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**INSIDE, PAGE 1B**

## Cleanup to begin on massive sinkhole

By Kevin Weiss  
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Barring unforeseen developments, cleanup is expected to begin this week on the massive sinkhole that recently swallowed two homes in the Lake Padgett community of Land O' Lakes.

As of July 20, Pasco County was entering the final stages of securing bids from contractors for debris removal at the sinkhole site, which now measures 235 feet wide and approximately 50 feet deep — believed to be the largest in the county's history.

Before cleanup and repair work can begin, however, engineers must perform additional testing to ensure the ground around the sinkhole is stable enough for heavy equipment. One of the county's contracted engineers, Intertek-PSI, is currently using ground penetrating radar and core sampling to measure the structural integrity of Ocean Pines Drive and county easements leading up to the sinkhole.

Kevin Guthrie, Pasco County's assistant county administrator for public safety, said recovery work could take months, with

### Test your water

Due to the positive bacterial results, Pasco County announced it is waiving the fees for well water for testing more than 400 homes along Lake Padgett and Lake Saxon through July 28.

All residents living on the following streets qualify for free well water testing: Bronze Leaf Place, Canal Place, Clover Leaf Lane, Flat Rock Place, Grove Place, Heatherwood Lane, Lake Padgett Drive, Lake Saxon Drive, Ocean Pines Drive, Panther Way, Peninsular Drive, Pine Shadow Drive, Rain Forest Place, Snook Circle, Swans Landing Drive and Wilsky Road.

### Residents who would like their well water tested should do the following:

- Go to the Pasco County Environmental Laboratory located at 8864 Government Drive in New Port Richey and request a test kit for Total Coliform.
- Present proof of address and receive lab instructions to collect water.
- Take a sample of their tap water according to lab protocols, and bring the sample and associated paperwork back to the laboratory.
- Results will be available in two days.

costs ranging from \$750,000 to more than \$2 million.

"It's going to be a very slow and methodical process," Guthrie said.

The county already has spent about \$100,000 responding to the sinkhole, through contractual and departmental costs.

The county's goal is to have a debris removal company in place in case

homeowner's insurance companies don't accept responsibility to clean up the sinkhole.

The fastest, most economical cleanup tactic being considered is what's called a dragline — a cable-operated system that would extend out and collect debris from the surface of the sinkhole.

See SINKHOLE, page 15A



FRED BELLET

Eugene Vrooman, left, explains differences in the type of gauge size trains running on the tracks at the Lutz Branch Library.

## The Lutz Depot, by design

By B.C. Manion  
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Those wishing to escape the oppressive heat during the Fourth of July festivities in Lutz may have decided to check out a train show inside the Lutz Branch Library.

If I they did, they could have seen an exhibit presented by the Suncoast American Flyer Enthusiasts.

And, perhaps they would have had a chance to chat with Eugene Vrooman, one of the club's members.

See DEPOT, page 15A



B.C. MANION

Eugene Vrooman, a draftsman by trade, drew the drawings for this building, which was erected in 2000. He based the dimensions on a photo that was published in 'Citrus, Sawmills, Critters & Crackers,' by Elizabeth Riegler MacManus and Susan A. MacManus.

## Computer club navigates programming basics

By Kevin Weiss  
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Roshan Kumaraswamy started programming computers in middle school — now he's teaching the craft to others.

Last month, the 16-year-old Land O' Lakes High School senior created Coding Club, for tweens and teens aspiring to learn more about computer sciences.

The club began meeting on Fridays in July, at the Land O' Lakes Branch Library. It accommodates up to 10 people, who program on library-issued Dell laptops.

The club, which now has a wait list, doesn't require any prior programming experience.

"It's pretty much adapted to anybody," Kumaraswamy said. "I have a couple students that are pretty advanced, and then some that don't even know how to make a file."

During weekly, two-hour sessions, Kumaraswamy teaches the basics of website programming, from HTML (HyperText Markup Language) and CSS (Cascading Style

Sheets), to Swift — each of which serves various functions.

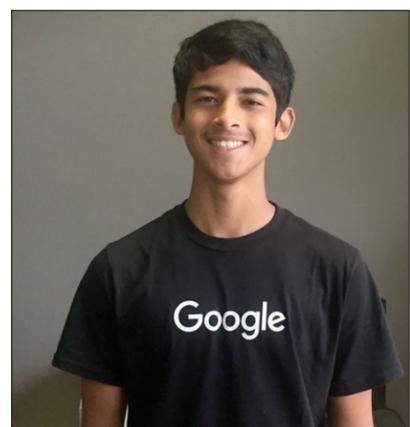
For instance, HTML is the very core structure of a website, while CSS is used to stylistically improve websites. Swift is a general-purpose programming language often used for Apple products.

Club members already have learned to build simple websites and develop two-dimensional arcade video games, like Pong — a popular table tennis sports game.

In subsequent classes, Kumaraswamy plans to introduce the Java programming language, and teach corresponding application concepts. Java serves multiple purposes, from programming Android apps and games, to performing complex mathematical operations.

"There's not really any limitation as to what you can do with coding," he said. "I think it's really cool that you can just take a lot of text words and create something with it, and sort of just experiment around."

Kumaraswamy began coding in the sev-



KEVIN WEISS

Roshan Kumaraswamy, a 16-year-old senior at Land O' Lakes High School, first learned computer programming in middle school. He recently created a computer programming club at the Land O' Lakes Branch Library, called Coding Club. It's designed for teens and tweens who are interested in learning more about computer sciences.

See COMPUTER, page 15A

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B.C. MANION

Dr. Marlene Hart hopes to help reduce the stigma attached to mental illness, with the goal of encouraging more people to seek the treatment they need.

## Stigma poses obstacle to mental health care

By B.C. Manion

bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

People who have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder have a 20 percent risk factor for suicide, Dr. Marlene Hart said, during a community seminar at Pasco-Hernando State College's Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch.

Despite that staggering risk, however, many people refuse to seek treatment for mental health problems.

That needs to change, Hart told the audience.

A shift in public perception about the problem could go a long way to help, she said.

"We have to fight stigma. It interferes with people getting treatment. It causes people not to come in," Hart said. "If there is one message that I hope people get — is that psychiatric disorders, including bipolar ... are medical problems.

"The brain is the most complicated organ in the body," Hart added. "Why would we think, for whatever reason, it doesn't have imbalances? It's not logical."

There are about 5.7 million adult Americans who have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, which is about 2.6 percent of the population, according to the National Institute on Mental Health.

Hart, who is medical director at North Tampa Behavioral Health, has worked with countless clients struggling to overcome the difficulties of managing bipolar disorder. She spent 18 years of her career in Dade City, working with patients who grew up and graduated from high school and college. She worked with them through deaths of close family members, through marriages and divorces.

She got into the field because she wanted to help. Initially, she trained to be a social worker, but later went back to get her medical degree. She has seen the challenges of mental illness up close because her sister was a schizophrenic.

When people are diagnosed with bipolar disorder, it is very common to find someone else in the same family who has been diagnosed with the condition, Hart said. "It is one of the genetically connected medical problems that we know of."

Bipolar disorder, also known as manic-depressive illness, is a brain disorder that causes unusual shifts in mood, energy, activity levels and the ability to carry out

day-to-day tasks, according to the National Institute for Mental Health.

There are four basic types of bipolar disorder; all of them involve clear changes in mood, energy and activity levels. These moods range from periods of extremely "up," elated and energized behavior (known as manic episodes) to very sad, "down" or hopeless periods (known as depressive episodes). Less severe manic periods are known as hypomanic episodes, the NIMH reports.

Hart said the condition can be difficult to diagnose, and often can go undetected for 10 to 20 years.

"How do bipolar patients come to health care? They may be depressed," Hart said.

"So, it looks like a major depression," she said.

They don't often come in when they're manic, because they're having a good time — unless it is causes them problems, Hart said.

When people come in to be treated for their mania, it's generally because they got themselves into trouble, she said.

"People get into a fight at Walmart because somebody didn't move fast enough, or didn't get out of their way," she said. Or, "people get into impulsive behaviors, like shoplifting. It's the thrill. The excitement.

"When it gets severe, people run naked in the parking lot," she added.

Or, they may go on lavish spending sprees or make foolish business decisions, she said.

Or, they become involved in sexual situations that are not the norm for them, which can lead to relationship problems.

"You can imagine if somebody is impulsively engaging in sexual behaviors they do not normally do, that this could cause a problem for their long-term relationship," Hart said. "We have people coming in all of the time that say, 'You know I got involved in this thing, I don't know why I did it.'"

Excessive drinking may be another sign.

"About 40 percent of the people are estimated, who have bipolar, use alcohol to try to get themselves to sleep or calm down."

She points to Robin Williams' portrayal of Mork, on the television show, "Mork & Mindy" as a classic example of manic behavior.

The movie, "Silver Linings Playbook" also offers valuable insights, Hart said.

"I thought it was a really excellent portrayal of bipolar disorder," she said.

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**David Moreno, M.D.**

## Conserving water, reducing storm water runoff

By Whitney C. Elmore



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By using rain barrels to capture runoff, you can provide a ready source of water to irrigate your landscape. Using rainwater for irrigation can lower your water costs and prevent rapid runoff — reducing the opportunity for fertilizer, debris, pet wastes and other contaminants to be carried into waterways.

When it rains, it pours. Or, so it seems in Florida. Central Florida landscapes can easily get 2 inches to 3 inches of rain in a typical afternoon rainstorm. And, all of this storm water washes over our roads, roofs, gutters, driveways, lawns and landscapes — carrying plant debris, pesticides, fertilizers and other contaminants into our waterways. Even oil from cars, trash and pest waste are picked up by storm water and deposited into a body of water. Our lawns and homes are connected, in one way or another, to some body of water. Some lawns are directly connected to waterways through runoff flowing into surface waters in retention ponds, lakes, streams, or even eventually reaching the Gulf of Mexico.

Other storm waters take a more indirect route through storm drains along our roadways, which eventually flow into the groundwater below.

Storm water runoff carries pollutants into our drinking water supply below ground in the aquifer.

Since our groundwater is very close to the surface in Florida, how we maintain our homes and landscapes has a direct impact on the quality of our drinking water and the irrigation used on crops.

It also affects the wildlife living in these waters.

And, with Florida's expanding population, our water pollution increases.

Decisions we make influence the health of our water, both in water bodies and below ground — subsequently affecting our health.

Nitrogen and phosphorous, which are found in fertilizers, contribute to water pollution by fueling the growth of algae.

Algae growth can deplete water of oxygen, leading to fish kills and "blooms" that can smother natural vegetation.

Invasive weeds can overtake "unhealthy" surface waters due to nutrient pollution, and some pesticides can potentially damage aquatic wildlife.

A healthy, maintained lawn and landscape, on the other hand, can filter storm water, reducing these contaminants.

Here are a few simple guidelines to help reduce storm water runoff and pollutants.

- **Direct downspouts from gutters**

into your lawn or landscape so that water can soak into the soil and not run across impervious spaces such as driveways and walkways. That will reduce the pollutants carried into water bodies. This also allows the lawn a chance to filter and absorb some contaminants coming from the roof and some of the landscape debris from the gutters. Dead leaves and twigs are full of nutrients that should be recycled in the landscape and not allowed into waterways as pollutants.

- **When possible, use gravel, mulch, and brick (anything permeable)** for walkways and patios. These materials allow rainwater to percolate into the ground, filtering contaminants and reducing runoff from your yard.

- **Use rain barrels (or cisterns)** to capture rainwater for use in the landscape. This is an excellent way to recycle water, reduce irrigation and lower your water bill. You can mosquito-proof rain barrels easily, hook up two or more to each other, even connect them to your irrigation system and pretty them up with paint or hide them with foliage. Rain barrels are an easy way to fill watering cans for hand watering, too.

- **Build rain gardens, planted with grasses and other plants tolerant of wet**

areas, to filter runoff. Rain gardens work best in areas where water tends to collect in the landscape or at the bottom of downspouts. They work great for diverting water from walkways or around houses and they can be basically any shape or size needed to handle the water. They even make nice focal points and attract wildlife.

- **Fertilize plants (including turf)** only when they are actively growing. Ensure fertilizer is only going on the intended plant material and not impervious spaces, such as driveways or roads, or into ponds, lakes or other water bodies. Use the guard on the fertilizer spreader.

