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INSIDE, PAGE 1B

Pasco seeks new location for food relief

By Kathy Steele
ksteel@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County commissioners don't want a replay of the overwhelming crowds and hours-long waits that hampered efforts in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties for residents seeking to qualify for disaster food relief following Hurricane Irma's destruction.

So, on Oct. 16, Pasco County Administrator Dan Biles prepared to send a

letter to the Florida Department of Family and Children Services cancelling plans for a similar event scheduled at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Center.

The four-day event had been slated to begin on Oct. 22.

Pasco officials now are scouting for a different location, and will work with local DCF officials to identify a more suitable site, said Biles.

Per the agreement, either party can terminate upon three days prior written notice.

As of Oct. 16, about 11,000 people had pre-registered online to participate in the emergency food program, Biles said.

The challenge is finding a large building with sufficient parking in a location that is accessible, he said.

"We (Pasco County) don't have a location for that," Biles said.

The better option likely is finding a private property that would meet those

See RELIEF, page 15A

Helping Puerto Rico, one click at a time

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

As the island of Puerto Rico tries to pick up the pieces after the devastating landfall of Hurricane Maria, a group of students at Sunlake High School offered their help in the recovery efforts — via classroom computers nearly 1,200 miles away.

On Oct. 2 and Oct. 3, students in teacher Anne Cullison's Advanced Placement (AP) Geography class participated in a collaborative project called The Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, a nonprofit that does emergency mapping in the wake of disasters.

Cullison's two classes, comprised of mostly freshman, mapped areas affected in Puerto Rico using what's called OpenStreetMap, a web project that uses open-source geospatial data, and satellite imagery to create better, digitally available maps of the area.

Over the course of two days, Cullison's students mapped and validated everything from buildings and streets, to homes and parking garages.

The exercise, also performed by numerous volunteers worldwide, serves a critical resource when relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), are responding to disasters — by providing more details on the island's roads and buildings, in part to give them information about who needs help and how to get there.

Cullison explained relief organizations working in Puerto Rico struggle to help those trapped in rural areas in the interior of the island, due to little data on roadways and buildings. Small towns may also not be labeled on maps, so in some cases, aid workers may not even know which towns exist.

But, with up-to-date maps, "the Red Cross...can go in and start actually checking destroyed things and go, 'OK, well that was a building,'" Cullison said.

"It could also give them data about areas that may be without power or what kind of infrastructure needs to be rebuilt," she said.

HURRICANE MARIA UNLEASHES HER FURY

Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 Hurricane, hit Puerto Rico on Sept. 20 after barreling



KEVIN WEISS

Madeline Murch, a freshman Advanced Placement geography student, marks buildings on OpenStreetMap, to gives relief organizations in Puerto Rico information about who needs help and how to get there. "It's really nice knowing that you can help other people, just from sitting in your class and doing work at a computer, but knowing that it's still helping others. I feel like it's time well spent," Murch said.



COURTESY OF SUNLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Sunlake High School geography teacher Anne Cullison introduced her classes to a collaborative project called The Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, a nonprofit that does emergency mapping in the wake of disasters.



COURTESY OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 Hurricane, on Sept. 20. More than 1,500 roads and bridges were damaged.

into Dominica.

Regarded as the worst natural disaster on record in Dominica, Hurricane Maria also caused catastrophic damage and a major humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico.

More than 1,500 roads and bridges were damaged after the hurricane, and rebuilding them could cost more than \$240 million, transportation officials estimate. There also have been 45 known deaths in Puerto Rico alone, as of Oct. 10.

The Humanitarian OpenStreet Map Team

seeks to help emergency responders help people affected in disaster zones.

The group was initially organized after the Haiti earthquake in 2010. At the time, the maps available of the country were on paper, and mostly outdated.

A loose network of volunteers started using OpenStreetMap, to create better, digitally available maps of the area.

Since then, emergency disaster mappers

See PUERTO RICO, page 15A



B.C. MANION

Members of the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce join administrators from Pasco County Schools and members of the Pasco County School Board during a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the formal dedication of Bexley Elementary School.

Bexley Elementary celebrates its formal dedication

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Bexley Elementary was formally dedicated last week.

It was a festive event, with Pasco County Schools Superintendent Kurt Browning making some remarks, the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce marking the occasion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the Sunlake High School band performing a

few numbers.

There was cake, of course.

And, cupcakes, too.

The cafeteria was crowded with families celebrating the new school, and many of the guests took advantage of the opportunity to go on self-guided tours to see the classrooms and meet school staff.

The school, at 4380 Ballantrae Blvd.,

See BEXLEY, page 15A

'He had lots of ideas and wanted to do things'

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Seventy-three-year-old Ray Mason died suddenly after a medical emergency during a vacation.

Mason's death was "a terrible shock," said Lyle Watson, who came to know Mason during their time together as members of the Lutz/Land 'O Lakes American Legion Post 108.

"He bought into the Legion 150 percent," Watson said.

"He very quickly made a name for himself and made everybody take notice," Watson added.

Mason served in the Navy, from 1962 to 1968, as a commissary store keeper. More recently, he served as adjutant of Post 108, assisting commanders and then later be-

See RAY MASON, page 15A



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FILE

The Shops at Wiregrass is being sold, along with nine other regional malls, but it will be business as usual for shoppers and merchants.

The Shops at Wiregrass sold to QIC

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel is among 10 regional malls that will be sold by Forest City Realty Trust, Inc., for a total of about \$3.2 billion, according to an announcement by Forest City.

The buyer is Australia-based QIC, an investment partner of Forest City. QIC currently owns about 49 percent of the Wiregrass mall, with Forest City holding 51 percent ownership, according to Greg Lenner, the mall's general manager.

QIC has been a partner with Forest Realty for about two years, Lenner said.

"As far as merchants at Wiregrass and customers, nobody will notice anything different," Lenner said. "You're not going to see any changes other than ongoing improvements at center court."

In other words, it's business as usual. The sale of six of the malls, including Wiregrass, is expected to close by the end of the year for about \$1.24 billion. No information was provided on the value of the individual malls.

The remaining four malls will be sold for about \$1.93 billion as Forest City "secures replacement assets," according to a news release about the sale.

Many of the malls are in California, with others in Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia,

Nevada and West Virginia.

Per the agreement, Forest City will transfer its retail operations, including most of its personnel, to QIC.

So far, leasing, marketing, tenant coordination, legal and human resources have been transitioned to QIC. Accounting, property management and other functions will transfer as closings are completed.

"We view the U.S. real estate market and the retail sector in particular as a strong investment opportunity," said Steve Leigh, in a written statement. He is QIC's managing director of global real estate.

QIC began its partnership with Forest City in 2013.

Once the sale of the 10 malls to QIC, and the company's New York specialty retail centers to Madison International is complete, Forest City will no longer have shopping centers in its portfolio.

"We are very pleased to achieve this key milestone with our partner," said David J. LaRue in a written statement. LaRue is Forest City president and chief executive officer. "This transaction is a win-win for all parties, as we continue to focus our business on urban residential, office and mixed-use assets, and QIC acquires full ownership of a U.S. retail presence with high quality regional malls in strong markets."

For more information, visit Forestcity.net.

Light rail is top Tampa Bay choice for transit

By Kathy Steele

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A light rail system running beside Interstate 275 is the top choice for transit in a study that identifies potential projects in the Tampa Bay region, according to rankings from the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan.

The route would link Wesley Chapel to Tampa and St. Petersburg, with a stop at the University of South Florida.

The second choice would follow the same route but rely on "rubber tires" in a dedicated lane, most likely buses or self-driving vehicles.

The results are part of an ongoing study, which has included workshops, meetings and social media responses.

The study focused on the urban areas of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.

The approximately \$1.5 million cost is being funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, with support from local governments and agencies, including the three county governments and their transit agencies.

The study considered rail and rubber tire modes of transportation including express bus, bus rapid transit, light rail/modern streetcar, and commuter rail. A total of 15 projects were ranked based on technical merit, and public opinion.

The study's findings were presented by HART on Sept. 29 at a meeting attended by the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group. The group includes members from Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties.

Previously, the study identified five potential transit corridors. They are Wesley Chapel to USF, Tampa, and St. Petersburg; downtown Tampa to USF; Westshore to Brandon; south Tampa to downtown Tampa; and Clearwater and Gateway to St. Petersburg.

No funding sources have been identified. The study is scheduled to conclude in September 2018 with a recommendation for a specific project that can attract funding and is "forward thinking."



FILE

Light rail, alongside Interstate 275 or the CSX rail line, is a popular option for a transit project, according to a regional study.

Other projects with top rankings in order are:

- Light rail along the CSX rail line between downtown Tampa and USF
- Rubber tire in a dedicated lane along the rail line, also between downtown Tampa and USF
- Commuter rail along I-275 linking Wesley Chapel, USF, Tampa and St. Petersburg - tied for fifth
- Commuter rail along CSX linking downtown Tampa and USF - tied for fifth

Commuter trains generally operate with heavier train cars at higher speeds, more passengers and fewer stops than light rail. Light rail is closer to a modernized street car with quicker starts and stops, and fewer passengers than commuter trains.

The study also provided a county by county breakdown on preferred choices for transit based on public opinion.

Light rail along I-275 for Wesley Chapel, USF, Tampa, Gateway and St. Petersburg ranked first in Hillsborough and Pinellas.

In Pasco, the same route with some type of bus or self-driving vehicle placed first. Light rail ranked in third place.

For more information, visit Tbregionaltransit.com.

CORRECTION

The Ice Dream Shop has rescheduled its customer appreciation day and now plans to have it on Oct. 22. The shop is at 23912 State Road 54, Suite 2. A number in the address was transposed in a story published on Oct. 11 in The Laker/Lutz News.

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Create your own indoor garden, using houseplants

By Nicole Pinson

Special to The Laker/Lutz News

A popular trend from Victorian times is making a comeback: Growing houseplants.

If you look online at image-sharing websites, apps, and boards and you'll find that indoor plants are very popular.

In fact, a new term called "jungalow style" incorporates the use of plants inside homes and offices. Jungalow style brings the beauty and life of plants indoors by integrating them in living areas.

Plants may be grown indoors — both for their beauty and their air quality benefits.

A study by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) conducted regarding air quality and houseplants concluded that a plant is "very important in removing indoor air pollution either directly through its leaves or indirectly through the root/soil pathway" (Wolverton, Douglas, and Bounds, 1989, pg. 10).

Plants tested by NASA include bamboo palm, English ivy, peace lily, Sansevieria laurentii, spider plant, golden pothos, and philodendron.

As with any plant, be sure to follow the first principle of Florida Friendly Landscaping™: Right Plant, Right Place. This means selecting plants suited to your landscape (or home) based on light, water, temperature, and soil conditions.

My grandmother grew about 20 different African violets. She placed them in the perfect spot in her living room — a north-facing windowsill.

African violets grow well in bright, indirect light. A south-facing window would generally be too sunny for African violets.

You don't need many plants to create an indoor garden.

Choose easy-to-grow plants such as spider plants, Aglaonema spp., and hoya.

One of my favorite indoor plants is called a "ZZ plant" or Zamioculcas zamiifolia. ZZ plants have shiny, dark green leaves. They thrive in low-light environments and are



COURTESY OF NICOLE PINSON

An easy-to-care for "ZZ plant" growing in Nicole Pinson's office.

drought-tolerant. ZZ plants have no significant pest or disease problems. The main concern is proper watering. ZZ plants need soil that drains well. Water your ZZ plant and let it dry out between waterings to reduce the chance of root rot, which can be caused by too much water.

Generally, you should have few pests with indoor plants, but you may occasionally encounter mealybugs and whiteflies. If this happens, remove the pot from your house or office and place it outside in a similar environment. Often, natural predators will eat the pest insects. You may also use least toxic pest control methods, such as horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps. Some pests, such as mealybugs or aphids, may be treated by wetting or removing the insects with a cotton swab dipped in a solution of one-half water and one-half rubbing alcohol.

