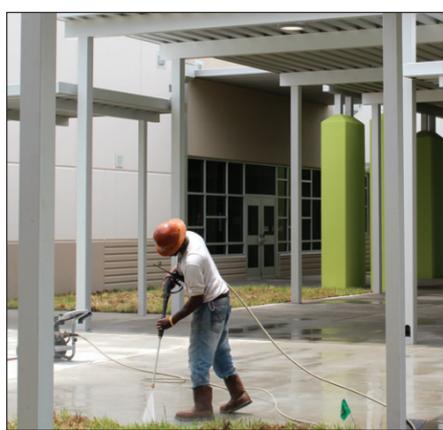
Instead, they'll be in the new elementary school's media center.

The REC center gets its name from

three words — Research, Enrich and Collaborate. Those words emphasize the kind of learning experience planned for children attending the school, which is set to open in August, at 4380 Ballantrae Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

Bexley Principal Vicki Wolin described the school's features and aspirations during the tour.

See BEXLEY, page 11A



A worker clears debris from the sidewalk of an interior courtyard at Bexley Elementary School.

Opening doors of hope for the homeless

By Kathy Steele
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The Pasco County Commission has approved funding to renovate a former Boys & Girls Club, and reopen the campus as a navigation center for the county's homeless population.

An administrative building and a teen center, at 8239 Youth Lane in Port Richey, will be refurbished with about \$600,000 in federal and state money.

The goal is to open the navigation center by mid-2018.

The center will serve as a "low-barrier" homeless shelter. Its larger purpose, however, is to find housing for homeless men and women, and deliver support services for job searches, job training, education and health care.

It will be the first time the county has opened a homeless shelter, and embarked on such a major initiative. The center is modeled after one in San Francisco.

"Navigation centers work," Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Moore said. "This is a community effort. This is a people's building. This is a citizen's building. I need everybody to come together. Let's pool resources together and get something done."

Moore is chairman of the Homeless Advisory Board.

Commissioners heard from about a dozen people during public comment. Speakers were passionate, with most of them supporting the navigation center.

Suzanne Chicon has volunteered for the annual count of homeless people in Pasco. Among the people she met was a man who lost a good-paying job for health reasons,



FILE

Pasco County will dedicate about \$600,000 in federal and state grants to rehabilitate the former campus of the Boys & Girls Club on Youth Lane in Port Richey. It will be the site for a navigation center to help homeless people restart their lives.

and a young woman who had aged out of the foster care program.

"Some of the things I witnessed horrified me," Chicon said. "We need the (navigation) center as a focused area to help these people."

But, the location of the center is raising alarm bells for some residents who live in the nearby subdivision of Crane's Roost.

Valerie Schaefer told commissioners she had spoken with all but a handful of residents in the 89-home neighborhood. Most are worried about increasing crime, solicitations and lower property values, she said.

"No one in the neighborhood is against the humanitarian (purpose) of the navigation center," Schaefer said. "But, they are concerned. They are very scared. They are very angry over this proposal... We have skin in the game. We live here."

Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey supports the navigation center but

said, "I need a report in a year or two on how it's going."

Only Pasco County Commissioner Jack Mariano voted against the navigation center. He supports the concept, but not the location.

"I just don't like the setup," he said.

Pasco has more than 3,000 homeless people based on an annual count. About 500 are considered chronically homeless. Many of the homeless individuals live in about 100 camps identified by the Pasco County Sheriff's Office countywide.

Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco supports the center.

"The sheriff's office cannot solve this problem," he said. "It's a health care issue, but unfortunately it falls on the shoulders of law enforcement. What the (homeless) coalition wants, we're going to go with. I think

See HOMELESS, page 11A

Commissioners dig community gardens

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Wanna-be community gardeners can start making plans to harvest their crops.

The Pasco County Commission approved an ordinance on June 20 to establish a definition for a community garden and to create a process for permit applications.

This is the county's first community gardening ordinance.

Pasco also is the first in the state to approve a countywide ordinance permitting community gardens.

Some cities, including New Port Richey, already have such ordinances.

"It's been a long road," said Matt Armstrong, the county's executive planner for long-range planning. "A lot of people worked on this. It's something we believe will strengthen the community."

Pasco established a Food Policy Advisory Council more than two years ago. It is just one of three such councils in the state.

Volunteer members look at a wide range

of issues regarding food access, nutrition and overall food policies that would benefit Pasco residents.

The community garden ordinance was the advisory council's first recommendation.

The ordinance follows public workshops and meetings to gather input in crafting the ordinance.

By definition, community gardens are gardens where crops and ornamental plants, including flowers, are grown and harvested. Daily vehicle trips to tend the gardens generally are more than 14 per day but less than 100, with limited use of heavy vehicles.

Permit applications will require information such as location, operating hours, parking availability and a designated garden manager.

The community garden ordinance doesn't apply to home gardens or "greenbelt" agricultural farms.

For more information, visit PascoCountyFL.net.



KEVIN WEISS

Jen Wead, a Zephyrhills-based caterer, exhibited the ease of preparing quick, super-food-based recipes from scratch. She used a compact culinary station to create a grilled tuna and bean salad, and strawberry-ricotta, whole-grain bruschetta.

Using food to fight aging effects

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

They learned about 'superfoods,' and then they cooked with them.

Humana Zephyrhills hosted a nutrition talk and cooking demonstration for seniors on June 12, focusing on foods that may help fight the effects of aging.

Impacts from aging can include vision and memory loss, decreased brain function, and other chronic health problems such as heart disease and high blood pressure.

During the interactive discussion, a roomful of guests studied the various health benefits of 10 types of superfoods, including, berries; cold-water, fatty fish; extra-virgin olive oil; dark, leafy greens; nuts and seeds; legumes; whole grains; sweet potatoes; plain yogurt; and, dark chocolate.

Superfoods, considered to be especially beneficial for health and well-being, are usually rich in antioxidants — chemicals believed to help protect the body from the damaging effects of free radicals.

Antioxidants are present in foods in the form of vitamins, minerals, flavonoids and polyphenols.

Rhea Paul, a Humana health educator, offered numerous tips on incorporating superfoods into daily diets, while highlighting the importance of doing so.

Though impossible to completely stop aging, Paul noted superfoods can "help slow down the disease process."

As a general rule, she said produce in "dark, deep, rich, vibrant colors" contains the most antioxidants.

Blueberries and strawberries, kale and broccoli, and sweet potatoes are some examples.

Spinach, turnips and mustard greens are others.

"You want a rainbow a day when you're eating your food," Paul said. "That's really, really important."

Paul explained fresh or frozen — opposed to canned or processed — fruits and veggies are the ideal option, to avoid added preservatives and other harmful substances.

"When you get your (fruits), don't get the sweetened kind. You don't want them to have the sugar added to it," Paul advised.

"You have to be very careful about reading labels."

From easy-to-make smoothies and salads, to topping off on cereals, Paul said, "the possibilities are endless" for incorporating fruits and veggies, daily.

Paul also went into detail about other superfoods, including plain, unsalted nuts (walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, pecans, pistachios) and legumes (beans, peas, lentils).

Each provide excellent sources of plant-based protein and fiber — which Paul noted is lacking in typical American diets.

They can seamlessly be supplemented to soups, salads, pastas and crockpot dishes.

They're economical, too.

"It's great if you're on a budget," Paul said, "because you can get a bag of dried beans,

and it could last."

Besides preventing age-related issues, the listed superfoods can help lower bad cholesterol levels and stabilize blood sugar levels, to maintain a healthy weight.

But, even with all the benefits, Paul warned foods should be eaten in moderation — especially high-caloric olive oil and dark chocolate, plus fish, whole grains and yogurt.

"You don't need a lot," she warned.

Paul suggests eating the smallest meal of the day in the evening, and drinking plenty of water to properly absorb vitamins and minerals.

She also recommends consulting a doctor regarding the right amount of certain nutrients, before making drastic dietary changes.

After the lecture, it was time to cook.

Chef Jen Wead, a Zephyrhills-based caterer, exhibited the ease of preparing quick, superfood-based recipes from scratch.

She used a compact culinary station — equipped with a George Foreman grill and toaster oven — to craft a grilled tuna and bean salad, and strawberry-ricotta, whole-grain bruschetta.

Both dishes were served in less than 45 minutes combined.

And, they were packed with nutrients.

Wead operates Catering by The Rose and teaches monthly healthy cooking classes for Humana community locations in Central Florida, including Kissimmee, Port Richey and Spring Hill.

She said cooking healthily can be done inexpensively, despite conventional belief.

Buying in bulk and purchasing seasonal produce helps keep costs down, she said.

The tuna steaks used in the salad recipe, for example, were purchased for less than \$2 each.

"It's not really accurate to say it's more expensive to eat healthy," she said. "If you do it correctly, it isn't."

Eating healthy can also be fun, by putting your own spin on recipes.

Wead, for instance, substituted brown sugar with honey and used skim milk ricotta cheese on the bruschetta.

She also substituted basil with mint.

"There are no rules," she stated. "Get crazy with it."

Wead, meanwhile, provided some tips on cooking for just one or two people.

She advises keeping it simple — using five ingredients or less per dish, and staying organized — keeping a list, and labeling freezer bags and Tupperware.

She also suggests following the FIFO (First In, First Out) principle. "Make things you don't mind having leftovers the next day," she said.

Those looking for healthy recipes, Wead recommends PickledPlum.com, Food.com and FoodNetwork.com.

Humana community locations are open to the public Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information on events, programs and activities at Humana's Zephyrhills location, visit Humana.com/ZephyrhillsCommunity.

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Summertime fun with campfire cooking

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



Those who grew up in the Girl Scouts, or Boy Scouts, have fond memories of cooking over an open fire. For those of who didn't have those experiences early on, it's not too late to join in the fun.

Don't be intimidated by your lack of expertise.

Here are some fundamentals to help you succeed with campfire cooking.

First, be sure to build the right fire in the right place in the right weather!

Plan your cookouts on non-windy days to avoid having sparks fly, which can easily spread and create a forest fire.

Remember: You don't want a fire that is too hot.

Preferably, build your fire in a fire pit, at least 10 feet away from any grass, tree roots or branches that can easily catch on fire.

To get your fire started, you can use dry pine needles, dry moss from trees, dryer lint or crumpled newspaper for kindling.

Place the kindling under a teepee of similarly sized dry, seasoned oak logs that will burn steadily and longer — allowing you to sing songs around the campfire after dinner. (It's best not to use green wood, because it creates smoke and doesn't burn well).