- **Irrigate only when the plants need water;** use a rain shutoff device or soil moisture sensor so you're only irrigating when it's necessary. Ensure sprinklers are irrigating plants and not pavement.

- **Don't blow leaves or lawn clippings** into the roadways and storm drains. Plant debris is full of nutrients, which contributes to water pollution. Keep clippings on the lawn — they are full of nitrogen. Compost yard waste such as leaves and small branches.

- **Use pesticides responsibly** by only using pesticides when necessary, at the right time, and only based on the label's di-

rections. Identify the pest before using a pesticide, and start with the lowest toxicity pesticides first. In many cases, a pesticide is not necessary for control of certain pests, so call your local UF/IFAS Extension Office for advice.

- **Consider aerating your lawn** if compaction is a problem. When done properly, this helps the turf stay healthy, and relieves compaction making it easier for water to percolate down through the soil and not runoff across the surface.

- **Only allow water down** storm drains.

Each of us can save money and reduce storm water runoff by following some of these simple steps.

Rainwater falling today represents our past, our present and our future.

Help protect the environment and your personal health.

For more information about Florida-Friendly Landscaping, rain barrels, fertilization, pesticide use, etc., call the University of Florida/IFAS Pasco Extension Office at (352) 518-0156.

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

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# What's Happening

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

## LIONS CLUB BINGO

The Zephyrhills Lions Club, 5827 Dean Dairy Road, hosts bingo every Tuesday and Friday night. Doors open at 3 p.m., with the first bingo session at 6 p.m., and a second session at 8 p.m. The kitchen opens at 4 p.m., with daily specials (when available) for \$5. For information, call (813) 788-1441.

## CARROLLWOOD TOASTMASTERS

The Carrollwood Toastmasters will meet July 26 and Aug. 2 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood. For information, visit [Carrollwood.toastmastersclubs.org](http://Carrollwood.toastmastersclubs.org).

## YBOR CITY HISTORY

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will present "Cigar City: The Story of Ybor City & West Tampa" July 27 at 1 p.m. Topics will include how and why the cigar industry took root, grew and eventually declined, and what effects it had on modern Tampa. For information, call Jennifer Hodges at (813) 204-2612.

## WOMEN AND FAITH

Rev. Marla Stuart, founder of Eagles Rising Ministries of New Port Richey, will speak at The Family Life Center, Zephyrhills First Assembly, 36322 State Road 54. The program, "Joy Fellowship," is a Christ-centered gathering for women of all denominations, and will take place July 27 at 9:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served. Donations will be accepted. For information and to RSVP, call Linda Bartlett at (813) 312-8738.

## AARP CHAPTER MEETING

Land O' Lakes AARP Chapter 4764 will meet July 28 at 10:30 a.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The guest speakers will be from CARES: Jemith Rosa, CEO; George Popovich, CEO; and, Karen Alvarez. Also speaking will be Ken Mizerek, supervisor of crossing guards for the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, regarding employment for seniors. For information, email [pebross@verizon.net](mailto:pebross@verizon.net).

## SMART DRIVER CLASS

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host the AARP Smart Driver Class July 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a refresher course that could result in an insurance discount. The material fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

## THE WIZ PERFORMANCE

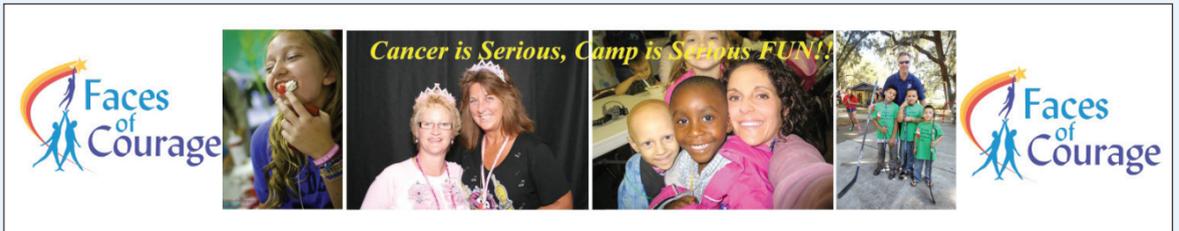
The New Tampa Players will present "The Wiz" July 28, July 29, Aug. 4 and Aug. 5 at 8 p.m., and July 29, July 30 and Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. A performance on Aug. 5 at 2 p.m., will be interpreted for the deaf. The show will be at University Area CDC, 14013 N. 22nd St., in Tampa. Tickets are \$25 or adults, \$20 for students/seniors, and \$20 for groups of 10 or more. For information, visit [NewTampaPlayers.org](http://NewTampaPlayers.org).

## EMOTIONAL FUN DAY

Cobb Grove 16 Theatres, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, will host an "Emotional Fun Day" July 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to celebrate the opening of "The Emoji Movie." There will be two workshops featuring Bigel Music and Zumba instructor Damaris. Guests can register to win a free guitar and other prizes, and 100 free school physical vouchers will be given out. For information, call Demene Benjamin at (813) 948-5444.

## NATIONAL DANCE DAY

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will host a National Dance Day Celebration July 29 at 1 p.m., for all ages. Participants can learn and



## A day of courage

Painting with a Twist, 1924 Oak Grove Blvd., in Lutz, will host "Canvases of Courage" Aug. 5 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., to benefit the nonprofit Faces of Courage, an organization that hosts camps year-round for those who have been impacted in some way by cancers and blood illnesses. Fifty percent of proceeds will go to Faces of Courage.

Participants will paint a butterfly. There also will be a 50/50 drawing, an auction (\$300 wine certificate and two escape room tickets) and raffles. The cost is \$45 per person, ages 7 and older.

Guests should arrive 30 minutes prior to class for snacks and mingling. The event is BYOB (bring your own beverage), but no hard liquor.

To RSVP, call (813) 591-2163. For information, email Tiffany Dodge at [tdfani1989@aol.com](mailto:tdfani1989@aol.com).

For information on Faces of Courage, visit [FacesOfCourage.org](http://FacesOfCourage.org).



## Donate supplies

Eckerd Kids is collecting back-to-school supplies to help foster children succeed in school. Items needed include pens, crayons, colored pencils, notebook paper, folders, composition notebooks, glue sticks and more. Drop-off locations include Eckerd Kids at 7916 Evolutions Way, Suite 102, in Trinity; and, 36749 State Road 52, Suite 201, in Dade City. For complete information, visit [Eckerd.org/Back2School](http://Eckerd.org/Back2School).

dance the official 2017 National Dance Day beginner's routine. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit [HCPLC.org](http://HCPLC.org).

## POETRY WORKSHOP

The New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd., will host a Poetry Building Workshop July 29 at 2 p.m., for adults. Local poet Sasenarine Persaud will discuss the basics of building a poem from the ground up. Refreshments will be provided. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit [HCPLC.org](http://HCPLC.org).

## POP CULTURE STORYTIME

Barnes & Noble in The Shops at Wiregrass, 28152 Paseo Drive, Suite 100, in Wesley Chapel, will host a "Get Pop-Cultured" storytime featuring "Good Morning, Superman," "Be a Star, Wonder Woman" and "Bedtime for Batman" July 29 at 11 a.m. Kids can come dressed as a favorite superhero, villain or character. Activities will follow storytime. For information, call (813) 907-7739.

## PUPPET SHOW

The Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre will present a Rumpelstiltskin Puppet Show July 29 at 2:30 p.m., for kindergarten through fifth grade, at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood. The classic fairy tale will be told with traditional wooden marionettes. After the show, kids can make a souvenir stick puppet to take home. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit [HCPLC.org](http://HCPLC.org).

## TROLLS MOVIE

The City of New Port Richey Parks and Recreation will present the movie "Trolls" July 29 at 8:30 p.m., at Sims Park, 6431 Bank St. Admission is free. Guests can bring chairs and blankets. Snacks may be available for sale from local nonprofit organizations.

## COIN & STAMP EXPO

The Pasco Coin Club Coin & Stamp Expo will be July 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the New Lakes Regency Park Civic Association, 8330 Civic Drive in Port Richey. Coins, currency, bullion and jewelry will be bought, sold and appraised. Participants can register to win a one-ounce Silver Eagle. Admission and parking are free. For information, call (727) 534-7597.

## HARRY POTTER PARTY

The New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd., will celebrate Harry Potter's birthday with crafts, games, trivia and movies July 31 at 6:30 p.m., for children age 8 and older. Participants can wear costumes. Refreshments will be provided. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit [HCPLC.org](http://HCPLC.org).

## ANIME AND ICE CREAM

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host "Anime and Ice Cream" Aug. 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., for ages 12 to 18. Participants can learn about the latest anime and Japanese culture, and make an ice cream sundae. 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 at 10 a.m., Aug. 1, Aug. 2 and Aug. 3. The movies will be "Minions" and "The Secret Life of Pets." Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Same-day ticketing only. Large groups, schools and camps are invited. For information, call (813) 948-5444.

## PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Photography Club will meet Aug. 1 at 7 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The topic will be "Fundamentals of Photography." For information, email [LOLPhotoClub2017@gmail.com](mailto:LOLPhotoClub2017@gmail.com).

## MAKE A TIME-OUT STOOL

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host part one of a woodworking class Aug. 1 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., for ages 16 and older. Participants can make an hourglass-shaped time-out stool, and should attend both sessions of the two-part class. A proper dress code, registration and signed liability waiver are required. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

## HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Zephyrhills Historical Association will meet Aug. 1 at 5:30 p.m., at the Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St. Refreshments and food will be provided. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

## PIZZA PARTY

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host an end-of-the-summer pizza party Aug. 1 at 2 p.m., for grades four to seven. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## SEED KEEPER PRESENTATION

Dell deChant, chair of the Religious Studies Department at USEF, will present "Seed: The Untold Story" Aug. 1 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the New Port Richey Library, 5939 Main St. The film follows seed keepers protecting a 12,000-year-old food legacy. There will be an answer-and-question session after the film. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. For information, call (727) 853-1279.

## DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Democratic Club will meet Aug. 2 at 6:30 p.m., at Beef O' Brady's, 21539 Village Lakes Shopping Center in Land O' Lakes. The topic of discussion will be plans to increase voter turnout and to positively impact upcoming elections. For information, email [loldemclub@gmail.com](mailto:loldemclub@gmail.com).

## BEGINNER'S CROCHET

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a crochet class for beginners Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for ages 9 and older. Participants can make a small item to take home. Completion of all forms and safety training are required. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

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## ICI Homes Joins Asturia's Builder Family

**I**CI Homes is the latest builder at the Asturia planned community in Odessa, joining David Weekley Homes and Ashton Woods.

Asturia is a signature mixed-use master-planned community located in the high-growth corridor on State Road 44 that is being developed by Hines, an international real estate firm. ICI Homes is an award-winning custom homebuilder that builds quality, energy-efficient homes with innovative design features, incorporating the best of the Florida lifestyle into each home.

"This is a great time for Asturia right now," said Lane Gardner, Hines managing director. "Home sales are very strong, and we are thrilled to be releasing a new phase of incredible lots to our builders. It's a perfect time to add another great builder to the lineup and provide even more home offerings for homebuyers at Asturia."

ICI Homes is offering 12 floor plans ranging from 1,700 square feet to 3,300 square feet built on 55-foot and 65-foot lots. All ICI homes offer a unique ability to customize floor plans, and include Florida-lifestyle features such as summer kitchen patios, open balconies and lots of windows. Homes and home-site packages start in the low \$300s, with distinctive Coastal, Craftsman and Florida Vernacular elevations.

"We are thrilled with the opportunity to build in Asturia," said Tom McCall, chief operating officer for ICI Homes. "We have an outstanding line up of award-winning plans, along with some brand-new designs that will be featured via cutting edge 3-D technology, giving potential buyers



the opportunity to "virtually" walk through a model without ever leaving the office."

ICI's model home at Asturia is its best-selling Serena plan, which is currently being built. It features a large, centrally located gathering room, and spacious gourmet kitchen and dining area. The owner's suite provides relaxation and serenity, with a master bath leading into a large, double entry walk-in closet. A guest bedroom is located just before you enter the main living area, and two other bedrooms share a bathroom away from the living areas, which gives children and guests separate spaces in the home.