To avoid disease problems, water appropriately. This requires some care and monitoring of your plants. Plants grown in-



You can find interesting containers when traveling and at online and neighborhood sales and shops.

doors don't dry out as quickly as plants grown outside.

Monitoring your plants to provide sufficient — but not too much — water can be tricky at first. But, over time you'll know your plants' watering needs. For example, I have an English ivy in a windowsill. It requires more water during the summer months than it does during the winter months. Additionally, some months I water it every two weeks because that is all the water it needs!

A word of caution: Some houseplants may be considered invasive when planted in the landscape. Be considerate of the growing characteristics of houseplants and check their status prior to planting them in the ground.

You can look up plant names and view pictures of invasive plants on the UF/IFAS Assessment website found at <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/>. For example, searching for the plant Sansevieria will yield results for three plants included in the Assessment. You will see that Sansevieria cylindrica is not con-

sidered a problem species at this time. However, Sansevieria trifasciata is listed as invasive in Central Florida and throughout the rest of the state.

Get creative with your indoor garden by choosing flower pots that match your décor, or try growing plants in a terrarium.

I enjoy searching for vintage or antique pots in thrift stores, yard sales, and antique shops.

Keep an eye out for unique finds when traveling. I spotted the geometric flower vase — now hanging in my office — at a garden center in Nashville, Tennessee. You may find other creative containers such as pottery, vases, jars, concrete planters, baskets, wall pockets, and galvanized buckets.

The UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County office can help answer your gardening questions. We are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our office and gardens are located at 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, Florida 33584.

For additional information, contact pinsonn@hillsboroughcounty.org or (813) 744-5519, Ext. 54145.

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

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ZEPHYRHILLS GARDEN CLUB

The Zephyrhills Garden Gate Garden Club will meet Oct. 19, at 10 a.m. at Magnuson Hotel, 5734 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills. The program will be a Thanksgiving project for Meals on Wheels. For information call Voni Giese at (813) 782-2175.

PASCO ELEMENTARY FALL FESTIVAL

Pasco Elementary School at 37350 Florida Ave. in Dade City, will have a Fall Festival on Oct. 20, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wristbands will be sold in advance for \$10 or at the door for \$15. (No refunds will be given for no show, lost or stolen wrist bands.) The event will feature a pirate ship bounce house, a corn maze, face painting, games, prizes, music, food and more. No costumes or masks will be allowed.

RED BELLES LUNCH MEETING

The Red Belles, a newly formed Red Hat Society group, will meet Oct. 20 at 12:30 p.m., at the Twisted Sprocket Cafe, at the Bexley Club, 16950 Vibrant Way in Land O' Lakes. If anyone needs help in creating another chapter, email Lynn Small at lynsmall36@gmail.com.

ESSENTIAL OILS TO ADDRESS STRESS

Learn how Essential Oils can relieve stress in this free class by Marti and Betty on Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Mercedes-Benz of Wesley Chapel, 2383 Willow Oak Drive in Wesley Chapel. For more information call Marti at (813) 399-4467.

TOP OF THE BAY OKTOBERFEST

The Top of the Bay Oktoberfest, at Tampa Bay Downs, 11225 Race Track Road, is set for Oct. 20 to Oct. 22. The event features authentic German food, drink, music, dancing, a carnival midway, arts and crafts and contests. Admission is \$5, with no charge for children 12 and younger and members of the military. For information, call (813) 853-4233 or visit OktoberfestTampaBay.com

OKTOBERFEST PUB CRAWL

Northpointe Village is having an Oktoberfest Pub Crawl on Oct. 21, beginning at 5 p.m. The event will be at 2155 Northpointe Parkway in Lutz. Each pub stop is within 20 yards. There will be games, giveaways, promotions and live entertainment. Admission is free.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

The Native Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will host a native plant sale Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. There will be a selection of nursery-grown native plants for sale, a plant profile for each plant purchased, free literature and nursery information, native plant books for sale, carts available for plant transportation, and a master gardener information table. For information, visit PascoNativePlants.org.

BOOK SALE

The New River Friends of the Library will

have their semi-annual book sale Oct. 21, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the library at 34043 State Road 54. Besides gently used books, the Blood Bank also will be there, and, as always, there will be a free craft corner with face painting for children. For more information call Becky at (813) 310-9165.

ST. TIMOTHY FALL FESTIVAL

St. Timothy Catholic Church, 17512 Lakeshore Road, will have its fall festival Oct. 19 through Oct. 21. The event kicks off with a Taste of St. Timothy on Oct. 19, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., featuring food from 40 local eateries. A variety of family friendly activities are planned on Oct. 20, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Festivities on Oct. 21 begin with a Fun Run at 8 a.m., and include a fishing derby, food booths, a rock wall, tethered hot air balloon rides and other activities. Visit SaintTims.org for more information.

SUNLAKE JUNIOR CHEER CLINIC

Sunlake High School Cheerleaders are presenting the 2017 Junior Cheer Clinic on Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sunlake High School football field. The clinic is open for students from kindergarten through eighth grade. The school is at 3023 Sunlake Blvd. in Lutz. Register on the day of the camp by 8:45 a.m. Cost is \$35. Bring a sack lunch and a water bottle. For additional information, text questions to (813) 300-7505 or email sunlakecheercamp@gmail.com. This is the first time the cheerleaders have offered this camp, but they expect it to become an annual event.

FAMILY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Friends of the John F Germany Public Library will host the third annual Family Heritage Festival, at the library, 900 N. Ashley Drive in Tampa, on Oct. 21, from 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (813) 273-3652.

JUNK IN THE TRUNK

Keystone Community Church, 21010 State Road 54 in Lutz, will hold its second annual "Junk in The Trunk" yard sale on Oct. 21, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. You price and sell your items, keeping all of your profits. Those wishing to sell can purchase a space for \$20. An 8-foot table and two chairs will be delivered to your space for \$10. For information, call Mary Howard at (813) 298-7443 or Gail DuBose at (813) 205-0594.

LAKE MIRROR AUTO SHOW

The Lake Mirror Auto Show and Lake Mirror Concours, presented by MidFlorida Credit Union, will take place Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the streets of downtown Lakeland. There will be more than 750 show vehicles surrounding the restored, 1920s art deco-inspired Lake Mirror Promenade. For vehicle registration or information, visit LakelandAutoShow.com.

FAMILY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Friends of the John F Germany Public Library will be hosting the third annual Family Heritage Festival, at the library, 900 N. Ashley Drive in Tampa, on Oct. 21, from

10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (813) 273-3652.

SHABBY CHIC VINTAGE MARKET

The Shabby Chic Vintage Market & Artisan Day returns to The Grove parking lot, 6105 Wesley Grove Blvd., Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be shabby chic items, plants and yard art, home decor and more. Admission is free. The event is kid friendly.

NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE GATHERING

The Silverhawk Native American Flute Gathering and Arts and Crafts Show will be held Oct. 21 and Oct. 22, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Withlacoochee River Park, 12449 Withlacoochee Blvd. in Dade City. There will be music, arts and crafts and food vendors. For more information, visit www.silverhawkflutegathering.com or call (813) 763-2118.

CENTRAL PASCO REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Republican Club of Central Pasco will host Republican candidates for the District 37 State House seat currently held by Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran, who cannot seek re-election to the seat because of term limits. The Oct. 23 meeting, beginning with a social at 6:30 p.m., will be held at Copperstone Executive Suites, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd. For more information, call (813) 996-3011.

TAMPA ORCHID CLUB

The Tampa Orchid Club will meet at the Northdale Recreation Center, 15550 Spring Pine Drive in Tampa, on Oct. 24, at 9:30 a.m. This month's program is a documentary film, "Journey to Machu Picchu."

TRINITY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Susan Glickman, Florida Director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, will speak on Oct. 25 at the 6:30 p.m. meeting of the Trinity Democratic Club, at Fox Hollow Golf Club, 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway in Trinity. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call (727) 482-8709.

CARROLLWOOD BOOK CLUB

The CCC Book Club will meet Oct. 25 at 7 p.m., at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, to discuss "North River" by Pete Hamill. For information, visit CarrollwoodCenter.org, or email David Bradshaw at david8463@verizon.net.

LIFE CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL

Life Church, 6224 Old Pasco Road in Wesley Chapel, will host its annual Fall Fest Oct. 25, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. This free event (excluding food) will feature carnival games, bounce houses, entertainment for the kids, and food trucks. Kids ages 12 and younger can dress in costume. For information, call (813) 973-2230.

CARROLLWOOD TOASTMASTERS

The Carrollwood Toastmasters meets Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional

Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave. in Tampa. Learn to improve your public speaking, or just stop by for a fun evening. For more information, please visit <http://carrollwood.toastmastersclubs.org>.

HISTORY OF JEWISH SETTLERS

Learn about Tampa's Jewish population, the economic role of Jewish-owned businesses and the role of Jewish residents in politics during this presentation on Oct. 26, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Tampa, offered in partnership with the Tampa Bay History Center.

PASCO COMMISSIONER MIKE MOORE OFF-SITE HOURS

Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Moore will hold off-site office hours at the Pasco County Utilities Building, 19420 Central Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, on Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Citizens who wish to meet with Moore should call Terry Ewing-Chow, his assistant, to set an appointment. The number is (352) 521-4111, Ext. 4682. The meetings will be in the Crystal Springs Conference Room on the first floor.

PATEL CONSERVATORY PRESENTS 'GODSPELL'

The Patel Conservatory will present "Godspell" Oct. 26 to Oct. 29 in the Straz Center for the Performing Arts' TECO Theater. The show will be performed by students in grades seven through 12. Shows are Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. (sensory friendly) and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$20, and can be purchased by calling (800) 955-1045, in person at the Straz, or online at StrazCenter.com.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 2348 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, will host its 21st annual Trunk or Treat Oct. 27, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be a snack table in the courtyard. No scary or immodest costumes will be allowed. To sign up with your trunk, call (813) 949-4565,

ST. JOE FALL FESTIVAL

The St. Joe Fall Festival, at Sacred Heart Church, 32145 St. Joe Road in Dade City, is set for Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event features live music, arts and crafts, bouncy houses, face painting, carnival games, fish and wildlife, food and more. For more information, visit www.stjoefallfestival.com.

COMMEMORATION CEREMONY FOR VIETNAM VETS

The Wesley Chapel Noon Rotary Land O' Lakes Satellite Club plans a Commemoration Ceremony to honor and thank Rotary-sponsored veterans on Oct. 28, at 10 a.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call Sandy Graves at (813) 996-3011.

Continued on next page



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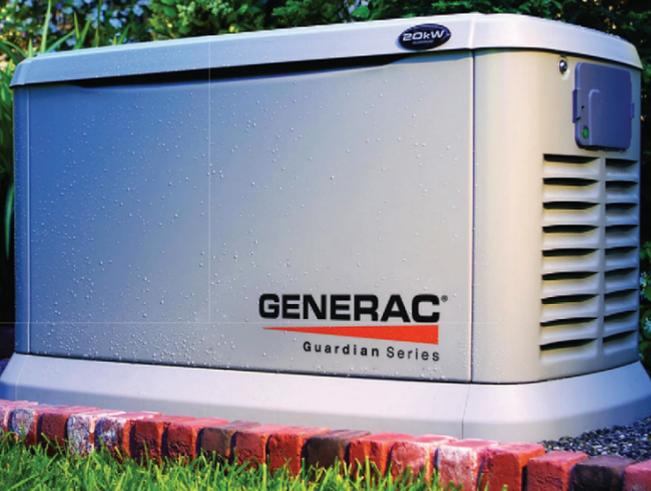
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CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, 1101 W. Sligh Ave., will host "Creatures of the Night" on Friday and Saturday nights through Oct. 28, for ghouls and goblins of all ages. The park will be open until 10 p.m., on select nights. For complete information, visit LowryParkZoo.org.

