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B INSIDE,
PAGE 1B

Area spared worst of Hurricane Irma

Storm still left its mark in Pasco and surrounding neighborhoods

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Hurricane Irma devastated other parts of Florida, causing less damage than feared in Tampa and surrounding communities.

But area homes, businesses and other locations were not entirely spared from Irma's wrath.

Concerns continue over rising floodwaters, which already have flooded homes and roads.

And, Irma's whipping winds knocked down trees, shredded billboards, damaged fences, ripped off shingles and siding and did other types of damage to locations throughout The Laker/Lutz News coverage area.

Power outages became a major hassle for residents and businesses, causing many businesses to remain closed after Irma blew through and utility crews to swarm to widespread power outages.

Pasco's four power companies — Duke Energy, Tampa Electric, Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative and Sumter Electric Cooperative — reported 217,382 addresses without power, according to statistics provided by Pasco County's emergency management officials.

Still, Pasco County officials were grateful that the area did not feel the full force of Irma's fury.

Throughout Pasco County, Irma destroyed four homes and caused major damage to 56, according to county statistics. Additionally, 124 homes had minor damage and 205 were affected. Plus, 90 businesses reported property damage.

"I think we're fortunate. We were forecasted to possibly see a Category 3 or (Category) 4 hurricane come right through here. We are fortunate that did not happen," said Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Moore.

Pasco County Commissioner Ron Oakley noted there was concern about the county's mobile home communities, in particular, given the high winds that were predicted.

"If you look at Zephyrhills, they really came through," Oakley said. "We're very fortunate."

Both commissioners said they continue to be concerned about rising floodwaters and property damage, but they also praised the community's response to Irma.

"Our citizens in Pasco County are just amazing," Moore said. "I have just witnessed so many people being so generous in helping one another, and offering to help each other."

In the run-up to the hurricane, for instance, people were filling up sandbags all over the county to help them protect their businesses and homes.

At one location, Moore said, he began chatting with some of the folks, who told him: "We were here to get sandbags. We saw people needed help, so we've been here for five hours. (They were) all walks of life, all types of people. The community has really come together."

Irma's potential threat prompted the



STEFANIE BURLINGAME

Rising water on River Road in Dade City made the road live up to its name in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.



B.C. MANION

Utility crews could be seen all over Pasco and northern Hillsborough counties, as crews worked to restore power.

opening of 26 hurricane shelters across Pasco County, which housed 24,100 people, including those with special needs.

Nearly 800 students and support personnel sheltered at University Campus in St. Leo.

Damage assessments are ongoing, but Irma knocked down a number of trees on the campus, and water got into at least 60 rooms, according to a university report.

After Irma passed, Moore said he put out a call for volunteers to load equipment at Wesley Chapel High School to help get some nursing home residents back home.

"I put on a Facebook call to action and said, 'Hey, if anybody can down here, we're loading U-Haul trucks with equipment.'"

"You wouldn't believe the response," he said, noting he wound up telling some volunteers that they already had enough help.

"I was touched by that, just knowing that our citizens are there, wanting to help one another and not looking for any accolades."

Another bunch of volunteers showed up on Sept. 15 to help load cleaning supplies, snack foods, clothing and other donations onto a convey of 10 vehicles at Wesley Chapel Nissan, to take them to the Pasco County Staging Area, a temporary distribu-



B.C. MANION

Hurricane Irma shredded billboards as she made her way through northern Hillsborough and Pasco counties.

tion center near the Suncoast Parkway.

The donations came from customers and employees of the dealership, members of the Wesley Chapel Rotary Club Noon, members of the community, area churches and Support the Troops.

Hurricane Irma also caused plenty of disruptions.

Besides the power outages, parents were forced to find new day care options, as public schools in both Hillsborough and Pasco counties closed as Hurricane Irma approached, and remained closed for the week following its landfall.

Those venturing around The Laker/Lutz News coverage area found it more difficult to get around, too.

At the peak of the storm, 749 county roads were closed, and in the aftermath, 97 of the county's 260 traffic signals weren't working because of power outages.

There were stop signs at some normally lighted intersections; generators strapped to utility boxes at others; and, in most cases, motorists were expected to treat the intersection like a four-way stop. Some motorists did, but others did not.

Considerable efforts were made to keep the public informed.

Those stepping up to provide emergency help drew high praise from elected officials.

The county's Resident Information Center fielded 20,340 calls between Sept. 8 and Sept. 14, and throughout the storm, the

See IRMA, page 15A

Hurricane leaves behind stories to tell

By Kathy Steele
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A day after Hurricane Irma stormed through Tampa Bay, residents ventured out for ice, gas and cleaning supplies.

Some had a ray of hope that somewhere they would find an open restaurant. They toiled along the busier corridors spying tell-tale signs of life - cars and the people in them.

BAGGING ICE

A Twice the Ice machine on Land O' Lakes Boulevard had a steady line of residents waiting to fill coolers with bags of ice. Sheila Crawford's house, off North Dale Mabry Highway at County Line Road, lost power about 6 p.m., as Hurricane Irma swept into Pasco County.

The next day, there was still no power, and no gas to be found for a generator.

She wanted ice and sodas, preferably cold ones. She found the ice, but the drinks were still on her to-do list.

She recalled the "whipping wind and listening to cracking of trees going down. It was scary."

The first thing she wanted to do after being freed from Irma was to find a hot cup



KATHY STEELE

The day after Hurricane Irma stormed through Pasco County, Harry Perkerson picked up bags of ice at a Twice the Ice machine on Land O' Lakes Boulevard.

of coffee. "Now, I'm just so happy to be out," she said.

Harry Perkerson also stood in line for ice. He and his wife Shirley lost power sometime early Monday morning.

They had filled a bathtub full of water, bought gas for their generator, and filled their car with gas.

Besides ice, post-Irma, he needed more gas.

Irma took out four "big trees" at their Land O' Lakes' home, including two large oak trees.

"It's a mess," he said. But, he added, "They didn't hit the house."

Next up for the Perkersons? Dining out.

"Have you found anything open yet?" he

See STORIES, page 15A

Business community weathers the storm

By Kathy Steele
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Hurricane Irma left residents and business owners in northern Hillsborough, east Pasco and central Pasco assessing damage, cleaning up the mess, and, calculating their losses and counting their blessings.

For business owners, the focus was on reopening and getting Pasco County's commercial back in motion.

The effort goes on.

ZEPHYRHILLS' CHAMBER GAVE SHELTER

With shelters filled to capacity, The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce on Fifth Avenue opened its doors for three families to weather Hurricane Irma.

"They did well in our building," said Melanie Monson, the chamber's executive director.

Someone even managed to get some video footage of the storm.

In the aftermath, Monson and chamber staff pitched in to help people in need — including clearing debris and cutting up trees.

"Anything we can do to get people's lives back, we did," she said.

Zephyrhills' businesses generally were

See BUSINESS, page 15A

Summer camp to offer fun for special needs kids

By B.C. Manion

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A plan that began more than five years ago will finally reach fruition next summer when Camp Idlewild is scheduled to open in Land O' Lakes.

The camp is being developed by The Roach Family Foundation. Irene Roach, founder and president, and her family, intend to provide recreational and camping experiences for children with autism spectrum disorders, who have learning differences and other unique challenges.

Roach said that before her husband Bill died, seven years ago, they talked about doing something for special needs kids.

"We started thinking about a school," she said, but that idea was dropped because there was too much red tape.

So, the family decided to create a camp instead, Roach said, during an interview along with her daughters, Wendy Neal and Sherri Shuman, at Roach's Land O' Lakes home.

"Wendy's son has Asperger's. That kind of made up our mind that we wanted to do something for special needs," Roach said.

Phase one of Camp Idlewild will have a 5,000-square-foot lodge and four cabins, which can accommodate 12 overnight campers each.

"Our lodge is going to be done by December, and the first four of our cabins will be done by February," Roach said. The lodge includes a lunchroom, a kitchen and a business office.

Plans in phase two include adding four more 12-camper cabins.

Beyond hosting overnight campers, Camp Idlewild also will host day campers. It also has six recreational vehicles spaces, to accommodate families, Roach said.

"A lot of people who have special needs kids don't like to leave them," she explained. This way, the children can experience overnight camping, but the parents will be nearby.

The camp's main mission is to be a place where people can have fun, Roach and her daughters said.

The family has done its homework.

Their research began five years ago. They joined the American Camp Association, and



From left, Wendy Neal, Irene Roach and Sherri Shuman are members on the board of directors for Camp Idlewild, which is being developed by the Roach Family Foundation.

B.C. MANION

three days at a time, Shuman said.

Camp Idlewild will be marketed not only across Florida, but also outside the state, Shuman said.

There may be families that want to vacation to Florida. They'll be able to go on a vacation, while their special needs child has a chance to experience overnight camping, she said.

Besides having a fully trained staff, the camp will offer a multitude of volunteer opportunities, Roach said.

During the off-season, the facilities will be available for rental for people who want to run their own camps, hold family reunions, have group retreats, do staff trainings and so on.

"We also will be doing our own specialty camps, possibly," Shuman said.

Programming for Camp Idlewild will include arts and crafts, as well as outdoor activities such as canoeing, fishing and boating.

"We'll cover the arts, whether it's music, dance, theater," Neal said.

"Autistic kids like to perform," Roach said.

"A lot of them have a lot of talent that they don't have a chance to express," Neal said.

"We want to give them a chance to unplug from the technology, but we don't want to take that all away from them," she added.

A small petting zoo and organic gardening are also in the plans.

If the kids are involved in gardening, they may be more open to tasting new foods, Neal said.

"Food is a big issue for pretty much all of the kids (on the autism spectrum) that I know," Neal said. "If they kind of see how they are part of the process, they might actually try something different."

In addition to summer camp, the organization may also offer some weekend activities during the year, Shuman said.

"One of the big challenges for the kids, especially the big kids, is socialization," Shuman said. "In our off-season, we're hoping to continue programs for on the weekends for kids that are peers in the local community to have a place to come, and have a movie night — a way for them to continue the relationships."

Giving these kids a chance to develop friendships is important, Neal said.

"From my experience, the major gap is the socialization, the friendship, the relationships," she said.

"They don't get invited to birthday parties, things like that, because, 'What if he has a meltdown?'" Neal said.

Camp Idlewild will be a place where kids "can be who they are," Neal said. "If they want to flap, or if they're stressed — we're not here to stop behavior, correct behavior." Or, Roach, said, "say no to everybody."

Neal went on, "Whatever they need to do at the time that they're doing it — if they're not hurting anyone or themselves, that's fine. A lot of kids do things that other people consider as just odd. They try to stop that behavior."

"It's OK," Neal said. "It's a release. If they get a little nervous. They're not hurting anyone. That's just who they are. If it makes them feel better, if it's comforting, then, we're not going to try to correct that."



COURTESY OF CAMP IDLEWILD

This is what the lodge being built at Camp Idlewild will look like at completion. The lodge is one part of a new camp intended to provide recreational and camping experiences for children with autism spectrum disorders, who have learning differences and other unique challenges. The camp is scheduled to open next summer.

have been to conferences in Orlando; New Orleans; Greenville, South Carolina; and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"They're people who have camps from all over the world, even Russia, China. They all come and network, and it's amazing," Roach said.

During one of the first conferences they attended, they met Scott Arizala. He's a nationally known speaker and author, and runs Camp Tall Tree, a camp for children on the

autism spectrum in Michigan.

They have hired him to be their consultant.

"He's going to come and help us train," Roach said.

"Now, we're ready to fine-tune all of programming and our scheduling," Neal said, adding it will be invaluable to have someone with the depth of his experience to guide them.

The family also has secured necessary approvals and permits from Pasco County, installed needed infrastructure and had the design work done.

The camp is situated on 40 acres that has been carved out of the family's 140-acre homestead.

In addition to her property, Roach said there's another 150 acres of cypress swamp surrounding the camp.

Besides working with young campers there also will be some adult programs.

Neal, who is the camp director, expects Camp Idlewild to host some make-and-take workshops to give parents tools for working with their children.