The Serena is also being built as an inventory home, as is the Costa Mesa, a one-story, 2,500-square-foot home. This four-bedroom, three-bath home has an optional game room and fifth bedroom. The Costa Mesa's open floor plan brings together the gathering room, gourmet kitchen and dining room in one expansive space that shares plenty of natural sunlight.

A flex room, located at the front of the home, can be used as an office, study or den. Two bedrooms and a shared bath are located at the front of the home, and a guest bedroom is at the rear. The Owners Suite features a large walk-in closet, double vanities and a roomy walk-in shower.

Asturia offers residents a kid-friendly, family oriented lifestyle surrounded by miles of multi-use trails, speckled with dog parks and pocket parks. Kids especially love the Kompan Playground, and everyone enjoys the beautiful Amenities Center, with its expansive lawn areas, resort-style pool and state-of-the-art fitness center.

Asturia is located prominently on State Road 54, just west of the Suncoast Parkway. The Asturia master plan includes retail, office, multifamily and a variety of single-family residential offerings. More information can be obtained by visiting and registering at the community website, [AsturiaFlorida.com](http://AsturiaFlorida.com), or calling (813) 227-4148.

Headquartered in Daytona Beach, ICI Homes offers a wide variety of homes in prestigious communities throughout Florida. Best known for its first-class home designs, its unique ability to customize and superior energy-efficient standards and features, ICI Homes has been at the forefront of the home-building industry as a standard bearer of excellence for over 35 years. The company is consistently ranked in the nation's Top 100 Builders by Builder magazine and was named 2015 Builder of the Year by the Northeast Florida Builders Association.

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

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A **Hines** Community 

# Lakeshore Preserve in Lutz Now Offering Pre-Construction Sales

*Close to excellent schools and the Veterans Expressway*

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

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

Three beautifully decorated models designed with enhanced livability features will be opening late August or early September, when the community celebrates its grand opening. Quick move-in homes will also be available.

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

“We are excited to be holding our grand opening soon, and pleased that so many homebuyers have already purchased at Lakeshore Preserve and are taking advantage of our pre-construction sales.”

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

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



Driftwood townhome at Harmony at Lakewood Ranch.



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

Townhomes range in size from 1,667 to 2,608 square feet, and have

three bedrooms, 2.5 to 3.5 baths, and 1- to 2-car attached garages. Base prices will begin from the \$230s.

Some of the interior features that are included with every home are granite kitchen countertops, hardwood 42-inch upper cabinets, 9’4” ceilings on the first floor, and sod with lawn irrigation. In addition, a first-year builder warranty and 10-year transferrable structural

warranty are included.

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

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

Mattamy Homes is offering pre-construction sales by appointment only for Lakeshore Preserve. This is a great opportunity for interested homebuyers to take advantage of special pre-construction pricing and incentives.

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

To learn more about Mattamy Homes, visit [MattamyHomes.com/Tampa](http://MattamyHomes.com/Tampa), or call (813) 659-5854.

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## Durable Décor Adds Comfort and Style to Your Home

Interior upgrades can make a big impact to the style and comfort of your home. They should also last a long time — even for a busy household with lots of foot traffic.

Consider the following ideas.

### PAINT AND DECORATE

Sometimes going from drab to fab is as simple as a paint job. Even if you want to keep your white walls, a fresh coat will make a room feel brighter, cleaner and more inviting. For some pop, you may want to consider the addition of an accent wall or textured design.

Don't forget your prep work. Sanding and cleaning walls help ensure the paint applies nicely and looks great for a long time.

### REDO YOUR CARPETING

Soft carpeting provides luxury and comfort all at once. However, homeowners who have children or pets, or rooms that get a lot of foot traffic, may wonder if there is long-

term value in installing carpeting.

The answer is yes, because today there are carpet options that are durable, soft and easy to clean. Many manufacturers offer carpet with permanent built-in stain and soil protection, and some even offer pet protection and warranty.

### RE-UPHOLSTER FURNITURE

Add beauty to your living spaces with a furniture facelift. New upholstery can add luxury and style to items that look worn out, but are actually in great structural shape. Whether you are a DIY-er, or decide to have re-upholstery done professionally, opt for scratch-resistant, hair-repelling leathers and fabrics, especially if you have children and pets, or just prefer low-maintenance furniture.

Use these tips to give your home a touch of comfort and style with durable floor-to-ceiling updates.

*Courtesy StatePoint Media*

## Gator Cleaning named to 2016 'Companies to Watch'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For a free quote on a cleaning service, call (813) 929-1122, or go to [GatorCleaningSolutions.com](http://GatorCleaningSolutions.com).

Selected a 2016 "Florida Companies to Watch." One of just 50 companies statewide.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# This Month's Featured Realtor & House



Meet **Stephanie Meid**  
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Stephanie Meid grew up in a Land O' Lakes real estate family. Her parents opened their firm in 1981, and she grew up immersed in the family business. She obtained her real estate license in 1991, and has sold hundreds of homes in Pasco, Hillsborough and Hernando counties. Today, Stephanie, who still resides in Land O Lakes, is a leading real estate expert in this area. She is married and has three daughters. Put Stephanie's 25 years experience to work for you selling your home, and helping you find your next one.



## 22402 Panther Run Ct, Land O Lakes, FL 34639

Custom built 4 bedroom 2 bath home in Panther Run subdivision with 2,382 sq feet on just under 1/2ac (.48). This home is LOADED with upgrades including a spacious kitchen, huge Master bedroom and a large room that is currently being used as a gym. Property boasts beautiful brick pavers throughout the exterior of property. Detached 3 car garage plus drive thru covered parking. Electronic remote controlled gate to enter the property. Screened lanai and huge patio with splash pool. Fenced and cross fenced with additional carport in back for boat or RV storage. HOA fees only \$210 per year. **\$379,900**

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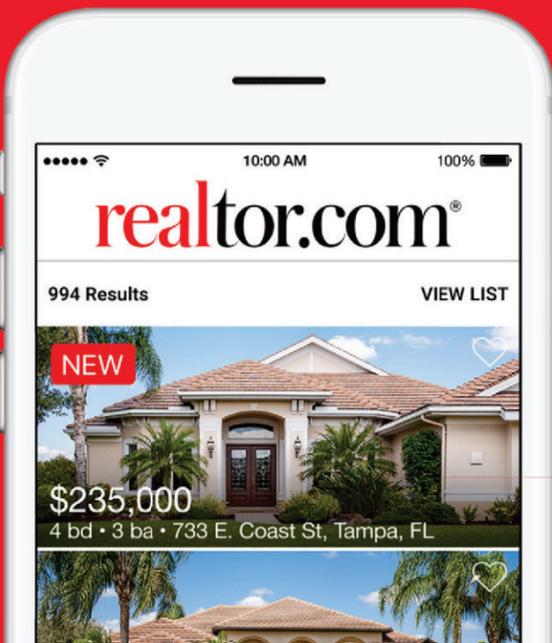
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# Hire a Contractor or DIY?



By Dan Stevenson  
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

**K**nowing when to get a licensed general contractor or licensed trade specialist involved in a project, or decide to go it alone, is a gray area for many homeowners.

On one end of the project scale, such as building your dream house, it's a no-brainer to hire a contractor. And, on the other end, such as adding closet shelving, the job is simple enough for an average do-it-yourselfer.

But, most projects aren't so black and white. Here are a few rules for deciding which is the best way to handle a job.

If your project takes more than a few days to complete, if multiple skillsets are needed, or if the job impacts the structural integrity of your home, it's likely time to call in a specialist or general contractor.

Believe it or not, compared to other parts of the country, Florida is quite diligent in qualifying its skilled tradespeople.

Trade licensing in Florida requires proven knowledge of a particular skillset, a history of working under a licensed individual, a clean background, financial stability and ongoing education to stay abreast of new techniques, materials and safety issues.

Remodeling a bathroom is a good example of a project that often falls in the middle of the general contractor to do-it-yourself scale.

If you're just looking to install a

new vanity, you can probably do the job yourself if you have basic carpentry skills to set the vanity correctly, and some simple plumbing knowledge to hook up connections.

But add in new floor tile, or replace the toilet or tub, and you've got a project that requires higher levels of expertise that may require a general contractor.

A general contractor knows reputable tradespeople who are properly skilled, licensed, insured and available. He knows how to orchestrate these trades into a practical timeline, gives you one point of contact and often provides an all-encompassing guarantee.

When your project is completed, your contractor makes sure everything is up to building code and that you are satisfied with the work.

Permits are another area where a homeowner often needs help. Many projects require county inspections for code compliance, and a general contractor and many licensed trade specialists will know when permits are needed.

Moving walls, exterior doors and windows, pools, screen rooms, roofing, fireplace installs, plumbing drains and new electrical work are all examples of structural integrity projects that usually require county permitting.

Projects that usually don't require county permits are adding gutters, repairing roof leaks, setting cabinets, tiling, fencing, stucco and stone-work, changing fixtures, small sheetrock repairs and painting.

Your home is one of the largest investments, and customization is part of the fun of ownership. Like a trusted family doctor and honest auto mechanic, having a good general contractor on your personal short list can be a valuable relationship for years to come.

Dan Stevenson is a licensed residential contractor and owner of Above & Beyond Homes LLC, and a home remodeling company in Wesley Chapel. He can be reached at (813) 563-6266 or emailed at [dan.aboveandbeyondhomes@gmail.com](mailto:dan.aboveandbeyondhomes@gmail.com).

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# Transform Your New House To Your Dream Home

**C**ongratulations! You've purchased a home!

Like many buyers today, you may have saved a million ideas on Pinterest, and you're finally ready to start making improvements to your new home. But, how do you prioritize to make the most of your money?

Consider these simple upgrades to transform your new house into your dream home.

## 1. UPDATE LIGHTING

**Cost:** \$10 (box of light bulbs) to \$300 (new light fixture)

**Benefits:** Brightens the room, enhances ambience, increases energy efficiency

Let there be light! There are several ways to make a room feel brighter. Start with something quick, like swapping out bulbs to brighter or more efficient choices. Other lighting upgrades may be as simple as new lampshades, or go big and replace outdated fixtures with new trendy designs.

## 2. A BETTER FAUCET

**Cost:** \$100 to \$500

**Benefits:** Boosts home appeal, improves kitchen functionality

One in five people say they want to update their kitchen, and something as simple as a new faucet can be impactful. Replacing a basic kitchen faucet with a one-handle pulldown gives a clean, modern look while adding functionality that makes cleanup a breeze. Many faucets are equipped with easy-to-manuever spray wands for faster clean up.

## 3. A KITCHEN BACKSPLASH

**Cost:** \$125 to \$250 (based on materials and if paying a pro)

**Benefits:** Creates a focal point, protects walls from cooking splatter, prevents water damage

If your new kitchen has the blahs, a fresh backsplash may be the solution. In addition to protective and easy-to-clean qualities, a backsplash provides many customization possibilities, from material and color, to cost. Options include glass mosaics, salvaged brick or even peel-and-stick tile for easy installation.

## 4. REPLACE SHOWERHEAD

**Cost:** \$50 to \$150

**Benefits:** Offers personalization, adds style, enhances daily routine

Replacing a showerhead is an easy way to get your feet wet - pun intended! Whether trying to save water with a low-flow fixture, or wanting to update to a new style, swapping showerheads can be done in minutes.

## 5. A COAT OF PAINT

**Cost:** \$25 TO \$60

**Benefits:** Provides an instant makeover

Whether your space is screaming for a makeover (mustard walls, anyone?), or you're itching to try new trends, a coat of paint makes a big impact. Try creating an accent wall with a pop of color or fun pattern. A small painting project is easy for even first time DIYers.

## 6. SHELVING

**Cost:** \$10 to \$45

**Benefits:** Maximizes space, re-vamps walls

One in three millennials lacks the confidence to hang a shelf, according to consumer research, but they shouldn't! With practice and the right tools, installing shelving is an inexpensive project to help better utilize space. Creative ways to add storage include installing floating shelves for books or adding floor-to-ceiling shelving in a closet.

## 7. ACCESSORIES

**Cost:** \$20 to \$40

**Benefits:** Creates a consistent look, easy to install

Create a cohesive look throughout your home with coordinating accessories. Choose hardware that matches the color and style of your existing fixtures, sink and flooring to achieve a sophisticated feel from top to bottom. Easy-to-install accessories, such as towel bars and rings, often come with a washable ink stamp to show exactly where to drill.