HORSEPOWER FUNDRAISER

HorsePower for Kids, 8005 S. Racetrack Road in Tampa, will host its 10th annual Fall Festival fundraiser through Oct. 29, on Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be pony rides, hayrides, farm animals, face painting, a bon fire, games, train rides and live music. There also will be pumpkins available for purchase. Admission is \$12 each for children and adults. Children age 1 and younger are free. Parking is \$1. For information, call (813) 855-8992, or visit HorsePowerForKids.com.

LAND O' LAKES HIGH COMMUNITY EVENT

Land O' Lakes High School is hosting an event on Oct. 27, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The event will be at the football field of the high school, at 20325 Gator Lane. It will include food trucks, a petting zoo, Kona ice, games and more. Guests will be asked to leave the track at 6:30 p.m., because a football game will follow the festivities.

TRICK OR TREAT AT SUNLAKE HIGH

The Sunlake High School community and neighbors from surrounding schools will have a chance to experience a fun morning of trick or treating. Clubs and groups from Sunlake High will join the festivities at the school's football field, 3023 Sunlake Blvd. in Land O' Lakes, on Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

VENDORS NEEDED FOR FESTIVAL

Pine View Middle School's FFA, Cheer and Dance are holding a Fall Festival on Nov. 4, from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pine View Middle School bus loop. Community members can purchase a 6 by 6 (foot) area for \$20, to sell their merchandise. Members of FFA, Cheer and Dance also will be selling snacks. For more information contact kjbonin@pasco.k12.fl.us.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Land O' Lakes Library are hosting a book sale at the library, 2818 Collier Parkway. A pre-sale will be held on Nov. 2, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., with an admission charge of \$5. The free sale will be held Nov. 3 and Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (813) 929-1214.

STORE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Community Thrift Store, 35229 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, provides clothing and household items to those in Pasco County. Volunteers are needed to donate 3 1/2 hours a week. The store is a Christian ministry whose focus is to serve the community. Donations of some furniture, household items, toys, clothing and more are accepted. For information, call Jerry Jones at (217) 260-6337, or stop by the store.

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 the Village Inn, 5214 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills, every Thursday at 8 a.m. For information, call Gerald Hewitt at (813) 780-1980.



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

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 / 10:00am - 12:00pm
Zephyrhills Library
5347 8th Street, Zephyrhills

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel
2600 Bruce B Downs Blvd Wesley Chapel

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

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Florida Hospital - Zephyrhills
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San Antonio gears up for 51st Rattlesnake Fest

By B.C. Manion
bomanion@lakerlutznews.com

The 51st annual San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival, slated for this coming weekend, is borrowing from old traditions and introducing new activities, too, according to organizers of the event.

The two-day event is set for Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Oct. 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As in the past, the festival will have a snake show, wooden gopher tortoise races, a pumpkin patch and live entertainment.

And, like before, admission is free. In addition to the rides, food, music and other activities, the festival also has a 1-mile and 5-mile run.

Children's activities planned for this year's event include children's games and crafts, inflatables, pony rides, a farm animal exhibit, barrel train rides and entertainers, according to the event's website.

The Town of St. Leo will sponsor a pumpkin patch, offering photo opportunities, and pumpkins, of course.

The festival began in 1967 as a Jaycee project.

If you go

51st annual San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival

WHERE: San Antonio City Park, 12202 Main St., San Antonio

WHEN: Oct. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Oct. 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

COST: Free admission

DETAILS: Food and craft vendors, live entertainment, a snake show, wooden gopher tortoise races, a beer garden, a pumpkin patch and more.

INFO: Call (813) 782-0000 or visit RattlesnakeFestival.com

Later, The Rattlesnake and Gopher Enthusiasts (R.A.G.E., Inc.) took over and expanded the festival, managing it until 2012.

The following year, six of the Eastside Pasco County Rotary Clubs operated the event as a fundraiser for local charities, and then The Rotary Club of San Antonio as-



FILE
Children enjoy riding around in a barrel train during a previous San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival. The barrel train rides are just one of many fun activities available for children during this year's event.

sumed leadership of the event.

This year, the Thomas Promise Foundation has stepped in to continue the community festival. Thomas Promise is a

charitable organization that provides food in backpacks to help children who would otherwise go hungry over the weekend when school meals are not available.

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*Receive one Surround Sound package valued at \$2,195 by Phoenix Systems. Incentive only applicable on Grove and Evergreen Series plans at Astoria. Contracts must be signed between 10.15.17 - 11.30.17 in Astoria. See Community Sales Manager for complete details. Other restrictions may apply. Offer or promotion subject to change or termination at any time without notice. Not available with any other offer. © 2017 Ashton Woods Homes. All rights reserved. Prices may not include lot premiums, upgrades or options; community association and golf fees may be required. Plans, specifications, pricing, incentives, features, elevations, and materials subject to change without notice. Square footage and dimensions are approximate, subject to change and may vary in construction. Renderings, maps and displays are artists' conceptions and not actual depiction of home or its surroundings. Actual position of home on lot to be determined by site and plot plans; basements available subject to site conditions. Community improvements and amenities based on current plans and subject to change with no obligation to be completed. This is not an offer to sell real estate, or solicitation to buy real estate, in any jurisdiction where prohibited by law or where prior registration is required, including New York and New Jersey. Please see Sales Representative for additional information. CGC1525320. 10.17

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COURTESY OF JONATHAN SHOEMAKER

Puppies and Pizza: the perfect combo

This mastiff was the center of attention at Puppies with Pizza, an event put on by Saint Leo University's Student success coaches and Counseling Services to help take the stress out of mid-term testing.



This puppy seems intent on helping students relax during the Puppies with Pizza event on Oct. 2 at Saint Leo University, in St. Leo. The idea was to bring the dogs in to reduce mid-term exam jitters.

Incentive money brings more jobs to Pasco

By Kathy Steele
ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County commissioners approved an incentive payment of \$141,000 to Meopta U.S.A, an optics manufacturer bringing nearly 50 new jobs to the county.

The company is relocating its headquarters from Long Island, New York, to 7826 Photonics Drive, in Trinity.

Meopta officials plan to renovate a building formerly occupied by another optics manufacturer, VLOC, Inc. That company closed in 2014.

Pasco can thank a Largo-based company for its good fortune in landing Meopta.

Nearly a year ago, the Largo company, also an optics manufacturer, was looking to be bought out. Meopta officials decided to buy the company's assets, with initial plans to move everything to their plant in Long Island, New York.

But, Reinhard Seipp, Meopta's general manager, said he saw a lot of "know-how and talent" in the area.

But there was a problem. "I didn't want to live in Largo," he said. "I happened to like Pasco, right away. I live here. I love it."

Meopta is expected to make about a \$5.2 million capital investment in the project.

Salaries are expected to be about \$49,000 a year, or about 125 percent of Pasco's average wage.

Meopta manufactures and distributes precision optics mostly for military uses, Seipp said.

Its optics are used for binoculars as well as spotting and rifle scopes. Meopta also



COURTESY OF SHANNON JACKSON

Meopta USA is opening a plant in Trinity that will manufacture precision optics for a variety of uses including binoculars, scopes, and assemblies for the military and aerospace industries.

makes prisms, optical mirrors, periscopes for tanks and assemblies for the aerospace and medical industries.

"Our products flew on space shuttles," Seipp said.

The Pasco Economic Development Council worked with county staff to recruit Meopta to Pasco.

The Pasco County Job Creation Incentive Program also will aid Meopta in filling job positions.

Seipp has met with representatives of AMskills, a Tampa Bay initiative that aids high school students, adults and veterans seeking manufacturing jobs.

Seipp is optimistic about the company's future.

"I think 47 jobs is a start," Seipp said. "We're not going to stop there by a long shot."

Join us for the 1st annual Northpointe Village

Oktoberfest

PUB Crawl

Saturday, October 21st

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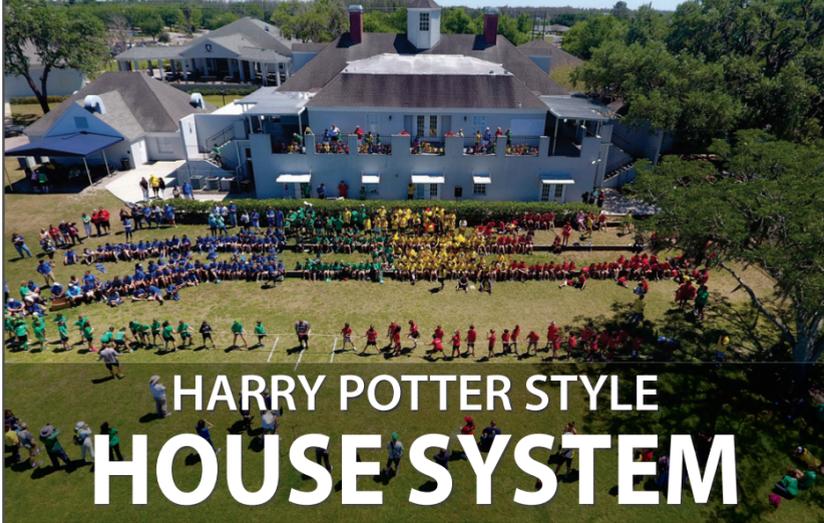
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COURTESY OF SUZIN CARR

Autumn Market Day draws a crowd

Despite a brief, but heavy downpour, Autumn Market Day at the Old Lutz School drew a nice crowd. Pack 12 attended the event, hoping to attract more members. Ingrid Wagner is Pack 12's new Cubmaster and Justine Carter is assistant Cubmaster.



Tampa BMX was one of about three dozen vendors at Autumn Market Day at the Old Lutz School, an event which helps raise money for upkeep and special events at the school, where generations of Lutz residents were educated before the historic building closed a few decades ago.

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AN ADVERTISER PROFILE



Local Maid Brigade FRANCHISE OF THE YEAR

Special to The Laker / Lutz News

Maid Brigade has bestowed one of its highest honors on Carrie and Rick Knight of Wesley Chapel —naming them its 2017 Franchise of the Year for all of North America.

The Knights, who have owned its Maid Brigade of Tampa Bay franchise since 2007, were recognized for their commitment to customers, employees and business, which has seen sales double over the past five years.

“We are so honored to be recognized as franchise of the year,” said Carrie. “This is a tribute to our entire team of 26 employees, as well as our hundreds of loyal customers.”

Maid Brigade honored the Knights in July at its annual convention in Atlanta. They were selected from among 90 franchises across the U.S. and Canada.

“Carrie and Rick are driven and enthusiastic business owners who are superb supporters of their community,” said a Maid Brigade spokesperson. “In addition, they are keenly involved in our franchise system, making significant contributions that make them outstanding Maid Brigade citizens.”

About Maid Brigade of Tampa Bay
This family-owned business provides residential and commercial cleaning services to over 300 regular customers throughout Tampa Bay, with many clients coming from Wesley Chapel, Land O’ Lakes, Odessa and Lutz.

As a professional cleaning company, it is licensed, bonded and insured. Its maids bring cleaning supplies, including a state-of-the-art, HEPA-filtered vacuum cleaner, and follow a thorough check-list of what tasks need to be performed for every job.

“We have a great reputation for quality cleaning and customer service, and proudly

back our cleanings with our 100% satisfaction guarantee,” said Carrie. “It’s our mission to provide the best customer service, highest-quality cleanings and healthiest environment for you and your family.”

Background checks are done on all employees, and maids wear company identification that shows proof of their last background check. Maid Brigade of Tampa Bay also sends new clients photos and resumes of the two employees coming to a client’s home prior to their first cleaning.