After you get your fire started, continue to add one or two logs at a time to keep the fire under control.

Once the logs burn down and the coals turn gray — with little or no flames — it is time to cook.

Before you get started, be sure that you have all the right items on hand: pots/pans, aluminum foil, long-handled utensils, heavy duty gloves and hot pads.

Skewers are easy for kabobs, hot dogs and marshmallows for S'mores!

A metal grill/grate works well for steak, hamburgers, chicken under a brick, etc., and

Simple Campfire "tin foil" dinner for one

- INGREDIENTS:**
- Protein (4 ounces to 5 ounces): beef/hamburger patty, venison, chicken breast or fish
 - Starchy vegetable, sliced (½ cup of one): potatoes, yams or turnips
 - Vegetables, sliced (½ cup total): celery, onion, mushrooms, carrots, green beans, squash, Brussel sprouts
 - Herbs and spices (to taste): salt, pepper, garlic, Italian seasoning, dill, dash of cayenne, etc.
 - Liquid (2 Tablespoons): olive/canola oil/butter, broth, lemon juice, beer/wine

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- In the center of two layers of heavy duty aluminum foil (18-inch square, shiny side up), layer the above ingredients in same order as listed.
 - Bring edges of foil together, fold down and roll over to form seal, then do same to each end to form a sealed packet.
 - Place in hot coals, let cook 30 minutes to 45 minutes, until done.

Makes 1 serving.
If doing more than one, just repeat assembly process and be sure to count the number of packets that go in so that you pull the same number out of the fire.



BETSY CRISP

These ingredients can create a delicious campfire meal.

Campfire Luau Chicken

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 2 chicken breasts, split in half
 - 2 Tablespoons dry onion soup mix
 - 1 can (16 ounces) crushed pineapple (do not drain)
 - 1 large green bell pepper, cut into strips
 - 2 cups carrots, sliced

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- In the center of two layers of heavy duty aluminum foil (18-inch square, shiny side up), place a split breast (four times = 4 servings/packets).
 - Place ¼ sliced vegetable on top of each piece of chicken.

- In a small bowl, mix soup mix and pineapple, divide by 4 and spoon on top of vegetables.
- Bring edges of foil together, fold down and roll over to form seal, then do same to each end to form sealed packet.
- Place on grill/hot coals (seam side up), let cook 45 minutes, until done.

Makes 4 servings.

For dessert: Campfire Brown Bears

- INGREDIENTS:**
- ½ cup sugar
 - 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
 - 4 Tablespoons butter/margarine, melted
 - 1 can (8 oz.) refrigerated biscuit/bread dough

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- Mix sugar and cinnamon together until well-blended.
 - Melt butter in a metal cup/small metal bowl.
 - Take the biscuits apart and roll each into a snake-like rope.
 - Wrap/coil each piece around a skewer.
 - Cook over a campfire until evenly browned.
 - Use a spoon to drizzle (or brush) melted butter over cooked dough and then sprinkle with the cinnamon sugar mixture.

Makes 8 servings.

those that swing in/out of the way and are adjustable for height are really nice.

Dutch ovens work really well for stews and chili, etc.

And, in Girl Scouts, we just wrapped many things in heavy-duty aluminum foil packets and placed along the coals, edge of the fire.

Here are some safety reminders:

- Always have a bucket of sand/water or hose on hand to help keep it under control or put it out completely, when you are finished. When you finish cooking and you put

out the fire, be sure there are no flames or hissing embers. Stir the ashes to be certain the fire is out.

- Always practice proper food safety: wash hands often; avoid cross-contamination between raw foods and cooked foods; use a meat thermometer; keep hot foods hot (140 degrees Fahrenheit or higher) and cold foods cold (40 degrees Fahrenheit or lower); and refrigerate leftovers promptly.
- Always watch kids and family pets around the campfire, to prevent an accident.

While it's important to take precautions, it's also good to remember that campfire cooking can be fun for people of all ages. Children can easily be involved with gathering sticks for kindling, wrapping food in aluminum foil, cooking under supervision and cleaning up.

With all of this in mind, here are a few recipes you may want to try.

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

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JAZZ MUSIC

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a senior social with Chuck "King Trump" Barnhill July 6 at 10 a.m. There will be coffee, cake, conversation and smooth jazz music. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

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.

CODING CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a Coding Club July 7 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., for ages 12 and older. The club will meet every Friday in July, and will focus on computer science and programming, how to code a website, and other topics such as JavaScript, Java and Swift. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

CREATE & CONSTRUCT

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer a Build a Better World program July 7 at 11 a.m., for grades one to five. Participants can create and build with Legos, Keva planks and Arckits. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

TEEN GAME NIGHT

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a teen game night July 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., for ages 12 to 18. Teens can play new video games and have free snacks. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

ETSY CRAFT PARTY

The Tampa Bay Etsy Crew will host its sixth annual Etsy Craft Party July 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at The Coliseum, 535 Fourth Ave., N., in Saint Petersburg. There will be free make-and-take projects, live skill demos, artists, handmade vendors, vintage sellers and a raffle to benefit the Heart Gallery. The first 100 people through the door will receive a swag bag. Admission is free.

GARDENING PROGRAMS

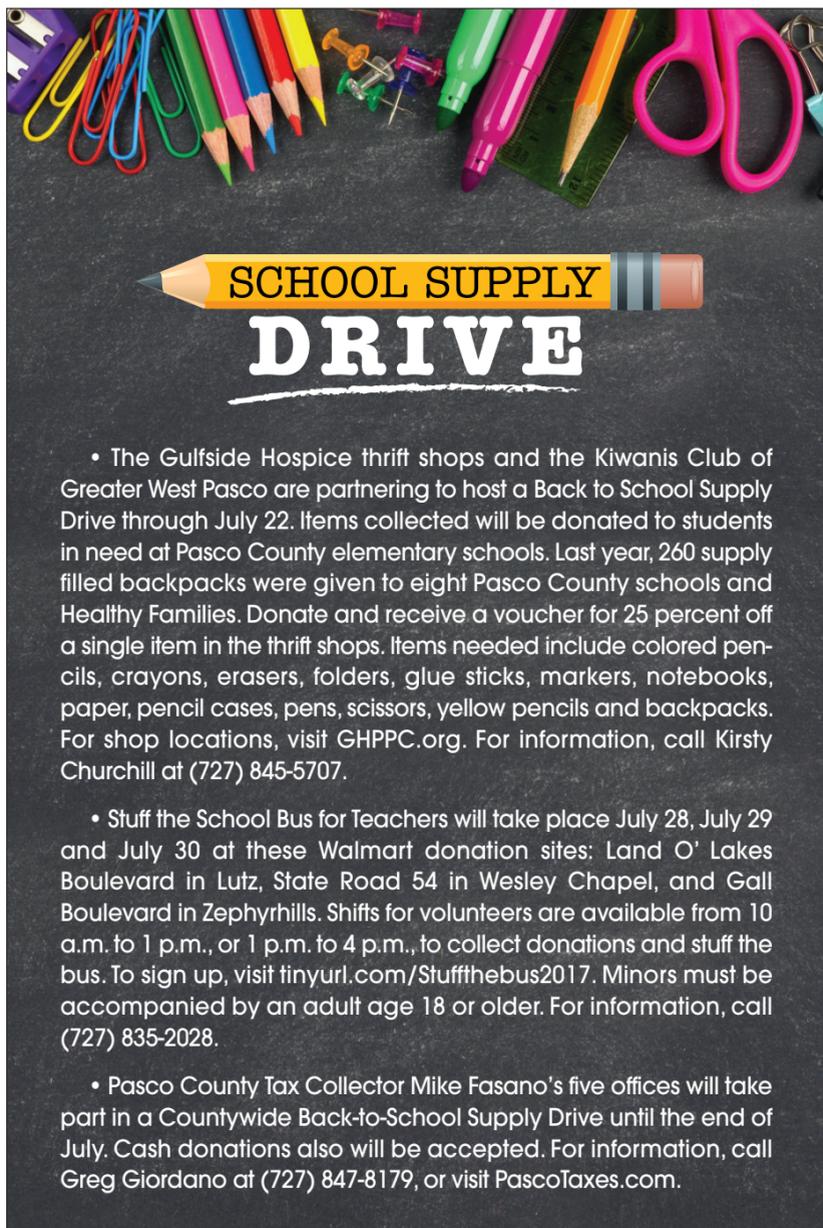
The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will offer two gardening programs July 8. There will be a Florida-friendly gardening program at 9 a.m., for guests to bring in plants and ask questions. There also will be a butterfly program at 10 a.m., for kids, to learn what butterflies like to eat, the colors and structures of the wings, and more. Kids can make their own butterfly that balances on the tip of their finger. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

BEXLEY MARKET

Bexley Market will be open July 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at 16950 Vibrant Way in Land O' Lakes. There will be organic produce, eco-friendly produce, local honey, homemade preserves, fresh flowers, hand crafts, live music and more. For information, call (813) 491-4866. For directions, visit BexleyFlorida.com.

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.



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

- The Gulfside Hospice thrift shops and the Kiwanis Club of Greater West Pasco are partnering to host a Back to School Supply Drive through July 22. Items collected will be donated to students in need at Pasco County elementary schools. Last year, 260 supply filled backpacks were given to eight Pasco County schools and Healthy Families. Donate and receive a voucher for 25 percent off a single item in the thrift shops. Items needed include colored pencils, crayons, erasers, folders, glue sticks, markers, notebooks, paper, pencil cases, pens, scissors, yellow pencils and backpacks. For shop locations, visit GHPPC.org. For information, call Kirsty Churchill at (727) 845-5707.
- Stuff the School Bus for Teachers will take place July 28, July 29 and July 30 at these Walmart donation sites: Land O' Lakes Boulevard in Lutz, State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel, and Gall Boulevard in Zephyrhills. Shifts for volunteers are available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., to collect donations and stuff the bus. To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/Stuffthebus2017. Minors must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older. For information, call (727) 835-2028.
- Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano's five offices will take part in a Countywide Back-to-School Supply Drive until the end of July. Cash donations also will be accepted. For information, call Greg Giordano at (727) 847-8179, or visit PascoTaxes.com.

THE STING MOVIE

Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., in downtown Tampa, will show "The Sting" as part of its Summer Classics Movie Series July 9 at 3 p.m. After the film, USF film professor Harriet Deer will lead a short discussion and an audience question-and-answer session. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$7 for theater members. For information, visit TampaTheatre.org.