Don't be overwhelmed with improvements. By tackling one project at a time, it will leave you saying "there's no place like home."

*Courtesy StatePoint Media*



## “Junkin’ in July”

at The Blooming House

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July 29 & 30

The Blooming House is celebrating “Junkin’ In July” this weekend at its Land O’Lakes store at 5821 Ehren Cutoff, located just east of U.S. 41.

“If you love junk, please come have some fun with us. Check out our junk, eat our food and win our goodies,” said owner Laura Bloomer.

In addition to The Blooming House's antiques, primitives and “cool rusty stuff,” the event features 13 vendors, photo props with an old truck and many giveaways, including a beautiful wood and metal arch. On Saturday, the awesome Twilia Tamasy will perform karaoke from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, please call

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# Connerton - The Community of More...

**I**n the heart of Pasco County, the community of Connerton continues to grow as hundreds of new homes are built for people of all ages, fulfilling homeowners' dreams to live in a community that offers much more than just a place to live.

Connerton provides more for its residents than other planned communities because it has been designated a New Town — one of just three in the state. Florida's other New Towns are Celebration near Disney World and Seaside in the Florida panhandle.

Being a New Town means that Connerton's master plan includes creating opportunities for a diverse tax base and future job generation. This means Connerton truly offers residents more by creating jobs within its borders, offering residents a community where they can live, play and work!

## MORE NATURE AND TRAILS

With Connerton's appreciation of nature, green space and conservation areas, residents enjoy more than 10 miles of trails and oversized sidewalks to bike, walk, run or just enjoy a family stroll. A scenic two-mile trail winds its way through natural wilderness, lakes and wetlands, and includes elevated boardwalks for bird-watching and viewing other Florida wildlife.

Adjacent to Connerton is the Conner Preserve — almost 3,000 acres of wildlife habitat donated by Connerton and managed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Biking, camping, hiking, equestrian use and model airplane flying are some of the recreational activities found in the Preserve.

## MORE FAMILY FUN

A full-time activities director and support staff offer a complete spectrum of never-ending activities designed to please the little ones, teenagers and adults. These include yoga, Pilates, girls' night out, cigar night, drive-in movies, community yard sales, Winter Wonderland and much more. The multi-purpose room and outdoor pool areas are



available to rent for private parties to celebrate special occasions.

## MORE AMENITIES

Club Connerton serves as the social hub and sports recreation center for residents. The resort-style pool, with its unique giant water bucket, is the favorite of Connerton youngsters, who rush to get soaked by the falling water. The latest in exercise equipment is found at the Fit and Flourish room. Tennis, pickleball and basketball courts are part of the amenity complex, and residents are always welcome to join in pickup games.

## MORE QUALITY SCHOOLS

Connerton Elementary is conveniently located on-site and offers many school-based activities, including band and chorus, along with a Fall Festival, Science Fair, PTA special events and other programs. Residents can also register their children to attend close-by Sanders Memorial

Elementary, a STEAM magnet school specializing in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

Older students attend Pine View Middle School, which has the distinct honor of being Pasco County's first International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Candidate School. Land O' Lakes High School is the assigned high school and is located right down the road. It is an A-rated school and a designated International Baccalaureate World School, named "One of America's Best Public Schools" by US News. Other private, charter and parochial schools are also in the area.

## MORE PARKS

Who doesn't love a park? If you're looking for a place for a picnic or just a quiet place to read, visit one of the neighborhood parks - Connerton Cove, Garden Party Park, Magnolia Park or Storybrook Park, which is also home to the community dog park.

## MORE FOR ALL

There is always something happening at Connerton. On July 1, the community celebrated Independence Day with a huge bang. An estimated 8,000 people came to Connerton for its 4th annual Nation Celebration. Games, music, food and fireworks sponsored by Benedetto's Italiano Ristorante allowed thousands to celebrate our Independence in a wholesome, old-fashioned way.

It's easy to see why Connerton is "The Community of More..." If you're looking to move, a visit to Connerton is well worth your time. Five quality builders offer many floor plans and home sites.

Models are open 7 days a week at WestBay, M/I Homes, Lennar and Taylor Morrison. Connerton's newest builder, Inland Homes, is building a new model that will open this fall.

For additional information, call (813) 996-5800, or visit [Connerton.com](http://Connerton.com).

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# HEALTH & WELLNESS



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

### APPLY FOR BASIC EYE CARE

The Zephyrhills Lions Club, 5827 Dean Dairy Road, accepts applications from Pasco County residents for basic eye care through its Sight Program, on the first Thursday of every month between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

To qualify, visit the list of required documents at [e-clubhouse.org/sites/Zephyrhills](http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/Zephyrhills), or by calling the clubhouse at (813) 788-1441 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Those interested must have the required documentation when applying to be considered for approval.

### AL-ANON SUPPORT GROUP

The Al-Anon Family Groups are relatives and friends of alcoholics who share experiences, strength and hope in order to solve common problems.

There are local day and evening groups that meet weekly.

For meeting locations and times, and more information, visit the Pasco-Hernando-Citrus website at [nflldistrict5.com](http://nflldistrict5.com).

For information, call (352) 697-0497.

### MEDICARE 101

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a SHINE (Serving Insurance Needs of Elders) volunteer July 27 at 2 p.m., to meet with individuals and answer Medicare questions, complete forms and more.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

### OILS FOR HEALTH

There will be a free introductory Essential Oils class July 27 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City. Participants can learn how to use oils to support health and healthier living. There also will be a raffle gift and a free oil gift. For information, call Deanna Jacobs at (813) 479-7724.

### VIRTUAL DEMENTIA TOUR

The Alzheimer's Family Organization will host a Caregiver Day July 28 at Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness. There will be educational speakers and a virtual dementia tour, provided by Senior Helpers.

Workshop speakers will include Debbie Selsavage, AFO president, on how to communicate with individuals living with dementia; and, Kenneth and Vera Swade, on elder advocacy and guardianship.

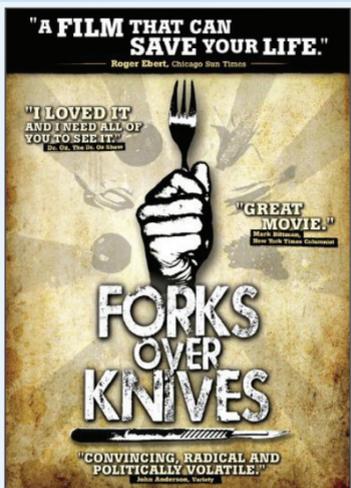
The workshops will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with lunch provided, at the Historic Schoolhouse, next to the hospital.

For a reservation, call (352) 616-0170.

### HEALTHY COOKING DEMO

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will present a Back-to-School Cooking Demo Aug. 1 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., presented by Executive Chef Jerry Dizalo, and Registered Dietitian Carlos Urriola.

Participants can learn how to make



### FORKS OVER KNIVES MOVIE

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., will present "Forks Over Knives" July 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The film examines the claim that most degenerative diseases can be controlled or even reversed by switching to a more natural, plant-based diet. A discussion will follow the film.

For a reservation, call (813) 779-6476.

healthy back-to-school lunches, and try samples.

Admission is free. For information and to register, visit [FloridaHospital.com/Wesley-chapel](http://FloridaHospital.com/Wesley-chapel).

### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host an Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group Aug. 2 at 11 a.m.

Topics will include the services and support available for patients with dementia.

For information, email Phyllis Bross at [pbross@verizon.net](mailto:pbross@verizon.net).

### SPANISH NAMI CLASS

NAMI Pasco (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will offer its Family-to-Family Education Program, in Spanish, starting Aug. 2 (for 12 weeks on a Wednesday) from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., at North Tampa Behavioral Health in Wesley Chapel.

The course is free for family, partners, friends and significant others of adults living with mental illness.

Topics include information on illnesses, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and other mental health conditions.

To register, contact Angela Mora at (813) 482-1452 or Natali Gamez at (352) 999-8303.

### SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

The Medical Center of Trinity volunteers will host a Fashion Show & Dinner Aug. 3 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., to benefit the Scholarship Fund for medical students, at Spartan Manor, 6121 Massachusetts Ave., New Port Richey.

The cost is \$30, which includes dinner (choice of three entrees) and the show. Dillard's Place will provide the fashions.

There also will be a gift basket silent auction and a "Share the Wealth" drawing.

For tickets and menu choices, call (727) 494-7400 or (727) 372-5092.

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## Hospital recognizes staff, volunteer

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point has honored Dr. Dominic Sorresso as Physician of the Year. Sorresso is a pulmonologist, board certified in critical care medicine, internal medicine, pulmonary disease, and sleep medicine. He was chosen for his dedication to providing high-quality, compassionate patient care.

The hospital also recognized Suzanne Sarabalis and Jessica Dent as Nurses of

the Year.

Sarabalis is a 30-year nursing veteran who serves on the Medical Oncology Unit, and Jessica Dent serves on the CS Unit.

The GME Resident of the Year award was given to Dr. Anna Marshall.

Employee of the Month went to registered nurse Aida Guardiani, a patient care navigator.

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## STUDENT BARBECUE

Wesley Chapel High School will host a cookout to celebrate the new school year, welcome back returning students, and introduce new students, July 31 at 11 a.m., at the school's event field, 30651 Wells Road in Wesley Chapel.

The Team Chapel Student Barbecue will give the students and staff a chance to interact and get acquainted, with games and food.

Participants will receive a free school T-shirt.

For information, call Dee Dee Johnson, principal, at (813) 794-8700.

## DISTINCTION AWARD

Rebecca D. Urbonas, a senior at Sunlake High School in Land O' Lakes, received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award from the AP College Board "for achieving an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and a score of 3 or higher on five or more exams."

As a sophomore, Urbonas took AP World History and received a score of 4.

This past year, as a junior, Urbonas took four AP courses (AP Statistics, AP Psychology, AP U.S. History and AP Biology) and received three 5 out of 5 and one 4 out of 5.

## SPRING DEAN'S LIST

These Odessa students were named to the spring semester Dean's List at their respective schools:

- Elisabeth Dichiaro, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia
- Elizabeth Gwilt, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York
- Ashley Kubel, Georgia Southern University

## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR SERVICE ACADEMIES

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) is accepting applications for nomination to the U.S. service academies.

Each year, Bilirakis has the opportunity to nominate high school students from Florida's 12th District to be accepted to the U.S. Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy or the Merchant Marine Academy.

The office will accept submissions through Sept. 29, and applicants will be interviewed starting in late October.

For information or to download an application, visit [Bilirakis.house.gov](http://Bilirakis.house.gov) and click on Services.

## FALL REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

Registration for three fall sessions at Pasco-Hernando State College is underway for new and returning students.

The fall course schedule is available online at [Info.PHSC.edu/course-schedule](http://Info.PHSC.edu/course-schedule). New students should contact PHSC for admissions information or apply online at [PHSC.edu/admissions](http://PHSC.edu/admissions).

Beginning fall 2017, students may not



COURTESY OF DUKE ENERGY

## Teacher attends STEM training

Jennifer Griffone, second from left, a STEM coach at Woodland Elementary School in Zephyrhills, attended STEM training at Keystone Science School in Colorado, through a Duke Energy Foundation grant. Duke Energy sponsored 14 Florida teachers to attend the education-focused training, along with 19 other teachers from across the country. Griffone participated in a water quality testing activity during Keystone's Key Issues Institute.

register for a course after the course's initial meeting. The last day to register for online classes is the Sunday before classes begin for each term.

The application fee for new students is \$25, and orientation and placement tests are free.

## MEAL APPLICATIONS OPEN

The Pasco County Schools free and reduced-price meal online application is now available for the 2017-2018 school year at [PascoSchoolMeals.com](http://PascoSchoolMeals.com).

Under the National School Lunch Act, families who are below the federal income eligibility guidelines may qualify for free or reduced-price meal benefits. A new application must be submitted at the start of each school year, and only one application can be completed per household.

Families that have received a letter indicating the student is directly certified, do not need to apply.

For information and questions, call Megan Sexton, Food and Nutrition Services finance specialist, at (813) 794-2480.

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*Alexander Pope*

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## SINKHOLE, from page 1A

Other possible options include using a float barge or large crane, with an excavator, to remove debris and decontaminate the sinkhole site.