For instance, parents will hear that they need to put together a visual schedule, Neal said, but they have no idea how to do that.

"Of course, I'm a (former) school psychologist, so I knew what those things were. But a lot of my friends, who have kids, they don't know what a visual schedule is," Neal said.

The target market for the camp is kids ages 6 through 17, who are mild to higher-functioning, said Shuman, the camp administrator. "They have to be able to use the bathroom and dress themselves, that sort of thing," she said.

The camp will operate when school is out, from June through August. Overnight campers will be able to come for a week at a time and can stay for multiple weeks. Day campers may be able to come for as little as

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Replanting and restoring trees following Hurricane Irma

By Whitney C. Elmore and Jim Moll
Special to the Laker/Lutz News

Some of Hurricane Irma's most affected inhabitants of Florida were trees. Some trees were snapped. Some twisted out of the ground. Some were left leaning with exposed roots, or were stripped of large limbs and foliage.

The good news is that not all of the damaged trees must be removed.

The test is whether they are a structural hazard or if they have sustained too much damage.

It's impossible to make a broad statement that would apply to every single situation.

So, if you have a tree that could damage structures or ones that possibly pose a threat to humans, pets or livestock, consider enlisting the help of a certified arborist to help you make decisions about the best course of action.

You can go to TreesAreGood.com to find certified arborists in your area.

Many species of trees can survive damage, but it's the younger, smaller trees that have the best chance.

The good news is that in situations where you don't believe safety is an issue, you may be able to restore some damaged trees back to good health.

Trees that might be restorable include those without exposed roots or ones that have not been lifted from the soil; and ones without cracks in major limbs and certainly not in the trunk.

Trees that were strong and healthy prior to the storm are most likely the best candidates for restoration.

Trees with decay or bark inclusions — weak areas between multiple trunks and stems — are not good candidates for restoration. Even if these weakened trees weren't visibly affected by Hurricane Irma winds, they are living on borrowed time. Consider consulting an arborist about removal.

Here are some general ways to restore salvageable trees back to good health after a storm:



COURTESY OF WHITNEY C. ELMORE

Uprooted trees have a tougher time surviving, but some can. If a tree is a good candidate for replanting, if the root ball is exposed, keep it moist, and replant as quickly as possible.

- **Trees with only small broken branches:** Many healthy trees can lose as much as three-quarters of their smaller branches and leaves, and still recover. If broken branches are less than 4 inches in diameter, you can easily prune them off and the plant should bounce back. Prune them sooner, rather than later, to prevent them from falling and causing damage, or decaying and causing potential disease in the tree.

- **Trees with defoliated or damaged leaves:** Trees that lose leaves usually will not die. You will likely see new foliage soon, and if not now, by spring.

- **Trees flooded with saltwater** should be irrigated with fresh water as soon as possible, to rinse salts beyond the root zone.

- **Trees with large broken limbs:** Depending on the tree species, some trees can lose a major limb and regain good health. In general, younger, smaller trees that lose a major branch are more apt to survive than old, large trees. Prune off jagged edges from broken branches using proper pruning practices (call the UF/IFAS Pasco Extension Office for instructions or, for more specific information, visit edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning).

- **Trees sitting in water:** Some species of trees are capable of withstanding flooding, but only for short periods of time. Trees with flooded roots for more than a few days will most likely not survive with a few notable exceptions, such as: pond/bald cypress, red maple, sweet gum and river birch. Roots need oxygen and flooded roots are smothered roots. It's best to see if the tree survives the flood then remove it later when it becomes apparent that the tree has not survived. If it doesn't survive, removal and replanting with a more suitable species for that area might be recommended.

Inspect the canopy of all trees, even if they seem stable. Look for broken, dead and hanging branches that might fall later on. Remove those carefully using proper pruning practices and sanitized equipment. Visit tinyurl.com/mwyusy7 for information on proper equipment sanitization.

- **Trees that are leaning:** Small trees, with trunks less than 4 inches in diameter, that were recently planted, can be replanted and staked if they fell over because of Hurricane Irma. If the root ball is exposed, keep it moist and replant as soon as possible. Prune off any broken roots; place the tree back in the hole, making sure it's up-

right, then backfill the hole with the same soil you removed from that hole. Stake it, adjust the stakes often, and remove them when the tree is stable. Water the root ball, with a hose, at least three times a week for the next couple of months.

Larger diameter trees that are leaning, especially those with exposed roots, will most likely have too much root damage to survive. Trying to reset and stake larger leaning or uprooted trees is not advised.

Be patient, and give damaged trees a year to recover. If the tree does not have new growth by the following spring, most likely it's not going to survive, and you should consider removal.

Palms are different; they are not built like oaks, maples, crape myrtles, etc. They are actually not considered "trees" at all, since they are more closely related to the grasses and corn. They grow much like grasses. The growing portion of these plants is at the very top at the base of the fronds, in an area called the heart. If you find that the heart has broken out of a palm, that palm should be removed. It will not survive or regrow. If the heart is intact, but you find bent fronds covering the heart, they can be removed so they don't keep the bud from growing. Broken or hanging fronds can be dangerous and should be removed. If you have hanging fronds, only when they are completely brown, should they be removed. Yellow fronds are still supplying the plant with food, so wait to remove those, until the entire frond is brown.

Properly pruned palms and trees are excellent wind breaks around buildings. They diminish the wind and they take the brunt of the storm force winds. Keep your trees healthy, and remove the dangerous or dead ones before the storm by consulting with a certified arborist, sooner rather than later. Take care your trees and palms before and after the storm, and they'll take care of you.

Dr. Whitney C. Elmore is the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Director and an Urban Horticulture Agent III. Jim Moll is Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program Coordinator.

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What's Happening

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

MARKET NEEDS VENDORS

The first Sunday market at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5301 Land O' Lakes Blvd., will take place Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local artists and crafters, and farmer-market type honey, produce, bakery items and more, can exhibit. The cost is \$15 per vendor. For information, contact Dave Bingham at (813) 545-9132 or taslanred@gmail.com.

HOLOCAUST SPEAKER

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host author Roslyn Franken Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. Franken will discuss the true story of how her mother survived the Holocaust and how her father survived the atomic bomb as a POW in Japan. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

ADOBE SEMINAR

Wilderness Lake Preserve will offer a series of five seminars on using Adobe Lightroom. Classes start Sept. 21 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., and will run every other week. The cost is \$5 per class for residents and \$5.50 for non-residents. For information, contact Maury Griffith at (813) 838-1473 or Griffoto22@gmail.com.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host a Teen Advisory Board meeting Sept. 21 at 6 p.m., for grades six to 12. Participants can get volunteer hours for scholarships and school clubs by attending the meetings. Members help to plan and run teen library programs. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

FOOD DRIVE

Allstate offices will host food drives to benefit Metropolitan Ministries through Sept. 22. Needed items include canned meat, canned fruit, peanut butter, boxed cereal, rice, bottled water, soup, pasta/pasta sauce, jelly/jam, condiments, boxed Jell-O, pudding and baby food. Donations can be dropped off at Joyce Gunter's Allstate office, 28969 Wesley Chapel Blvd., in Wesley Chapel. For information, call (813) 994-3900.

SOUND HEALING CONCERT

Sun Yoga Tampa, 19026 Geraci Road in Lutz, will host sound healer Robert Austin Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. Austin will use crystal bowls, didgeridoos, Tibetan bowls and other instruments. The cost is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. To reserve a spot, call (813) 955-1262, or visit SunYogaTampa.com.

CASINO NIGHT

The Hispanic Business Leaders of The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will host a "Havana Casino Night" Sept. 22 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., at The White Room, 6472 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. Guests can use "fun money" to play a variety of casino-style games. There also will be food, music, hand-rolled cigars, door prizes and more. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For information and tickets, call the chamber at (813) 909-2722 or John Jay at (813) 298-3232.



Taste of Honey

The USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive in Tampa, will host its eighth annual Taste of Honey Sept. 23 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Ticket are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, and include the opportunity to taste 100 types of exotic and unusual honey, apiary tours, live music, a chance to win prize baskets, and local artisan shopping. For information and tickets, visit USF.edu/ua/rsvp.



Sweet potato round-up

The New Port Richey FarmNet will host the 2017 Sweet Potato Round-Up and Fall Farming Market Sept. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at West Pasco Habitat for Humanity, 4131 Madison St., in New Port Richey. The Round-Up will feature locally grown, heirloom, organic sweet potatoes, in several varieties, including Georgia Jet, Beauregard, Centennial and Nancy Hall. There also will be recipes available and samples of ways to prepare sweet potatoes. In addition, the Fall Farming Market will feature seeds and seedlings for fall vegetable gardens. For information, call Marilyn deChant at (813) 974-0576.

GAMING GALORE

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host "Gaming Galore" Sept. 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., for tweens and teens. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

THRIFT STORE EVENTS

Life's Treasures Thrift Stores will have a special 50 percent off storewide sale Sept. 22 and Sept. 23. There also will be a Customer Appreciation Night Sept. 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., during which there will be a Mystery Sale with discounts of 30 to 50 percent off your entire purchase at the event. There will also be gift basket giveaways, and an opportunity to purchase select items that have been held for this exclusive shopping experience. The stores will close at 5 p.m. and reopen at 6 p.m.

Proceeds from Life's Treasures stores benefit the programs and services of HPH Hospice and LifePath Hospice. For locations and information, visit chaptershealth.org/give/thrift-stores-lifes-treasures/.

SEW A PHONE STATION

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer "Sewing 101: Phone Charging Station" Sept. 23 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., for ages 9 and older. A signed liability waiver and registration are required. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

NATIONAL CHECKERS DAY

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will celebrate National Checkers Day Sept. 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with games of checkers and prizes.

The event is open to all ages. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

PRINT MAKING

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer "Printmaking/Stamp Carving 101" Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon, for ages 9 and older. Participants can learn the basics of block printing, and design, carve and print a completed bookmark. A proper dress code, registration and signed liability waiver are required. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

PAINT ROCKS

Rock-painting events will take place for participants to paint rock creations to hide throughout the community, for all ages.

- Sept. 23 at 3 p.m., at Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bears Ave., in Carrollwood
- Sept. 28 at 6 p.m., at New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd.

 Rocks, paint and brushes will be provided, while supplies last. Guests can bring their own rocks, too. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

MAKEUP WORKSHOP

The Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa will offer "Behind the Curtain: Stage Makeup," a basic application process workshop, Sept. 23 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., for students in fifth grade through adult. The hands-on workshop will include a basic introduction to makeup and design, an application demonstration of contouring and highlight, and a student application portion. Students will be provided with all materials to create in-class applications, as well as how-to guides to take home. The workshop is free for Patel students and \$25 for non-Patel students. To register, call (813) 222-1040.

SUPER SCIENCE

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, will offer "Super Science" Sept. 23 at 3 p.m., for kindergarten through fifth grade. Participants can explore what is happening with "wonder-fall" experiments and investigations. The class is limited to 50 participants. Check-in is at the reference desk after 2 p.m. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

MODEL AIRPLANE FLY-IN

The Bay City Flyers model airplane club will host a Golden Era Fly-in Sept. 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 22500 State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes (about 3.5 miles east of U.S. 41 on the south side of State Road 52). All airplanes will be scale replicas of full-size aircraft built between 1919 and 1939, and range in size up to a 9-foot wingspan. There will be prize raffles and a full kitchen concession open. The cost is \$3 per carload. For information, visit BayCityFlyers.org.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY FILM

Cobb Grove 16 Theatre, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, will host a sensory-friendly film Sept. 23 at 10 a.m., to

Continued on next page

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provide families with varying abilities the opportunity to see a family friendly film where kids can be kids in a safe environment. The auditorium lights will be brighter and the sound level turned down. Kids can sing and dance without the worry of disturbing others. The movie will be "Ninjago." Tickets will be available in person only, the Wednesday prior to the broadcast. Film, date and program are subject to change.