LUTZ SENIOR CENTER

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

- July 10 at 11 a.m.: "Be Food Safe: Food Safety in the Kitchen and Beyond"
- July 11 at 12:30 p.m.: "Library Tour: Get to Know Your Library"
- July 12 at 1 p.m.: Free bingo

For information, call (813) 264-3803.

GRACE LUTHERAN DAY CAMP

Grace Lutheran Church, 3714 W. Linebaugh Ave., in Carrollwood, will host a day camp July 10 to July 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for students who have completed kindergarten through eighth grade. Counselors from Luther Springs Camp will be the leaders. The theme will be "The Water of Life," and there will be activities such as Bible stories, singing, crafts, games and more. Registration forms are available at GraceTampa.org. For information, call (813) 961-8747.

JOIN SIERRA CLUB

The Sierra Club is organizing to save the Serenova Tract of the Starkey Preserve, by preventing the Ridge Road extension, and will meet July 10 at 7 p.m., at the Energy and Marine Center, 9130 Old Post Road in New Port Richey. For more information, you can email Tim Martin at timothymartin@suncoastsierra.org.

FAMILY MUSIC

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, will host a family music program July 11 at 11 a.m., for ages up to 5 years old. Participants can learn to build a foundation of musical skills through instruments, song, dance, games and more. Space is limited to 25 children and their caregivers. Check-in is at the reference desk after 10 a.m. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

COMMUNITY COLORING

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will offer Community Coloring July 11 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., for grades four to seven. Participants can work together to color the same big piece of art. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

HENNA TATTOOS

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Teens Build a Better World program called "Handtastic Henna" July 11 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., for grades eight to 12. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

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 11, July 12 and July 13 are "The Croods" and "Home." Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Same-day ticketing only. Large groups, schools and camps are invited. For information, call (813) 948-5444.

KIDS ART CLASS

The Lutz Branch Library will offer a "Painting on Poster Board" step-by-step instructional art class July 11 at 2 p.m., for kindergarten through fifth grade, at the Lutz Community Center, 98 First Ave., N.W. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will meet July 11 at 7 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The guest speaker will be David Hall on the topic of "Forensic Botany: How Bad Guys Can Bark up the Wrong Tree." There will be light refreshments and a native plant drawing. For information, call Sandy Vanno at (727) 207-1853.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Photography Club will meet July 11 at 7 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. All levels of photographers can attend. The topics will be landscapes and family vacations. For information, email LOLPhotoClub2017@gmail.com.

MAGIC COURSE

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer a Summer Reading Club: Magic Course program July 12 at 3:30 p.m., for teens; and, July 13 at 3:30 p.m., for preteens. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

SEW A TOTE BAG

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host Sewing 101: Tote Bags on July 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for ages 9 to 15. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

WORLD ARCHITECTURE

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Build a Better World program on "Architecture Around the World" July 12 at 10 a.m., and July 15 at 2 p.m., for kindergarten through third grade. There will be crafts, games and stories. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

JEWISH CALENDAR CLASS

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host a Tree of Life Long Learning Class on the Jewish calendar July 12 at 7:30 p.m. Participants can learn about the holidays, little known facts about each date, and interesting and funny traditions. For information, call (813) 962-6338.

MEET POLICE OFFICERS

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host members of the Zephyrhills Police Department July 12 at 2 p.m., so guests can learn what the officers do to help build a better world. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

DRAMA CLASS

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, will offer a drama class July 12 at 2 p.m., for kindergarten through fifth grade. Participants can learn acting skills, build confidence, inspire creativity and improve public speaking. The class is limited to 20 children. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

BLACKOUT POETRY

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host "Blackout Poetry" July 13 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., for grades eight to 12. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

MONEY FOR TEENS

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will offer a presentation on money management and resume building for teens July 14 at 2 p.m., presented by Pasco County Cooperative Extension. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

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.

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Family seeks help for their 5-year-old son

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Priscilla Avila-Posey knew early on her son, Julian, was unique from others.

He looks like a typical 5-year-old, but suffers from many severe developmental and medical issues.

He has a rare micro-chromosome deletion that has been diagnosed as autism.

He is stuck mentally at the level of a toddler. He suffers from mixed expressive receptive language disorder, auditory processing disorder, sensory processing disorder and severe anxiety.

He cannot talk, potty train, dress himself or brush his teeth.

He cannot attend school, either.

For treatment, Julian sees multiple therapists — speech, occupational, physical and applied behavioral analysis — totaling about 46 hours each week.

But, that's not enough.

To develop the skills he needs for a normal life, additional therapy is needed at the family's Zephyrhills home, his mother said.

However, the family's insurance plan won't cover the therapeutic equipment that's needed.

Avila-Posey was forced to quit her part-time job in 2014 in order to care for Julian. Her husband, Mike, works full-time.

To help with the family's financial needs, Avila-Posey created a GoFundMe page in May.

She set a goal of \$3,000 to purchase eight items, ranging from a sensory pod to a therapeutic listening program.

She didn't expect any donations.

But, by June 30, more than \$1,300 had been raised.

Donations have poured in from friends, family members, and former teachers at Zephyrhills High School.

Even perfect strangers have pitched in. "It was very nice to see the reaction we got, and to see that people cared," Avila-Posey said. "It makes me happy, because I know somebody is taking time out of their day to think about him."

Already, the Posey family has used funds to purchase a Yogibo, for deep sensory input; a platform swing and stand, for sensory integration; and, a bubble column, used as a calming mechanism during therapy.

"We didn't want people to think that we're just asking for money," Avila-Posey said. "We're fine with donations, second-



KEVIN WEISS

Julian Posey is pictured with his father, Mike, and mother, Priscilla. The 5-year-old suffers from many severe developmental and medical issues, including a rare micro-chromosome deletion that has been diagnosed as autism.

hand — if anybody even wanted to have us purchase them at like a cheaper rate or reused, we're all for that."

Besides cognitive handicaps, Julian also has numerous health problems.

Perhaps the worst is erythromelalgia, a rare condition characterized by episodes of pain, redness and swelling in various parts of the body, particularly the hands and feet.

The episodes are usually triggered by increased body temperature, which may be caused by exercise or entering a warm room.

In the Florida heat, especially the summer, Julian can only be outside for a few minutes at a time before symptoms arise.

"He has to play somewhere where there's A/C, in order to be physically active," Avila-Posey explained.

Julian also suffers from asthma, acid reflux, chronic constipation, chronic sinusitis, allergies, an immune system deficiency and gait disturbance.

All told, Julian sees over eight specialists for his health issues, and has already under-

gone six surgeries.

He goes to doctor's appointments all over the place — from Zephyrhills to Odessa, to St. Petersburg and Orlando.

"If it's not one thing, it's literally the other," Avila-Posey said.

"It's been like nonstop. He almost doesn't catch a break."

Avila-Posey acknowledges there are "bad days," when her son screams and cries endlessly — with no solution to console him.

"It's so sad," she said, "because it almost makes you think you're not doing something right because you can't fix it."

Formerly a childcare day care professional, Avila-Posey had experience working with special needs adolescents.

That, she said, has made caring for her son "a lot less scary."

Still, it breaks her heart to see him struggle.

The hardest obstacle, she said, is Julian's limited understanding.

"Some days he doesn't know what you're saying to him," she said.

Forming a bond with Julian wasn't automatic from birth.

"I had to earn that," Avila-Posey explained. "It took years to form that bond, and it's super strong now."

"I feel like that makes it even more special, because I had to work for it. It wasn't unconditional. It is now, but I had to establish that."

For the most part, Julian is a happy, fun-loving boy.

It's evident when he visits entertainment centers like Chuck E. Cheese's, Bangin' Bungee Kidz Zone and 2Infinity Extreme Air Sports.

He also gets a kick out of movie monsters, dinosaurs, minions and superheroes, Avila-Posey said.

"He's got a cute little sense of humor," she said, joyfully. "He's got like 20 different laughs."

Meanwhile, her son's various obstacles create a whole new perspective on life.

"It almost humbles you a little bit," Avila-Posey said. "It makes you step back and take a check at your attitude, like, 'Really, what are you complaining about today? Is your day that hard?'"

In caring for Julian, Avila-Posey takes one day at a time, finding ways to make his life easier.

She also maintains her faith in him, regardless what others may say.

"Sometimes you're your only child's advocate and cheerleader," she said. "Always be their voice."

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Dana Spears is that leader at Cornerstone Pro-Air Conditioning, Plumbing & Electrical, one of Pasco's most successful family businesses.

Dana has led Cornerstone for over 11 years. Her determination and never-give-up attitude has resulted in the company growing from six to sixty employees, serving more than 40,000 customers since inception.

Dana attributes much of Cornerstone's success to being a woman-owned business.

"Women understand that nothing is more important than being customer centered. It's the little things that we do in the first 30 seconds that sets the tone for exceeding customer expectations," said Dana.

"When people call, they assume we have the technical expertise to solve their problem," she continues. "What they remember is how they felt when they first talked to our customer service rep, or first met our technician at their door. It's the kind, helpful voice, the clean uniform and shoe covers, the tech who focuses on them and not their phone, that sets us apart."

Every Cornerstone employee is trained to the company's high customer service standards.

"As a mom of five and wife, I know how it feels to allow someone into your home," Dana explains. "When we send a tech to a customer's home, I feel just like I am sending them to my own home. Over two-thirds of our calls come from the woman in the family, and as a woman, I fully understand her concerns and expectations when she allows someone into her home."

GENUINE EMPLOYEES

Outstanding customer service begins with hiring the right people who exemplify her company's values, Dana said.

"We hire people who are genuine, honest, trustworthy, clean-cut, and live their life with good ethics and morals," said Dana. "Most are local people who live in our service area, and are committed to their community."

Cornerstone was founded in 2006 as an air conditioning service company. In 2012, it expanded into plumbing services, and two years later added electrical services.



Dana Spears working with long-time service tech, Alvino.



The Cornerstone Family: Joshua Spears (son), Hannah Goldsborough (daughter), James Spears (husband), Dana Spears (owner), Justin Spears (son), Dolores Deckerd (Dana's mother), Taylor Goldsborough (daughter), Michael Morrow (future son-in-law), Morgan Goldsborough (daughter) and Ronnie Mullens (boyfriend-in-law).

"We expanded because our customers kept asking if we could provide other home improvement services," said Dana. "They trusted us and were comfortable having us in their homes, and we wanted to accommodate them."