"We're trying to look for the most cost-effective, but safe option, so that we don't put other homes in danger," Guthrie said. "If we can employ a tactic that does not cause harm to the (sinkhole) banks, that's the big deal right now."

"There's a possibility using that dragline may actually destabilize those banks and cause further damage," he said.

The assistant county administrator estimates filling the entire sinkhole would require approximately 135,000 cubic yards of dirt, though plans that far ahead are not yet in place.

The sinkhole originally opened on July 14 at 21825 Ocean Pines Drive, where it engulfed two homes and a boat.

Despite extensive property damage, no injuries have been reported.

The sinkhole is currently labeled "dormant," but activity has been documented.

On July 19, the sinkhole's perimeter widened by approximately 10 feet, after sand erosion just below the ground surface dried and collapsed into the hole.

The movement along the bank resulted in a hot tub and slab of concrete falling into the hole, along with about 10 feet of dirt and grass.

As a precaution, two homeowners along Canal Street were advised to gather their belongings for possible evacuation in the future.

Guthrie has reassured the activity is not an indication of the sinkhole becoming deeper.

"The sinkhole is not growing," he said, assuredly.

## Help still available

Help remains available for sinkhole victims. Those needing help should reach out to the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army of Pasco County, Pasco County Human Services or United Way of Pasco County.

In resolving the erosion issue, Guthrie said the edges of the sinkhole must be reshaped with dirt, from a 90-degree angle to a 45-degree slope.

"There is no support for that sand. As the water table goes down, that sand has nothing to hold it in place. So, that sand is falling out which then causes the grass and top soil to collapse," Guthrie explained.

Once engineers deem the area safe, the county will bring in dump truck loads of dirt to shore up the banks of the sinkhole, before the large-scale cleanup process begins.

"We're trying to determine if there are any sinkholes or any other activity under the ground before we bring the dump trucks in. Once we have figured that out, then we will start bringing that dirt in," Guthrie said.

Elsewhere, water tests of the sinkhole turned up negative for E. Coli, officials said last week.

Further testing did come up positive for total coliform bacteria, in some of the water surrounding the sinkhole, officials said.

Greg Crumpton, a county health official, said it's likely the result of older, dirty wells, some of which are upwards of 10 years to 20 years old in the Lake Padgett and Lake Saxon communities.

He said a confirmatory test and resample is underway.

If those tests come back positive, nearby homeowners are advised to use bottled or boiled water until the wells are disinfected.

## COMPUTER, from page 1A

enth grade.

Self-taught, he learned through trial-and-error, watching YouTube videos and other online tutorials.

He acknowledged it was a challenge initially, and "took a while" to become comfortable with his coding skills.

His best piece of advice is "learning through practice."

As he became more experienced, Kumaraswamy built apps for Apple's App Store, which provides millions of downloadable games and accessories for iPhones, iPads and Macs.

His sophomore year he developed a mobile learning application, called "AP World History Prep Me!"

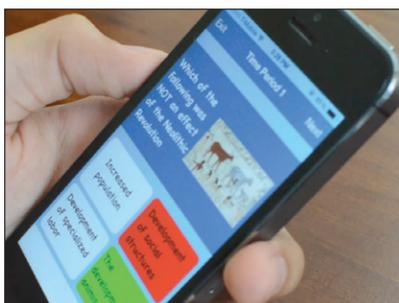
The learning tool, available in the App Store, helps students study for final exams by visually pairing up pictures with practice questions.

It was selected as the winner of the 2015 Congressional App Challenge for Florida's 12th Congressional District. That year, the Congressional App Challenge drew more than 1,700 student competitors across the nation; winners were selected from 116 congressional districts.

Though a hobby for now, coding may one day become a profession for Kumaraswamy, who's in the Land O' Lakes High School IB (International Baccalaureate) program.

"It's definitely a possibility of what I want to be doing in the future," he said. "It's a big part of technology nowadays, and it's like a for-sure career path that you can be (successful) in."

Among his peers, Kumaraswamy said he's noticed more interest in computer sciences, perhaps due to the proliferation of



As a sophomore, Roshan Kumaraswamy developed a mobile learning application, called 'AP World History Prep Me!' The learning tool, available on the App Store, helps students study for final exams by visually pairing pictures with practice questions. It was selected as the winner of the 2015 Congressional App Challenge for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

smart phones and tablets.

"You see a lot of these programs coming up, like Girls in STEM or Girls Who Code, and so there's obviously a big source of wanting to learn how to code. People value it, I think," he said.

Besides coding, Kumaraswamy stays busy as a member of his school's Mu Alpha Theta chapter, National Honor Society and Science Olympiad Club.

His next technological endeavor: tackling the basics of machine learning — the study and construction of algorithms.

"I hope to come up with some sort of project that can take a large amount of data, and use it to help kids with education online," he said.

The Coding Club will meet again Aug. 4 and Aug. 11, beginning at 2 p.m.

For information on joining the club, call the library at (813) 929-1214.

# Two Lutz companies win Florida business awards

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Two Lutz-based companies, Dixie Belle Paint Co., and Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice, are among an elite group of 50 finalists named as "Florida Companies to Watch," according to a news release from GrowFL.

"These stand-out companies are all led by entrepreneurs, and have demonstrated their capacity and intent to grow," Tom O' Neal said, in the release. "They also all have critical intellectual property or a niche position that gives them a competitive edge in their markets."

O'Neal is executive director of the Florida Economic Gardening Institute and associate vice president for the University of Central Florida's Office of Research and Commercialization.

Dixie Belle sells chalk mineral paint and other related products. Founder Suzanne Fulford opened her company in 2013. She is a 2015 graduate of the CO.STARTER program managed by the Pasco Economic Development Council.

The program aids startups or small business owners seeking to expand their enterprises.

Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice is a mobile unit-based service that provides hospice and in-home euthanasia for pets. Co-founders and veterinarians, Dani McVety and Mary Gardner, started their company in 2009.

McVety received the "Pet Industry Woman of the Year" award in 2016 from the Women in the Pet Industry Network.



Suzanne Fulford



Dr. Dani McVety

GrowFL selected the 50 honorees from more than 500 nominees.

Florida Companies to Watch is a statewide program managed by the economic development group, GrowFL, in association with the Edward Lowe Foundation.

The finalists are described as "second stage companies" with momentum for significant growth. GrowFL is the only program that focuses solely on these kinds of companies rather than startups or incubator businesses, the release says.

To qualify as second stage, the businesses must employ six to 150 people and have \$750,000 to \$100 million in annual revenue.

Together the award-winning companies generated a total of more than \$1 billion in revenue, and added more than 1,300 jobs between 2011 and 2015. Also, collectively for 2017, they anticipate a 53 percent increase in revenue and a 36 percent increase in job growth, compared to 2016.

An awards ceremony will be held Oct. 14 at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa.

## DEPOT, from page 1A

If they did, Vrooman may have pointed out a wall display, showing the plans that were used to build the Lutz Depot building, across the street from the library.

Vrooman is quite familiar with the plans. He's the one who drew them.

"We've done this (train) show for 17 years in a row," Vrooman said, noting the Lutz Depot building was dedicated to the community's residents in 2000.

He recounted how he got involved with the depot project.

"My brother-in-law came down from Lake Park, at Dale Mabry and Van Dyke, and he said that he went to that craft show, and there were some people who were planning to reestablish a train building," Vrooman said.

So, the Lutz man, who is a draftsman, volunteered to draw up the plans.

He used a photo from "Citrus, Sawmills, Critters & Crackers," by Elizabeth Riegler MacManus and Susan A. MacManus, to provide the building's dimensions.

"I got the book and Xeroxed the pictures," Vrooman said.

"I worked on it for about three months," he added. It was a fun, but time-consuming project.

He isn't an architect, so he needed one to review and sign off on the plans. That's where Randy Stribling came in.

"He had to be happy with how the building was, appearance and structural," Vrooman said.

The draftsman said he knew that the building had to be built to withstand hurricane winds, but he didn't want it to be ugly.

"The intent was to make it look like the original building," he said.

He found a creative way to fortify the structure.

"I came up with this idea of taking steel plates and putting them in the wood columns and beams, hiding them and putting the bolts through that would hold them all together," he said.

He is completely confident it will withstand high winds.

"It's going to be there. It has the strength of eternity," Vrooman said.

And, despite nearly two decades since the project's completion, Vrooman still feels a surge of satisfaction when he passes by the Lutz Depot.

The project is a testimony to community involvement, he noted.

"All of this material was paid for by donations, or donated by material suppliers," he said, and volunteers completed the actual construction.

"The intention was to dedicate the building to the citizens of Lutz on July 4, 2000.

"So, July 3, 2000, it hadn't received its certificate of occupancy.

"The reason it hadn't received its certificate of occupancy was because the building inspector rejected the certificate, based on this little handrail.

"The inspector said the handrail wasn't the right height," he said.

That correction was made and the certificate of occupancy was issued on the afternoon of July 3, he said.

That allowed the dignitaries to come to the building and stand on the deck during the Fourth of July, and to dedicate the depot to the citizens of Lutz.

"It was nip and tuck," Vrooman recalled.

For Vrooman, the depot building is not only a community fixture, but a reminder of the role he played in helping it to become a reality.

"It's part of who I am," the draftsman said. "I have a plaque on the side of the building with my name on it."

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## Local athlete relishes national team experience

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Alexis Kilfoyl has had a busy summer, as a member of the 2017 USA Softball Junior Women's National Training Team.

The Academy at the Lakes pitching sensation is one of just 24 athletes on the prestigious roster, which features some of the nation's top players under 19 years old.

After a weeklong training camp in mid-June, Kilfoyl and her Team USA comrades participated in a round of friendlies and exhibition games against elite travel teams from California, Florida, Massachusetts and Washington.

They also competed in the World Cup of Softball XII in Oklahoma City earlier this month, squaring off against some of the top international teams, including Australia, Canada and Japan, among others.

Kilfoyl, who mainly served in a relief role, pitched in six games, posting a 5.04 ERA over 8.1 innings.

The toughest team faced?

"Japan really stood out," Kilfoyl said. "They have a lot of talent."

Altogether, the Team USA experience has been enjoyable and unique.

At 16, the right-hander is easily the youngest, and one of just three Floridians on the roster.

She made the team in January, following a two-day selection process in Clearwater.

"It's very different," she said. "Just knowing all the girls from all around the country and how they play and meeting them, it was really fun.

Knowing (some) of the girls are already in college, the competition is legit.

"I've learned like how really high up on the scale the talent is," she added.

Building relationships and making new friends has proven worthwhile, too.

Kilfoyl previously was familiar with just two other players — University of Alabama's Elissa Brown and Kaylee Tow.

"I love meeting new people," Kilfoyl said. "Pretty much everyone was new. Some were friends of friends, but it was my first time meeting them."

The summer experience also has given Kilfoyl the opportunity to receive top-level coaching, from the likes of Oregon State head coach Laura Berg, Arizona State head



COURTESY OF USA SOFTBALL

Alexis Kilfoyl is one of just 24 athletes on the 2017 USA Softball Junior Women's National Training Team. She made the team in January, following a two-day selection process in Clearwater.

coach Trisha Ford, and University of Texas-Arlington head coach Kristie Fox.

"They've given us little tips that've helped, some in pitching, but definitely more in fielding," Kilfoyl said. "It's been more about fixing up little things."

She added: "I was working just on having everything ready, like having all of my pitches ready when I throw them in a game. Coming up this season for softball, I'm actually going to work on my weaker points, like my rise ball."

The U.S. squad is currently in Clearwater through July 30, competing in the 26-team WBSC (World Baseball Softball Confederation) Junior Women's World Championship, trying to defend its 2015 title.

Kilfoyl, however, will be traveling to California, as a member of the Georgia-based East Cobb Bullets Fastpitch travel team. (The U.S. junior team roster was recently pared down to 17 players, with Kilfoyl named one of seven alternates.)

She'll rejoin the U.S. junior national team Aug. 9 and Aug. 10 in Cincinnati, Ohio, for an exhibition game at the MLB RBI (Reviving

Baseball in Inner Cities) World Series. The RBI program is Major League Baseball's youth initiative designed to provide young people from underserved and diverse communities with opportunities to play baseball and softball.

One of Tampa Bay's elite softball prospects, Kilfoyl has always stood out on the diamond.

