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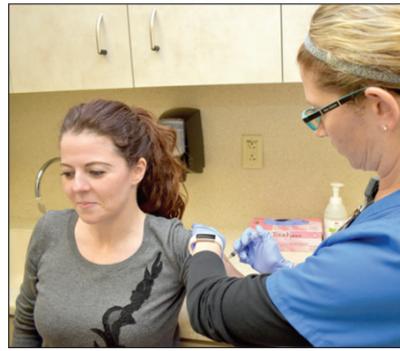
By **B.C. Manion**
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Sick people are showing up in doctor's offices and emergency rooms seeking treatment for the flu.

Both in Florida and across the United States, flu activity is on the rise, according to Mara Gambineri, communications director for the Florida Department of Health.

"We're seeing more activity across all age groups this year than we've seen in previous seasons at this time, which may be an early indication of a more severe influenza season," Gambineri said, via email.

Several Pasco County public schools experienced some degree of significant absence related to flu activity in December before break, said Linda Cobbe, the dis-



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL-NORTH
Kelly Ranieri, a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital-North, receives the flu shot from Pamela Wayne, also a registered nurse there.

trict's spokeswoman.

The concern was reported to the health department and a generic notice from the health department was sent home to all parents at Bexley Elementary School on Dec. 18 and at Plato Academy on Dec. 6, Cobbe said.

So far, the district hasn't seen the same trends since returning from the holiday break, however, Cobbe said, the district's nurse supervisor said this year is predicted to be "quite challenging" from a flu standpoint.

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, at 2600 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, has seen an uptick in flu cases.

"The surge that we've noticed has been

See **FLU**, page 13A

Two area Chambers on the move

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

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce and The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce each now have new homes.

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce is settling into its new location at 1868 Highland Oaks Blvd., Suite A. The office is in the Highland Oaks Medical Center, off State Road 54, in Lutz.

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce has a new address in Harbour Village, at 1930 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Suite 16, in Lutz. Chamber officials expected that move to be accomplished over the weekend of Jan. 13.

In addition to setting up shop in a new space, the Central Pasco Chamber also has promoted Suzanne Beauchaine to become its new executive director.

Beauchaine previously served as the chamber's marketing and membership director.

David Gainer, the chamber's president, praised Beauchaine for adding 90 new businesses to the chamber's roster in the past year.

"It is a pleasure to recognize Suzanne for her diligence, commitment to excellence and her professionalism, by naming her our new executive director," Gainer said, in a written statement.

The Wesley Chapel chamber opened its new office on Jan. 2, after vacating its former office at The Grove at Wesley Chapel.

The lease at the mall expired, and it was obvious a roomier site was needed.

"We had been looking. We had grown out of our space," said Hope Allen, the chamber's executive director. "We couldn't even hold our board meetings at the (former) chamber."

The Wesley Chapel chamber merged last year with The Greater Pasco Chamber of Commerce — creating the largest chamber in Pasco County.

In recent months, chamber officials have been working on merger details, including a new name for the chamber.

A task force is working on recommendations, but the membership will make the final decision, Allen said.

Allen said she had some trepidation about the move, and how visible the office would be.



KATHY STEELE
The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce moved into Suite A at the Highland Oaks Medical Center, at 1868 Highland Oaks Blvd.



Suzanne Beauchaine is the new executive director of The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce.



Hope Allen is the executive director of The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce.

But, the compliments rolled in, as members stopped by for visits, she said.

"Traffic grew. It tripled and quadrupled from the other location," Allen said. "The whole place is beautiful."

The approximately 3,500 square foot office space is large enough that the chamber plans to sublet space to four businesses. There will be a certified public accountant, an architect, two financial planners and a Realtor, said Allen.

The names of the companies will be an-

nounced soon.

A ribbon cutting for the chamber is being planned for March.

"We're excited to have a place where we can grow and be centrally located for our businesses," Allen said.

As the Central Pasco Chamber's new president, Beauchaine expressed enthusiasm for her role at the chamber.

"It's very rewarding to help bring busi-

See **CHAMBERS**, page 13A

Episcopal church branching into Wesley Chapel

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

Picture, if you will, a church that does not yet have walls, or established ministries — but is rooted in an ancient tradition.

While it's a blank canvas at the moment, a new Episcopal church in Wesley Chapel won't remain that way forever — and beginning in January, meetings will be held to begin organizing the church's first location in the community.

"We call it church planting. It's like the sower (in the Bible) who sows the seeds; it's planting," said the Rev. Adrienne Hymes, whose official title is Diocesan Missioner for Church Extension.