“Our customers love that we send them an e-mail with photos of their maids — they say that it gives them peace of mind to know who’s coming on the day of their service. Customers truly appreciate the extra step we’ve taken to make them feel secure,” said Carrie.

To schedule a no obligation quote, call (813) 961-5900. Testimonials and information are available at www.maidbrigade.com/fl/tampa/ and on Facebook at Maid Brigade of Tampa Bay.

The Knights live in the Seven Oaks community in Wesley Chapel, and have two children. Hailey is a senior at Wiregrass Ranch High, and Luke is a seventh grader at John Long Middle.



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www.maidbrigade.com

Swing For Charity

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GOLF TOURNAMENT

November

3rd

at 8:30am

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Check-IN: Friday November 3rd at the Clubhouse 7:00am | Shot Gun Start: 8:30am | Format: 4 Person team Scramble
Celebration Luncheon and Auction / Raffle to follow event
\$125 per player / \$400 foursome

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HEALTH

&

WELLNESS

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GULFSIDE HOSPICE 'DEFICIENCY FREE'

Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care has been declared deficiency-free after two in-depth inspections by the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA), according to a news release from Gulfside.

"Our team's hard work, attention to detail and execution in compliance, quality and risk management was evident to the surveyors throughout the entire routine process," Linda Ward, President and CEO of Gulfside, said in the release. "Thank you and congratulations to everyone on our team for providing service and care that keeps our organization always at the highest level of standards!"

The AHCA conducted two unannounced routine surveys, the Overall Company Licensing Inspection and the Life Safety Inspection. Throughout the process, surveyors examined policies, procedures and clinical practices, as well as toured the Gulfside Center for Hospice Care and interviewed various employees.

Both inspections resulted in 100 percent compliance in all aspects with zero deficiencies found in the organization.

Gulfside Hospice serves more than 375 hospice patients and more than 100 palliative patients daily. It has more than 250 employees and more than 300 volunteers.

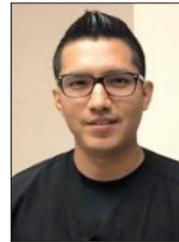
To find out more, call (800) 561-4883 or visit www.GHPPC.org.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point's employee of the month for August was Jeffrey Visag, the hospital's lead X-Ray technologist.

He was recognized as someone who leads by example in the areas of customer service, optimal imaging, and promoting the patient experience.

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point is at 14000 Fivay Road in Hudson.



Jeffrey Visag

MILES BY MOONLIGHT TREADMILL RELAY

The Health & Wellness Center at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel is holding a treadmill relay called Miles by Moonlight to raise money for the American Heart Association Heart Walk. Teams of up to 10 people can participate by donating \$300 or more. Teams will work together to keep their treadmills moving for five hours. The treadmills will start on Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. and will stop at midnight. There will be music, games, giveaways, prizes for the best costume and best decorations.

To register a team, please visit tinyurl.com/milesbymoonlight2017 by Wednesday, Oct. 18. For more information you can call (813) 929-5252 or email FHWCwellness@ahss.org.

POLIO FUNDRAISER

Rotary Club of Wesley Chapel Noon will host a fundraiser for Purple Pinky Day (Polio Plus) Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., to collect donations to help eradicate polio.

Collections will be made at The Shops at Wiregrass, in front of JCPenney's.

For information, call Terri Williamson at (813) 416-6251.

SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED

The Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills is seeking community business owners, service organizations, clubs, church groups and individuals to support its Run For Life 2017 5-K Run/Walk scheduled for Dec. 2. The event will help raise funds for the work of the nonprofit pregnancy center. All ages can participate.

Sponsorship levels start at \$50, and all sponsors will be listed on the event T-shirt.

For information, contact Roberta Vincent at (813) 453-9042.

LOWERING HEART DISEASE RISK

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will present "Let's Have a Heart to Heart" on Oct. 24 at noon, in the hospital's fourth-floor classroom. The hospital is at 2600 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Wesley Chapel.

Topics of the class will include current information on heart disease, and the steps to take to lower the risk and boost overall health.

Admission is free. A light lunch will be provided.

Registration is required by visiting FHWesleyChapel.org/events.

INFANT/CHILD CPR

St. Joseph's Hospital-North is offering an Infant/Child CPR class on Oct. 26, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Those attending will learn CPR and choking rescue techniques on both infants and children according to American

Proudly Welcoming Malieri Colon-Rivera, MD, FACOG



Dr. Colon-Rivera earned her medical degree from Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Mexico. Active member of the Puerto Rico, Florida & American Medical Associations; American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology; American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "I want my patients to know that I care for them, that I'm part of their team and that their health & concerns are my priority."

Obstetrics and Gynecology of Trinity is pleased to welcome Dr. Colon-Rivera to our team of physicians.

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Heart Association guidelines. The cost is \$40 per person, plus a \$10 fee if a completion card is required. If registering online, call the Customer Service Center at (877) 692-2922 to pay the additional fee for the completion card. Call (813) 443-2046 to register.

The class is in Garden Classroom A at the hospital, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz.

AORTIC VALVE STENOSIS

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point is offering a community lecture called "Do you suffer from Aortic Valve Stenosis? TAVR may be right for you!"

The Oct. 26 presentation includes a complimentary dinner. Registration begins at 5 p.m., the dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited so reservations are required.

The program will be presented by Dr. Marshall DeSantis at the Fox Hollow Golf Club, 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway in Trinity.

Dr. DeSantis is board certified in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery. TAVR is a safe and alternative treatment option for patients with symptomatic aortic valve stenosis.

For information and reservations call 727-869-5498 or toll free 888-741-5119.

NEWBORN CARE

St. Joseph's Hospital-North is offering an interactive class on newborn care on Oct. 28, from 9 a.m. to noon. The class covers various aspects of infant care, including feeding, diapering, bathing safety, signs of illness and newborn characteristics. The \$25 fee covers the expectant mother and a support person. The class is in Garden Classroom A at the hospital, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz.

COMMUNITY WALK

Pasco County's third annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk will take place Oct. 28, at 9:30 a.m., at Sims Park, Grand Boulevard and Bank St., in New Port Richey.

Pasco County students, staff, families and the community will walk to raise awareness about depression and suicide, and provide comfort, support and assistance to those who have lost someone to suicide.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., with an opening ceremony at 10:30 a.m., followed by the walk from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a closing ceremony after the walk.

All ages can participate. Registration is free.

For information, call Dawn Daniels Hahn at (727) 774-3457.

PASCO SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

The Pasco County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers two types of support group meetings each month. One is for those living with mental illness and the other is for family and friends of those living with mental illness. This covers all brain disorders, including, but not limited to OCD, depression, bi-polar, schizophrenia, multiple personalities and so on. For more information, visit www.namipasco.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills is seeking volunteers in a variety of positions, including information desk, escorting, administrative and patient services. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and time commitments begin at one four-hour shift each week.

Pick up an application from the Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Volunteer Office, the Main Information Desk or www.floridahospital.com/zephyrhills/volunteer

For more information, call (813) 779-6256.

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 nfdistrict5.com.

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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FREELANCE Photographers



The Laker/Lutz News is looking for freelance photographers to shoot community events in Pasco and north Hillsborough counties. Prefer candidates with newspaper or magazine experience, but will consider serious hobbyists with professional equipment. **Call or email Editor B.C. Manion with questions.**

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SUNLAKE JUNIOR CHEER CLINIC

Sunlake High School Cheerleaders are presenting the 2017 Junior Cheer Clinic on Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sunlake High School football field. The clinic is open for kindergarten through eighth-grade students. The school is at 3023 Sunlake Blvd. in Lutz. Register on the day of the camp by 8:45 a.m. cost is \$35. Bring a sack lunch and a water bottle. For additional information, text questions to (813) 300-7505 or email sunlakecheercamp@gmail.com. This is the first time the cheerleaders have offered this camp, but they expect it to become an annual event.

SAINT LEO HELPS COLLEGE STUDENTS DURING HURRICANES

Saint Leo University has assisted students during a hurricane season that has produced one massive storm after another.

Throughout the devastation of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, Saint Leo University has served to shelter students and to ensure their education could continue uninterrupted.

During Hurricane Irma, the university sheltered more than 600 students.

With the support of generous donors, the university also established an emergency scholarship fund for students who were in the path of the three storms—including those who study at University Campus, at 27 teaching locations, and online, according to a Saint Leo news release.

The university also has announced a special program for college students in Puerto Rico whose education was affected by the aftermath of the hurricanes.

For the semester beginning in January, Saint Leo will provide these students with free room and board, as well as a discounted tuition rate of \$8,500. While these students will be responsible for the cost of books, Saint Leo also will waive their student fees to further aid these students to continue their educations. Federal financial aid and other private scholarships may be utilized to help pay the discounted tuition rate.

“At Saint Leo we live by six core values, one of which is community,” Dr. William J. Lennox Jr., university president, said in the release. “We are happy to extend this helping hand and extend our community to those who have had their college careers interrupted by this devastation.”

PHSC PRESIDENT JOINS HIGH TECH COUNCIL

Pasco-Hernando State College president Timothy Beard is the newest member of the Florida High Tech Corridor Council.

The corridor council is an economic development initiative of the University of Central Florida (UCF), the University of South Florida (USF) and the University of Florida (UF).



Timothy Beard

The corridor council’s mission is to expand high tech in the corridor and encourage innovation through partnerships that support research, marketing, workforce and entrepreneurship, according to a news release announcing Beard’s addition to the council.

The corridor council is a partnership involving more than 25 local and regional economic development organizations (EDOs), 14 state colleges and 12 CareerSource boards.

Beard joined PHSC in 2007 as the vice president of student development and enrollment management after more than 30 years in education and student services. He was named the college’s fourth president in 2015.

During Beard’s tenure, PHSC’s enrollment has increased by 40 percent. Several programs at the college also have been recognized as “Exemplary Best Practices” by the Association of Florida Colleges.

Beard’s expertise and knowledge in higher education and workforce development is expected to help guide The corridor council in its mission to grow high tech industry and innovation through partnerships that support research, marketing, workforce and entrepreneurship, according to the release.

STRIKE UP THE ORCHESTRA

Pasco County Schools music students will be performing with the Florida Orchestra in the Florida Orchestra Youth Concert Series.

Four shows are planned. The first two shows are at Center for the Arts at River Ridge on Oct. 18. The first show is at 10:30 a.m. and the second show is at noon. That auditorium is at 11646 Town Center Road in New Port Richey.

The second set of shows is at Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. The first show is on Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m. The second show is at 11:45 a.m. That auditorium is at 30651 Wells Road in Wesley Chapel.

The Florida Orchestra is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and select music students

from Pasco County Schools will rehearse and perform alongside it. The students will perform only during the second performance each day. All performances are open to the public. Tickets are \$7 each.

PHSC COMMUNITY SEMINARS

Pasco County State College’s Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch is hosting two upcoming community seminars.

- They are:
- Medical Marijuana Legalization and Regulation Awareness Seminar, Oct. 26, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Driving Under the Influence Awareness Seminar, Nov. 15, 11 a.m. to noon

These seminars are open to students, teachers, staff and the community. Both sessions will be in the Conference Center, Building B., Room 303 at Porter Campus, 2727 Mansfield Blvd.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK

Pasco County is having its third annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk on Oct. 28, at 9:30 a.m. at Sims Park, at Grand Boulevard and Bank Street in New Port Richey.

The walk raises money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Last year more than 700 walkers raised \$30,000 for the cause.

This year’s goal is to attract 1,000 registered walkers and to raise \$35,000.

Join a team by going to this link: <http://bit.ly/2waWwzy>.

Pasco County ranked fourth in Florida in 2012 for the highest number of suicides.

This annual walk is aimed at raising awareness about depression and suicide, and is intended to provide comfort and support to those who have lost someone to suicide.

For more information, contact Dawn Daniels Hahn, Gulf High School social worker at (727) 774-3457.