She's played varsity softball since the seventh grade, and committed to Alabama her freshman year.

At 6-foot-1, she stands nearly a foot taller than most of her high school teammates.

She has the game to match, with a 68-mph fastball and signature drop-ball pitch.

Kilfoyl won 16 games as a sophomore last season, posting a 0.85 ERA and striking out 201 batters in 115.3 innings — guiding Academy at the Lakes to the Class 2A regional final.

The campaign earned her a nod to the Miracle Sports Class 2A All-State First Team.

"I worked on hitting my spots more consistently," Kilfoyl said of her sophomore season. "Freshman year, I was kind of chaotic. I would just throw the pitch for no reason, and was a little more careless. But, this year we were playing better teams, where you have to step up your game and start throwing stuff for a purpose."

### Alexis Kilfoyl's Academy at the Lakes varsity stats

#### SOPHOMORE

**Pitching:** 16 wins, 0.85 ERA, 201 strikeouts in 115.2 innings  
**Hitting:** .517 average, with five home runs, eight doubles and 36 RBIs

#### FRESHMAN

**Pitching:** 11 wins, 1.36 ERA, 163 strikeouts in 103 innings  
**Hitting:** .561 average, three home runs, six doubles, 20 RBIs

#### EIGHTH GRADE

**Pitching:** 12 wins, 0.72 ERA, 111 strikeouts in 87.1 innings  
**Hitting:** .458 average, four home runs, eight doubles, 25 RBIs

#### SEVENTH GRADE

**Pitching:** 14 wins, 2.61 ERA, 118 strikeouts in 115.1 innings  
**Hitting:** .309 average, four doubles, 12 RBIs

#### Other accomplishments:

- First year Team USA member
- 2016 Junior Olympic Cup Champion.
- Placed third at 2015 USA Softball 14U Nationals
- Named 2015 Team MVP at Gainesville GOLD USA Softball Nationals
- Competed at 2013 USA Softball 12U Nationals
- Played for the East Cobb Bullets Schnute 18U and Gainesville Gold McFadyen 16U

—Stats compiled using maxpreps.com

Meanwhile, her development —along with fellow AATL teammates—excites her for the 2018 season.

Besides Kilfoyl, the Wildcats are stacked with gifted, young hitters, including freshman Brooke Blankenship (.522 average, six home runs) and Kendra Falby (.537 average, six doubles), and sophomore Jessica Mott (.522 average, nine doubles).

"People are definitely working harder," she said. "Like all of the girls are playing in really good travel teams this summer, and traveling the country playing in the best tournaments. So, next year everyone's going to come out a better player, and I think we have a chance to move on to states next year."



FILE

Marie Coors, who graduated from Saint Leo University, has been named the Sunshine State Conference Woman of the Year.

### COORS NAMED SSC WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The awards keep piling up for Marie Coors, who graduated from Saint Leo University.

Most recently, Coors was named the 2016-17 Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Woman of the Year.

She is the first athlete in SSC history to claim all three of the conference's major awards for women: Woman of the Year, Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Female Athlete of the Year.

Coors, who is a native of Gross-Zimmern, Germany, is just the second Saint Leo student-athlete to receive the SSC Woman of the Year award, joining former women's soccer standout Virginia Davenport, who earned the accolade in 2007-08.

The conference's athletics directors, senior woman administrators, athletics communications directors, and faculty athletics representatives took part in the voting. Candidates were scored based on the NCAA Woman of the Year award criteria.

Coors, the 2017 Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) Division II Golfer of the Year and a First Team All-American, captured the individual championship at the 2017 NCAA Division II Women's Golf Championship in May after carding a seven-over 295 over 72 holes. She finished the season with a 72.16 stroke average over 32 rounds — the lowest stroke average of any Division II women's golfer and 22nd-lowest among all collegiate women's golfers regardless of division.



COURTESY OF RP FUNDING CENTER

The Florida High School Athletic Association and RP Funding Center (formerly The Lakeland Center) have announced a two-year extension for the 2018 and 2019 Boys and Girls State Basketball Championships.

### State basketball tournaments to stay in Lakeland

The Florida High School Athletic Association and RP Funding Center (formerly The Lakeland Center) have announced a two-year extension for the 2018 and 2019 Boys and Girls State Basketball Championships.

"We are thrilled to return to Lakeland as we continue our goal of providing our student-athletes with a quality championship experience," FHSAA Executive Director George Tomy said, in a release. "The current renovations and new partnership with the Orlando Magic make the RP Funding Center an even stronger venue for our basketball state championships."

The tournament will now run Monday through Saturday. The format will remain the same with four-team single-elimination tournaments conducted in each of the nine classifications for both the girls and boys events, as well as the Special Olympics

Unified Sports State Championships.

"We're very excited about continuing our relationship with the FHSAA," said Tony Camarillo, executive director of the RP Funding Center. "We look forward to providing a top-notch facility for the student athletes of the State of Florida, and providing a great event for our community and visiting guests to come out and support Florida Basketball."

Currently undergoing \$14 million in renovations, the RP Funding Center is home to the Lakeland Magic, the Orlando Magic's NBA G-League team set to begin play in November.

Dates for the 2018 girls basketball state finals are Feb. 26 through March 3, and the boys tournament runs March 5 through March 10. The girls 2019 tournament is slated Feb. 25 through March 2 and the boys tournament is slated to take place March 4 through March 9.

### SUNLAKE STANDOUT COMMITS TO COLLEGE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Riley Baxter, a rising senior at Sunlake High School, has verbally committed to play softball at College of Central Florida, a junior college in Ocala. The versatile infielder, a 2017 Sunshine Athletic Conference Second Team All-Conference selection, is coming off a highly productive 2017 season, where she posted a .400 batting average and .519 on-base percentage, with three home runs and 14 RBIs.

Baxter returns to a Sunlake squad that finished 18-7 and reached the Class 7A regional quarterfinals.

### TRACK CLUB FINISHES STRONG AT NATIONAL EVENT

A trio of athletes from a Tampa-based track club has qualified for the 2017 AAU Junior Olympics, after top-eight finishes in their respective events.

Traiblazers Youth Athletic Ministry recently competed at the 21st Annual AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) Club National Championships, at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando.

Tre Rivers, a rising junior at Wharton High School, placed fifth in the 1,500 meters (4:20.49) for the 15-16 age group, while club teammate Josue Reyes, a rising junior



Kindergarten-age students who participated in the 2016 Grace Soccer Camp are shown here with their coaches: Assistant Coach Seth Raigoza, left, Head Coach Jarrod Poorman, right; and, Assistant Coach Julia Olsen, on the ground.

### GRACE COMMUNITY YOUTH SOCCER CAMP

Grace Community Church is offering a weekly soccer camp for children entering kindergarten to fifth grade, beginning Aug. 6. The four-week camp will be held Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at Wesley Chapel Elementary School, 30243 Wells Road. The recreational program strives to help young athletes to develop soccer skills, sportsmanship and a stronger faith. All sessions will be supervised by a licensed soccer trainer, and will include sports training, a short devotional lesson and small-sided scrimmages.

The registration fee for the four-session camp is \$15 and includes a camp T-shirt; multiple participants from the same household receive a \$5 discount (\$10 per player).

For information, call (813) 994-9363, or email sports@exploregrace.com.

at Tampa Bay Tech, finished eighth in the same event.

Meanwhile, Zach Godbold, a rising sophomore at Wharton, placed third in the javelin throw (151 feet) in the 15-16 age group.

Other club runners with strong showings at the meet include:

**Wharton High sophomore Nia Rivers** — 13th place in the 800 (2:28.34) for 15-16 age group

**Wharton High junior Anthony Stephens** — 21st place in the 1500 (4:38.24) for 15-16 age group

**Wharton High senior Frankie Godbold** — 31st place in the 1500 (4:46.33) for 17-18 age group

## Keeping safe, when a hurricane threatens

By Kevin Weiss  
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

**H**urricane Season 2017 is underway, and the Pasco County Sheriff's Office has shored up its ability to respond to the potential for deadly storms.

Within the past few months, Sheriff Chris Nocco has created an Emergency Management Division and has appointed two seasoned war veterans to top leadership positions.

Nocco named George McDonald as chief of the Joint Operations Bureau of the Pasco Sheriff's Office and Jared Hill as director of Emergency Operations.

McDonald is a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Colonel and has served in a variety of command, staff and leadership positions throughout his career.

The bureau — which encompasses Emergency Operations, Special Operations and Communications — oversees areas that directly connect to the county during critical situations.

It's also responsible for training law enforcement and civilians within the Pasco Sheriff's Office.

Hill, a retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel, served as the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) adjutant and the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan assistant operations officer, among other assignments.

The pair's military background should bode well if catastrophic events arise, whether it's a hurricane or another disaster.

"Critical to the sheriff was the (agency's) response to emergencies within the county, and what he wanted to do was bring in people who have been through different types of emergencies, and key to that was veterans," McDonald said, during a recent press conference on hurricane preparedness.

Nearly a quarter of the agency has veteran experience, but McDonald insists it's not about militarizing law enforcement.

Instead, he said, it's about "using the experience we (veterans) had from our overseas deployment, not only in wartime, but in peacetime."

This includes tactical skills, and the ability to task-organize in critical, high-pressure situations.

"We all served in combat zones, we've operated in stressful environments, and we were at ease working in an environment like that, and I think that's a proven quality that the sheriff was looking for," McDonald said.

The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season began June 1 and runs through Nov. 30.

Hurricane experts say October is the most likely time for Florida to be hit with a tropical storm, due to the build up of energy in the atmosphere, accumulated through the summer months.

Last September, Hurricane Hermine was the first hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Hurricane Wilma in 2005, and the first to develop in the Gulf of Mexico since Hurricane Ingrid in 2013.

Hermine developed in the Florida Straits in August, and later spread to the Tampa Bay region.

Damage estimates from the storm exceeded \$111 million in Pasco County alone.

In Pasco County, seven homes were destroyed and 305 homes sustained major damage.

Additionally, 796 homes were affected by the storm, but didn't suffer any damage.

In preparation for another major storm, the Sheriff's Office Emergency Management



Storm surge causes the greatest damage during a hurricane. The rising water can destroy piers, erode beaches, flood properties and make areas impassable.



If you live in an area that needs to evacuate, it's good to know the evacuation route you'll be taking.



Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco recently appointed two seasoned war veterans to top leadership positions within the agency's Emergency Management Division. Jared Hill, left, is the agency's director of Emergency Operations. George McDonald is chief of the Joint Operations Bureau of the Pasco Sheriff's Office. Both have more than 20 years of military experience.

Division has been procuring surplus military gear, including high-powered generators, Humvees and portable field kitchens.

According to Hill, the agency is able to obtain the equipment for "pennies on the dollar" through the Law Enforcement Support Office, a subsidiary of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Hill said training and maintenance of the equipment also has been incorporated as part of the agency's disaster planning process.

The county jail is another asset that can be harnessed during a hurricane by deploying prison labor to install sandbags to reduce potential for flooding in specific areas.

Additionally, nearly 400 volunteers are ready to help at a moment's notice, via the agency's Civilian Support Unit.

Each of those resources, Hill said, allows the Pasco Sheriff's Office to "react a lot

faster than most anybody else can within the county."

"We're actively on the job everyday, we're doing as much planning as we can," Hill said. "Not that any plan is going to be perfect, but we've the ability to direct crisis situations and gather forces to help out in any situation."

Should a hurricane strike, the Sheriff's Office would work alongside the Pasco County Office of Emergency Management and Pasco County Fire Rescue, among other government agencies

"We're not doing this unilaterally. We're tied in to the county's emergency management," Hill said.

While wind and water pose dangers during a hurricane, there also are dangers in the aftermath.

County officials recommend avoiding roads covered by water and debris, and staying clear of downed power lines.

It's also important to realize that water,

not wind, is the most hazardous outcome of a tropical storm.

According to the National Hurricane Center, storm surge, rainfall flooding, high surf and deaths just offshore (within 50 nautical miles of the coast) combined for 88 percent of all deaths in the U.S. from hurricanes, tropical storms or tropical depressions from 1963 to 2012.

Other potential dangers can arise, too. Snakes and other animals sometimes make their way into homes during a storm.

And, floodwaters can contain fecal matter, bacteria and viruses.

Food-safety hazards should be considered, too.