She has assembled a core group of five people to begin one-on-one conversations with people in the community to find out more about Wesley Chapel's needs.

The core group also will focus initially on the areas of theological and spiritual formation; discipleship, evangelism and mission.

Hymes expects to have a location soon and to begin holding monthly meetings.

"It will start out once a month on



B.C. MANION
Rev. Adrienne Hymes is leading an effort to establish a new Episcopal church in Wesley Chapel.

Wednesday nights, and then as we grow, we'll be looking at Sundays," she said.

The church currently is in talks for a possible location in a business park off of Bruce B.D. Downs Boulevard.

As more members join, a launch team will develop.

After that, it's hard to predict how fast the move will be to a new location, how large the church will be, how many services and the exact shape of the ministries, Hymes said.

"With something like this, this really calls on us to lean heavily on the Holy Spirit movement — which can be a slow movement, or it can set on fire really quickly," she said.

One thing is clear; the Episcopal church wants to be a presence in Wesley Chapel.

"Wesley Chapel is growing exponentially, and there are no signs of it stopping," Hymes said.

The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida has been wanting to establish a presence in the community for many years. The diocese has 77 churches.

The diocese perceives a need in Wesley Chapel, and funds from a three-year national grant are being used to help support the effort to establish a church in that community.

"We do know there are Episcopalians who have been waiting for a (local) church

See **CHURCH**, page 13A



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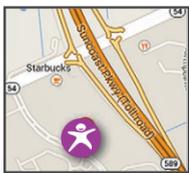
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Pasco Sheriff's Office expands youth Explorer program

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

The Pasco County Sheriff's Explorer program, which teaches local youth different aspects of law enforcement, is expanding its reach to include middle-schoolers between the ages of 11 to 13.

The Junior Explorer Unit—referred to as Explorer Post 915—builds on the agency's original Explorer Post 916. Chartered by the Boy Scouts of America, these original Explorers are young adults, ages 14 to 21, who are possibly interested in law enforcement careers.

The junior program, announced in September, is now accepting boys and girls who are either enrolled in a Pasco County middle school or home-schooled.

"We're trying to expand the whole opportunities within the Sheriff's Office, and we're trying to build up the next generation of leaders in the county," Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco said during an Explorer interest meeting on Jan. 9.

The Explorer program exposes youth to fundamental principles of law enforcement.

Training includes everything from classroom instruction, scenario reenactments, traffic stops, state statutes, radio procedures, report-writing techniques and more.

Explorers also are exposed to forensics and crime prevention efforts, as well as introductions to some of the agency's specialty units such as K-9, the Special Incident Response Team (SIRT) and underwater recovery.

The junior unit will cover many of the same topics, but at a less intense level.

It marks the first of its kind in the Tampa Bay area and just the second statewide to accommodate middle-schoolers; the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has a similar program.

Besides teaching interested youth about law enforcement, the Explorer program also strives to improve relations between the community and the Sheriff's Office.

"It's kind of bridging the gap between people who know a lot about law enforcement—because they've experienced it—and people that maybe don't," said Cpl. Justin Smith, a senior advisor to Explorer

Post 916.

"You know a lot of people say, 'Oh, you're just here to arrest my dad.' We want to show these kids...that we are so much more than that," said Chase Daniels, assistant executive director at the Sheriff's Office.

ONE OF THE STATE'S BEST PROGRAMS

The Pasco Sheriff's Office Explorers has about 35 active members. It has been recognized by the Florida Association of Police Explorers as one of the state's best.

It finished fourth out of 28 posts in 2017 state competition, receiving high marks for mastery of active shooter, search and arrest, and crime scene scenarios. It also finished 3rd in 2016 and 2nd in 2015 at the state competition.

Jeremy Hixson spent five years as an Explorer and now serves as a citizen advisor to the program.

Besides learning the ins and outs of law enforcement, Hixson said he improved his communication skills, and his organizational and time management skills. He also learned about the importance of teamwork, accountability and responsibility.

The 22-year-old Wesley Chapel resident plans to enter the law enforcement ranks after he graduates from the University of South Florida; he's already applied for a police academy sponsorship through the Pasco Sheriff's Office.

"One thing that I really like about the Explorers is (the Sheriff's Office) teaches you their guidelines—how to write a report, their general orders and everything—so that by the time you get hired you're already well-focused on what their equipment is; it's just great exposure to agency norms," he said.

One of Hixson's favorite memories as a young Explorer was participating in the ride-along program as a passenger observer. Explorers who are 15 and older can become eligible for ride-alongs.



Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco speaks about the Explorer program during a Jan. 9 interest meeting. The program teaches local youth different aspects of law enforcement.

KEVIN WEISS

Several former Explorers have developed into some of the agency's most effective deputies, including Capt. Justin Ross, who went through the Explorer program as a teenager.

The program helped Ross land a civilian position as a forensic technician in the Sheriff's Office after he graduated Mitchell High School in 2006.

"It definitely opened the door; it presented an opportunity for me at age 18," Ross said.

He later made the transition to a sheriff's deputy and earned a promotion to detective in less than two years.

Because of the Explorer program, Ross said he was a step ahead of other deputy hopefuls in the Sheriff's Office field training program.

Ross noted he was well familiar with several aspects of the job "that a lot of people struggle with coming into law enforcement with no experience or any involvement prior."

"You can stand out amongst all the rookies on the job, and it just really sets you up for a successful career," Ross said of the Explorers.

Tyler Boogades hopes that's the case for himself someday.

The 14-year-old Land O' Lakes resident joined Explorer Post 916 about six months ago after finding out about it on Facebook.

He's interested in law enforcement, so Boogades figured "it was a good thing to try out."

Learning about different topics—such as room-clearing tactics and state laws—has kept him intrigued at each Explorer meeting so far.

"I find the details really fascinating," he said.

For more information about the program, visit PascoExplorers.com.

Explorer meetings will be every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Pasco Safety Town, 15362 Alric Pottberg Road in Shady Hills.

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STUDY OF PSALMS

Women at the Well will study Psalms every Wednesday, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at Cypress Creek Church, 1854 Oak Grove Drive in Lutz. Quida Walsh, minister and author, will lead the sessions. Child care will be provided. There is a book fee. Sign up online at CypressCreekChurch.org, or call (813) 948-8860.

DESSERT DEMO

Life's Treasures Thrift Store, 6528 Massachusetts Ave., in New Port Richey, will host a free dessert demo Jan. 20 at 1 p.m., with a two-ingredient peanut butter fudge. Sign up for the demo at the store or online at ChaptersHealth.org. For information, call (727) 841-7356.

GARDEN GATE CLUB

The Zephyrhills Garden Gate Garden Club will meet Jan. 18 at 10 a.m., at the Magnuson Hotel, 5734 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills. The guest speaker will be Karen Watrous, with a presentation on pollinators and native plants. For information, call Vicky Keffer at (813) 782-3798.

VEGETABLE GARDENING

The UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Office will offer a free class on vegetable gardening basics Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. Participants can learn how to choose a location for a garden, what makes good soil, when to plant different vegetables, and how to control common vegetable garden pests. Registration is required. For information, call (352) 518-0156.

CLASSIC '80S MOVIES

Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., in downtown Tampa, will present its "Retro/Rewind Mashup of Totally '80s Classic Movies" with the showing of "Desperately Seeking Susan" Jan. 19 at 10:30 p.m., and "Flashdance" Jan. 21 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for theater members. For information and a list of upcoming shows, visit TampaTheatre.org.

SMART DRIVER COURSE

The AARP Smart Driver course, for age 50 and older, will be offered at these locations:

- Jan. 19 at the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway. Call Eugene Pool at (813) 949-8585.
- Jan. 22 at the Meadow Pointe I Community Center, Building A, 28242 County Line Road, Wesley Chapel. Call Dennis Smith at (813) 994-9832.
- Jan. 23 at Brookdale Assisted Living, 414 E. Chapman Road in Lutz (lunch included). Call Bev Cogdill at (813) 907-3908.

The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Preregistration is required.

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

Pasco County Community Services, the Colonial Hills Civic Association and Pasco County Libraries will present a "Celebrating Our Seniors Community Resource Fair" Jan. 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Centennial Park Branch Library, 5740 Moog Road in Holiday. Refreshments will be provided.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pasco County Historical Society will meet Jan. 19 at 7 p.m., at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road in Dade City. A covered-dish dinner will precede the program. The guest speaker will be Susan A. MacManus, distinguished university professor in the Department of Government and International Affairs at the University of South Florida. The topic will be MacManus' book on Florida's minority trailblazers. Book copies will be available after the meeting. For information, call Glen Thompson at (352) 567-7449.



Antique cars & trucks

The Foundation for Early Learning and the Cook family will offer an open house at the family's private antique car and truck museum, on the grounds of Component General, 2445 Success Drive in Odessa, Jan. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum also features a collection of antique radios and other collectibles.