Dana's husband, James, has a strong background in both air conditioning and plumbing, and has led the company's advancement in technical services.

"James is a problem solver with great technical knowledge and the ability to understand what's going on very quickly," said Dana. "Our company was able to expand successfully because of his technical expertise in so many areas."

All of Cornerstone's technicians are specialists that have specific training in their field. "This means our A/C guys are experts at air conditioning, and do not go out on plumbing and electrical calls," said Dana. "We have certified plumbers and electricians for those calls."

WARRANTY TEAM

Cornerstone warranties all of its work, and has a dedicated team of experienced technicians who follow up on any warranty problem. There is no charge for this service if it falls within the warranty coverage period, and techs keep coming back until the problem is 100 percent resolved.

Cornerstone also maintains a separate maintenance department for customers who want regular cleaning services and preventative checkups. These technicians focus on maintenance cleaning and checkups only, and do not promote additional services or products during their visits. They only make recommendations for items that might prevent future breakdowns.

Also working in the family business are Dana's mother, Dolores, daughters Morgan and Hannah, son Josh, soon to be son-in-law Michael, and boyfriend-in-law Ronnie. (Daughter Taylor works in banking.) Dana and her children are all graduates of Land O' Lakes High School. Her youngest son will be starting kindergarten this year.

"We are successful because we've built our business on reputation and trust," said Dana. "James and I are hands-on business owners, and always stand behind the work of our employees. Our motto is to go above and beyond customer expectations, and every one of our employees strive to make that happen every day."

Cornerstone phones are answered 24/7, and technicians and installers are available around the clock, including weekends and holidays. Call (813) 949-4445 anytime, day or night. For more information, visit their website at CornerstonePros.com.

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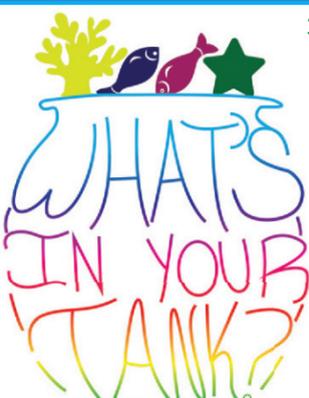
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Vietnam veteran receives overdue honor

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

One Vietnam veteran has finally received his long-deserved welcome.

The Wesley Chapel Noon Rotary Land O' Lakes Satellite Club recognized George Voorhes on June 23 as its first recipient of the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin.

Voorhes, 82, retired from the army in 1974, following 20 years of service.

He served in the Korean War and had three tours of duty in Vietnam, earning a Bronze Star.

A Missouri native, who now lives in Land O' Lakes, Voorhes joined the military when he was 17.

Eventually, he rose to the rank of Sergeant First Class E7.

Along the way, he worked as a banker, chef and nightclub manager.

During his last 10 years of service, he was a general's aide.

Despite the decades that have passed, details of war remain vivid in Voorhes' mind.

Most notably is the passing of his brother-in-law, who succumbed to Agent Orange.

"I miss him," Voorhes said, holding back tears.

"He was only a brother-in-law, but he was more like a brother to me," he said.

The first U.S. combat troops were sent to Vietnam in 1965.

More than 9 million Americans served during the Vietnam War, representing 10 percent of their generation.

They marked the oldest and best-educated force that America ever sent into harm's way.

The last remaining troops were withdrawn in 1973.

Though 97 percent would be honorably discharged, 58,307 service members died in the war, and more than 1,600 are still considered missing in action.

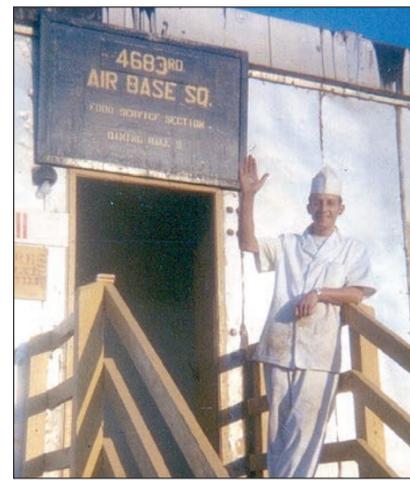
Upon their return to America, Vietnam troops often were greeted with silence — or worse — for having served in the controversial war.

Unlike soldiers returning from World War I and World War II, there were no ticker tape parades or triumphant marches for veterans



KEVIN WEISS

On June 23, the Wesley Chapel Noon Rotary Land O' Lakes Satellite Club presented George Voorhes as its first recipient of the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin. Voorhes, now 82, retired from the army in 1974, after 20 years of service.



COURTESY OF SANDY GRAVES

George Voorhes entered the service at 17 years old, and rose to the rank of Sergeant First Class E7.

returning from Vietnam.

Despite painful memories and personal losses, though, Voorhes remains proud of his service.

"It's an honor to serve my country," he said, "and I'd do it again, if I had to."

The Rotary Club's commemorative ceremony and breakfast was held at the Copperstone Executive Suites in Land O' Lakes.

Voorhes received the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin from Chief George McDonald, of the Pasco Sheriff's Office. McDonald is a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Colonel.

Throughout the hour-long event, Voorhes was lavished with applause, warm greetings and countless thank-you's from dozens of Rotarians and their guests.

Voorhes also received a dedication message and certificate from the staff of U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis.

The congressman, who represents Florida's 12th District and is vice chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, even had an American flag flown over the United States Capitol to honor Voorhes' service.

In a letter to Voorhes, Bilirakis wrote,

"There are no words that can adequately express the gratitude, admiration and respect that your military service during the Korean and Vietnam Wars has earned."

The congressman also noted that members of the Armed Forces "who served bravely" during the Vietnam War "were caught in the crossfire of public debate regarding our nation's involvement and did not receive the warm welcome that you all deserved."

The Vietnam War Commemoration is a government-led initiative, engaging 10,000 event partners, ranging from the Boy Scouts of America to the NFL.

In 2012, President Barack Obama signed a proclamation creating the Vietnam War Commemoration. Obama called on communities across the country to come together and hold events between then and Veteran's Day 2025 to recognize the 7 million living Vietnam veterans.

To date, the commemoration has reached more than 1.4 million Vietnam veterans and their family members.

Voorhes was chosen as the Rotary Club's first recipient after his wife of 57 years, Jean Voorhes, reached out to the service organization, inquiring about the program.

The satellite Rotary Club had just recent-

ly become an official commemoration partner, through the United States Department of Defense.

That application process took about a year, said Sandy Graves, a member of the satellite club who helped coordinate the ceremony for Voorhes.

"The club's worked very hard to become a commemorative partner with the government and do these ceremonies for Vietnam vets that kind of didn't get that when they came home," Graves said.

Moving forward, the Wesley Chapel Noon Rotary Land O' Lakes Satellite Club plans to organize two Vietnam Commemoration ceremonies each year.

Graves said the satellite club will likely host a dinner ceremony sometime this fall, to honor multiple Rotarians that served in Vietnam.

"It's a wonderful thing," Graves said of the Vietnam commemoration program. "My father served in the military, I have many friends that served in the military and every night I would just implore everyone to, when you do lay down to go to sleep, think about how come you're able to do that, and be very thankful for those that made (freedom) possible for us."

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FREE FITNESS CLASSES

Land O' Lakes Family Fitness, 7016 Land O' Lakes Blvd., will offer these free fitness classes: Zumba Gold on July 6 at 10:30 a.m.; Zumba on July 6 at 6:30 p.m.; Pound on July 7 at 9 a.m.; and, Belly Dancing on July 7 at 10 a.m.

For information, call (813) 388-2520.

FRIST HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Medical Center of Trinity has honored Lizette Otero, director of nursing for the Progressive Care Unit/Cardiovascular Care Unit, with the Frist Humanitarian Employee Award.

Otero has served at the hospital for more than a decade, and has been a member of the Women's Orthopedic Global Outreach for four years. Otero also uses her vacation time for medical trips.



Lizette Otero

The Frist award, created in 1971, honors outstanding individuals for humanitarian and volunteer service. The award is named for Dr. Thomas Frist Sr., founder of HCA and renowned humanitarian.

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.

JOINT REPLACEMENT LECTURE

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will present a free lecture on total joint replacement July 10 at 10 a.m., in the Nursing Administration classroom.

Participants can learn about total joint replacement, how to prepare for surgery and

become familiar with the recovery process.

Based on the requirements of an individual's physician and availability, pre-op testing could be done the same day.

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

HEALTH CARE FORMS

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a Premier Community Healthcare representative July 11 from noon to 2 p.m., to answer questions about health care forms.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

KNEE PAIN LECTURE

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, 2600 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., will offer a free lecture on "Walking Away from Knee Pain" July 11 at noon, in the fourth-floor classroom.

Dr. Stephen Raterman, orthopedic surgeon, will discuss prevention methods and treatment options.

For information and to register, visit FloridaHospital.com/Wesley-chapel.

GRIEVING WORKSHOP

Gulfside Hospice will offer a Creative Grieving workshop, for anyone coping with the loss of a loved one, July 14 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Gulfside Bereavement & Community Outreach Center, 6224 Lafayette St., in New Port Richey.

The workshop is aimed at teaching various ways to relax, reduce stress and process grief feelings. There will be music, coloring and meditation.

For information and to RSVP by July 11, call Kelly Cavagnetto at (813) 431-3348.

HORMONE BALANCE

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will offer a free lecture on "Balanced Hormones, Balanced Life" July 11 at 6 p.m., in the Health & Wellness Center classroom, second floor, 2700 Healing Way.

Participants can learn how to naturally balance hormones through diet, exercise and lifestyle changes.

For information and to register, visit FloridaHospital.com/Wesley-chapel.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

Oak Hill Hospital has appointed Cathy Edmisten as its new vice president of operations, replacing Alejandro Romero, who has transferred to the Medical Center of Trinity.

Edmisten has a background in emergency services, nursing operations, nursing administration and nursing finance.

She has lived in Spring Hill for 30 years and has had a wide range of health care management positions, including assistant chief nursing officer at Oak Hill Hospital; chief nursing officer/director of clinical services at University Community Health Long Term



Michelle Sparks



Gregory Kennedy

Excellence in Nursing awards

The Medical Center of Trinity has recognized two nurses who demonstrate excellence in professional mentoring and compassionate care.

Michelle Sparks, RN, received the Excellence in Nursing Professional Mentoring Award. Sparks has been employed at the hospital for four years, and has taken on the role of mentor and pre-

ceptor for 5 West Oncology.