MARKER DEDICATION

The Historic Hernando Preservation Society will dedicate a State Historical Marker near Centralia Road and Commercial Way in Hernando County Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. Centralia was a logging and mill town, which existed in Hernando County more than 100 years ago. Light refreshments will be served. For information, visit HistoricHernandoPreservationSociety.org, or email hernandopreservation@gmail.com.

MEET N' GREET

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, will host "Read Local: Local Authors Meet N' Greet" Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Featured authors include John Chaplick, Michael Parise, Briar Lee Mitchell, Bobbi Rise, Michael B. West, Richard G. Lowe Jr., Nirupama Vaidyanathan, Valerie Puri and Allan Drake. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

CCC BOOK CLUB

The CCC Book Club will meet Sept. 25 at 7 p.m., at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, to discuss "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens. For information, email David Brayshaw at david8463@verizon.net, or visit CarrollwoodCenter.org.

FREE CONCERT

Saint Leo University's Fall Faculty Recital will present "Camelot to Woodstock: Music of the '60s" Sept. 26 at 7 p.m., in Selby Auditorium, Lewis Hall. The campus is at 33701 State Road 52 in St. Leo. Faculty vocalists and instrumentalists will perform songs from the 1960s, as part of the School of Arts and Sciences' exploration of the decade. Visitors can park for free on surface lots or in the campus garage. For information or special seating requests, contact Megan Orendorf at (352) 588-8401 or Jennifer.orendorf@saintleo.edu.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay will host an orientation and training session Sept. 26 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Wesley Chapel Honda, 27750 Wesley Chapel Blvd., for anyone interested in becoming a

mentor/volunteer. For information, contact Deb Kristol-Irwin at (813) 997-6881 or DebK@bbbstampabay.org.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The Trinity Democratic Club will meet Sept. 27 at 6:30 p.m., at the Fox Hollow Golf & Country Club, 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway in Trinity. The guest speaker will be Amy Weintraub on the topic of "Litmus Test" politics and the future of the Democratic Party. Doors open at 5 p.m., for dinner/Happy Hour (self-pay). For information, call (727) 482-8709, or email trinitydems@earthlink.net.

JEWISH STUDIES LECTURE

The USF Department of Religious Studies and College of Arts & Sciences will present The June Baumgardner Gelbart Lecture in Jewish Studies Sept. 27 at 7 p.m., in the USF Alumni Center Traditions Hall, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., in Tampa. The guest speaker will be Dean Bell on the topic of "Martin Luther, Judaism and the Jews: Content and Contexts." Bell will examine the impact that Luther's Jewish writing had on later history. Admission is free. To RSVP, visit USF.edu/ua/rsvp.

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

The Veterans Homeownership Resource Fair will take place Sept. 28 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the West Pasco Board of Realtors, 5409 Sunset Road in New Port Richey. The keynote speakers will be Frank A. Jones, Pasco County Division of Veterans; Kobus Appelgrijn of Habitat for Humanity; Connie Walker, Wells Fargo; and, DeLynn Gaston, The Mortgage Firm. Light refreshments will be served. To RSVP by Sept. 25, call (727) 848-8507.

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club will meet on the third Monday of each month at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 5855 16th St. There will be a business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by a coffee break and a discussion or presentation program covering various topics at 7 p.m. The club also hosts a breakfast at the Smoke House, 5740 Seventh St., in Zephyrhills, every Thursday at 8 a.m. For information, call Gerald Hewitt at (813) 780-1980.

SEEKING VENDORS

Citizens for the Old Lutz School is looking for vendors for Autumn Day at the Old Lutz School, 18819 U.S. 41, scheduled for Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Outdoor spaces are \$20. Flea, craft, plant and direct-sale vendors can participate. For information, email market@oldlutzschool.com (preferred), or call (813) 909-2701.

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From left, Douglas O'Connor, Dante Plesce, Don McLachlan, Jan Wyckoff, Michael Armstrong and Tim Huff pose with the donated bears that will be delivered to comfort children when Pasco County Sheriff's deputies respond to emergency calls.

KATHY STEELE

Comforting kids through teddy bears

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

For the second year, Lowe's collected huggable teddy bears for a good cause.

Two volunteer deputies with the Pasco County Sheriff's Office stopped by the

home improvement store on Sept. 8 to load up about 250 teddy bears.

They scooped the plush animals from a table piled high with bears of all sizes and colors.

The teddy bears are given to sheriff's deputies who hand them out to children

when they respond to emergency calls, including domestic violence situations. It's a way to ease a child's stress.

Lowe's collected the stuffed animals for about a month-and-a-half, filling up a large cardboard box placed at an entrance. The contributions came from customers and employees at the Lowe's location on State Road 54, east of U.S. 41.

"Everyone donated," said Lowe's representative, Don McLachlan. "We had such a

great response to it."

Last year's teddy bear haul took in about 140 bears. The program got started by employees who wanted to help out the community.

The annual teddy bear drive this year was noticeably larger — up by nearly 110 bears over last year.

"I just feel really good that we're able to put this together to help the kids," said McLachlan.

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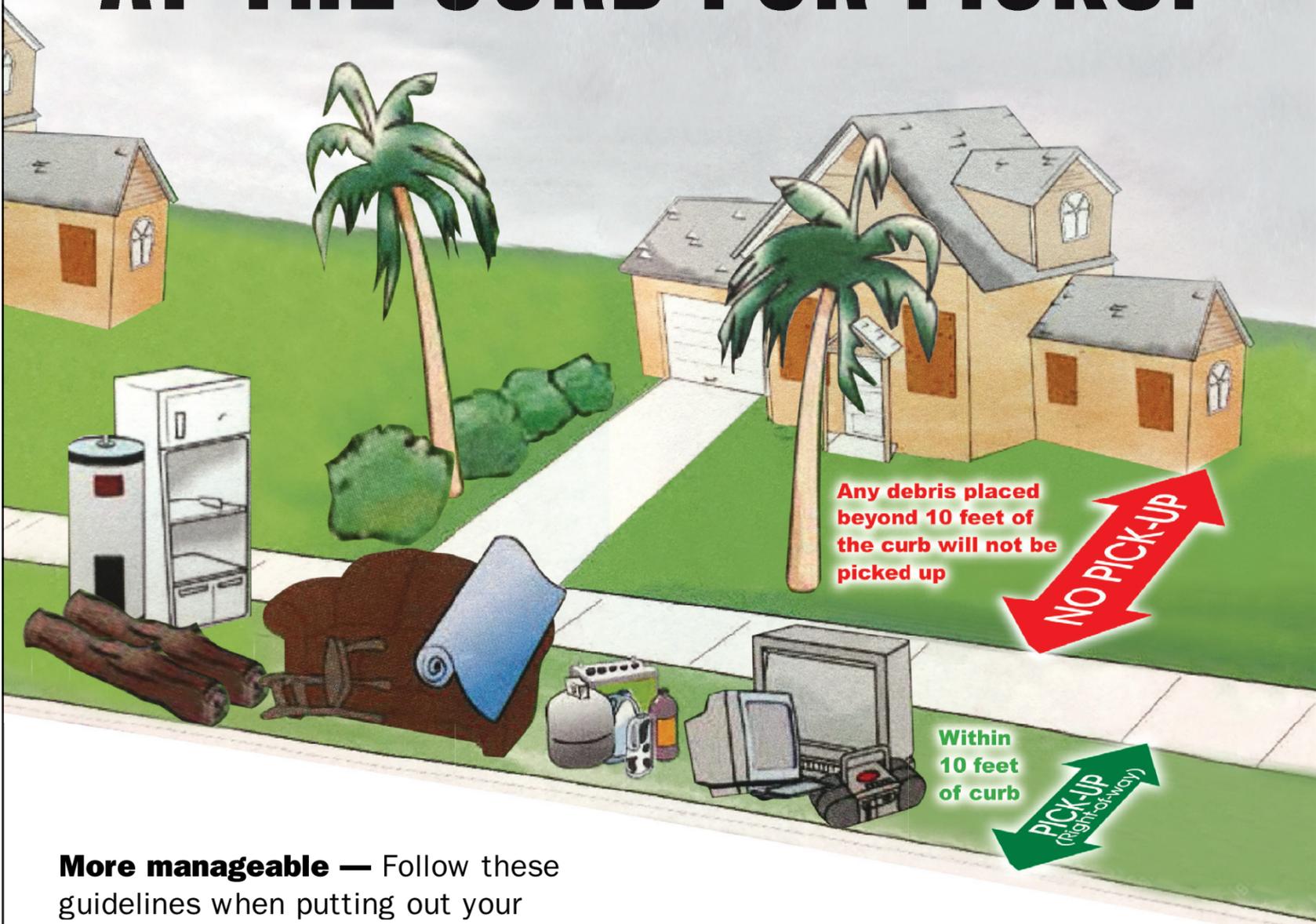
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- Looks can be deceiving. Walk and search the perimeter of your home before attempting to enter. Downed powerlines or trees may pose a risk for injury.
- As we work to recover, boiled water notices may be issued. If your area is affected, bring your water to a rolling boil for one (1) full minute before use.

Damage Assessment

- Inspect your property and document damage by taking photos, then upload them on the My Pasco App or on the Pasco County website (click on the red hurricane symbol). These photos may also assist in filing an insurance claim.
- Do what you can to prevent further damage to your property (e.g., putting a tarp on a damaged roof), as insurance may not cover additional damage that occurs after the storm.
- Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.

Relief Resources

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs): Centrally located station to aid with FEMA assistance and Small Business Assistance Loans (SBLs).

Disaster Debris Removal: Disaster related debris removal is available to residents following the storm. Collection of debris is managed in a systematic manner. Please contact the phone number or visit the website below for more information prior to the collection operation.

Information for the above resources will be posted in all open shelters. For more information, contact:



Pasco County
Government Call Center:
(727) 847-2411
or visit:
www.pascocountyfl.net

QUIT YOUR WAY

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



Class Schedule

Tuesday, September 26, 2017 / 10:00am – 12:00pm
Zephyrhills Library
5347 8th Street, Zephyrhills

Wednesday, October 4, 2017 / 10:00am – 12:00pm
Morton Plant, North Bay Hospital
6600 Madison Street New Port Richey

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 / 10:00am – 12:00pm
Good Samaritan Clinic
5334 Aspen Street New Port Richey

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 / 5:00pm – 7:00 pm
Regional Medical Center, Bayonet Point
14000 Fivay Road, Hudson

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 / 10:00am – 12:00pm
Morton Plant, North Bay Hospital
6600 Madison Street New Port Richey

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 / 10:00am – 12:00pm
Good Samaritan Clinic
5334 Aspen Street New Port Richey

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 / 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Regional Medical Center, Bayonet Point
14000 Fivay Road, Hudson

Thursday, November 16, 2017 / 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Florida Hospital – Zephyrhills
38233 Daughtery Road, Zephyrhills

Pre-registration required.

To register please call: 813-929-1000
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GULF COAST NORTH AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

Residents offer opinions on life in Pasco County

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

An annual online citizen survey offers a snapshot in time of how Pasco County residents view their quality of life.

And, it turns out that in 2017, about 71 percent of the people living in Pasco considered the quality of life either excellent or good.

The survey did spotlight a few negatives, including a frustration with traffic that makes it hard to get around. On that issue, results showed about a 10 percent decline in their views on “traffic flow” compared to the rating they gave it in 2015.

“Ease of travel by all modes of transportation such as walking, biking, driving or public transportation were rated lower in Pasco County than in communities across the nation,” according to survey’s written conclusions.

But, the news on roads wasn’t all bad. There is room for improvement, but about 34 percent of survey responders felt positive about road repairs, compared to only 25 percent in 2016.

That “big jump” is a trend in the right direction that indicates residents are seeing improvements in road repair efforts, said Marc Bellas, the county’s performance manager.

And, the overall quality of government services rose about 9 percent from 2014, according to the survey.

In general, Bellas said, “(Residents) feel more positive about the direction we’re going in.”

Bellas presented the survey results to Pasco County commissioners at their Aug. 29 meeting in New Port Richey.

County officials launched the online survey in mid-April. Residents had until May 31 to participate. Residents also had the opportunity to complete a survey during the Pasco County’s Disaster Expo in April, and later at a county-staffed booth at the Cotee River Seafest in New Port Richey.