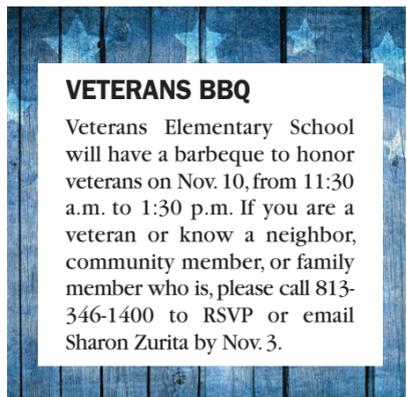
FREE MIDDLE-SCHOOL MATH ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Saint Leo University is offering students, parents and teachers two free educational offerings to help middle-schoolers develop their confidence and enjoyment of mathematics.

The two programs are:

- Math Circle, an after-school activity for middle-school students held every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Lewis Hall, Room 131, under the direction of Professor Monika Kiss.

The program features hands-on and fun activities to help children enjoy mathematics, and to boost their confidence. To arrange for a child to participate, or to get



VETERANS BBQ

Veterans Elementary School will have a barbeque to honor veterans on Nov. 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you are a veteran or know a neighbor, community member, or family member who is, please call 813-346-1400 to RSVP or email Sharon Zurita by Nov. 3.

more information, please email Dr. Kiss at monika.kiss@saintleo.edu with the words Math Circle in the subject line. Or, call Dr. Kiss at (352) 588-8836.

• Free entry for middle schools into the American Mathematics Competition being held at the Saint Leo University campus in November. The national competition, developed by the Mathematical Association of America, seeks to help young students develop positive attitudes about mathematics and analytical thinking by allowing them to apply their classroom learning to a 25-question, multiple-choice exam given in a friendly environment.

Saint Leo is able to accommodate 30 students. Mathematics faculty will monitor, and the test will be given on Nov. 14, at 5:45 p.m., in TECO Hall in the School of Business building. Students have 40 minutes to complete the test, and can learn more about it here: <https://www.maa.org/math-competitions/amc-8>.

To participate, parents must contact mathematics Professor Kiss in advance at monika.kiss@saintleo.edu and include the words AMC 8 in the subject line. Alternately, parents may call Dr. Kiss at (352) 588-8836.

Saint Leo University is at 33701 State Road 52, St. Leo, 33574. Free parking is available without any restrictions in the evenings in surface lots and in the campus garage.

‘YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE’

Pasco seventh-graders are invited to enter the Pasco Supervisor of Elections video contest. The contest deadline is Nov. 3. Video submissions must be between 3 minutes and 5 minutes long and must communicate:

- How your vote is your voice
- How we affect change and make a difference together
- The importance of participating in the democratic process

Check with the Pasco Supervisor of Elections Office for more information.



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Federal aid available for Hurricane Irma victims

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Federal emergency management teams are fanning out statewide to help Hurricane Irma victims register for financial assistance.

In Pasco County, a team settled in at the Land O' Lakes Branch Library on Collier Parkway from Oct. 11 through Oct. 14.

Area residents applying for assistance also could speak with representatives of the United States Small Business Administration and Pasco County.

Pasco County officials will make announcements soon about more locations that will open to take applications.

The in-person meet-ups with Federal Emergency Management Agency workers are only one of several ways to register for financial assistance.

Currently, the deadline to register is Nov. 9. State officials have the option to request an extension, however.

Steven Solomon, a FEMA media relations specialist, said the easiest way to apply is to online.

The website is Disasterassistance.gov. For those who don't have access to a computer or the Internet, they can call FEMA at (800) 621-3362. Because FEMA is responding to a number of recent disasters, including Irma and Hurricane Harvey, there could be long waits on the phone.

"We're asking for people to be patient," Solomon said.

FEMA workers also are out in the field in the 48 counties declared as federal disaster areas. "We're walking door-to-door with Ipads, registering people as we go," Solomon said.

The field workers will have a federal ID badge, which residents should ask to see, Solomon said.

Those who register with FEMA for assistance will be asked to provide the following information:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged property and a contact phone number

- Insurance coverage
- Total household income
- Bank routing number and account number

FEMA will schedule an appointment for an inspector to meet the applicant - age 18 or older - at the hurricane damaged property. The inspector doesn't determine eligibility, Solomon said.

All of the information is sent to FEMA, and a letter will be sent to the applicant regarding a grant award.

FEMA grants can pay for a variety of losses including home repairs, temporary housing, transportation, medical and dental costs and funeral expenses.

These will be grants, not loans that would be repaid. Also, grants are not considered taxable income, and they don't affect other benefits being received, such as Social Security or food stamps.

Homeowners with property insurance should file separate claims with their insurance companies and FEMA. The federal agency can supplement what insurance doesn't cover.

Grant amounts aren't intended to be a dollar for dollar replacement of all losses, but Solomon said they can aid in "making people whole again."

Businesses can apply for low-interest loans through the Small Business Administration. Solomon said it also would be helpful for business owners to talk with FEMA representatives to find out if other types of benefits also would be available.

Anyone who needs repairs completed should do so as quickly as possible, without waiting for a FEMA decision, Solomon said. But, they also should take pictures of the damage and keep receipts for purchases and services, he added.

Everyone should be on the alert for scam artists trying to take advantage of people, Solomon said.

"There is no charge for anything FEMA does," Solomon said. "If (anyone) asks for money, it's a scam."

RELIEF, from page 1A

requirements, he added.

County commissioners were scheduled to hold a workshop on Oct. 17 in Dade City, with discussion of the emergency food program an added topic. The meeting was scheduled after publication deadlines for The Laker/Lutz News.

County commissioners reluctantly approved the Land O' Lakes Recreation Center for the federal relief program on Oct. 10.

Their approval came only after an unsuccessful try to move the emergency food program to a vacant Super Target store, at State Road 54 and Suncoast Parkway.

That didn't happen because the owner told county staff that the store needs repairs that could not be completed in time.

"So, that's out of the loop," Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Moore said during the Oct. 10 meeting.

Moore and Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey both indicated that the Target store would be better able to handle a high volume of traffic.

They also voiced concerns that a crush of vehicles and people at the recreation center would slow work commutes and recreational activities scheduled in the afternoon.

A Florida Department of Children and Families official estimated up to 82,000 people could show up to the site during the four-day period.

The Land O' Lakes Branch Library and several schools also are along Collier

Parkway.

Before Biles cancelled the use of the recreation center site, county staff members and DCF officials had been working on plans to limit disruptions at the recreation center.

State workers processing the applications were planning to park their vehicles at a vacant Kmart store on State Road 54. The Pasco County Sheriff's Office had agreed to assist with traffic.

Pasco commissioners had been told that the 6 p.m. closing time would be met to keep from interfering with regular activities at the center.

Ongoing reports of problems at other sites around the Tampa Bay area also had heightened Pasco officials concerns.

The Food for Florida program is administered by DCF in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Residents can qualify based on income and losses.

People who currently receive food stamps through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, aren't eligible. Instead, they will be compensated with extra benefits through the monthly program.

For eligible applicants, Disaster-SNAP, or D-SNAP debit-style cards will be issued if the applicant lived or worked in one of the 48 declared federal disaster counties from Sept. 5 to Oct. 4.

Those qualifying can receive assistance for the months of September and October.

For information, visit Dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/fff/

BEXLEY, from page 1A

opened in August to relieve overcrowding at Odessa and Oakstead elementary schools. The formal dedication was on the evening of Oct. 10.

In a tour before the school opened, Principal Vicki Wolin described Bexley's emphasis on research, enrichment opportunities and collaboration.

Bexley, which is in a subdivision devel-

oped by Newland Communities, is the largest elementary school that Pasco County Schools has ever built.

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

Wolin was one of the principals weighing in on that design - which is intended to facilitate enriching learning opportunities for children.

PUERTO RICO, from page

have worked to coordinate their responses to provide more directed, higher quality maps - to give disaster response workers better information.

Cullison explained OpenStreetMaps differs from Google Maps, as Google Maps is proprietary software that doesn't allow third parties to label buildings and residential areas and so on.

"If you pull up a Google Map of Puerto Rico, it's going to look essentially like (OpenStreetMaps), but there's nothing you do with it," Cullison said.

OpenStreetMaps, however, can provide relief organizations data about the types of infrastructure that needs to be rebuilt in a certain area by detailing, "exactly what was there" prior to a natural disaster.

As an example closer to home, Cullison pointed out Google Maps has labeled streets and large buildings, like Sunlake High School, but not her own residential neighborhood.

"None of the homes around here are mapped...so we would have some of the exact same problems," the high school teacher said.

GEOGRAPHY TEACHER BRINGS HER LESSONS TO LIFE

Cullison herself learned about humanitarian mapping last spring, when she participated in the American Geological Society teacher fellowship program. She was one of 50 teachers selected for the program, which was held at Columbia University in New York City.

Besides Sunlake, volunteers from other universities - including Boston University, Trinity College, Miami (Ohio) University, the University of Miami, Rutgers (New Jersey) University and University of Nebraska Omaha - held simultaneous "mapathons" for Puerto Rico on their own campuses.

Meanwhile, other worldwide emergency mapping projects also are being done for Mexico, following a trio of September earthquakes, and for Bangladesh, after experiencing devastating flooding during monsoon season.

Many of Cullison's students, including freshman AP student Madeline Murch, found the two-day humanitarian activity worthwhile.

"It's really nice knowing that you can help other people, just from sitting in your class and doing work at a computer, but knowing that it's still helping others. I feel like it's time well spent," Murch said.

Diego Montoya, another freshman AP student, agreed that it's great to be able to help others.

He also noted: "This class just kind of opened my eyes a bit to what's actually going on in the world, rather than what's going on just like in technology."

The way Cullison sees it, the exercise has both philanthropic and educational benefits.

"This is kind of getting them some hands-on use in terms of GIS software and the layers," she said. "We were already a little bit behind because of our own hurricane in losing (school) days, but I decided this was worth it so I pushed our schedule a little bit farther to get them into this, for them to see what we can actually do with geography."

Throughout the year, Cullison plans to introduce her classes to other geographic-related software techniques, like Esri, an international supplier of geographic information system (GIS) software.

"It's different than a regular geography course. It's not just about, 'Here's a map and let's talk about the culture in one place,'" said Cullison, who's taught geography and social studies for 13 years.

Instead, students in her AP class learn about global development, migration, culture and religion, resource disparity, political geography and urban development, among other topics.

"We have the interplay between the human aspect and the physical aspects and where they come together," Cullison explained.

"Kids come out more understanding, more caring, because they understand a little bit more about the world. They really start to understand the plight of some of the other people around the world, instead of having the veil of a fairly privileged upbringing."

RAY MASON, from page 1A

came a commander himself.

Watson served as Mason's adjutant. Bill Garrison, a former post commander, said Mason's death "was definitely a loss" for Post 108.

Garrison described Mason as "the glue that held Post 108 together."

"He went above and beyond, both as commander and adjutant. He loved veterans," Garrison said.

Richard Fernandez, another former commander, said Mason accomplished a great deal during his tenure with Post 108, perhaps more than any other commander in recent years.

"He loved being involved in it," said Mason's wife, Mary.

The Land O' Lakes couple was married for 48 years and had four children. Their sons are Brian and Tim, and their daughters are Terry Aurie and Karen Kulzer.

Before moving to the area in 1984, Mason lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he owned a meat shop. When he moved here, he worked in the meat department at several different Publix stores, serving as an assistant manager, his wife said.

"He was very helpful. He was everybody's go-to person," said his daughter, Karen. "He was a great father, a great husband."

His wife added: "He was a great friend." "If someone had a problem, or something they needed, they'd call him," she said.

If they wanted to borrow something, he was always willing to help - although sometimes it could take a day or two for him to find the requested item.