A refrigerator keeps food cold for up to four hours after loss of power, and then perishables should be moved to a cooler with ice.

If in doubt, throw it out. "You don't want to survive the storm and die of food poisoning," Hill said.

### Bracing for the storm

- Prepare your home from wind damage before a storm threatens. Remove loose and damaged limbs from trees. Secure and brace external doors. Board up external windows.
- Remove items around your home that could act as projectiles in high winds. Such objects include potted plants, barbecue grills, garden gnomes, chairs and garbage cans.
- Place sand bags around low-lying areas near your house.
- Well before any major storm hits, be sure to review your insurance. Be sure you have the proper amount of coverage to protect your home, business and belongings.
- Stock up on hurricane supplies, including flashlights, batteries, self-powered portable lights, waterproof sheeting, a nonelectric food storage cooler, a portable generator and reusable ice.
- Have personal items readily available. These should include blankets and pillows; hygiene supplies, moisture wipes and toilet paper; waterproof and seasonal clothing; reliable shoes; a first-aid kit and special medications; tools; and, cameras.
- Protect your documents in a watertight plastic bag or waterproof container.
- Fill your gas tank and have plenty of cash on hand, in case the storm knocks out power from gas pumps and ATMs.

- Move your car as far inland as possible and on higher ground, to protect it from possible flooding, but do not park it next to a tree.

### Be ready to evacuate, or shelter in place

- If you are ordered to evacuate, know the local hurricane evacuation route(s) to take and have a plan for where you can stay.
- Have a disaster supply kit you can take with you. It should include a flashlight, batteries, cash, required medicine, first aid supplies (kit), 2 gallons to 3 gallons of water per person, documents such as a driver's license, Social Security card, passport, insurance information and tax documents, a hand-crank or battery-operated radio and a cellphone with a charged battery.
- If you have a pet, have a plan for it. If you will need to evacuate, know where you can take your pet with you. Be sure to prepare a hurricane kit for your pet, including food, any medicines, toys, a bed and so on.
- Have a family emergency communication plan. Your loved ones need to know how to contact you before the storm, and especially afterwards, when communication infrastructure may be damaged or overwhelmed.
- Check on your neighbors to see if they need help.
- If you are not in an area that is advised to

evacuate, and you decide to stay in your home, plan for adequate supplies in case you lose power and water for several days, and you are not able to leave due to flooding or blocked roads. Be sure to have plenty of food. Suggested items include juices, crackers, breakfast and protein bars, canned and dried fruit, peanut butter, bread, canned protein (tuna, chicken, Spam), powdered milk and condiments. Also have on hand disposable utensils, plates and napkins.

### During the storm

- Stay inside and away from windows and doors
- Close all interior doors
- Keep curtains and blinds closed
- Get into a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level
- Lie under a table or other sturdy objects

### Returning home

- Bring necessities, such as food and water, when you return
- Keep an eye out for snakes and other animals that may have entered your home during the storm
- Do not drive down roads covered by water or debris
- Watch out for downed power lines and stay away from them

- Avoid skin contact with floodwaters because the water can be carrying all sorts of contaminants such as fecal matter, bacteria and viruses.
- Wear protective clothing and use proper equipment when cleaning up the mess the storm left behind. Before trimming trees, make sure there are no power lines nearby.
- Be sure to use plastic sheeting to cover roof damage and/or broken windows, to keep water from entering your home or business.
- Contact your insurance agent to report any covered damage to your home, apartment or vehicle. Be sure to have detailed photographs, so you can submit them with your claims.
- Save receipts for all dining, hotel, medical, hygiene and even entertainment. Some of these items may be eligible for reimbursement. Save the receipts from the time you leave your home until you return to stay there.
- Watch out for scams and unlicensed contractors. Verify the contractor's business license and insurance. Make sure quotes are in writing.

—Compiled by B.C. Manion and Kevin Weiss

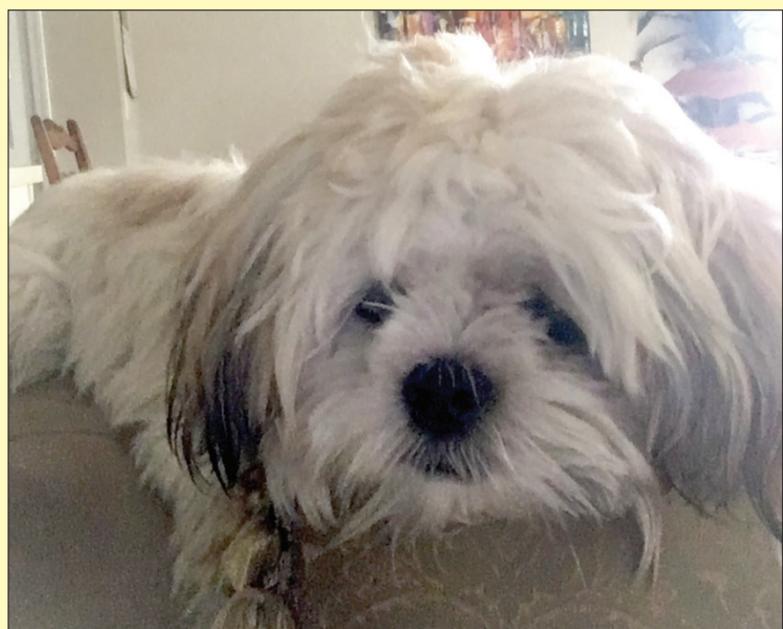
Sources: Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Hillsborough County, Pasco County, Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, Boatsetter, and Tree Care Industry Association.

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## Tootsie loves getting dirty

Tootsie is a 1-year-old Shih Tzu, named after a Tootsie roll. She eats like a hog and loves getting filthy in the grass. Tootsie loves pancakes and pillows, and steals food and toys from the other dog. Her favorite toy is the dustpan, which she howls at and noisily pushes around the house. If Tootsie is put in her cage for the night, she wails immediately — no warmup barking. Tootsie's proud owner is Brian Feroli of Land O' Lakes.

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

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

Write a short paragraph about why your pet is special along with a photo and mail to: **Pet of the Week, c/o The Laker, P.O. Box 479, Lutz, FL 33548** or email to [mrathman@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:mrathman@lakerlutznews.com), ATTN: Pet of the Week  
**PLEASE NOTE: OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS MUST BE INCLUDED FOR YOUR PET TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION.**



## Pet Loss Support Group



Last Thursday of the Month from 3 - 4:30 p.m.  
Upcoming Dates: July 27, Aug. 31 & Sept. 28

Gulfside Center for Hospice Care  
5760 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills

Facilitated by Chaplain Mike Merritt

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

Provided locally by:  
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For more information or to RSVP, call 727-845-5707.



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## Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



## Edward is a handsome hunk

Edward is looking for his summer, and forever, love. He is a volunteer favorite and has demonstrated some fairly impressive basic obedience skills. Edward loves swimming in the pool and rolling in the dirt. The best follow-up is a bath, of course, for which he is a great sport. If you have another pet at home, bring it along for a meet-and-greet with Edward.



## Trip likes to be petted

Trip was abandoned in a box at the shelter, and has been at Animal Services for just over a month. Initially, Trip was very scared, but has since warmed up to staff. He is happy to be petted and likes to bump your hand.

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

### PET PAWS

#### PET PHOTO CONTEST

The Humane Society of Tampa Bay is hosting its third annual Pet Photo Calendar Contest.

Contest entry is \$10, and each vote is \$1.

To enter or vote, please visit [GoGoPhotoContest.com/humanesocietytampa](http://GoGoPhotoContest.com/humanesocietytampa).

Voting ends at 9 p.m., July 31.

For information, contact Sarah Dale at (813) 774-4306.

#### PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Gulfside Hospice offers a monthly pet loss support group, on the last Thursday of every month, at the Gulfside Center for Hospice Care in Zephyrhills, 5760 Dean Dairy Road, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates are July 27, Aug. 31 and Sept. 28.

The group is being offered in conjunction with Gulfside's Pet Peace of Mind Program, which keeps pets and people together during hospice care.

For information on the support group, call (727) 845-5707.

For information on Pet Peace of Mind, call (800)561-4883, or visit [GHPPC.org](http://GHPPC.org).

#### MORE THAN 50,000 DOGS AND CATS HELPED

Hillsborough County celebrated a major milestone: More than 50,000 dogs and cats have found homes through the Pet Resource Center and its rescue partners in the last four years.

Prior to the Board of County Commissioners embarking on the Be the Way Home plan in May 2013, about 40 percent of the animals were adopted out. In 2016, that figure rose to 85.5 percent, including 90 percent for dogs.

The Pet Resource Center is the only open-admission shelter in Hillsborough County that accepts any pet regardless of size, age, breed or medical condition.

The increase in the number of pets finding homes is a result of the cooperation with animal rescue groups, and new policies

that promote adoption, foster, and spay-and-neuter programs.

In addition to the veterinary staff, more than 640 volunteers gave 26,000 hours of service in 2016, with many hours dedicated to finding homes for shelter pets.

The Resource Center is creating a wall at the shelter to showcase the pets with their adopted families.

Adopters can take a family photo with their Pet Resource Center dog or cat and drop it off at the center, 440 N. Falkenburg Road. Photos also can be emailed to [PRCvolunteer@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:PRCvolunteer@hillsboroughcounty.org).

#### SUMMER SPECIALS

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, will offer these specials through August:

- Vintage Tuesday: \$20 adoptions for pets older than 5 years
- Hump Day: Half off all adoptions on Wednesday
- Happy Purrs-Day: \$10 adoptions for cats older than 4 months
- Black Friday: \$25 adoptions on all adult pets with any black on their coat. Includes cats older than 4 months, and dogs older than 6 months and 25 pounds.
- Second-Chance Saturday: \$15 adoptions for all pets residing at the shelter for more than 6 months, and special-needs pets.

For information, call (813) 929-1212.

#### 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.

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

# LOCAL WILDLIFE



## Health inspectors?

Betsy Crisp, of Land O' Lakes, found these sand hill cranes carefully inspecting a septic system repair on Barcelona Road in the Treasure Lake subdivision.

# PUT YOUR PET IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

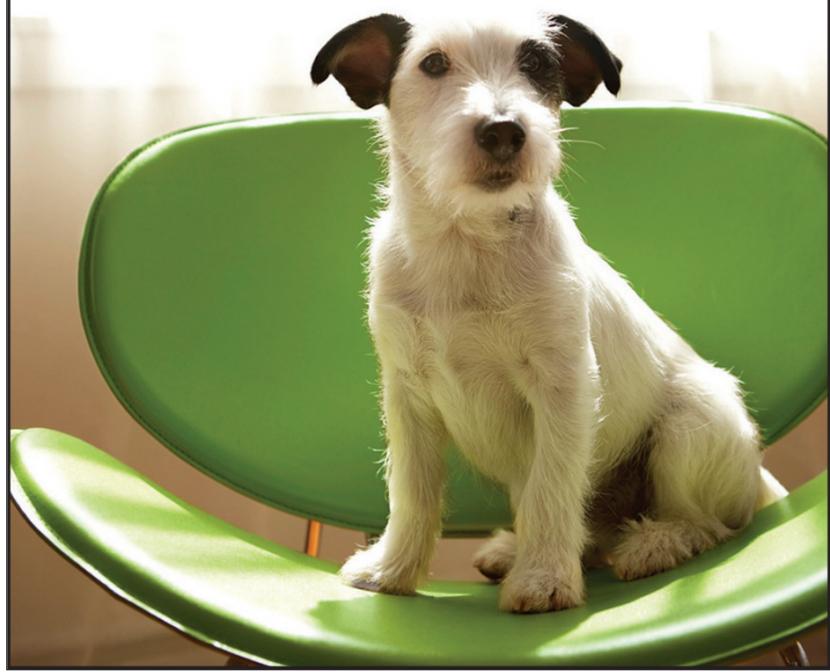
We are looking for photos and information on your favorite pet. Include in your short story your pet's name, age, breed, and anything else you would like to mention.