About 2,500 residents completed the survey, and also provided written comments.

On average, about 350 communities within Pasco participate in the survey each year.

About 59 percent of the responses in 2017 were from west Pasco; 26 percent from central Pasco; and 15 percent from

east Pasco.

Wesley Chapel and Land O’ Lakes generally fell within central Pasco. Zephyrhills and Dade City were in east Pasco. But, there was some overlap as boundary lines were drawn, based on population density and zip codes.

The survey is one of the county’s tools to measure how often residents use government services, and how effectively government meets their needs. Results also can help guide county officials in strategic planning.

The survey provides insights, too, on areas where residents might need more information on projects their government is working on, said Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Moore.

“Let’s think about how we can get the word out there better, so (residents) know what’s coming,” he said.

Questions were modeled from a national citizen survey, and results compared with national benchmarks. Pasco did its first online survey in 2009.

Safety and the economy were among the most important issues in 2017. These results largely mirrored results from the 2016 survey, though the economy slipped past mobility into second place as an issue of importance.

Comments on the economy were mixed.

Residents said they still see empty buildings, but Bellas said, they also like seeing new businesses “that are of high quality.”

Not counting law enforcement, fire rescue and ambulance service, residents singled out road maintenance, code enforcement, and parks and recreation as top priorities.

While residents see improvements in the quality of road maintenance and code enforcement, those services fall below the national benchmarks.

On a positive note, about 70 percent of survey respondents had positive views of the quality of parks and recreation services. That is an upward trend that exceeded the national benchmark.

Residents appear to place increasing value on those services as important to quality of life, Bellas said.

“Citizens are noting that we’re making a difference,” he added.

For more details about the survey results, visit PascoCountyFL.net.



Marc Bellas

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for Hospice

Saturday, October 14
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Zephyrhills Community Event Venue
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Tickets:
Single: \$25 Double: \$45 6-Pack: \$125
(Admission includes beer sampling and souvenir glass.)

Tickets & Info: BrewfestForHospice.org
Ages 21+ only. Proceeds benefit Gulfside Hospice.

For more information, contact Christina Miller at 727-845-5707 or christina.miller@ghppc.org.

Gulfside Hospice

#FallBrewfest2017

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Jenny Buck, MD, FACOG

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

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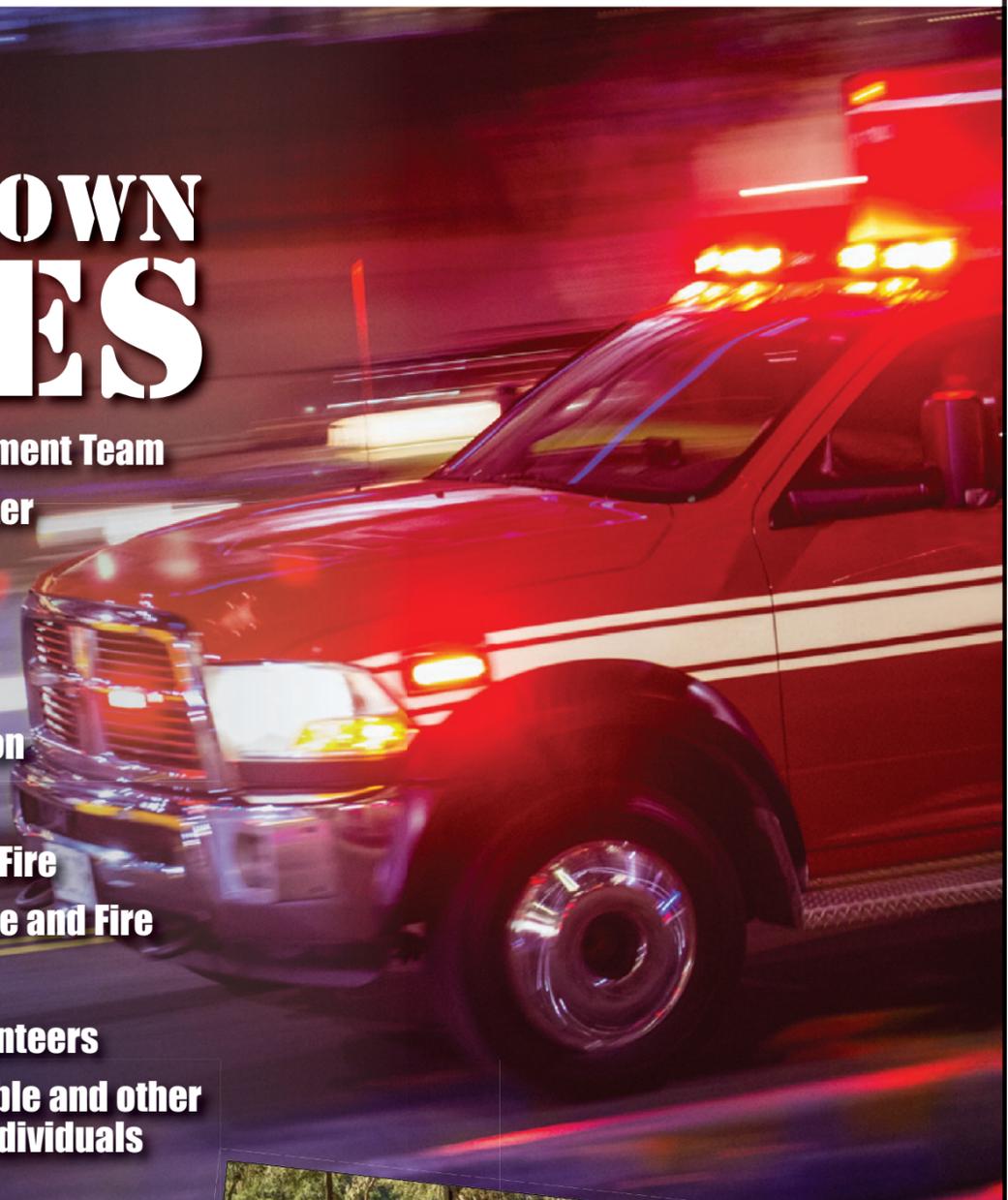
Here's to all of our local government officials, first responders and community volunteers who gave selflessly of their time, talent and treasures during Hurricane Irma to help residents and visitors of Pasco County.

We are proud of their quick actions and sound decisions that kept our community safe before and after the storm. As your state and national representatives, we are unified in our commitment to secure the tools and resources needed to help area residents and businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma.



OUR HOMETOWN HEROES

- Pasco County Emergency Management Team
- Pasco Emergency Operations Center
- Pasco Fire Rescue
- Pasco County Sheriff's Office
- Pasco County Schools
- Pasco County Public Transportation
- Pasco County Animal Services
- Dade City Government, Police and Fire
- Zephyrhills City Government, Police and Fire
- San Antonio City Government
- Pasco Citizen Hurricane Irma Volunteers
- Pasco County faith-based, charitable and other civic-minded organizations and individuals



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District 10

State Senator Tom Lee
District 20

State Representative Richard Corcoran
District 37

State Representative Danny Burgess, Jr.
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Erin Bolton
Functional Medicine Specialist
David Moreno, M.D.

HEALTH

&

WELLNESS

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news@lakerlutznews.com

WEIGHT-LOSS LECTURE

Access Health Care Physicians will host "Weigh Less - Want Less - Priceless!" Sept. 21 from 5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m., at 5350 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill.

For information, call (352) 688-8116, ext. 4344.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) will host a Volunteer Orientation Sept. 21 at 10 a.m., at the Area Agency on Aging office, 4111 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, in the conference room on the third floor of the tax collector building.

SHINE is a Florida Department of Elder Affairs program, in which volunteers provide free, unbiased one-on-one counseling, and information and Medicare options, as well as prescription drug assistance for elders, and their families and caregivers.

For information, contact Sue Samson at (727) 570-9696, ext. 234, or sue.samson@aaapp.org.

For a volunteer application, visit FloridaShine.org/join-the-team.aspx.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONFERENCE

BayCare Behavioral Health, in partnership with the Pasco County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, will host the sixth annual Substance Abuse Prevention Conference Sept. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Saddlebrook Resort, 5700 Saddlebrook Way in Wesley Chapel.

The keynote speaker will be Andy Duran, executive director of LEAD (Linking Efforts Against Drugs) and the SpeakUP! Prevention Coalition, based in the Chicago area.

A panel discussion will focus on the needs of people in recovery and how to keep them in recovery.

The afternoon will feature breakout sessions led by local experts. Session titles will include: The Incarceration of Our Mentally Ill; Wellness Begins at Your Public Library; Prescription Opioid Misuse in Rural Communities; Caring and Communication in Substance Abuse Disorders; and, more.

Vendors representing behavioral health providers and businesses will have exhibits.

The cost is \$35 at the door. Lunch is included.

For information and to register, visit PascoASAP.com/annualconference.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will offer these community events:

- Huntington's Disease Support Group, Sept. 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Lymphedema Support Group, Sept. 21 at 3 p.m.

For information and reservations, call (727) 834-5630.

MEDICARE 101

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will present Medicare 101 Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to answer Medicare enrollment questions.

For information, call (813) 788-6375.

WATER SAFETY

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will host a CPR & Water Safety class Sept. 22 at 1 p.m., for adults.

Hillsborough Fire Rescue, in partnership with the American Heart Association, will teach the life-saving skill of Hands-Only CPR.

The class is limited to 50 participants.

Registration opens at the library 30 minutes prior to the event.

For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

LUTZ SENIOR CENTER

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

- Sept. 22 at 1 p.m.: Falls Prevention Awareness Day
- Sept. 25 at 1 p.m.: Flu Shots (frequently asked questions)

• Sept. 26 at 10 a.m.: Go4Life How Flexible Am I?

For information, call (813) 264-3804.

WOMEN'S WELLNESS DAY

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will host a Women's Health and Wellness Day Sept. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Saddlebrook Resort and Spa, 5700 Saddlebrook Way in Wesley Chapel.

Activities will include a women's health panel, health and wellness presentations, and screenings. There also will be chair massages, mini-makeovers and mini-facials, as well as lunch, door prizes and a keynote presentation by Lisette Campos of WFTS-TV ABC Action News.

The cost is a \$5 donation to Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel Foundation's Women's Health Fund.

For a full list of exhibitors and breakout sessions, visit tinyurl.com/2017WHWD.

To register, please visit FHWesleyChapel.org/events.

SENIOR HEALTH EVENT

Access Health Care Physicians will host a Senior Health Screening Event in collaboration with Atria Evergreen Woods Sept. 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Atria, 7030 Evergreen Woods Trail in Spring Hill.

There will be various workshops on the topics of cancer, diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, and more, starting at 10 a.m.

The complimentary screenings will include blood pressure test, blood sugar, heart rate and basic vitals.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Access Health Care Physicians and clinicians will be available to answer questions.

For information, call (352) 616-0698, ext. 5597.

EPILEPSY FUNDRAISER

The sixth annual Septemberfest Sept. 23 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Southern Brewing & Winemaking, 4500 N. Nebraska Ave., in Tampa, to benefit the Epilepsy Services Foundation.

There will be 32 types of beer from local brew clubs (guests can vote for their favorite one), raffle prizes, a silent auction and kids' games. Complimentary food and beverages will be served.

The cost is \$25 for adults pre-pay and \$30 at the door. Kids ages 15 and younger are \$5.

Register at EpilepsySF.org/events/sep-tembeerfest/.

For information, contact Tom Orth at (813) 374-8907 or torth@epilepsysf.org.

CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS

A certified CPS technician will teach the correct installation and use of a car seat, sponsored by St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Sept. 25, at AAA Auto Club, 20315 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.

Time slots available are at 9 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and noon.

Participants must register by calling (813) 443-2046.

STEM CELL SEMINAR

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will offer a seminar on stem cells Sept. 26 at noon.

Dr. Peter Candelora, orthopedic surgeon, will discuss looking into stem cell therapy for arthritis or rotator cuff problems.

Admission is free and a complimentary light lunch will be provided.