This year, several antique tractors from the Dave White collection will be available to view.

Guests can have popcorn, ice cream and cotton candy, and take part in classic games. Families will receive a free framed photo as a memento.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted, of which 100 percent will go to The Foundation for Early Learning.

For more information, call (727) 233-8291, or send an email to foundationelc@yahoo.com.

SABBATH SERVICE & DINNER

A Jewish temple (Family Friendly Temple) will host a Sabbath service at 6:30 p.m., and a kosher dinner Jan. 19 at the home of an Oakstead community resident, in Land O' Lakes. For information, contact Alan Stern at (813) 957-1269, or email familyfriendlytemple@yahoo.com.

KINDNESS ROCKS

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will host "Kindness Rocks: Choose Kindness in 2018," a rock-painting event, Jan. 20 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

The David Maus Foundation will present a "Light Up the Night" concert Jan. 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at The Shops at Wiregrass parking structure, upper level. The third annual event aims to bring awareness to the criminal enterprise of human trafficking. There will be live music with Shalyah, Word of Life and Jennifer McGill, as well as educational materials, vendors, a kids' zone and more. Proceeds will benefit six local nonprofits dedicated to the recovery of trafficked individuals. For information, visit LightUpTheNightTampaBay.com.

SONS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Tampa Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will meet Jan. 20 at noon, at the Rusty Pelican, 2425 Rocky Point Drive in Tampa. There will be lunch and the installation of new officers. Guests should arrive by 11:30 a.m. For information, email Bill Floyd at bfloydpress@aol.com.

PIGZ IN Z'HILLS FESTIVAL

The eighth annual Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues Festival will take place Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at 5200 Airport Road in Zephyrhills. There will be a barbecue competition, live blues music, a kids' fun zone, a business expo, a car show, an aviation showcase and more. Guests can bring lawn chairs. No coolers or pets will

be allowed. Admission is free. Parking is \$10. The event will benefit local youth and education programs. For information, call The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce at (813) 782-1913, or visit ZephyrhillsChamber.org.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

belle ame Day Spa & Salon, 21758 State Road 54 in Lutz, will host its monthly Girls' Night Out Jan. 20 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The guest vendor will be Mainstream Boutique. For information, call (813) 949-8400, or visit BelleAmeDaySpa.com/girls-night-out.

COIN & STAMP EXPO

The Pasco Coin Club Coin & Stamp Expo will take place Jan. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the New Lakes Regency Park Civic Association, 8330 Civic Drive in New Port Richey. Coins, currency, bullion and jewelry will be bought, sold and appraised. Guests can register to win a one-ounce Silver Eagle. Admission and parking are free. For information, call (727) 534-7597.

REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Republican Club of Central Pasco will meet Jan. 22 at Copperstone Executive Suites, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The social begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a business meeting at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco, who will present an update on the Constitution Revision Commission. The meeting is open to the public. For information, call (813) 996-3011.

MAKE A FLAG DISPLAY CASE

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a woodworking class Jan. 22 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., for ages 16 and older. The project will be a flag display case. This is part one of a two-part class. Participants must be able to attend both sessions. Proper dress code, registration and a signed liability waiver are required. For information and to RSVP, call (813) 929-1214.

TEEN BOOK CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a planning session Jan. 22 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., for its new monthly Teen Book Club, for ages 13 to 18. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

HANS BRINKER MUSICAL

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will present "Hans Brinker & The Quick-Silver Rocket Skates" Jan. 24 at 10:30 a.m. The show will be presented by the Atlantic Coast Theatre for Youth, which focuses on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) initiatives. Admission is \$7 for members, \$8 for general admission, \$28 for a family four-pack, and free for children age 4 and younger. A child's ticket is still required. For information, call (813) 922-8167.

SOLAR USE PROGRAM

The Dade City Garden Club, 13630 Fifth St., will present a program on solar energy and clean technology Jan. 22. A social will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by the program at 10 a.m. The guest speaker will be Dave Sillman, on the topic of solar co-ops and clean tech. Admission is free. For information, call (352) 238-2547, or email jeff352@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida will present Dr. Matthew Tapie, assistant professor of theology and director of the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. Tapie will provide an overview of the Catholic-Jewish relationship pre- and post-Nostra Aetate. The program will be at Holy Name Monastery, 122138 Wichers Road in St. Leo. To RSVP, contact Sister Mary Clare Neuhofer at (352) 588-8320 or maryclareneu@gmail.com.