*Don't forget to include the owner's name and city of residence!*

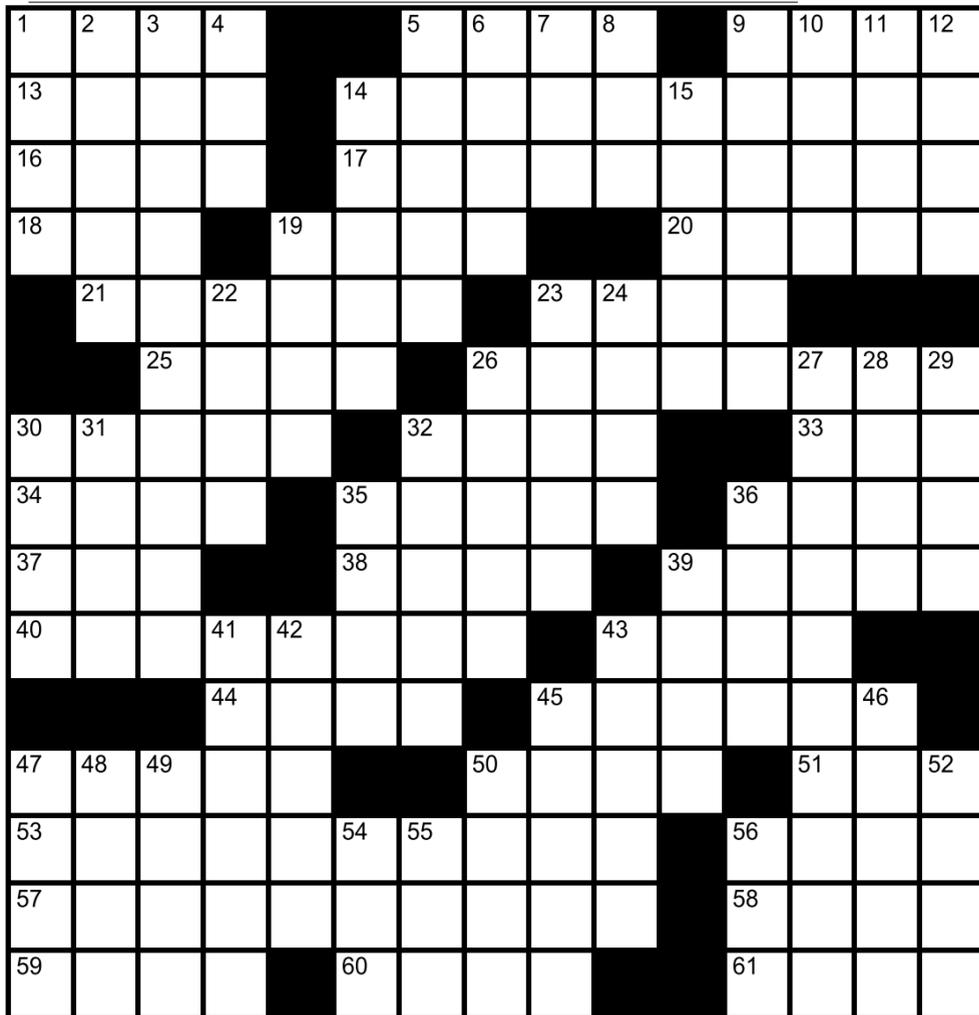
Send photo and information to:

*The LAKER/Lutz NEWS*

Email to: [mrathman@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:mrathman@lakerlutznews.com), SUBJECT: Pet of the Week  
Mail to: Pet of the Week, c/o The Laker, P.O. Box 479, Lutz, FL 33548



## The LAKER / Lutz NEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Water carrier
5. Panhandles
9. Be an omen of
13. Persia, now
14. Pulsates rapidly from disease
16. Gold in color
17. Work mates
18. Amniotic \_\_\_
19. Locale
20. Ecological community
21. Caring
23. "Wheel of Fortune" choice
25. Contact, e.g.
26. Fall behind
30. Belittle
32. Drag
33. Cold and wet
34. \_\_\_ carotene
35. A quick raid
36. Decline
37. "Malcolm X" director
38. Affectedly creative
39. One who goes for the gold?
40. Final stages of any activity
43. Shiny on top?
44. Lying, maybe
45. Fatty tissue of animals
47. Cheerful
50. Baptism, for one
51. \_\_\_ de deux
53. Classic movie password
56. Allocate, with "out"
57. Vehicle scraping side of another
58. Length x width, for a rectangle
59. Sean Connery, for one
60. Donald and Ivana, e.g.
61. Actor's goal

### DOWN

1. ...
2. Dickens's \_\_\_ Heep

3. Thought out
4. Discharge letters?
5. Butter up?
6. "... or \_\_\_!"
7. Mail place: Abbr.
8. Order to attack, with "on"
9. Sheep making noise
10. "Beetle Bailey" dog
11. Adjudge
12. "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina motto)
14. Nuisances
15. Leg bone
19. All there
22. \_\_\_ Verde National Park
23. Digress
24. Hunted
26. Alphabetizes, e.g.
27. Serious, tragic opera
28. Channel
29. The America's Cup trophy, e.g.
30. \_\_\_-bodied
31. "\_\_\_ here long?"
32. BlasÉ
35. Notability
36. Heir lines?
39. Drone, e.g.
41. January's birthstone
42. Bottomless pit
43. Moderated
45. Multiplied by
46. End of the quip
47. Forest growth
48. "Beowulf," e.g.
49. Change
50. Seize or carry off by force
52. Accommodate
54. Female sheep
55. Half a dozen
56. Blueprint

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

**education & ACTIVITIES**

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# BUSINESS DIGEST

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

## PASCO BANK ADDS BOARD MEMBER

First National Bank of Pasco welcomed Chris Black to its board of directors, according to a news release from The Creative Stable Inc.

Black is owner of Lutz-based Chris Black Insurance.

He joins eight other members who serve on the board of Pasco County's oldest, independent community bank. They are Chairman A.P. Gibbs, Vice Chairman Paul P. Midili, President and Chief Executive Officer Steven D. Hickman, Stephen D. Carle, Glen Greenfelder, John E. Henson and Marlene Mann.

Black is a native of Pasco County and founded his insurance agency in 2008.

First National Bank of Pasco was chartered in 1986 and is owned by local residents of east Pasco. The newest branch is scheduled to open in Lutz in fall of 2017.

For information, visit [FnbPasco.com](http://FnbPasco.com).

## PASCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly economic development briefing luncheon July 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Pebble Creek Golf & Country Club, at 10550 Regents Park Drive in New Tampa.

Guest speaker will be Shauna Nadeau of CareSync.

The cost is \$15 including lunch.

For more information, you can call the chamber at (813) 994-8534, or email [office@WesleyChapelChamber.com](mailto:office@WesleyChapelChamber.com).

## WESLEY CHAPEL BREAKFAST

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly breakfast meeting Aug. 1 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., at Pasco-Hernando State College, Porter Campus, at 2727 Mansfield Blvd., Wesley Chapel.



Chris Black

## CRY-X RIBBON CUTTING

Cry-X, a holistic health care provider, will have a ribbon cutting Aug. 2 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at 3820 Maryweather Lane, Suite 101, in Wesley Chapel.

Appetizers and beverages will be served.

Cry-X offers Whole Body Cryotherapy as a natural treatment for inflammation, pain, athletic injuries, post surgical recovery, weight loss and improved circulation.

A drawing will be held at the ribbon cutting for four sessions of cryotherapy. Other discounted packages will be available until Sept. 2.

For information, call Cry-X at (813) 591-6366, or email the chamber at [office@WesleyChapelChamber.com](mailto:office@WesleyChapelChamber.com).



Guest speaker is U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis. The cost is \$15 for members who register in advance, and \$20 thereafter. Non-members pay \$20.

For more information, please call the chamber at (813) 994-8534, or you can email [office@WesleyChapelChamber.com](mailto:office@WesleyChapelChamber.com).

## ZEPHYRHILLS CHAMBER BREAKFAST

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly business breakfast Aug. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., at the Golden Coral, 6855 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills.

Sponsors are Bahrs Propane Gas & AC and IR Staffing.

The cost is \$8 for chamber members and \$10 for non-members.

For more information, you can call the chamber at (813) 782-1913, or email [leanor@zephyrhillschamber.org](mailto:leanor@zephyrhillschamber.org).

## WOMEN-N-CHARGE

Join the Women-n-Charge Aug. 4 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Pebble Creek Country Club, 10550 Regents Park Drive in New Tampa. The women share their talents and resources, and they build relationships with other women in business.

Guest speakers will be Women-n-Charge Tea Director Barbara Brekke and Women-n-Charge Play Director Anne Childers. They will give a presentation on the upcoming Tea Party and Dinner Theatre fundraiser - Mayhem on Maui.

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

Please register at [Women-n-charge.com](http://Women-n-charge.com).

For information, call (813) 600-9848, or email [admin@women-n-charge.com](mailto:admin@women-n-charge.com).

## CENTRAL PASCO GENERAL MEETING

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will have its general membership meeting Aug. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Harbor Terrace Restaurant, at 19502 Heritage Harbor Pkwy., in Lutz.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Robert Carlson of Envizion Medical.

Members and guests are welcome.

The cost for members is \$20 if you RSVP by Aug. 3, and \$25 at the door for members and non-members.

For more information, please call the chamber at (813) 909-2722, or email [office@CentralPascoChamber.com](mailto:office@CentralPascoChamber.com).



## VOLCOM

### VOLCOM OPENS AT TAMPA PREMIUM OUTLETS

Volcom, a sports-centric store with clothes, shoes and accessories for young men and women, is open at Tampa Premium Outlets.

The outlet malls' developer, Simon, made the announcement in a news release July 17.

The new 2,400-square-foot shop is near Under Armour and PACSUN.

Tampa Premium Outlets is one of several outdoor malls in the portfolio of Simon Premium Outlets. The mall offers shoppers more than 110 store options including Banana Republic, Michael Kors and Nike Factory Store.

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

For information on the mall, visit [PremiumOutlets.com/tampa](http://PremiumOutlets.com/tampa).



## OGGI ITALIAN GRAND OPENING

Oggi Italian restaurant will have a grand opening Aug. 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at 214 E. Bearss Ave., in Tampa.

The Italian restaurant also has a location on Davis Islands.

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will host the grand opening event, which is free.

Registration is requested to get a head count.

For more information, call the chamber at (813) 563-0180, or send an email to [Contact@northtampachamber.com](mailto:Contact@northtampachamber.com).

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Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch

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MB16-NM0010c

# Pasco Schools turns 130

Superintendent Kurt Browning and the Pasco County School Board celebrated the school district's 130th anniversary at the board's July 18 meeting. The school board had its first meeting on July 18, 1887. The district has changed enormously through the years, and the superintendent and board celebrated, offering a slice of cake to anyone in attendance at the meeting. From left are, Superintendent Kurt Browning, School Board Chairman Allen Altman and board members, Cynthia Armstrong, Colleen Beaudoin, Alison Crumbley and Steve Luikart. Also shown is the celebratory cake.



B.C. MANION

## Needed support for veterans

John Mucci and others representing the Oasis Community in Land O' Lakes present a \$3,175 check to Ken Escobio of Operation Patriot Inc., which assists veterans at the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes. Operation Patriot, an all-volunteer group, assists the 120 veterans at the nursing home with many functions, activities and needed financial assistance. The Oasis Community has raised money for this cause the last three years as part of its Fourth of July celebration.



COURTESY OF DAVE FUSON

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

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### Class Schedule

Wednesday, August 2, 2017 | 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Morton Plant, North Bay Hospital  
6600 Madison Street New Port Richey

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 | 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Good Samaritan Clinic  
5334 Aspen Street New Port Richey

Friday, August 11, 2017 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Pasco Health Department  
10841 Little Road New Port Richey

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 | 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Premier Healthcare Center  
37944 Pasco Avenue Dade City

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
Regional Medical Center, Bayonet Point  
14000 Fivay Road, Hudson

Tuesday, August 29, 2017 | 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Florida Primary Care Center of Pasco  
7463 State Road 52 Hudson

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 | 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Morton Plant, North Bay Hospital  
6600 Madison Street New Port Richey

Friday, September 8, 2017 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Pasco Health Department  
10841 Little Road New Port Richey

### Pre-registration required.

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# Christmas in July

ANNUAL DONATION DRIVE

**Friday, July 28**



Having to be in a health care setting is often a stressful and frightening experience for children and families. Recreation and play therapy give kids strategies for coping and bring a momentary escape from their illness. Donations to Christmas in July help dramatically alter a child's hospital experience.

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