For information and reservations, call (727) 834-5630.

PAIN LECTURE

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will present a free lecture on "Picture Your Life With Less Pain" Sept. 26 at noon, in the classroom on the fourth floor.

Anyone suffering from back or neck pain, or severe headaches, can attend.

Topics will include symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment options to help restore function.

A light lunch will be provided.

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

BOWLING FOR BOOBS

The West Pasco Business Association will host its fourth annual "Bowling for Boobs" event, sponsored by John F. McMenamin Jr., and McMenamin Law Group, Sept. 26 at 5:30 p.m., at Lane Glo Bowl South, 8631 Old County Road 54 in New Port Richey.

There will be a Memory Board set up for the posting of loved ones' photos, for \$10.

Also, there will be a photo area, and

Continued on next page

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Carrabba's will be on site with food, along with other local restaurants, to donate food for bowling participants and friends.

The cost is \$15 for spectators, and includes food.

For information and more details, contact Maria Johnson at (727) 934-0940 or maria@wpba.biz.

FIGHTING OBESITY

The Graduate Medical Education Center at Oak Hill Hospital, 11307 Cortez Blvd., in Brooksville, will present a program on "Combating Obesity" Sept. 26 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the GME Conference Center.

Dr. Salman Muddassir and Dr. Adam Alperstein will discuss information on ways to manage and possibly beat obesity, as well as how to manage the progressive disease that impacts issues such as diabetes, issues with the eyes, neuropathy of the feet and hands, and kidney issues.

A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation.

Light refreshments will be provided. Reservations are required.

For information, call (352) 597-6333 or (352) 628-6060.

MEDICARE HELP

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer Medicare help Sept. 28 at 2 p.m.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

HOSPITAL EARNS NURSING DESIGNATION

St. Joseph's Hospital-North in Lutz has achieved the Pathway to Excellence designation, a national nursing recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center that identifies health care organizations for positive practice environments where nurses excel.

To qualify, organizations need to meet six practice standards essential to an ideal nursing environment: shared decision-making, leadership, safety, quality, well-being, and professional development.

Applicants must undergo a thorough review process that documents the integration of those standards in the organization's practices, policies and culture.

NEW PREGNANCY CENTER HOURS

Oasis Pregnancy Care Centers, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Suite 108, in Land O' Lakes, has a new schedule of hours.

The center will be open Mondays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays from noon to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Clients are seen by appointment, but walk-ins also are welcome.

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, 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 nfldistrict5.com.

For information, call (352) 697-0497.

NAMI SUPPORT MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

DIABETIC SCREENINGS

The Wesley Chapel Lions Club offers free monthly diabetic screenings at the Lexington Oaks Activity Center, 26304 Lexington Oaks Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., prior to the club's monthly meeting.

The club meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Screenings are open to anyone in the community.

For information, visit Wesley Chapel Lions Club on Facebook.

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STUDENTS GET CINDERELLA TREATMENT

The Cinderella Project of Pasco County will provide new and gently used dresses and shoes to indigent young female students in Pasco County schools in time for this year's homecoming festivities. The garments are available in a boutique setting.

The Project made a stop at Gulf High School, in New Port Richey, on Sept. 18 and Sept. 19, and will be at Fivay High School, in Hudson, on Sept. 20 and Sept. 21 from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For more about The Cinderella Project, where to donate clothing and how to make cash donations, visit the organization's Facebook page at The Cinderella Project Pasco County, or call Julie Rockwell at (727) 372-2530.

FREE HOMECOMING DRESSES

The Belle of the Ball Project will give away free homecoming dresses and accessories Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at its boutique at 1210 Holt Ave., in Clearwater, to in-need high school girls. It also will provide dresses Sept. 30, Oct. 14 and Oct. 21.

The organization respects the honor system. No referral letter is necessary. No appointment is needed. A \$1 to \$5 donation is requested, but not required. Dresses are for high school dances only.

Donations of dresses and accessories can also be made at the site, dates and times listed above.

For a list of other year-round donation sites and information, call (727) 386-4502, or visit BelleOfTheBallProject.com.

A NATIONAL GUARD VISIT

The National Guard will visit Hudson High School Sept. 26 at 7:30 a.m., to provide JROTC students with a military experience.

There will be a military Humvee and howitzer artillery gun, and a firing of blank rounds from a canon at the beginning of the first, second, third and sixth periods.

The Guard also will provide ready-to-eat meals (MREs) and talk to the students about careers that its Florida force offers.

For information, call Timothy Root at (727) 774-4255.

COLLEGE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Thrivent Financial will host a free College Planning Strategies Workshop Sept. 26 at North Pointe Church, 19862 Amanda Park Drive in Lutz, for parents and students in seventh grade and higher.

Participants can learn how academics, admissions and financial strategies can work together to help save money on college.

There will be tips about FAFSA; what

AVIATION DEGREES

Pasco-Hernando State College received approvals to include an Aviation Administration degree program and a College Credit Certificate program in Cybersecurity in the scope of its current accreditation.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials for approval of the Associate in Science in Professional Pilot Technology and Aviation Administration degree programs.

The offering of the two degrees for the fall semester began Aug. 21.

For information on PHSC's aviation programs, visit PHSC.edu/aviation.

The College Credit Certificate in Cybersecurity is a component of the Associate of Science in Network Systems Technology degree.

For information on the Cybersecurity certificate, visit PHSC.edu/program/cybersecurity-certificate.

ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Hillel Academy, 2020 W. Fletcher Ave., in Tampa, will host an open house Oct. 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hillel is the city's only private Jewish day school.

Topics will be academic secular programming, Hebrew and Judaics, art, music, physical education and technology programs. There also will be door prizes, tours, goody bags and refreshments.

For information or to RSVP, call (813) 963-2242, or you can visit HillelAcademyTampa.com/admissions.

CLASS REUNION

"Lordy Lordy, it's been 40! Forty years have come and gone, Can't believe it's been that long. Don't let anymore time come to pass. Join our 1977 class.

Let this be the Blue and Golden Rule, First event to be held at school. October 27 is the homecoming game. Come watch the Gators put Mitchell to shame.

But, don't let this be the end. Come eat and play games with your old high school friends

At a tailgate party on October 28, Saturday afternoon. It'll be great! The cost is \$20 each.

We'll have lots of food and light drinks." -Diane Butler

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COURTESY OF JOE HUMPHREY

Hands-on technology enhances learning

Christy Pelphrey, a fourth-grade teacher at Schwarzkopf Elementary School in Lutz, moderates an intense interactive Kahoot! quiz program with Lian Brewer, Patrick Yazbeck and Christian Yazbeck. Kahoot! allows teachers, and students, to design quizzes that can be taken from phones, tablets and computers.

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BUSINESS, from page 1A

luckier, and appeared to suffer less damage than other parts of the county. A few roofs were coming off, and a lot of trees were felled.

Duke Energy estimated that the Zephyrhills area, including its businesses, would have power restored by Sept. 15. Withlacoochee Electric said it might take longer for some of its customers.

The chamber cancelled all events the week of the storm, including its Citizens of the Month awards to area students.

"We're going to double up for October, and do double the number of students," Monson said.

UKULELE'S PLAYING ITS TUNE AGAIN

Bryant Brand, owner of Ukulele Brand's, reopened the waterside restaurant in Land O' Lakes on Sept. 12 at 3 p.m. The restaurant lost power for more than 12 hours.

Some food had to be tossed out, but Brand said the restaurant withstood the battering winds. A floating dock still floated, but dipped about a foot-and-a-half underwater.

Brand said he would wait to see if the water drained away, and what kind of damage was done.

Within 30 minutes of the restaurant's opening, cars began filling the parking lot, and hurricane-weary residents headed for the outdoor tables or the cooler bar inside.

It was business as usual.

THE SHOPS AT WIREGRASS PITCHES IN TO HELP

Hurricanes have threatened in the past, but Hurricane Irma delivered.

"It was definitely a learning experience for everyone," said Greg Lenners, general manager at The Shops at Wiregrass.

With Irma waffling on her direction, Lenners said the decision to close the mall came on Sept. 9, when it appeared obvious the hurricane had west Florida, and Pasco County, in her sights.

Something unexpected happened.

Some residents decided to leave their cars in the mall's garage for safe keeping.

"Parking in the garage caught us by surprise, but we allowed them to park there to be a good neighbor," Lenners said.

The mall came through without damage, and mall officials hoped to reopen on the afternoon of Sept. 11. Out of caution, the opening was delayed until Sept. 12, though a few restaurants opened doors sooner.

Yamato's Japanese Steakhouse and Pincher's seafood shack on Sept. 11 had long lines of residents eager to put Irma behind them with a hot meal and a cool place to hang out.

"I think we were all stir crazy, and had no power," Lenners said.

Irma's timing couldn't have been worse. She came during a weekend, when shops and restaurants normally look forward to crowds.

"It certainly was a blow," Lenners said, but noted it was too early to tell the precise impacts.

There already is some rebound, in part, due to schools closing for the week, he noted.

"You did have a lot of families off work because their businesses didn't have power," he said. "We've started seeing an uptick in traffic on Tuesday (Sept. 12)."

The mall planned to partner with 99.5 QYK radio station on Sept. 15 for a Help Our Community Heal event. The radio station was scheduled to hand out free water and batteries, and provide charging stations for people needing help. Donations also were being collected to aid about 700 line-men who have been restoring power.

DRIVE-THROUGH HERE AND THERE

Motorists wrapped their cars around McDonald's at Connerton on Tuesday morning, eager to grab bags full of breakfast foods and hot coffee from the drive-through lane.

Area restaurants that were able to open immediately after Hurricane Irma activated drive-through windows, with limited menus.

Kentucky Fried Chicken on State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes also was among the fast-food chains with lines of cars quickly surrounding the restaurant.

TAMPA PREMIUM OUTLETS IS SHOPPER READY

Tampa Premium Outlets reported no problems arising from Hurricane Irma. As of Sept. 12, stores began opening and the outlet mall "is open for business as usual," said Sarah Rasheid, in a written statement. Rasheid is director of marketing and business development.

"We recognize the devastation our communities are experiencing by Hurricane Irma's arrival in Florida," Rasheid said in her statement. "It is heartbreaking when events like these occur, and our thoughts and prayers are with all the families throughout the state."

HOME IMPROVEMENT STORES FILL NEEDS, BEFORE AND AFTER

Home improvement stores, like Home Depot and Lowe's, were slammed with customers frantic to buy plywood to board up their homes, generators to keep refrigerators running and flashlights to light the dark.

Now that Irma is history, shopping is getting back to normal.

But, there also have been plenty of residents needing cleanup supplies.

Lowe's, on State Road 54, east of U.S. 41, sent in a small team of employees to get the store ready for its reopening on Sept. 12.

The store shut down about lunchtime on Sept. 9, before Irma struck.

"I'd love to see power returned to the whole area," said Michael Armstrong, Lowe's store manager.

Since reopening, Armstrong has seen a mix of customers. Buying is happening across all categories, he added.

People are filling carts with flowers, patio cushions and usual needs of a home. But, he said others are on the hunt for cleaning supplies, rakes, yard clippers and tarps for their roofs.

Those still without power also wanted flashlights, he said.

In the midst of providing area residents with their hurricane needs, Lowe's, as a company, also had to consider its own employees.

Armstrong said employees had to think of their own safety and their families. Their decisions reflected the dilemmas everyone had. And, he said some opted to evacuate; others stayed.

"We keep a list of associates," he said. "As soon as the hurricane was over, we started calling everyone. At 9 a.m., yesterday, (Sept. 12) we reached the last one. It's not just about coming to work. It's 'we want to check on you. See how you're doing.'"

As of Wednesday, Lowe's was on track for a normal business day.

DADE CITY READY TO REBOUND

Dade City's downtown businesses took a hit during Hurricane Irma. But, with power restored, they began opening doors around mid-week to shoppers and diners.

For two days after Irma passed, downtown seemed "very quiet," said John Moors, executive director of The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce.

"I haven't heard of anything looking major, except for cosmetic stuff and trees down," he said.