Gregory Kennedy, RN, received the Excellence in Nursing Compassionate Care Award. Kennedy has been employed at the hospital for four years, and is the nursing manager for 2 West. His attention to detail, ability to empathize and genuine concern for those in his care are inherent to him.

Acute Care Hospital in Connerton; director of nursing support operations at University Community Hospital in Tampa; director of operations at Woodruff & Company in Brooksville; charge nurse at Oak Hill Hospital's emergency department; and, 2010-2011 Kiwanis Club of Nature Coast president.

LIFELINK BOARD APPOINTMENT

The LifeLink Legacy Fund, a nonprofit community service organization dedicated to the mission of the LifeLink Foundation, has announced Dr. Thomas C. Pearson as a new member to its Board of Directors.

Pearson, an Atlanta-based physician, is currently director of the Emory Transplant Center's Kidney Transplant Program. He also is a professor of surgery for Emory University and an affiliate scientist at the Yerkes Division of Pathobiology and Immunobiology, both in Atlanta.

Pearson steps into the board position previously held by Dr. John Whelchel, who served with the Fund for five years.

BATTLE OF THE BELTS AWARD

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point has awarded a \$500 prize to the students at Ridgewood High School for the "most improved safety belt use" while driving in the "Battle of the Belts."

The program, with partner Safe Kids of Pasco County, was initiated in an effort to change the statistics and increase seatbelt use.

There were several award categories such as highest seatbelt use, most improved seat-

belt use, best school campaign, best public service announcement, best poster and best essay.

NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay has been recognized as the 2017 Nonprofit of the Year in the crisis resources category, by the Tampa Bay Business Journal.

The Nonprofit of the Year awards recognize Tampa Bay nonprofit organizations in a number of categories, including arts, culture and humanities; crisis resources; education; and, environment and animals.

NAMI SUPPORT MEETINGS

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

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

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

The support meetings cover all brain disorders including, but not limited to, OCD, depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, multiple personalities and more.

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

Proudly Welcoming Jenny Buck, MD, FACOG



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

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

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

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Pasco's property tax rate is up for vote

By Kathy Steele
ksteel@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County commissioners are scheduled to set a preliminary property tax rate, known as a millage rate, at their July 11 meeting in Dade City.

The meeting starts at 10 a.m., at the Pasco County Historic Courthouse, at 37918 Meridian Ave.

The rate determines how much revenue the county can collect in property taxes for fiscal year 2018.

That information must be provided to the Pasco County Property Appraiser's Office in time to print and mail out annual TRIM (Truth-in-Millage) notices in August to property owners.

At a June 13 workshop, county commissioners looked at a proposed 2018 budget presented by Pasco County Administrator Dan Biles.

The approximately \$1.3 billion budget fell short of meeting commissioners' objectives.

They agreed to a list of new budget items, including restoration of library hours, upgrades at some parks, new ambulance purchases, and a third-year of promised salary increases to Pasco County deputies.

To cover expenses, commissioners chose to use about \$7.6 million in reserve funds while maintaining the current millage rate.

A mill equals \$1 in taxes per \$1,000 in taxable value.

For example, a property owner would pay \$100 in taxes based on a 1 mill rate and property with a \$100,000 taxable value. In



FILE
Teens and pre-teens search through Legos during a Lego Day at the Land O' Lakes Branch of the Pasco County Library System. Hours would be expanded at county libraries, under the Pasco County Commission's proposed budget.

calculating the taxable value, the county applies qualifying deductions and exemptions.

For the general fund, the millage rate currently is about \$7.60 per \$1,000 of property value. For the fire district, the rate is about \$1.80 per \$1,000.

Some property owners still could see small increases in their taxes based on a 2.1 percent increase in overall property values.

Two public hearings must be held before a final vote on the 2018 budget, and the millage rate, in September. The fiscal year begins on Oct. 1.

Once county commissioners give initial approval to the millage rate, it can't be increased prior to the final budget vote. Commissioners could, however, choose to decrease the rate.

Closer Look

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Scott Hatch understands how intimidating and confusing computers are for many people. And that's why he prides himself for being able to talk to customers about their computer problems and needs at a level that they understand.

"It's unfortunate that 90 percent of computer technicians have difficulty explaining a computer problem and solution in language that regular people understand," said Hatch. "Which means, after they leave, the customer often has no idea what was done, and then are very frustrated if the problem happens again."

This is never the situation with Hatch, who operates SB Hatch Computer Services in Wesley Chapel.

"My first goal is to always make someone feel comfortable with me," said Hatch. "Whether it's the CEO of a company, or an entry-level employee, I know how to communicate so they do not feel intimidated and are at ease asking me questions."

Hatch has been working on computers for over 30 years. In the 1970s, before there were even PCs, he immersed himself in computer technology. He even predicted back then that someday every home would have a computer.

Hatch joined the Army in 1982, working in field artillery, and was the only person in his barracks who had a computer. He began taking classes in programming, and when he was discharged from the Army seven years later, quickly found work in the data processing department of a New Hampshire hospital.

From there, Hatch was recruited by a Fortune 500 company and moved to Colorado, where he worked for 20 years until last August, when he moved to Wesley Chapel to set up his own business.

"I always wanted to be an entrepreneur, and my wife wanted to live in Florida,"

said Hatch. "We chose Wesley Chapel because of its booming economy, proliferation of home-based businesses and the many suburban neighborhoods with families needing help with technology," said Hatch.

Hatch identifies himself as a good listener, which is why 90 percent of his business comes from repeat customers.

"While competency is of course important, what my clients appreciate most is that I truly listen to their needs and then explain in language they understand, what needs to be done. Plus, I focus on solving the issues they called about, without trying to upsell other services," he said.

In addition to working with families, much of Hatch's work is with small businesses, in particular medical practices and legal offices. He offers the same technical services found in larger IT companies.

"The difference is that I touch every customer and personally advise them," said Hatch. "Plus, because I purposely keep my business small and overhead low, my rates are very affordable."

SB Hatch Computer Services charges a flat \$50 an hour. And, unlike many IT companies, there is no trip charge. When someone calls for service, an appointment is typically scheduled within a day or two.

Hatch is currently offering families and businesses a free Wi-Fi analysis and wireless speed check — a \$100 value.

Many people complain that their Wi-Fi coverage is inconsistent and spotty in different rooms. With businesses and families depending on cell phones and digital devices more and more, improving Wi-Fi reception makes a huge difference in productivity.

"Wi-Fi makes sense for consumers and businesses because they don't have to buy extra hardware. Set up properly, Wi-Fi can meet security requirements, including HIPAA regulations," said Hatch.

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AVIATION PROGRAMS OPEN HOUSE

Pasco-Hernando State College will host an Aviation Programs Open House July 27 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at its East Campus, 36727 Blanton Road in Dade City, in the Public Service Technology Building.

Pending approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, beginning fall 2017, PHSC's new aviation department will offer two programs: Aviation Administration Associate in Science and Professional Pilot Technology Associate I Science.

Future programs will include Aviation Maintenance Administration Associate in Science and Unmanned Vehicles Systems Operations Associate in Science.

To RSVP by July 20, visit PHSC.edu/aviation, or call Cathi Kelly at (352) 518-1255.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CELEBRATION

Fred K. Marchman Technical College, Chasco Elementary School, Calusa Elementary, Chasco Middle and Ridgewood High are hosting a Back-to-School Bash July 22 at Ridgewood High, 7650 Orchid Lake Road in New Port Richey.

There will be free student resources, including physicals, school supplies, clothing and haircuts.

There also will be activities, bounce houses and free breakfast.

For information, call Kara Merlin at (727) 774-3701.

BRIGHT SCHOOLS COMPETITION WINNERS

Sophia Nobles and Catherine Tomasello, along with their coach and teacher Michele Seidel, of Tampa Christian Community School in Lutz, have been named the first-place national winners in the second annual Bright Schools Competition. The team, ShiftCycle EyeWear, was one of 50 national finalists teams.

The competition, a collaboration between the National Sleep Foundation and the National Science Teachers Association, encourages students (grades six to eight) to explore the correlation between light and sleep, and how it influences student health and performance.

According to Bright School's website, ShiftCycle's winning project, "ShiftCycle EyeWear" identified a problem in their community and developed a prototype to help the estimated 15 million U.S. night-shift



COURTESY OF BARBIE MONTY

Exploring ways to stay healthy

Casio Jones, wellness director for Florida Hospital Zephyrhills CREATION Health and Wellness Center, visited the fifth-grade class of Barbie Monty at Carrollwood Day School. Jones shared his Green Body Pledge, which includes 10 key principles encouraging students to make healthy life choices.

workers stay alert while on the job and realign their circadian rhythm, so that they can get better sleep after work. ShiftCycle's eyewear offers green-blue light therapy and features electro-chromic polymer lenses that block blue light and bright light at the right times.

Students had to identify, investigate, and research the issue using scientific inquiry or engineering design concepts to develop a prototype, create an awareness campaign, or write a research proposal for the competition.

Projects were evaluated on the basis of several criteria, including scientific accuracy, innovativeness and potential impact.

Information about the competition and winners can be found at BrightSchoolsCompetition.org.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GETS TOP HONORS

Leadership Saint Leo, the university's program to develop and train leaders, was honored at the LEAD2017 forum hosted by HR.com in Nashville, Tennessee.

The forum brings together top thought leaders and the world's best leadership practices.

Saint Leo's program started in 2005 to expand leadership capacity, build culture and create a common leadership lexicon

across the university, including its education centers, online offices and University Campus.

HR.com recognized the Saint Leo program, selected from entrants, in these categories:

- First place Best Third Party Channel Partner/Customer Training Program
- Second place Best Use of Executive Coaching
- Fourth place Best Use of Team Building
- Fifth place Best Mentoring Program
- Sixth place Best Experienced/Senior Leaders Program

About 110 of the school's active leaders have graduated from the program.

PASCO EXAM SCORES CLIMB

Pasco County Schools saw the percentage of students overall who are considered proficient increase by 3 percentage points in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, moving up from 52 percent proficient to 55 percent proficient in ELA, third through 10th grade; and, from 54 percent proficient to 57 percent proficient in math, third through eighth grade.

Local area schools on the state's watch list and the grade levels showing improvement (10+ percentage points) included:

Cox Elementary School: fourth-grade ELA up from 31 percent to 48 percent; fourth-

grade math up from 36 percent to 66 percent; and fifth-grade math up from 29 percent to 41 percent.