When Mason joined Post 108 he was determined to get things done, said Watson, noting he'll miss his friend. "He was a great guy."

Over the years, Post 108's membership



FILE
Ray Mason during the American Legion Post 108's 80th birthday celebration.

has waxed and waned.

Mason was always looking for ways to expand its membership.

During an interview about Post 108's 80th anniversary earlier this year, Mason talked about the increasing losses suffered by the post, as aging members died.

Now, he too, has joined those ranks.

He died during a vacation, after visiting Gettysburg, a place he always wanted to see, his wife said.

Arrangements are pending, but the family plans to hold a ceremony with military honors at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell.

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Prep football mid-season review

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

With the midway point of the 2017 prep football season recently passing by, here's a look at some noteworthy teams and players in The Laker/Lutz News coverage.



FILE
The Zephyrhills Bulldogs have been dominant under second-year head coach Nick Carroll.

BEST TEAM: Zephyrhills High Bulldogs (6-1 overall, 5-0 district)

Aside from an early season hiccup to Wiregrass Ranch (31-to-29 loss), the Bulldogs have planted themselves as one of the top — and most electrifying — teams in the Tampa Bay area, under second-year head coach Nick Carroll. Look no further than its balanced, yet potent offense, which is aver-

aging 49 points and nearly 400 total yards per game.

And, Zephyrhills now stands alone at the top of District 8-5A after securing a 38-35 win over River Ridge on Oct. 13 — ending the Knights' 23-game district win streak that spanned back to 2013.

Meanwhile, the Bulldogs' toughest remaining game is an Oct. 20 road matchup against Wesley Chapel (6-2 overall), which has won two straight games since the departure of its top player, senior cornerback Isaiah Bolden. (Bolden was dismissed from the team on Oct. 4 due to undisclosed reasons).

Should Zephyrhills win two more contests this season, it will mark the fourth consecutive year the program has won eight games.

Consideration for best team also given to: Gaither High School, Wesley Chapel High Wildcats, Wiregrass Ranch Bulls, Zephyrhills Christian Warriors



COURTESY OF GAITHER HIGH FOOTBALL

The Gaither High Cowboys are looking for their first winning season since 2014.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: Gaither High Cowboys (5-2 overall, 4-1 district)

The Cowboys have utilized an explosive running game (280 rushing yards per game, 7.7 yards per carry) and suffocating defense (13 points per game allowed) to become one of the toughest teams to face in The Laker/Lutz News coverage area. Quite a feat, considering the Cowboys entered the season with just five seniors for first-year head coach Kirk Karsen.

Expectations this season were relatively tame, moreover, following the graduations of two Division I talents — linebackers Decalon Brooks and Estefano Feliciano — and top offensive playmaker in TJ Williams. Standout quarterback Gavin Denboer's off-season transfer to Alonso High School didn't help the team's preseason outlook, either.

Though several of Gaither's wins have come against struggling teams, the Cowboys quieted doubters after a convincing 23-13 win over Wiregrass Ranch on Oct. 6. In that game, the Cowboys rushed for a combined 259 yards, while garnering four sacks and forcing three turnovers.

With three regular season games remaining, the Cowboys look to secure its first winning season since 2014.

Consideration for biggest surprise also given to: Pasco High Pirates

BIGGEST SLIDE: Sunlake High Seahawks (3-4 overall, 2-1 district)

While Sunlake was expected to be in rebuilding mode this season, it's still startling to see a losing record attached to the historically dominant program, under longtime head coach Bill Browning.

The Seahawks have had to mold a new quarterback and several starters, both on defense and at multiple skill positions.

A brutal regular season schedule hasn't offered many favors, either.

Sunlake's first three contests were against Wesley Chapel, Zephyrhills and Wiregrass Ranch high schools — who have a combined 18-4 overall record.

And, it doesn't get any easier, with road dates remaining against Mitchell High (7-0 overall) and River Ridge High (4-3 overall).

The Seahawks, meanwhile, will need to win two of its last three games to prevent suffering its first losing season since 2009. From 2010 to 2016, the Seahawks went a combined 60-16.

TEAM RECORDS

The Laker/Lutz News coverage area includes the following schools from Hillsborough and Pasco counties:

HILLSBOROUGH:

- **Carrollwood Day School Patriots** (Class 2A-Region 3): 2-3 overall, 1-1 district
- **Freedom High School Patriots** (Class 7A-Region 8): 2-5 overall, 1-3 district
- **Gaither High School Cowboys** (Class 7A-Region 8): 5-2 overall, 4-1 district
- **Steinbrenner High School Warriors** (Class 8A-Region 6): 2-5 overall, 1-3 district
- **Wharton High School Wildcats** (Class 7A-Region 8): 2-5 overall, 1-3 district

PASCO:

- **Academy at the Lakes Wildcats** (8-man-Florida Christian Region 2): 5-1 overall, 5-0 district
- **Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School Hurricanes** (SSAC): 3-4 overall, 2-2 district
- **Cypress Creek Middle High School Coyotes** (Class 4A-Region 3): 1-6 overall, 0-0 district
- **Land O' Lakes High School Gators** (Class 6A-Region 6): 2-4 overall, 0-2 district
- **Pasco High School Pirates** (Class 6A-Region 6): 4-4 overall, 0-2 district
- **Sunlake High School Seahawks** (Class 6A-Region 6): 3-4 overall, 2-1 district
- **Wesley Chapel High School Wildcats** (Class 5A-Region 8): 6-2 overall, 4-1 district
- **Wiregrass Ranch High School Bulls** (Class 7A-Region 8): 6-1 overall, 3-1 district
- **Zephyrhills High School Bulldogs** (Class 5A-Region 8): 6-1 overall, 5-0 district
- **Zephyrhills Christian Academy Warriors** (Class 2A-Region 2): 6-1-1 overall, 0-1 district

Disappointing season aside, Seahawks fans have been able to witness one of the county's top offensive playmakers, in running back Bryant Beacham. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior is averaging over 100 yards per game to go along with nine rushing touchdowns. He's also on pace to become the program's first single-season 1,000-yard rusher since 2014, when then-senior Nathan Johnson tallied 1,088 yards.

—Stats compiled from Maxpreps.com

5 WHO'VE SHINED:

• Charles Harrison III, senior quarterback, Zephyrhills High Bulldogs

The three-year starter is arguably the county's top signal-caller, tossing 21 touchdowns with just five interceptions, to go with a 62 percent completion rate.

• Jordan Miner, senior cornerback/wide receiver, Wiregrass Ranch High Bulls

The Penn State signee and four-star prospect has lived up to the hype as a jack-of-all-trades, making key contributions on offense (424 yards), defense (25 tackles, two interceptions, seven passes defended) and special teams (125 return yards).

• Austen Wittish, senior linebacker, Wesley Chapel High Wildcats

The 6-foot, 195-pound inside linebacker ranks among the state's top tacklers (104 total tackles), to go along with five sacks.

• Darrion Robinson, sophomore wide receiver, Pasco High Pirates

The young 5-foot-11 wideout has quickly developed into one of the county's most productive receivers, tallying 17 receptions for 412 yards and eight touchdowns.

• Jeremy Reid, junior running back, Gaither High Cowboys

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound tailback is having a breakout campaign, pacing all of District 8-7A with 863 rushing yards (123 yards per game, 9.5 yards per carry) and six touchdowns.



COURTESY OF TOM KETCHUM, PASCOCOUNTYFB.COM

Zephyrhills High senior quarterback Charles Harrison III

CHECK THIS OUT

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COURTESY OF PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE ATHLETICS
Morgan Church

PHSC VOLLEYBALL STANDOUT EARNS DEFENSIVE HONOR

On Oct. 10, Pasco-Hernando State College freshman libero Morgan Church was named NJCAA Region 8/FCSSAA Volleyball Defensive Player of the Week, after averaging 6.4 digs per set over five matches, totaling 122 digs. Church, who graduated from Harmony High School in Saint Cloud, paces all Region 8 players with 345 digs on the season.

AREA COMMITMENTS & OFFERS

Ashley Smith, a senior utility player/pitcher at Land O' Lakes High School, has committed to play softball at St. Petersburg College, a Division I junior college program. Smith was one of the Gators' top hitters last season, leading the team in home runs (four), doubles (seven), triples (five) and RBIs (30), to go along with a .390 batting average. As a pitcher, Smith won four games, posting a 4.67 ERA and 25 strikeouts in 18 innings.

Foday Kamara, a Pasco-Hernando



COURTESY OF CENTRAL PASCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The 24th annual Flapjack 5K and 1-mile Fun Run begins at 8 a.m., Nov. 4 at Connerton, 21100 Fountain Garden Road in Land O' Lakes.

Flapjack 5K set for Nov. 4

The annual Flapjack 5K and 1-mile Fun Run is back, but this time at a new location.

The Nov. 4 race, presented by the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce and entering its 24th year, will be held at Connerton, 21100 Fountain Garden Road in Land O' Lakes.

The popular race, which typically draws hundreds of participants, has more recently been held at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex.

The 5K will begin at 8 a.m. and the Fun Run starts at 8:45 a.m.

Cost for the 5K is \$25 for adults and

\$17 for students K-12; the 1-mile Fun Run is \$15.

All winners will receive a T-shirt and medal, and the top finishers in all age groups will win a trophy.

A flapjack breakfast also will be served after each race. It is free to runners and available to non-runners for a \$5 donation.

To register, visit: active.com/land-o-lakes-fl/running/distance-running/24th-annual-flapjack-5k-connerton-2017

Vendor and various sponsorship opportunities remain available.

For more information, e-mail: office@centralpascochamber.com



COURTESY OF AMANDA MORGAN

Beast of a feat!

Land O' Lakes resident Brian Morgan completed the ULTRA Beast Spartan Championship in Lake Tahoe, California on Oct. 1. He hiked 36 miles, with 75 grueling obstacles and elevation changes of more than 16,000 feet — accomplishing the feat in 14 hours and 35 minutes. The course, considered one of the most difficult challenges in the world, draws well over a thousand competitors, with many failing to finish. Morgan, 28, did the bulk of his training in Dade City and Zephyrhills, hiking up and down U.S. 301 with a 50-pound sandbag. Morgan attended Land O' Lakes High School and Pine View Middle School as a youth.

State College basketball alum, has transferred to McDaniel College, an NCAA Division III program in Westminster, Maryland. Kamara, a 6-foot-1 guard, last played for PHSC in the 2015-2016 season, where he averaged 3.0 points, 3.4 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game. Prior to attending PHSC, Kamara played high school basketball at Sandy Spring Friends School in Washington, D.C., where he was a four-year varsity starter and three-time Second Team All-Conference selection.

Donovan Jennings, a senior offen-

sive tackle at Gaither High School, has picked up a scholarship offer from Liberty University, an NCAA Division I FBS (Football Subdivision) program in Lynchburg, Virginia. It marks the 13th Division I offer for the 6-foot-5, 310-pound Jennings, who's regarded as one of Tampa Bay's top offensive line prospects. Schools who've offered include, Marshall, Old Dominion, Central Florida, South Florida, Toledo and Virginia universities, among others. Multiple recruiting outlets pin Jennings as a three-star recruit, with

247Sports ranking him the nation's top 150 offensive line recruits for the 2018 class.

Darin Green Jr., a 6-foot-4 junior shooting guard at Wharton High School, has picked up a basketball scholarship from Florida Gulf Coast University, an NCAA Division I program in Fort Myers. Green Jr., who also holds an offer California State University-Fullerton, helped guide Wharton High to a 20-6 mark and Class 8A regional quarterfinal last season.

Mount Dora: A charming way to spend a day



Worth the Trip

Karen Haymon Long
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

Arriving in Mount Dora is like walking onto a movie set: sparkling Lake Dora provides the backdrop. Panning out from the lake, front-porch homes, American flags flying, line shady streets, an easy walk from main street shops, parks and even a candy cane-colored lighthouse.