Revenue losses are to be expected, however.

"There's definitely concern over the whole week," Moors said. "The major thing is people were safe. It's just a lot of work to get cleared up."

It's early yet, but Moors said some merchants might want to explore hosting a special event to help businesses rebound from Irma.



STEFANIE BURLINGAME

A tree crashed down on a mobile home in a mobile home park on Morningside Drive in Dade City.

IRMA, from page 1A

Joint Information Center used social media, news releases and video links to provide timely information in English, Spanish and American Sign Language. Those communications included 57 news releases, 42 media alerts, five news conferences and 67 media inquiries. There were 12 reporters embedded in the Pasco County Emergency Operations Center.

Pasco County officials also are grateful for a lengthy list of community partners and agencies that have been helping in recovery efforts. Those partners include law enforce-

ment agencies, utility companies, city governments, the school board, the University of South Florida, Pasco-Hernando State College, the Florida National Guard, volunteer ham radio operators, emergency response team volunteers and external rescue teams from Ohio, Arkansas, Illinois, among others.

Commission Chairman Moore put it this way: "The team has just been incredible. These people are running on fumes. You never hear anybody complaining."

He planned to express his appreciation at the board's session this week.

"I will give them a standing ovation at the meeting," Moore said.

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STORIES, from page 1A

asked.

TO GO OR NOT TO GO

Angela Lynch ended up at home with her mother and her fiancé. As Irma raged outside, Lynch, at times, watched the storm from behind her sliding glass doors.

She didn't plan to be a spectator.

"I went shopping to leave town," she said. "We ended up staying."

News reports said Irma was shifting eastward, so it seemed safe to stay.

With food on hand, she mixed up a "Manwich" meal from hamburger and baked beans. And, she even managed to cook up her mother's breakfast biscuits on a grill.

Her family and house survived with no damage, but she was waiting for word on how her office in Ruskin fared.

FRIENDS HELP FRIENDS

Kathy Moré and Sandra Randazzo combined forces to deal with Irma. And, on Tuesday they celebrated with margaritas at Ukulele Brand's in Land O' Lakes.

Randazzo came to Moré's house, which lost power Sunday night. They had cooked up a mess of food, including pork chops and potatoes.

They fashioned a safe room in a hallway, with a futon, a cooler, snacks and wine. And, they never used the room.

"I think we got lucky," said More. "We prepared for the worst and are glad that didn't happen."

Share your hurricane stories and photos

We'd love to share your Hurricane Irma experiences and photos with our readers. Please tell us how you weathered Hurricane Irma. Did your home, car or property suffer damage? Did your power go out? Is your power still out? How did you cope without television, telephone or Internet? How did you handle child care, while the schools were closed? Finally, did Irma ruin wedding, proposal or other special plans?

Please send us your stories and photos, if you have any, by Sept. 22. We plan to publish a selection of what we receive in our Sept. 27 issue. Send your submissions to news@lakerlutznews.com.

Her house was still without power on Tuesday, and no sign of when it might be turned back on.

"I feel displaced without my electricity," Moré said.

Randazzo's home apparently never lost power.

But, no matter, they felt lucky. Moré planned to donate her trove of leftover canned goods to a local shelter.

Randazzo recalled Hurricane Andrew, from 1992, when she lived in Miami.

"Andrew was worse," she said. "The howling wind was a hell of a lot worse in Andrew. It was definitely worse, but that was a hurricane 5."

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Area football games rescheduled

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

With Hurricane Irma wiping out athletic events for schools in Hillsborough and Pasco counties for the week of Sept. 11, many anticipated Friday night football contests already have been rescheduled, or played, in some cases.

In Pasco, a few local schools didn't waste much time agreeing to make up games on Sept. 18, including the Zephyrhills High squad, which traveled to Ridgewood High, and Wesley Chapel High's team, which hosted Fivay High.

Zephyrhills Christian Academy was set to host St. John's Lutheran, but the latter forfeited the game.

High school football contests seldom are played on Mondays, but Florida High School Athletic Association permitted practices on Sept. 17 with the approval of each individual school and/or school district, giving coaches an additional day to work with players.

RESCHEDULED GAMES

Pasco County schools in The Laker/Lutz News coverage area scheduled to play on Sept. 15 have since pushed contests back a week to Sept. 22:

- Land O' Lakes at Sunlake (7:30 p.m.)
- Bishop McLaughlin at Ocala Christian (7 p.m.)
- Cypress Creek at Pasco (7:30 p.m.)

The following games scheduled for Sept. 15 in our coverage area that will have to be made up on a Monday in October include:

- Steinbrenner at Manatee
- Freedom at Gaither
- Wharton at Leto
- Wiregrass Ranch at Sickles

Public schools in Hillsborough will make up the Sept. 15 slate of games beginning Oct. 2. It marked the second straight week

public schools in Hillsborough cancelled games.

The county's public schools were closed all last week due to Hurricane Irma, and the district did not permit teams to resume practice until Sept. 18.

With regard to the FHSAA's new playoff point system for football, as originally planned, total points will be determined by dividing points earned by games. If a school somehow falls below the eight-game minimum requirements, FHSAA executive director George Tomyne may waive the minimum game requirement on a case-by-case basis.

The new system, passed last September, bases football postseason berths on a points system in Class A-4A. The new format, beginning this season, is designed to reward teams for winning records and strength of schedule.

In the FHSAA's biggest four classes (5A-8A), the district champion still automatically qualifies for regionals, with the remaining 16 spots decided by points.



FILE
Mark Kantor has guided Wiregrass Ranch to its first 3-0 start in school history.

Winning Wiregrass

Wiregrass Ranch High is one program hoping to keep its momentum in between a two-week layoff from football games.

Under third-year head coach Mark Kantor, the Bulls are off to its first 3-0 start in school history.

Coincidentally, Kantor — who previously coached three seasons at Hudson High and compiled a 15-13 mark — now has the most wins in Wiregrass Ranch history, with 12; the school's football program was launched in 2007.

Just one other public school in Pasco remains undefeated — Mitchell High (3-0).

The Bulls have been tested early on, battling to one-possession victories over Zephyrhills, Wesley Chapel and Sunlake high schools. And, despite several key departures in the offseason, the Bulls may be stronger than last year's 7-3 District 8-7A runner-up squad. Junior quarterback Grant Sessums, the leading passer in the county (504 yards, four touchdowns, one interception, 57 percent completion rate), has lived up to preseason billing, as has senior cornerback/Penn State University commit Jordan Miner (13 tackles, two interceptions). The Bulls have also received breakout contributions from a pair of sophomore linebackers in Dylan Ridolph (31 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, four sacks) and Nick Gaziano (30 tackles, three tackles for loss, forced fumble).

Prior to the 2017-2018 school year, Wiregrass Ranch saw three of its top players — cornerback Shamaur McDowell, athlete Raymond Woodie III, tailback Da Da McGee — transfer elsewhere.

The Bulls host Wharton (1-1) on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Generous gesture

In the wake of Hurricane Irma's impact on Florida, the University of South Florida (USF) provided complimentary admission to last Friday's football game vs. Illinois to first responders and their families, as well as to Florida high school football teams, many of which have had their games cancelled as a result of the storm.

Eighty-seven high school teams, such as Steinbrenner and Sunlake, took up the offer. Even schools as far as Orlando, Lakeland and Vero Beach showed up.

"It's all about us giving back," USF head coach Charlie Strong said, during a press conference last week. "We want to make sure that everyone is working to give back and get their life (together). It's going to take a while, we know that. When things happen, we just want to make sure people understand that we do understand. We're not going through what they're going through, but we can help them get through what they're going through."



COURTESY OF SUNLAKE HIGH FOOTBALL
The Sunlake Seahawks were one of 87 high school programs that attended the USF-Illinois game on Sept. 15.

Another offer for local standout, Cameron Smith

Cameron Smith, arguably one of the top defensive players in Pasco County, recently picked up a scholarship offer from Ursinus College, a Division III program in Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

The latest offer is one of several for the Pasco High senior linebacker, who also holds offers from Albright College (Reading, Pennsylvania), Warner University (Lake Wales), Webber international (Babson Park)

and West Virginia State University (Institute, West Virginia).

Smith, a 2016 SAC First-Team All-Conference selection, currently leads the Pirates in tackles with 12.



FILE
Pasco High senior linebacker Cameron Smith has added his growing list of scholarship offers.

Here's a running list of other known players from our coverage area in Pasco County to have at least one scholarship offer:

- Dylan Gonzalez, Academy at the Lakes, senior linebacker
- Tylor Winn, Land O' Lakes, senior wide receiver
- Adam Jarvis, Sunlake, senior linebacker
- Isaiah Bolden, Wesley Chapel, senior defensive back
- Chaz Neal, Wesley Chapel, senior defensive end
- Daniel Biglow, Wiregrass Ranch, senior wide receiver
- Kwesi Littlejohn, Wiregrass Ranch, senior safety/running back
- Jordan Miner, Wiregrass Ranch, senior cornerback

- Devaun Roberts, Wiregrass Ranch, senior tight end/defensive end
- Adrian Thomas, Wiregrass Ranch, senior wide receiver
- Charles Harrison III, Zephyrhills, senior quarterback
- Ja'Quan Sheppard, Zephyrhills, junior wide receiver
- Sterlin Williams, Zephyrhills, senior defensive lineman
- Javon Hanner, Zephyrhills Christian, junior running back
- Calvin Samuel, Zephyrhills Christian, senior running back
- Alonzo Sampson, Zephyrhills Christian, senior linebacker
- Evan Miller, Zephyrhills Christian, senior defensive back
- Javan Smith, Zephyrhills Christian, junior tailback/linebacker
- Jalen Spencer, Zephyrhills Christian, junior defensive end/linebacker



SHOES-4-SCHOOLS GOLF TOURNAMENT OCT. 6

Shoes-4-Schools will be hosting its first "Bare Feet 2 Soles" golf tournament Oct. 6, with a shotgun start at 1 p.m., at Fox Hollow Golf Club, 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway in Trinity.

Opportunities are available for sponsorships and golfer foursome. Golfers will be provided with a mixer and light dinner, raffles and goodie bags. Awards will be given to first-place teams and winners of the longest drive, closest to the pin and putting contests. Also, a 2017 Acura ILX provided by Ferman Acura of Tampa will be awarded to the winner of a hole-in-one contest.

Shoes-4-Schools is a nonprofit 501 (C) 3 organization create in 2013 for the primary purpose of providing footwear for needy children in Pasco and Hillsborough counties. For information, visit Shoes-4-Schools.org, or call (813) 505-1378.

FISHING FOR FAMILIES SET FOR NOV. 3

There are only five boats left for the inaugural Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco's Fishing For Families Saltwater Tournament is set for Nov. 3 at 8 a.m., at Catches Waterfront Grille, 7811 Bayview St., in Port Richey.

Registration is open to individual anglers, and opportunities remain available for sponsorships. No experience is necessary,



FILE
Caitlin Hansen was named the second head coach in Saint Leo women's lacrosse history in June.

SAINT LEO WOMEN'S LACROSSE PROSPECT CAMP

The Saint Leo University's women's lacrosse program will host its Fall Prospect Clinic Oct. 8, at University Turf Stadium on the campus of Saint Leo, 3701 State Road 52 in St. Leo. The clinic, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., is open to high school girls ages 14 to 18. To register, visit TotalCamps.com/saintleowomenslacrosse.

and the event is all-inclusive.

Tournament species categories include redfish, trout and snook.

Prizes will be awarded for first place, second place and third place for combined total inches. A prize will also be awarded for largest single fish in each category, and a master angler award will be presented for biggest cobia.

This catch-and-release tournament will

benefit the Pasco Sheriff Youth Fishing & Environmental Education Program, the Family Support Network, and the Pasco Sheriff's K-9 Association.

To register, visit tinyurl.com/y95gzdc6.

For information about the tournament, contact Rick Cochran at RCochran@PascoSheriff.org or (727) 514-8417.