Lacoochee Elementary: third-grade math from 26 percent to 63 percent; and fourth-grade math from 35 percent to 46 percent.

Pasco Elementary: third-grade ELA up from 26 percent to 39 percent; third-grade math from 25 percent to 49 percent; and fifth-grade math from 32 percent to 44 percent.

FLORIDA SCHOOL RANKS AMONG BEST

Schools.com's Best Schools for 2017 ranked 1,649 four-year colleges and universities in the United States. The top 10 were: Utah State University, Texas A&M-College Station, University of Utah, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Florida, North Carolina State University-Raleigh, Utah Valley University, University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus, University of Maryland-College Park, and Oklahoma State University-Main Campus.

The rankings involved a rigorous data-driven methodology evaluating the higher education options against 13 factors related to affordability, flexibility, and other quantitative factors.

For the analysis, full methodology and sources, visit tinyurl.com/y74ld68.

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BEXLEY, from page 1A

ing a recent tour of the campus for Pasco County School Board members, district leaders and other guests.

When the tour-takers finished that visit, most of them drove across county to visit Cypress Creek Middle High School to get a sneak preview of that campus led by Principal Carin Hetzler-Nettles.

Bexley — which will relieve overcrowding at Odessa and Oakstead elementary schools — is the largest elementary school that Pasco County Schools has ever built, said John Petrashek, director of construction services for the district.

Its design was a result of collaboration between architect Harvard Jolly, four elementary principals and David Scanga, assistant superintendent for elementary schools, Petrashek said.

That team told the district, “this is what we need to make this a very functioning, high-performing elementary school,” the construction services director said.

“We listened. We designed ... They didn’t get everything they wanted, but just about,” he said.

The resulting elementary school is rich “for teaching, learning and for achievement,” Petrashek said.

The district aims to be as frugal as possible when building new schools, but doesn’t cut corners when it comes to the quality of construction and design, Petrashek said.

“This building is built to last. You can pay for a building and good design now, or you can cheapen this design and pay forever out of operational costs for maintenance and repair,” he said. “This building has a 50-year life expectancy.”

Petrashek praised Newland Communities, the developer of the Bexley subdivision, for being “tremendous partners.”

Newland ensured that the site was large enough to meet the district’s needs and also made sure that needed infrastructure was available, Petrashek said.

Pasco County Schools Superintendent Kurt Browning is enthusiastic about the new school.

“We expect great things to come out of Bexley Elementary School,” Browning said. “It’s a beautiful place. It’s obviously very

functional, and it will lend itself to a great learning environment for kids.”

Wolin noted the emphasis was on collaboration, efficiency of space and flexibility.

“We wanted something that was timeless, so it would be efficient in the future,” she said.

For instance, there are stools that can break apart into smaller seats, and also be adjusted so that they rock.

“We want to offer our students seating areas that best meet their needs for learning, instead of: ‘Sit down and sit still,’” Wolin said.

The building also is designed with spaces that can shrink or expand, allowing grade-level teams to work together and enabling teachers to tailor instruction to meet the varying needs of students.

The technology also offers flexibility.

For instance, the same piece of equipment can be used to show a video or to be an interactive tool, depending on what a teacher needs for a particular lesson, Wolin said.

Even the school’s large front office is designed with families in mind, the principal said, noting it is more spacious than the typical front office at an elementary school. The idea is to give families more room as they wait to take care of school business.

At Cypress Creek Middle High School, at 8701 Old Pasco Road in Wesley Chapel, Hetzler-Nettles led the group around the campus, which initially will serve students in grades six through 11.

Much of the furniture and equipment has yet to be installed, but, like Bexley, the school will have different types of seating and spaces that can be reconfigured for different uses.

Stops on the tour included a science classroom, the school gymnasium, the cafeteria, the weight room, locker rooms, a band room, a conference room, various other classrooms and a look at the athletic fields.

For parents and students who want to see for themselves, Cypress Creek Middle High will be holding two events, designed for students in different age groups. For details, visit the school’s website at CCMHS.pasco.k12.fl.us.

Bexley is planning an open house, too. For more information about Bexley, visit BES.pasco.k12.fl.us.

HOMELESS, from page 1A

the coalition is heading in the right direction.”

Commissioners gave initial approval to the funding and the location for the center on June 20 in New Port Richey. A final vote on the project is scheduled for July 11 in Dade City.

The funds would be dispersed after Oct. 1. Commissioners will be asked in September to transfer the county property to the Homeless Coalition of Pasco, which will manage the navigation center.

The goal is to work with one camp at a time. Homeless individuals would live at the navigation center on average about 90 days, said Raine Johns, the coalition’s chief executive director.

They would be given “wrap-around” services, and personalized case management for about 12 months, through a coalition of partners, including United Way of Pasco and the Pasco County Housing Authority.

As many as 75 single adult men and women would be housed at the center. They would get help in finding jobs, job training, education and health care. Housing is a priority.

The county’s housing authority has pledged 75 housing vouchers to the program.

“There is such a big change in a person’s life when he does have a place to live,” Johns said.

Homeless people are living in cars and in the woods, she added. “You are creating a cycle of poverty because people don’t have a safe place to live.”



B.C. MANION

Michael Valenti joined scouting when he was in third grade. The 16-year-old recently earned his Eagle Scout for a project he spearheaded to spruce up Lutz Memorial Park.

SCOUT, from page 1A

Conservation Department removed some concrete.

Then, Valenti and his volunteers went to work.

“We laid the concrete, then we planted this large flower box around it,” he said.

The volunteers also built a flower box near the Lutz Memorial Park sign.

The teenager wanted plants that could tolerate the sun, the rain and the drought. In other words, he was looking for low-maintenance plants that could survive in sandy soil, he said.

Since he wasn’t sure what would be best, he turned to gardening experts for advice.

He settled on blue salvia, pink guara and firebush.

“Over the course of two weekends, we had more than 40 people,” he said, including several members of Troop 12 and friends from Freedom High School.

Several local businesses helped out, too.

“John’s Butcher Shop and Benedetto’s (Ristorante Italiano) provided the food,” he said. “People allowed us to use their facilities, like their water and their bathrooms,” he said.

“It would have been about \$2,000 with everything, including food and whatnot, but Lowe’s and Home Depot gave us significant discounts,” he said. Ace Hardware, in Lutz, helped, too.

Earning the Eagle Scout is gratifying, said Valenti, who lives in Lutz, and is the son of Ron and Rose Valenti.

“It’s kind of the pinnacle of your scouting career.”

“It’s taken years of hard work to get where I am,” said the teenager, who will be a junior at Freedom High School.

And, it’s an accomplishment with staying power, he noted. “Once you’re an Eagle, you’re an Eagle for life.”

Valenti was a third-grader when he joined scouts, and he hopes he will become a scout leader when he’s an adult.



COURTESY OF RON VALENTI

This plaque, dedicated to Ben Nevel, was showing some signs of wear. Michael Valenti installed new plaques to the refurbished base of the flagpole as seen below.



“It just ingrains very important values,” he said, and prepares youths to become good citizens.

Besides being an Eagle Scout, Valenti has earned 48 scouting badges and is a member of the Order of the Arrow, scouting’s national honor society.

While he does well in school and plans to attend a state college, he hasn’t pinned down which career path he’d like to pursue.

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Wiregrass Ranch football loses two playmakers

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

The 2017 football season is two months away, but one of Pasco County's top teams already has taken a hit.

In a week's span, two varsity standouts from Wiregrass Ranch High School — cornerback Shamaur McDowell and quarterback/safety Raymond Woodie III — have exited the rising program, which last season finished Class 7A, District 8 runner-up, making its first playoff appearance since 2010.

On June 16, Woodie III, a 6-foot-2, 185-pound junior, announced he was enrolling at Sheldon High School in Eugene, Oregon, a move that allows him to reconnect with his father, an assistant football coach at the University of Oregon.

"...I would like to thank everyone at Wiregrass for taking me in and giving me the opportunity to be successful on and off the football field," Woodie III said, in a statement. "I will forever be grateful to the coaches and players, and wish them nothing but the best this season. With that being said, my family and I have decided it is best for me to move out to Oregon with them and attend Sheldon High School."

Just four days later, McDowell, a 5-foot-11, 184-pound senior, announced his intention to transfer to IMG Academy, a boarding school and sport-training destination in Bradenton.

"My parents and I felt like it was the best decision," McDowell said, in a statement. "It will allow me to focus on being the best student-athlete I can be. It will also prepare me for the next stage in my life."

Both are widely regarded as elite prospects for their respective classes.

And, noteworthy losses for Wiregrass Ranch, which figures to be one of the better teams in Pasco in 2017.

Woodie III, who landed at Wiregrass Ranch after transferring from Carrollwood Day School in the offseason, is rated by 247Sports as a three-star prospect and the nation's eighth-best dual-threat quarterback for the 2019 class, and boasts scholarship offers from over 20 Division I football programs.

McDowell, a three-year varsity player for the Bulls and verbal commit to the University of Minnesota, is rated by 247Sports as a three-star prospect and ranked among the state's top 300 players for



Senior cornerback Shamaur McDowell has transferred to IMG Academy, a boarding school and sport-training destination in Bradenton.

the 2018 class; he also holds scholarship offers from nearly 20 Division I schools.

For McDowell, the transfer to IMG Academy offers an opportunity to further enhance his skills, and raise his national profile.

The academy, ranked as the top prep program in Florida, typically plays a national schedule.

This season, IMG Academy (11-0 in 2016) will play games in Arizona, California, Maryland, Washington D.C., Utah, Alabama and Virginia, facing some of the nation's other top prep football schools.

Throughout the school year, McDowell will receive training inside state-of-the-art facilities from a staff of full-time coaches, trainers and nutritionists.

He will also compete alongside other top talent — IMG's entire roster is actively recruited by FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision) schools.

Meanwhile, the Bulls remain stockpiled with impact players, even with the two departures.

It all starts with senior defensive back Jordan Miner.

The four-star prospect is ranked one of the state's top 50 players for the 2018 recruiting class, and claims nearly 30 Division I scholarship offers, including Penn State University, University of Maryland, University of North Carolina and University of Tennessee, among others.

Last season for the Bulls, the 6-foot-1, 177-pound Miner tallied 38 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss, three interceptions and 12 passes defensed.

He also racked up nearly 500 all-purpose



Junior quarterback/safety Raymond Woodie III has transferred to Sheldon High School in Eugene, Oregon, a move that allows him to reconnect with his father, an assistant football coach at the University of Oregon.

yards on offense, defense and special teams.