In the daytime, visitors - like movie extras - fan out to the lake on scenic boat tours, hikes on lakeside boardwalks, then strolls to downtown shops and cafes. They can even take seaplane rides over the lake or rent their own pontoon boat to watch for gators, turtles, otters, herons, egrets and other wildlife.

In the evening, they're back at the lake to witness salmon-colored sunsets over the water and maybe later to stroll to historic Lakeside Inn for a nightcap.

Mount Dora, a town of 12,534 residents in Lake County, 40 minutes northwest of Orlando, looks like small-town USA, with its moss-draped oaks, flowering magnolias, hilly terrain and higher-than-normal - for Florida anyway - elevation of 184 feet above sea level.

"It's an extra friendly town. Everyone is really welcoming," says Henry Ollendick, who co-owns one of downtown's most charming shops, Papilio, which is Latin for butterfly.

When he and his partner, Joel Maas, opened their shop in 2013, other shop owners welcomed them and asked if they needed anything, which made them feel at home, Ollendick says.

That friendliness, as well as "the hills, the big oaks, the Spanish moss hanging from the trees - so different from the rest of Florida," convinced them to leave Key West and move to Mount Dora. Now, they walk to work.

"You get to know your neighbors that way," Ollendick says. "It's very homey."

The two were also drawn by the town's many festivals, which earned it the nickname "Festival City." Its 33rd annual Craft Fair, coming up on Oct. 28 and Oct. 29, features the work of 400 crafters and artists. Its antique extravaganzas at Renninger's Antique Center, — the next one is Nov. 17 to Nov. 19 — draws treasure hunters from around the world.

Years ago, the antique center and sister flea market next door helped make Mount Dora a darling of travel guide book authors. The flea market is open week-ends from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and the antique center Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Vendor Stan Lawson, who owns Triple LLL Treasures in the antique center, says he meets people from all over the U.S., and from around the world in his shop. Not long ago, he sold his Native American jewelry to visitors from Iceland, and he often sells to Germans and Brits, he says.

His shop sells jewelry made by Native Americans in the Southwest who he's known for years. In another area in the center, Steve and Barbara Gretchko sell hard-to-find barrister's bookcases, wood filing cabinets and other early 20th century office furniture.

Dozens of other booths sell everything from antique glassware and furniture to books, toys, linens, sports memorabilia and paintings. Outside, vendors sell old bird-baths, yard statuary, vintage signs, plants and more, while the flea market next door sells plants and produce, garage-sale-type items, T-shirts and other new clothes.

Downtown shops vary from home decor to paintings and other art, clothing and even dog bakery items. At Papilio, Joel Maas sells his artwork made with real butterflies, as well as stationery, jewelry, garden and home decor, plants and other items.



The Mount Dora Lighthouse on the shores of Lake Dora draws visitors with its candy cane colors. It is 35 feet tall and was dedicated in 1988 over the Port of Mount Dora.

KAREN HAYMON LONG



Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora offers all kinds of interesting treasures. You never know what you might find at the center and at one of its antique extravaganzas. The next one is Nov. 17 to Nov. 19.



Outside Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora, where the ancient oaks vie with the ancient collectibles for attention, you can find vintage yard furniture, Florida art, plants, old birdbaths and lots of other treasures.



Mount Dora's downtown shops and restaurants remind visitors of what they would think of as 'downtown USA.'



The Goblin Market Restaurant & Lounge in Mount Dora looks as friendly inside as out. Its menu offers lamb, duck, quail, crab cakes and other fare.



Lakeside Inn in Mount Dora was built in 1882-1883 and is still a popular place to stay, eat and get married. It faces Lake Dora, where boats take guests on scenic rides.

Like their visitors, downtown restaurants span the globe, with cuisine representing Cuba, Peru, Great Britain, Mexico, India, Italy, China and the Caribbean, along with the usual pizza and pub grub. Florida celebrity chef and cookbook author Norman Van Aken owns a restaurant in a house built in 1921, called, appropriately enough, 1921 by Norman Van Aken.

We chose Magical Meat Boutique for lunch, partly because of its kooky name and partly because it got raves on the online travel site Trip Advisor. Housed in a British pub-style space, it specializes in British fare - think bangers and mash, and shepherd's pie. It also attracts British tourists. On our visit, two parties at nearby tables had British accents and talked nostalgically about how happy they were to find a little home so far away from their homeland.

Next time, we thought we'd try The Goblin Market Restaurant & Lounge, a fancier place with a book-lined dining room and delicious sounding rack of lamb, duck, quail, Idaho trout, and jumbo lump crab cakes with peach and chive chutney on its menu.

Visitors need at least two days — or three, four or five — to take a boat ride, go out fishing, hike along the lake or just drive around and look at some of the neighborhoods and some of the old Victorian houses, such as the Donnelly House, built in 1893 and now owned by the Masonic Lodge, and open to the public for special occasions.

The old railroad depot, built in 1915, now houses the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce offices and visitor center at the corner of Third Avenue and Alexander Street. The picturesque Lakeside Inn, opened in 1883, is an elegant place to stay and dine, get married or take a boat ride off its shores.

Some 36 years ago, Mount Dora was the setting for the movie "Honky Tonk Freeway," starring Jessica Tandy, Beau Bridges, Teri Garr and Beverly D'Angelo. Townspeople were extras. The plot: The town - named Tielaw - already has a wildlife safari park and a water-skiing elephant named Bubbles, so when residents hear a freeway is about to be built, they hope an off-ramp will lead to more riches. But, when the new freeway bypasses

TIPS FOR THE TRIP

HOW TO GET THERE: The easiest way to get to Mount Dora from Pasco County is to go north on Interstate 75. That way, MapQuest says it's an hour and a half, and 80 miles, from Wesley Chapel. Another route is Interstate 4 toward Orlando, then north to Mount Dora. For details, see MapQuest or another directions site.

WHERE TO EAT: We liked Magical Meat Boutique, at 112 W. Third Ave., where we had bangers and mash, a stilton, pear and walnut salad, and two Scottish beers for \$37. For menu, visit MagicalMeatBoutique.com.

WHERE TO STAY: We've stayed at Lakeside Inn before and enjoyed its quiet elegance. The town also has a variety of bed and breakfast inns, and other hotels. See the chamber of commerce's MountDora.com for options.

FESTIVALS: This city of festivals has all sorts of offerings, including Renninger's Antique Extravaganzas Nov. 17 through Nov. 19; Jan. 19 through Jan. 21 and Feb. 16 through Feb. 18 at its antique center, 20651 U.S. 441. For details, visit Renningers.net.

Other events include:

- **33rd Annual Craft Fair**, with 400 vendors, Oct. 28 and Oct. 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 510 N. Baker St.
- **Christmas Lighted Boat Parade**, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., begins on Lake Dora at the lighthouse across from Gilbert Park on Tremain Street and Liberty Avenue, downtown.
- **Christmas Tour of Homes**, Dec. 2 and Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$20; for details, visit WCFAMountDora.com.
- **43rd annual Arts Festival**, Feb. 3 and Feb. 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., downtown, with park and ride options; for more, visit MountDoraArtsFestival.org.

For a more extensive list of festivals and events, go to MountDora.com, and click on annual events.

them without an off-ramp, they paint their downtown buildings pink to get people to come.

Today, Mount Dora doesn't have to paint itself pink. It has charm enough to attract visitors - even without a waterskiing elephant.



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Small but mighty

Snickers is a 12-year-old black-and-tan dachshund. Here, he is doing what he does best — looking beautiful and shredding paper. Snickers' proud owners are Jeanne and Ed Bittman, of Dade City.

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

Send us a picture and information on your favorite pet!

Write a short paragraph about why your pet is special along with a photo and mail to: **Pet of the Week**, c/o The Laker, P.O. Box 479, Lutz, FL 33548 or email to mrathman@lakerlutznews.com, ATTN: Pet of the Week

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

SHELL'S GARDEN GUIDE OCTOBER

By Dax Gonzalez

VEGETABLES TO PLANT IN OCTOBER:

Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Peas, Radish, Spinach, Strawberries, Turnips.

HERBS: Basil, Chives, Cilantro/Coriander,

Dill, Fennel, Lemon Balm, Marjoram, Mexican Tarragon, Mint, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Savory, Thyme.

WHAT TO DO IN OCTOBER:

Strawberry plants should be fed "Shell's 12-12-12 Strawberry Fertilizer" on a monthly basis. Fertilize vegetable gardens by broadcasting 2 to 4 pounds of 6-6-6 or 8-8-8, 2 weeks before planting. During the growing season side dress at the rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 foot row once a month. Pasteurized poultry manure may also be used at the rate of 2 1/2 to 5 pounds per 100 square feet instead of the synthetic fertilizers mentioned above. For organic gardeners, use "Shells Organic 3-3-3 Garden Fertilizer" and follow the directions on the bag.

Fertilize citrus trees. Young trees (to 4 years old) should be fertilized four to six times per year, from January to October. Do not use a fertilizer with an analysis higher than 8-8-8. Apply 1 pound of fertilizer per year of tree age per application. For mature, bearing trees older than 4 years, apply 4-6-8 fertilizer. Apply 1 pound of fertilizer per year of the tree's age up to a maximum of 10 pounds per application. Fertilize an area twice the diameter of the tree canopy.

Fertilize Lawns, Trees and Shrubs - Apply "Shell's 16-0-8 Fertilizer" containing 50% slow release nitrogen, and broadcast at the rate of 6 pounds per 1,000 square feet and water in thoroughly. It's also time to feed palms again with a "palm specific" fertilizer, and correct any deficiencies such as palm yellowing and frizzle top. These treatments can include Magnesium Sulfate for yellowing, Manganese Sulfate for frizzle top, and a Palm Nutritional Spray to aid in correcting both diseases.

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.



Store Manager Dax Gonzalez

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Max is very social

Max came in as a stray in August and has shown himself to be a very social boy. He loves to go places and to meet new people. He is about 4 1/2 years old and proven to be a big hit at events, meeting people of all ages. He recently helped out with a tour of children at the shelter. He introduced himself to a group of first-graders who thoroughly enjoyed his company. He is heartworm positive but this is something that is treatable and we would be happy to discuss treatment options with his family. Please come meet Max and give him a chance to show much love he can offer.



Make Zaxby's day

Zaxby, a senior kitty who came to Animal Services in March, has occasional bouts of depression because he's been waiting so long for a home. He's 9 and has a clean bill of health. He just needs a permanent home to perk him up. We have tried giving him different options within the shelter but he would truly thrive best in a home. He is slow to warm up, but once he knows you, he's happy to be petted. Come meet Zaxby at Pasco County Animal Services.

If you would like to adopt Zaxby or Max, 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



Keeping an eye out for a meal

Sharon Thompson, who lives in Meadow Pointe in Wesley Chapel, pulled over and snapped this picture of a roseate spoonbill, off of State Road 56 toward Mansfield Boulevard. A spoonbill will feed in shallow waters, walking forward slowly while swinging its head from side to side, sifting the muck with its wide flat bill.

PET PAWS

HOWLOWEEN FEST

The Humane Society of Tampa Bay, 3607 N. Armenia Ave., in Tampa, will host a "HOWLoween Fest" Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be a pumpkin patch, trick-or-treating, a photo booth, face painting, costume contest and more.

Snacks, beverages and grilled food also will be available.

Guests also can tour the shelter.

For information, call (813) 876-4150.

BARKTOBERFEST

The ninth annual Barktoberfest, a fundraiser to benefit local pet charities, will take place Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Werner Boyce Salt Springs State Park, 8737 U.S. 19 N., Port Richey.

There will be vendors, games, entertainment, demonstrations, pet tricks, a dog kissing booth, a dog costume contest and more.

The event also will include a 5-K walk/run and a 1-mile Bark Bash.