WIREGRASS WOBBLE SET FOR NOV. 23

The fifth annual Wiregrass Wobble Turkey Trot 5K and Fun Run is slated for Nov. 23 at The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Drive in Wesley Chapel. The 5K Run starts at 7:30 a.m., while the 1-mile Fun Run/Walk starts at 8:15 a.m. Post-race awards and festivities will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., at the start/finish line area. Preregistration cost is \$25 through Sept. 30. The cost jumps to \$30 from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31, and \$35 from Nov. 1 to Nov. 22. Race day registration is \$40.

To register, visit WiregrassWobbleTurkeyTrot.com. Proceeds from the event will support the Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel Foundation, FITNiche Foundation and the Rotary Club of New Tampa charities.

SAINT LEO BASEBALL TO HOST PROSPECT CAMP

The Saint Leo University baseball program will host a one-day prospect camp Oct. 8, to give high school athletes a jump on preseason workouts.

The High School Prospect Camp, which runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be at Thomas B. Southard Stadium on the Saint Leo campus, 33701 State Road 52, St. Leo.

The camp, open to players ages 13 to 18, will provide the Saint Leo baseball staff the

opportunity to workout and evaluate high school age players for the purpose of future recruitment, to educate the players on techniques used by the Saint Leo baseball program, and to help improve the players' skills. The camp also will give participants the full experience of Saint Leo baseball with instruction, evaluation, competition, and a campus tour, all under the supervision of new Saint Leo Head Coach Rick O' Dette and his staff.

To register, visit SaintLeoSportsRegistrations.com.

For information, contact Matt Kennedy at matthew.kennedy@saintleo.edu or (352) 588-8841.

HOLES FOR HOPE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The fifth annual Holes for Hope Golf Tournament is slated for Oct. 2 at 8:30 a.m., at the Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club, 12900 Lake Jovita Blvd., Dade City. The tournament will benefit the Sunrise Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center. Opportunities are available for individual and group golfers, as well as sponsorships. For information, contact Jarrod Scharber at (352) 567-4690 or jarrod@wallerandscharber.com.

PHSC 5K SET FOR NOV. 5

The annual PHSC Run with the Bobcats 5K is slated for Nov. 5 at 8 a.m., at the Pasco-Hernando State College West Campus, 10230 Ridge Road in New Port Richey. The race, hosted by the PHSC women's cross-country team, will include raffles, post-race refreshments and race T-shirts. Costs start at \$20. To register, visit tinyurl.com/yabeh3f9. For information, email head coach Jacki Wachtel at wachtelj@phsc.edu.

She knows local history, and is preserving it

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

If you want to learn a thing or two about local history — particularly as it pertains to Wesley Chapel, Dade City and Zephyrhills — a telephone call to Madonna Wise will put you on the right track.

Wise has written books about all three communities.

"I've always been interested in history," she said. "We're sitting in my dining room, and these are some of my family heirlooms that came on a covered wagon from Pennsylvania," the retired educator said, during an interview in the Zephyrhills home she shares with her husband, Ernie.

Her interest in the history of people, places and things began early.

As a little girl, she would go with her father, who was a farmer in Indiana, as he went out to plow fields.

As he worked, he would have her wait in the home where he was plowing.

"One of those people that I remember, when I was about 6 or 7, was Mrs. Hefley. And, I remember her showing me the crochet work and the tatting work. She would begin to tell me about the family and the experiences they had. I just always made those connections."

She also recalls spending an enormous amount of time with her grandparents.

"My grandfather was a blacksmith during World War I," said Wise, who began her career in education as a history teacher.

She's always been a writer, for as long as she can remember and, wherever she's worked, people have turned to her to do newsletters and other writing chores.

Her foray into authoring local history books began while she was working as the principal at West Zephyrhills Elementary School and she began compiling information about the community of Zephyrhills.

"I just started researching it," she said. "I would get more and more stuff. I was like, 'This has to be preserved.' That's kind of how it happened."

To capture that history, she self-published a book called "Zephyrhills - An Anthology of its History Through Education."

The book was a family affair. Her husband and daughter, Mamie, edited the volume.

Around the same time, she published a book called "Juanita in Blue," a four-year project showcasing her mother's recipes.

"My mother was an extraordinary cook. She ran this little restaurant in Indiana. It was called The Rainbow Café.

"After she passed away, I had all these boxes of recipe cards," Wise said.

So, she created cookbooks for each of her three kids: Jervis, an attorney in St. Petersburg; Mamie, an attorney in Tampa; and Rachel, who is studying to become an



Dade City women organized the Alpha Sorosis Club, which met regularly for intellectual pursuits. The club was founded in 1909, and continued through 1968.



Madonna Jervis Wise has written several books, including four which help preserve the history of Zephyrhills, Dade City and Wesley Chapel.

B.C. MANION

attorney, in Gulfport.

The three community history books that Wise has written are part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series.

The publisher, which has now merged with History Press, invited Wise to do a local history book about Zephyrhills. After that, the publisher invited her to do books on Dade City and Wesley Chapel.

Before accepting the offer to do the



The Cochranes' house, at the southeast corner of 14th Street and Howard Avenue, was built during the 1890s. Malcolm Cochrane and his wife, Minnie, operated the Osceola Hotel.

Dade City book, Wise said she cleared the idea with various groups from the Dade City community because she didn't want to be presumptuous or intrusive.

Any concerns along those lines were alleviated by Dade City folks who not only encouraged her to pursue the local history book, but helped her in tracking down the documents and photographs that she needed to tell the community's story.

"It really came together," Wise said.

Next, she tackled the task of compiling Wesley Chapel's history.

Figuring out how to approach that took some thought, she said, because unlike Zephyrhills and Dade City — which are municipalities with city records — Wesley Chapel is unincorporated.

So, she turned to genealogy skills to help track down the families who have shaped the community's history.

Initially, she thought the book would focus primarily on ranching, and would include some ranching artifacts.

But then, she went into some genealogy sites and plugged in some key names, which led to interviews with families.

One interview led to another, and the story of Wesley Chapel emerged.

A desire "to preserve the stories" motivates her to do the research, conduct the interviews, gather the photographs, track other documents and compile the local history books, she said.

Wise said she enjoyed digging into the history of residents who settled in Pasco County, adding they remind her of the people in Patrick Smith's book, "The Land Remembered."

"It's a young history, relatively speaking," Wise said. It's an area where "rugged people cleared the land and settled and persevered. I've always been drawn to those stories.

"I become really enamored with the people," Wise added. "That was a hard life. The mosquito-ridden frontier of Florida — no air conditioning.

"It was something else," she said.



Pasco Packing was the home of the largest citrus processing company in the world, when citrus was in its heyday in Florida.



Downtown Dade City, during the 1940s, was a thriving hub of activity.



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Hayley loves her family

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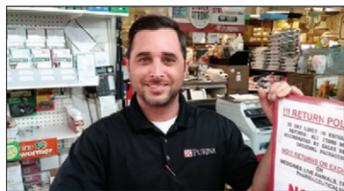
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SHELL'S GARDEN GUIDE SEPTEMBER

By Dax Gonzalez

WHAT TO DO IN SEPTEMBER:

Strawberry plants, Vidalia Sweet Onion plants and seed potatoes arrive soon, be sure to place your order now so you won't be left out. Strawberry plants and Sweet Onion plants can be ordered online at shellsfeed.com/shop.



Store Manager Dax Gonzalez

It's now time to plant your vegetable garden. Be sure to check out our wide selection of vegetable plants and bulk, organic/Non-GMO seeds recommended for our Florida climate.

VEGETABLES TO PLANT IN SEPTEMBER: Beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Celery, Collards, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Endive/Escarole, English Peas, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions (green & bulbing), Pepper, Radish, Southern Peas, Summer Squash, Tomatoes, Turnips.

HERBS: Basil, Coriander/Cilantro, Fennel, Mexican Tarragon, Mint, Oregano, Rosemary, and Thyme.

If you're an organic grower, try our "Shells Organic 3-3-3 Garden Fertilizer." It's an all-natural garden fertilizer, developed BY US...FOR YOU! With its organic analysis of 3-3-3, the all-natural formula is derived from poultry litter, blood meal, bone meal, soft rock Phosphate, kelp meal, and many other quality ingredients. Shells Organic Garden Fertilizer is packaged into 10, 20, & 40 pound bags. One 40- pound bag can cover up to 2,000 square feet. Customer feedback has been 100% positive!

Shell's Feed and Garden Supply has been serving residents of Lutz and Land O' Lakes for three generations with its unique combination of garden, farm and feed supplies, including custom quality products sold under the Shell's name.

The store is owned by Lutz resident Greg Shell, whose father, Charles, bought the store in 1961. Greg took over the store in 2007, and is assisted by Manager Dax Gonzalez, who has worked at Shell's for over 12 years.

**Some information obtained from the University of Florida, Hillsborough County agricultural extension website.*

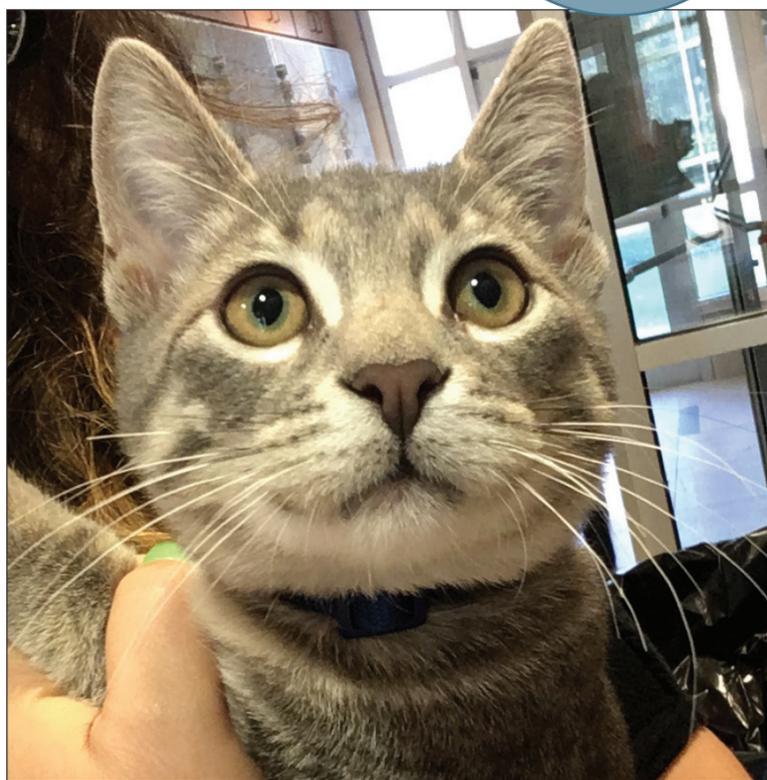
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Oliver can be mischievous

Oliver is a young kitten between 3 and 4 months of age. He is quite playful and likes to play footsies with his neighbor next door to him. While Oliver does have a mischievous side, he does like to be held and cuddled. All cats are vaccinated, spayed/neutered and microchipped before leaving the shelter.



Ranger is happy-go-lucky

Ranger is a mixed breed. He recently attended an adoption event at a library, and was nothing but smiles. Every picture taken is of this handsome man showing off his big smile. Ranger is very social with adults and children alike, and does well around the other dogs. The shelter always recommends a meet-and-greet; if you already have a pet at home, bring them with you. Ranger is vaccinated, microchipped, neutered and ready to go home. He does have heartworms, but it is a treatable condition.

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



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LOCAL WILDLIFE



Poise and grace

This sandhill crane appears to be dancing in a puddle left behind after a rain-storm. The photo was snapped by Mary Rathman, of Land O' Lakes, in her subdivision.

PET PAWS

BLESSING OF THE PETS

All Saints Lutheran Church, 5315 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will host its annual "Blessing of the Pets" Sept. 30 at 10 a.m., for people and pets of all faiths.

Pastor Josh will perform the blessing. There also will be "Ask a Vet," free nail trims, free face painting, a photo booth, and a food collection for Suncoast Animal League. For information, call (813) 963-0969.

DONATE TO HELP SHELTER PETS

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, accepts donations to help the shelter pets.