Besides Miner, the Bulls have numerous players with standing college scholarships ofers, including wide receiver/safety Daniel Biglow (Fort Lewis College), safety/running back Kwesi Littlejohn (Webber International University), tight end/defensive end Devaun Roberts (Warner University, Webber International) and wide receiver/slot back Adrian Thomas (Webber International).

The return of 1,000-yard rusher Da Da McGee and a potential breakout campaign from junior quarterback Grant Sessums should also help mask the exodus of Woodie III and McDowell.

Save for anymore unforeseen departures from the program, the Bulls look to build on last season's success, under third-year coach Mark Kantor.



WIREGRASS RANCH FOOTBALL

Wiregrass Ranch High 2017 football schedule

- Aug. 18 - at Clearwater Central Catholic
- Aug. 25 - Zephyrhills High School
- Sept. 1 - at Wesley Chapel High School
- Sept. 8 - Sunlake High School
- Sept. 15 - at Sickles High School
- Sept. 22 - Wharton High School
- Oct. 6 - at Gaither High School
- Oct. 13 - at Freedom High School
- Oct. 20 - Leto High School
- Oct. 27 - Plant High School
- Nov. 3 - at Auburndale High School

Kantor, who previously coached at Hudson High School, orchestrated an impressive turnaround from 2015 (2-8 record) to 2016 (7-3 record).

But, the upcoming season won't be easy.

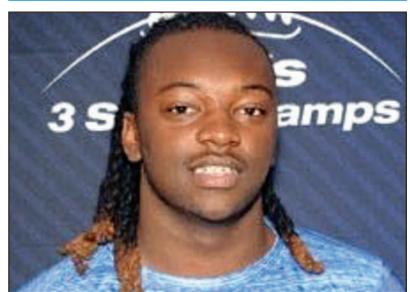
Besides facing tough district opponents like Plant, Gaither and Wharton high schools, the Bulls kick off the 2017 slate against nondistrict opponents Zephyrhills, Wesley Chapel and Sunlake high schools — which went a combined 22-7 last season.

The challenging schedule may come in handy near playoff time, however.

The Florida High School Athletic Association's new playoff system for football stresses strength of schedule, along with overall record. After the four district champs in Class 7A, Region 2, the other four playoff teams will be determined by a points-based system.

In preparation for the rigors of a demanding 2017 schedule, Kantor arranged a May 19 spring game against Tampa Catholic (33-27 loss) and Aug. 18 preseason classic against Clearwater Central Catholic (9-2 record in 2016).

—Stats were supplied by coaches on Maxpreps.com



COURTESY OF RIVALS.COM

Wharton High's Lavel Dumont has committed to the University of Toledo.

AREA SIGNINGS AND COMMITMENTS

Wharton High School offensive tackle Lavel Dumont verbally committed to the University of Toledo, a Division I school in Ohio. The 6-foot-5, 270-pound rising senior is a consensus three-star recruit and claims over a dozen scholarship offers, mostly from mid-major programs. According to 247Sports, Dumont is one of the nation's top 100 offensive tackle prospects for the 2018 football recruiting class.

Wesley Chapel High School utility/designated hitter Hunter Moye has signed to play baseball at Central Lakes College, a junior college in Brainerd, Minnesota. Moye was named to the SAC (Sunshine Athletic Conference) East All-County Second-Team in 2016.

Wiregrass Ranch High School third baseman Hunter Brown has committed to play baseball at Glenville State College, a Division II school in West Virginia. Brown posted a .232 batting average and .338 on-base percentage in 2017.

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 SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Saint Leo head women's golf coach Tommy Baker resigned from the university, to accept a coaching position at Colorado State University.

Saint Leo women's golf coach resigns; accepts position at Colorado State

Saint Leo University's head women's golf coach Tommy Baker has resigned from his role at the university to accept an assistant coaching position at Colorado State University, a Division I program in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Baker exits Saint Leo after four seasons, having turned the Lions into a top-10 program over the past two seasons.

"All of us at Saint Leo are grateful for Coach Baker's contributions to the growth of the women's golf program and to our overall women's athletics program," Saint Leo athletic director Francis X. Reidy said, in a release. "He has laid a great foundation for the future growth of Saint Leo women's golf, and we will now look for a

successor to build on Tommy's work over the last four years. Tommy has been a tremendous asset to our department, and I wish him all the best in his new role at Colorado State."

The Lions qualified for the NCAA South Super Regional in each of Baker's four seasons at the helm. His 2015-16 squad earned the program's first team qualifier into the national championship and finished in a tie fourth place, while Saint Leo produced individual qualifiers in 2014 and 2017.

Baker coached senior Marie Coors, Division II's top-ranked player throughout much of 2016-2017, to the individual title at the 2017 NCAA Division II Women's

Golf Championship in Findlay, Ohio - Saint Leo's first NCAA national championship, team or individual, in women's athletics.

Coors capped the season by earning 2017 Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) Division II Player of the Year honors, as well as being named the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Division II Academic All-America of the Year in the At-Large category, and the Division II Honda Athlete of the Year nominee in women's golf.

Coors was one of three WGCA All-Americans who was coached by Baker over his four seasons at Saint Leo, two of whom he recruited.

Also during Baker's time as head coach, the Lions' four-player team stroke average dropped from 309.59 in his first season down to 297.64 in 2016-17, and Saint Leo's 74.46 adjusted scoring average in 2016-17 was fourth lowest in all of Division II according to GolfStat.

"I have enjoyed my time at Saint Leo University and feel extremely grateful for the knowledge and friendships that I have gained over the past four years. I am forever grateful for the opportunity the university provided me," said Baker. "I want to personally thank Dr. Arthur Kirk and Dr. William Lennox (former and current Saint Leo presidents), Fran Reidy, and the Saint Leo community for allowing and trusting me to be an influential part of the daily lives of our student-athletes. I wish the university, the athletics department, and the Saint Leo women's golf program continued success."

Prior to Saint Leo, Baker served as the head golf coach at Coker College, in Hartsville, South Carolina, and assistant golf coach at University of North Carolina-Pembroke.



COURTESY OF TERENCE DOOHEN

District Champs!

The Land O' Lakes Little League All-Stars (10-11 year-olds) won the Florida District 25 championship on June 21 by defeating North Seminole 18 to 7. The all-star team begins sectional play on July 7 in Lakewood Ranch. Front row, left to right: Tony Padilla, Hunter Stahl, Isaac Doohen, Korbin Baskind and Zack Rock. Back row, left to right: Michael Souza, Diezel Brown, Chandler Norrie, Logan Koslin, Nick Cameron, Vinny VerPault, Jacob Flynn and Ovani Santiago. Coaches, from left: Bill Baskind, Tom Ketterer and Terence Doohen.

Explore your inner artist on Tuesday afternoons

By B.C. Manion

bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

If you enjoy the act of creation, the Art in the Afternoon program at Zephyrhills Public Library may help you fulfill that urge. The program welcomes art enthusiasts of all levels.

It's a great way for artists to share their knowledge and mingle with other creative spirits.

Budding artists can learn techniques from those with more experience.

Artists should bring their own supplies and join those who enjoy sharing their time and talents.

The group meets at the library, at 4347 Eighth St., on Tuesdays, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

This is just one of many programs offered at the library, said Peggy Panak, the library's acting director.

The events calendar shows a wide range of programs offered throughout the month, including help with career searches, gardening, crafts, cooking, good health and other topics.

The library's hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

To find out more about what this branch offers, go to PascoLibraries.org, and search the events calendar for the Zephyrhills branch.



FRED BELLET

Mindy Chandler, of Zephyrhills, works with fine-point ink and sketches flowers (seen at right) amidst the backdrop of paintings by Bill Bellgraph. Bellgraph's work is on display at the Zephyrhills Public Library, at 5347 Eighth St. Chandler and others took part in the Art in the Afternoon session, held each Tuesday afternoon at the library.



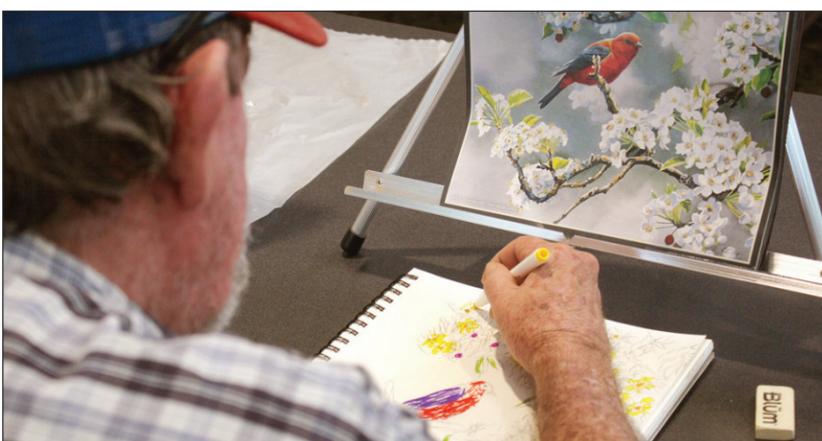
Jiafu Li, of Zephyrhills, works with calligraphy and uses soft but bold strokes, as she creates characters for her bamboo tree picture.



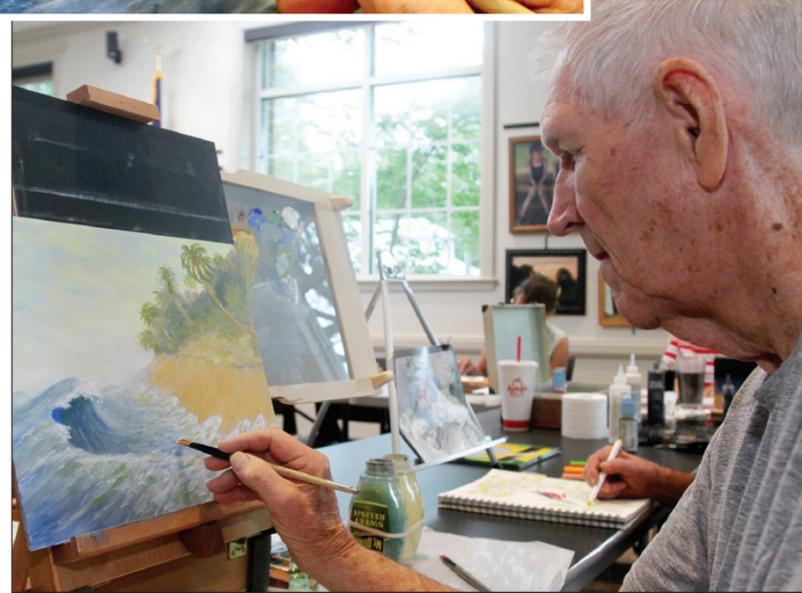
Charissa Carr, of Lakeland, works on a gallery glass project.