Admission is \$2 to get into the park.

For more information, please visit MayorAndPrincess.com.

PARADE OF PETS

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host its ninth annual Parade of Pets and "Birkat Behemot" (Blessing of the Beasts) Oct. 22 at noon, in the North "Barking" Lot. The event is open to the public.

For information, call (813) 962-6338.

PET LOSS SUPPORT

Gulfside Center for Hospice Care, 5760 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills, will offer a Pet Loss Support Group Oct. 26 and Nov. 30 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., facilitated by Chaplain Mike Merritt.

The group is part of Gulfside's Pet Peace of Mind program.

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

ADOPTION SPECIAL

Pasco County Animal Services is having an October Adoption Event called "No Tricks, Just Treats." It's a free adoption, with a donation day on Oct. 28, from noon to 4 p.m. Animal services is located at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes.

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!

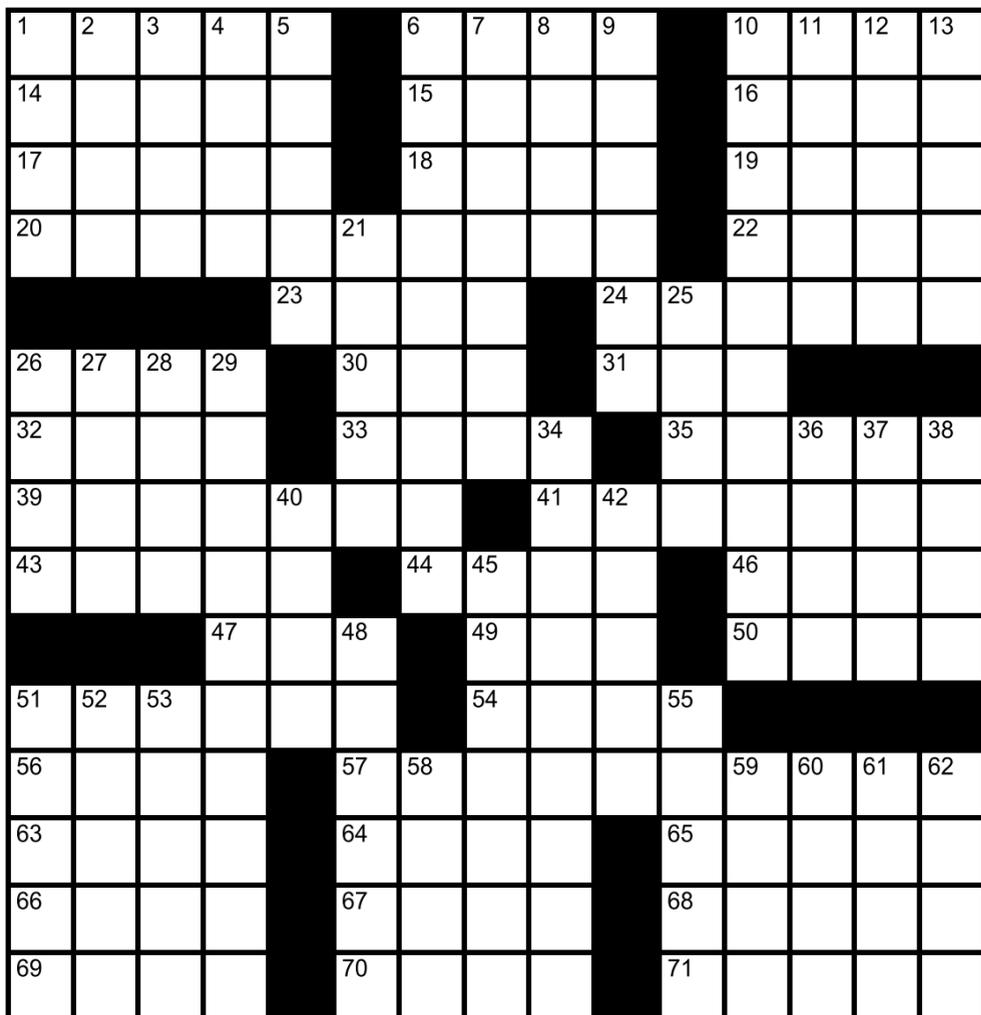
Send photo and information to:

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. Big ape
6. Be hopping mad
10. Blocks
14. Kitchen counter?
15. Baptism, for one
16. Cut, maybe
17. Poets' feet
18. Misfortunes
19. Icelandic epic
20. Phews (2 wds.)
22. ___ du jour
23. ___ song
24. Haunt
26. Homebuilder's strip
30. Engine speed, for short
31. ___ v. Wade
32. Small buffalo
33. Type of palm tree
35. Chip dip
39. Loop for riders feet
41. A fortified place
43. Spanish language symbol
44. "___ on Down the Road"
46. Give off, as light
47. Show ___
49. "___ any drop to drink": Coleridge
50. Welfare, with "the"
51. Plunder
54. H.S. class
56. "Not on ___!" ("No way!")
57. Rubber organizer
63. Actor's goal
64. Arch type
65. Pond buildup
66. "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
67. Brio
68. Lush
69. Caught in the act

70. Gossip
71. Lieu

DOWN

1. Auditory
2. 100 dinars
3. BBs, e.g.
4. Beaks
5. "Good ___!"
6. Common wood pipe
7. Wick holder
8. "___ be a cold day in hell ..."
9. Someone who grants a lease
10. Firmly established
11. Befuddle
12. King with a golden touch
13. Sports figures
21. Bony part resembling a horn
25. Big cheese
26. Bringing up the rear
27. The "A" of ABM
28. Drudgery
29. Stubborn (2 wds.)
34. Capable of absorbing
36. Airport pickup
37. Earth
38. A chip, maybe
40. Curb, with "in"
42. Cliffside dwelling
45. Aardvark nickname
48. Focused in on one thing
51. Plunders
52. Belittle
53. As such
55. Ground cover
58. ___ fruit
59. Smudge
60. Chill
61. Astronaut's insignia
62. Act

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

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• Child Care
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EAST PASCO NETWORKING GROUP

The East Pasco Networking Group will meet Oct. 24 at 7:30 a.m., at the IHOP, 13100 U.S. 301, in Dade City.

The guest speaker will be Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco. 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.



Chris Nocco

UNCLE MADDIO'S HAPPY HOUR

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will host Uncle Maddio's October 2017 Happy Hour Oct. 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Uncle Maddio's, at 3949 Van Dyke Road in Lutz.

The restaurant will offer \$1 off any pizza, and a buy-one, get-one free deal for house wine and draft beers.

The event is free, but RSVP for a headcount by Oct. 17.

For information, call the chamber at (813) 563-0180, or email Contact@northtampachamber.com.

LUNCH N LEARN

A Lunch N Learn Business Forum is scheduled for Oct. 19 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.

The program will be presented by MyTampa IT.

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

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

JON'S GOURMET NUTRITION GRAND OPENING

Jon's Gourmet Nutrition will have a ribbon cutting and grand opening on Oct. 19 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at 6745 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

Stop by and enjoy samples of Jon's

Gourmet dishes and spreads. The menu offers health eating options, including chicken, salmon and tofu. Meal preps are available, along with free delivery.

Jon's Gourmet also does catering. For more information, you can call (813) 495-2130 or visit their facebook page at [Facebook.com/JonsGourmetProducts.com/](https://www.facebook.com/JonsGourmetProducts.com/).

BUSINESS SEMINAR

Pasco Hernando SCORE will have a free "Focused Selling Tools Seminar" on Oct. 19 from 11:30 to 1 p.m., at the SMARTstart Dade City Entrepreneur Center, 37837 Meridian Ave., Suite 309, in Dade City.

Instead of only trying to "sell" their products and services, sales people need to find out what buyers need to improve their businesses. Learn how to address old mindsets and learn "solution-based" processes of today's buyer-savvy world.

Please register as space is limited. For more information, please visit Pascohernando.score.org.

RASMUSSEN COLLEGE ONLINE CAREER FAIR

Rasmussen College will have a Virtual Career Fair on Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The fair is free and open to Rasmussen students, alumni and the public. The fair will provide tools and resources to guide career choices, including complimentary resume reviews from Rasmussen's career development professionals.

Participants can join in a real-time hiring event from the comfort of the home or of-

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will have a Halloween Mixer on Oct. 25 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Legacy at Highwoods Preserve, at 18600 Highwoods Preserve Parkway. Costumes are not required, but encouraged.

RSVP at (813) 375-9858 by Oct. 19

HALLOWEEN MIXER

For information, call the chamber at (813) 909-2722 or email office@centralpascochamber.com.

There will be opportunities to interact with employers in virtual chat rooms, panels and presentations.

Employers interested in being a part of a future career fair event, can email careerservicesonlin@rasmussen.edu.

To register and view participating employers for the Oct. 24 career fair, visit bit.ly/rasvc2017.

PET PARADISE RIBBON CUTTING

Pet Paradise Resort & Day Spa will have a ribbon cutting and grand opening on Oct. 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at 2270 Cypress Ridge Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

Pet Paradise offers boarding and day care services for dogs and cats. The pet resort has a synthetic grass play area, climate-controlled indoor/outdoor suites, a bone-shaped swimming pool, and private cat condos.

Founder Fred Goldsmith opened the first Pet Paradise in 2002. Today, the company, in partnership with Crane Group, has more than 30 locations in the southern region of the United States, according to its website, Petparadiseresort.com.

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

WOMEN-N-CHARGE

Join Women-n-Charge Nov. 3 from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Pebble Creek Country

Club, 10550 Regents Park Drive in New Tampa. The women share their talents and resources, and they build relationships with other women in business.

Guest speaker is Dr. Elaine Onofrey, a board-certified acupuncture physician. Her topic will be Acupuncture: Ancient Medicine in a Modern World.

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

Please register at Women-n-charge.com. For information, call (813) 600-9848, or email info@women-n-charge.com.

SPONSOR A CHARITY FASHION SHOW

Business sponsors are being sought for the Fashion Charity Show that will benefit Gulfside Hospice on Nov. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Heritage Springs Golf & Country Club in Trinity.

The fashion show will feature guest emcee Deiah Riley, of ABC Action News.

Sponsorships are available starting at \$300.

Sponsors will receive pre-event recognition on social media; email blasts; website, program and banner recognition during the event; sponsor tables at the event; and recognition, after the event, in social media posts and news releases.

Vendor opportunities to display and sell merchandise also are available.

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

JCPenney

CHRISTMAS JOBS

JCPenney will hire more than 2,500 seasonal associates for its Florida stores in preparation for the holiday season.

Available customer service and support positions include cashier, replenishment specialist, SEPHORA JCPenney beauty consultant and more.

Seasonal associates are eligible for full associate discount up to 25 percent, as well as flexible holiday scheduling.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, from
8AM-3PM. Huge, with lots of items!

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

The Groves Golf & Country Club
Saturday, October 21st 8am-2pm
7924 Melogold Circle, Land O' Lakes,
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Garage Sale. Country Point Blvd between
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I	A	M	B	I	L	L	S	E	D	D	A		
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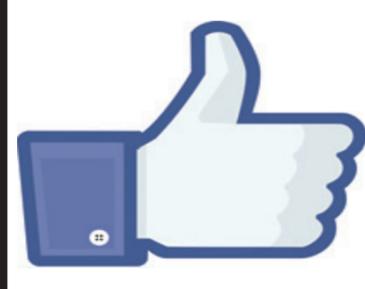
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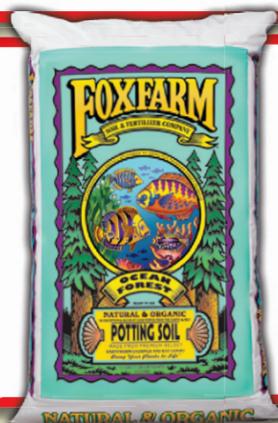
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