The shelter's wish list includes snap-closure dog collars; dog and cat treats; cat toys; blankets, sheets and towels; liquid laundry soap; pet shampoo; cat hideaway boxes; small beds for cats; kitten bottles

and formula; heating pads; and, Kong dog toys.

Donations can be dropped off at the Adoption Center during operating hours.

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, but we consider each item we receive.

If you'd like to make a submission, send it to news@lakerlutznews.com.

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, and breed.

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

Send photo and information to:

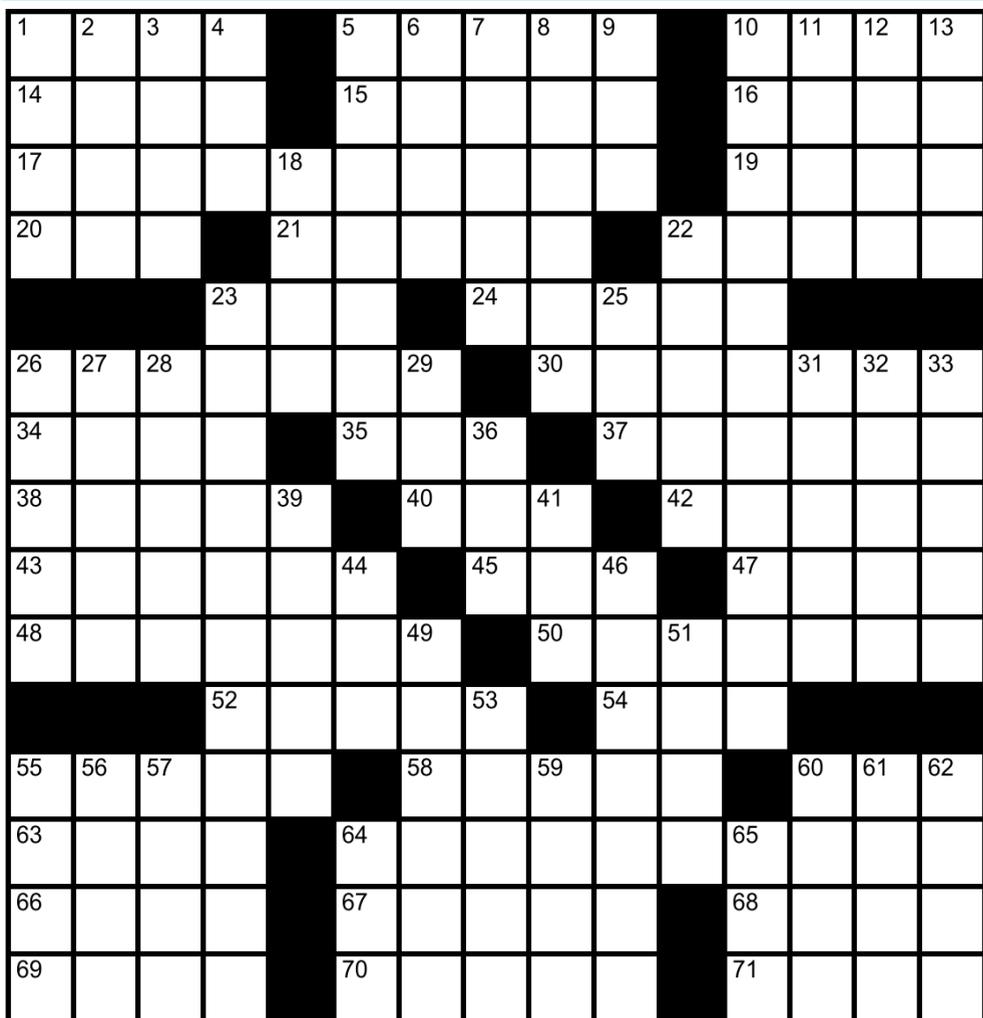
The LAKER/Lutz NEWS

Email to: mrathman@lakerlutznews.com, 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. Beauties
5. River to the Rio Grande
10. Christian name
14. ___ vera
15. Appeared
16. Half-time lead, e.g.
17. Late
19. "Buona ___" (Italian greeting)
20. Queen, maybe
21. To administer extreme unction to
22. Cheapskate
23. Mouse catcher
24. No longer in
26. Soft-shell clam
30. Sideways
34. Dermatologist's concern
35. Dust remover
37. Dress down
38. Clear, as a disk
40. ___ de deux
42. Hair parlor
43. Come by
45. Bug
47. Be inclined
48. To order again
50. Indian ponies
52. Arrangement
54. Battering device
55. ___ of roses
58. Like thin oatmeal
60. "Hold on a ___!"
63. Demoiselle
64. Holiday flower
66. Length x width, for a rectangle
67. Computer acronym
68. "Star Trek" speed
69. Cattail, e.g.
70. Athletic events
71. Sundae topper, perhaps

DOWN

1. Apple variety

2. Brio
3. Lion's share
4. Undertake, with "out"
5. Bob Ross
6. Coastal raptor
7. Past tense of can
8. Bony
9. "Comprende?"
10. Things wanted or needed (from Latin)
11. Bad day for Caesar
12. Shrek, e.g.
13. Back
18. "Yes, ___"
22. Allots, with "out"
23. Possible source of salmonella poisoning
25. Bar bill
26. Asparagus unit
27. Bakery offering
28. A Muse
29. 50 Cent piece
31. Rattling sounds in chest
32. Agreeing (with)
33. Advances
36. Gangster's gun
39. Downy duck
41. Amniotic ___
44. After expenses
46. Partial paralysis
49. Wrinkled or ridged
51. Its motto is "Lux et veritas"
53. Bounty
55. Biology lab supply
56. Radial, e.g.
57. Certain surgeon's "patient"
59. Condo, e.g.
60. Antares, for one
61. Cork's country
62. Crime boss
64. "Polythene ___" (Beatles song)
65. Couple

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

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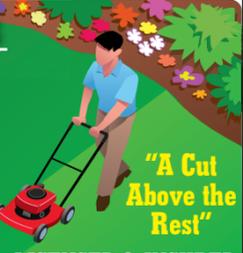
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BUSINESS DIGEST

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HELP FOR BUSINESS DAMAGES

Pasco County wants to know about damages to business property to assist in getting resources to make repairs, according to a news release from the county's Office of Economic Growth.

Please report your interior or exterior damages, including clean up costs, to either the mobile application, MyPascoapp, or the county website, at PascoCountyFL.net, where you can click on "Report Irma Damage."

After completing the Pasco County survey on damage, also report damage losses to the State of Florida. If you need financial assistance, the state has activated the Emergency Bridge Loan Program. The business damage survey information will be used to help qualify businesses for the loan program.

The link to use for the state survey is tinyurl.com/yc4bx4tj.

The survey results will be shared among various state and local agencies to expedite appropriate disaster relief programs for affected businesses and to aid in determining eligibility for assistance from the bridge loan program. Please choose "Hurricane Irma" from the Event pull-down menu.

The state's Bridge Loan Program provides short-term, interest-free working capital loans intended to "bridge the gap" between the time a major catastrophe hits and when a business has secured longer term recovery resources, such as sufficient profits from a revived business, insurance payments or federal disaster relief.

The loan program isn't designed to be the primary source of assistance, which is

why eligibility is linked to pursuing other sources. The program provides short-term loans from public funds, not grants. The expectation is that loans will be repaid from receipts from other sources of longer-term recovery assistance.

For information, and an application, visit FloridaDisasterLoan.org.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUSINESSES

Florida's Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center is an online portal for private sector preparation, damage assessments and recovery.

Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are available to individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The loans can be used for loss and damages not fully recovered by insurance.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the small business administration's secure website. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 9. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2018.

CHAMBER JOB FAIR

Congressman Gus Bilirakis, The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce and Pasco-Hernando State College will host a job fair Sept. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at Pasco-Hernando State College's Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, 2727 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel. The job fair will be in conference room B-303.

For information, contact the chamber at office@WesleyChapelChamber.com or visit WesleyChapelChamber.com.

LUNCH N LEARN

A Lunch N Learn Business Forum is scheduled for Sept. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce Don Porter Boardroom, at 6013 Wesley Grove Blvd., Suite 105.

Guest speakers will be Cedrick Farrior and Jose Martinez. They will discuss veterans and topics such as small business planning,

taxation, and first-time homebuyers.

The cost is \$15 including lunch. Registration is required, as seating is limited.

For more information, please visit WesleyChapelChamber.com, or call (813) 994-8534.

EAST PASCO NETWORKING GROUP

The East Pasco Networking Group will meet Sept. 26 beginning at 7:30 a.m., at the Village Inn, 5214 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills.

The guest speaker will be Pasco County Supervisor of Elections Brian Corley.

For information, contact Chairman Nils Lenz at nilslenz@gmail.com or (813) 782-9491; or Vice-Chairwoman Vicky Jones at donlvicl@yahoo.com or (813) 431-1149.

REALTOR RESOURCE ALLIANCE MEET-AND-GREET

Realtor Resource Alliance will host a get-together where you can meet preferred vendors and establish key referral relationships within the real estate industry on Sept. 26 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at 33613 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel.

This is an opportunity to meet a go-to plumber, a home inspector or air-conditioning vendor who can respond in emergencies.

Wine and appetizers will be served. RSVP to Info@AvalonParkWest.com, or call (813) 783-1515.

SCORE MARKETING WORKSHOP

SCORE Pasco-Hernando State College will host a "Back to Work" Shop 360 Degree Marketing in a 27/7/365 World on Sept. 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the New Port Richey SMARTstart Entrepreneur Center, 4532 U.S. 19 in New Port Richey.

The workshop will be on how to handle the "Times Square Effect," when prospects come across 16,000 brands, 4,000 ads and more than 175 emails daily. Find out how to cut through information overload to get your marketing word out.

For information, and to register, contact Sheila Neister at CatalystGetsResults.com, email score439@verizon.net, or call (727) 842-4638.

HEAD SHOT PARTY

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will host a "Head Shot Party" Sept. 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Brookdale Lutz, at 414 E. Chapman Road in Lutz.

Join the party and have your head shot taken for \$10 by professional photographer Christina Sallustio.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for \$25 per vendor.

There will be food, raffle drawings, vendors and a 50/50 drawing.

The cost is \$10 to attend.

For information, contact Bethany Mis at TampaBayBethany@gmail.com, or you can visit the chamber's website at NorthTampaChamber.com.

ZEPHYRHILLS COMMUNITY AWARDS

The 56th Annual Clearly Zephyrhills Membership Appreciation and Community Awards Banquet will be Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at St. Joseph's Parish Center, 38750 Fifth Ave., Zephyrhills.

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills is the premier sponsor.

Individual tickets are \$50. Group table tickets are available.

For more information, contact The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce at (813) 782-1913, or visit Zephyrhillschamber.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly economic development briefing on Sept. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Pebble Creek Golf & Country Club, 10550 Regents Park Drive in New Tampa.

Guest speaker will be Ross Halle, senior vice president of Avalon Park Group. He will discuss architecture and town planning.

The cost is \$15 including lunch. For information, contact the chamber at office@WesleyChapelChamber.com or visit WesleyChapelChamber.com.

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MEDICAL / DENTAL

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A	L	O	E	P	A	R	O	S	E	T	O	D	E
A	S	T	M	I	N	U	T	E	S	E	R	A	
A	N	T	A	N	E	L	E	M	I	S	E	R	
C	A	T	G	A	T	E	R						
S	T	E	A	N	E	R							
P	O	R	E	R	A	G							
P	E	R	A	S	E								
A	T	A	I	N									
R	E	O	R	E	R	G	A	V					
S	E	B	T										
A	T	T	A	R									
G	I	R	L										
A	R	E	E										

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Junior women learn about veteran flights

The GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club hosted Jen Andrews of Honor Flight of West Central Florida at its August meeting. The presentation detailed Honor Flight's purpose, which is to recognize American veterans for their sacrifice and service by flying them, free of charge, to Washington D.C., to visit the memorials dedicated in their honor. To find out more about the Honor Flight, visit HonorFlightWCF.org.

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