Artist Bill Bellgraph, of Zephyrhills, works on a seascape scene, using acrylic paint. He said he has spent quite a bit of time on the water and uses those memories in creating the paintings. His artworks are displayed prominently in the room in this month's exhibit.



Using washable markers as his means for drawing, David Milam, of Zephyrhills, tries his hand at copying calendar art.

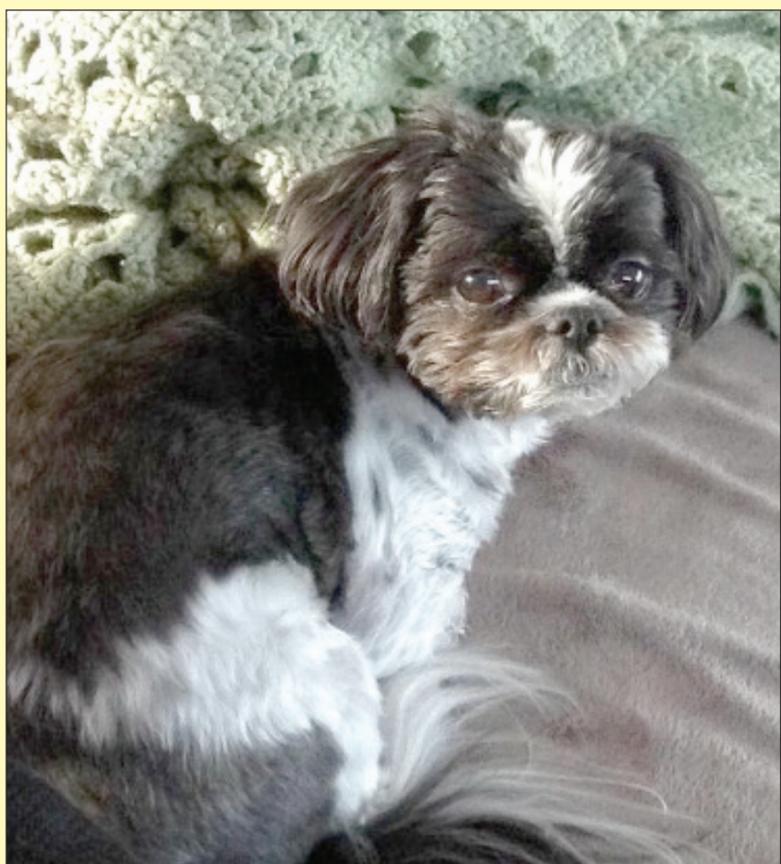


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Katie is set in her ways

Katie is a 13½-year-old Shih Tzu. She is a very loving pup and follows her owners throughout the house, as she doesn't want them to be alone. Katie only plays with her original 13-year-old toys - refusing to show interest in anything new. She likes to sit at the door to watch for daddy to come home at the end of the day. Katie's proud owners are John and Donna Elifson of Land O' Lakes.

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

Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



Cory loves to play ball

Cory is 1½ years old. He has some separation anxiety, and can be a little fearful and timid, but warms up to people pretty quickly. Once Cory becomes your friend, he has the sweetest, cutest personality. He seems to do well with other dogs and some cats, but a meet-and-greet with a family dog is recommended. Cory was adopted, but sadly was returned due to unforeseen circumstances (no fault of Cory's). Despite being on medication, Cory is deteriorating rapidly in the shelter environment. It is not fair for him to stay here. He needs a forever home with a family who can commit to him and won't give up on him, so that he can feel secure and confident. Cory is a great dog and would make a great family pet.

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

LOCAL WILDLIFE



On the move

A small herd of deer roam in the backyard of Kathy and Bernard Welton, who live in Twin Lakes in Land O' Lakes. The Weltons usually see the deer two to three times a week.

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PET PAWS

PET PEACE OF MIND PROGRAM

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

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

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.

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.

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[Facebook.com/GentleCare Pet Hospital](https://www.facebook.com/GentleCarePetHospital)

Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



Kitten season is in full force

Daily, the shelter is receiving litters of kittens without moms, mommas with their babies, and singles kittens that all need help. Kittens that are too young to be adopted would benefit the most from foster homes and socialization. Fostering can be a very rewarding experience, and the shelter will help educate members of the community on how to foster and care for these little ones. If you are interested in fostering or adopting, come visit Pasco County Animal Services.

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

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SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 3B

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to news@lakerlutznews.com

NEW RESTAURANT OPENS

TacoSon Mexican Grill is a family owned restaurant with a new location, at 30056 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel. Locations also are in the Temple Terrace neighborhood of Tampa, and St. Petersburg.

Family members are from Sonora, Mexico, which explains the name of TacoSon.

Operating hours in Wesley Chapel are from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Hours vary at other locations.

The menu includes tacos, ceviche, burritos, quesadillas and Sonora-style hot dogs with Mexican fries. Drinks include Mexican sodas and horchata, or "rice water." Desserts include flan and rice pudding.

For more information, please visit TacoSonMexicanGrill.com, or call (813) 528-8892.

OASIS CLIENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

April Beck is the new client services director at Oasis Pregnancy Care Centers, with two locations in Land O' Lakes and Wesley Chapel.

In Land O' Lakes, the office is at Copperstone Suites, at 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd.; and in Wesley Chapel, the office is at 5854 Argerian Drive.

Beck will be responsible for supervision and quality assurance of the pregnancy care ministry. She will implement and support programming for Oasis' clients, and oversee



April Beck

training for staff members and volunteers. She also will be community liaison for area agencies and providers in an effort to expand outreach to expectant families in Pasco County.

Beck previously worked more than eight years at Champions for Children Inc., as the lead child development specialist to the Baby Bungalow program. In this position, she oversaw more than 300 developmental playgroups annually, and served more than 1,000 families countywide.

Beck has more than 20 years of experience in her field. She also has been a volunteer at pregnancy centers in two other states.

Beck has a degree in Christian counseling and numerous certifications, including ones from American Association of Christian Counselors and Happiest Baby on the Block.

She is a peer-nominated Touchpoints trainer, and gives training and reflective practice guidance to family service providers in the Tampa Bay area.

For more information, please visit OasisPregnancyCenter.org.

FRANKY D'S OPENS IN LUTZ

Franky D's Family Restaurant is a new, 175-seat restaurant/bar at 18450 U.S. 41 in Lutz.

The menu includes soups and salads, sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs, steak and prime rib. A full bar with craft beers, wines, cocktails and specialty drinks also is available.

The restaurant is in the storefront formerly occupied by Elsa's Mexican Restaurant, in a shopping plaza behind McDonald's restaurant.

Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday; 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday.

For information, call (813) 591-6139, or visit Toasttab.com/franky-d-s-lutz.

THRIFT STORE OPENING

The Community Thrift Store has opened at 35229 State Road 54, west of Zephyrhills and next to Sergio's.

Operating hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,



COURTESY OF HINES

The Santa Maria-K Craftsman bungalow is one of 12 home designs that ICI Homes will offer at the master-planned community of Asturia in Odessa.

NEW BUILDER AT ASTURIA

ICI Homes is the newest home builder to begin building houses at Asturia, the master-planned community, off State Road 54, in Odessa.

ICI Homes will offer 12 design plans ranging from 1,700 square feet to 3,300 square feet, with sales prices that start in the low \$300,000. The company joins David Weekley Homes and Ashton Woods Homes at Asturia.

Asturia is being developed by Hines, a privately owned global real estate investment, development and management firm. It will have a mix of retail, office, apartments and single-family homes.

ICI Homes is headquartered in Daytona Beach and is ranked in the nation's Top 100 Builders by Builder Magazine. The Northeast Florida Builders Association named ICI Homes the 2015 Builder of the Year.

Monday through Friday; and, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday.

The store will sell clean, recycled clothing for adults and children. Most clothing will be \$1, but boutique items will be slightly higher. Other items for sale include toys, books, CDs, DVDs, and household goods, such as towels, blankets and sheets.

Some furniture also will be available. Proceeds will benefit Christian ministries in Pasco County.

For information, call Rev. Jerry Jones at (217) 260-6337.

CRICKET WIRELESS RIBBON CUTTING

Cricket Wireless will have a ribbon cutting on July 12 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at 2436 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The wireless shop is in the Big Lots Plaza behind McDonald's restaurant.

For information, call the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce at (813) 909-2722, or email office@CentralPascoChamber.com.

More BUSINESS DIGEST, page 7B

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

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BUSINESS DIGEST

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HISPANIC LEADERS LUNCH

The Hispanic Business Leaders of the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will host a Hispanic Business Leaders Luncheon, open to all chamber members and guests, July 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd.

Guest speaker will be Carolina Howard of Innova4change. Her topic will be "The Missing Link: Frontline Managers Training."

The cost is \$20 for chamber members at the door, or \$15 if preregistered by July 13.

For non-members, the cost is \$20, and they can preregister or pay at the door.

For information, email Ignacio Ruiz at ignacio.v.ruiz@gmail.com.

MICROLOAN PROGRAM

The Pasco Economic Development Council can help small business owners through its SMARTstart Microloan Fund.

These loans are targeted at small business owners who may not qualify for traditional financing, but who have a sound plan to grow their business. Microloans can be used for working capital, inventory, supplies, furniture, fixtures, machinery and other equipment.

Funds can't be used to buy real estate or to refinance an existing debt.

The microloan fund seeks to increase job opportunities and build the economy. In particular, it can assist business owners who have difficulty accessing credit, such as women, minorities, veterans and disabled individuals.

For more information, call the Pasco EDC at (813) 926-0827, or you can visit SmartstartPasco.com.



COURTESY OF SUNRISE OF PASCO

Sunrise Volunteer of the Year

Kelly Sinn, CEO for Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center, and Roxanne Wright, store manager at Solutions Thrift Store, presented Richard Hamilton with the Sunrise Volunteer of the Year award to recognize his dedication and work over the past two years at the store. Mike Mashke, board treasurer, also was present to show his appreciation for Hamilton's hours of volunteer work.

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Friday, July 28



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