GRANT FUNDING WORKSHOP

The City of Tampa and the Hillsborough County Grants Collaborative will present a Grant Funders Panel Workshop for nonprofits, small businesses and individuals Jan. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Notebooks with grant information will be provided to all attendees. For information, visit TampaArts.org.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The Trinity Democratic Club will meet Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m., at Fox Hollow Golf Club, 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway in Trinity. The guest speaker will be activist Desmond Meade, president of Florida Rights Restoration Coalition. Doors open at 5 p.m., for a self-pay dinner/Happy Hour. For information, email trinitydems@earthlink.net.

PAINTING WITH ALICIA

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will present "Painting with Alicia" Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for ages 16 and older. Participants should bring a 12x12 canvas, or purchase one at the library for \$2. The project will be an adaptation of a Georgia O'Keeffe painting. Proper dress code, registration and a signed liability waiver are required. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

PROTECT YOUR ID

The New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd., will offer a veterans and community education lecture Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m., for adults. The guest speaker will be Lynn Province of Legal Shield on the topic of how consumers can protect personal information. Participants can learn about current trends, scams and schemes related to identity theft and fraud, and learn the best practices for financial transactions, online activities, and consumer privacy. Groups must register in advance by calling (813) 273-3652. For information, visit HCPLC.org.

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www.KumquatFestival.org



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Suncoast Arts Fest getting ready for really, really big show

By B.C. Manion

bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Fine Arts of the Suncoast Inc., is getting ready for this 13th annual Suncoast Arts Fest — featuring 110 artists from across the country and Canada.

The event, held at The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel, is scheduled for Jan. 20 and Jan. 21.

When the weather is good, the two-day event has drawn up to 80,000 visitors, said Jennifer Douglas, the festival manager.

She noted that “the quality of the art continues to grow, along with the reputation of the festival.”

The festival manager added that she’s “particularly proud of the live entertainment we’ve lined up for the Mainstage.

“I think our visitors will be blown away by the talent and diversity featured this year,” Douglas said.

Beyond a wide array of art to see and purchase, the free public event also offers live entertainment, chalk art murals, kids’ art projects and other highlights.

Artists must compete for a place in the show, and this year there were 166 applicants vying for a spot. Categories at the show include ceramics/clay, digital, drawing, fiber, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and wood.

The juried arts competition will award \$14,000 in cash prizes.

Live entertainment will be featured on the Mainstage at Center Court, located at the festival midpoint across from Macy’s.

The festival will kick off on Jan. 20 with performances by The Richey Suncoast Kid’s Theatre and The Wesley Chapel Wind Ensemble.

At noon, Gypsy Wind, will share its unique blend of bluegrass, folk and old jazz favorites. Other performers in the afternoon will include The Frankie Raye Trio, and at 3:40 p.m., headliners Vioelectric, with its passionate fusion of classical string instruments and cutting-edge technology and effects.

As the current Artists-in-Residence at Orlando’s Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Vioelectric has opened for Sting, Adam Levine, Ne-Yo, David Foster, Kristen Chenoweth, Katherine McPhee, Sia, Twenty-One Pilots, Rascal Flatts, and Huey Lewis and the News.

On Jan. 21, Suncoast Arts Fest radio spon-

If you go

SUNCOAST ARTS FEST

WHERE: The Shops at Wiregrass

WHEN: Jan. 20, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Jan. 21, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

COST: Free admission and parking

DETAILS: A juried show featuring works by 110 fine arts and crafts artists from across the nation and Canada. The event also features live entertainment and children’s activities.

INFO: SuncoastArtsFest.com



Drawing by artist Marie Rust, of Bitely, Michigan.



COURTESY OF JENNIFER DOUGLAS

Photographer Thomas Styczynski is from Santa Barbara, California.



Glass artist Rollin Karg is from Kechi, Kansas.

sor, WGHR Hits 106, will be broadcasting live with performances on the Mainstage by children’s musician, Mr. Harley; followed by classical world guitarist Nikola Baltic, and Pasco favorites Barefoot Bob and the Hope. Tampa blues legend Sarasota Slim will close out the festival.

The event also has plenty of activities for kids.

The Kids’ Art Garden, presented by Suncoast Credit Union, has free Picasso-themed art projects, face painting and a scavenger hunt.

The Art Makerspace, sponsored by Chasco Middle School, will demonstrate its mobile 3D printer, and the festival’s Emerging Artist Exhibit will be back, featuring the talent of Pasco County elementary, middle and high school students.

Other highlights will include chalk artists and strolling entertainment by the Bay Area Renaissance Festival.

Suncoast Arts Fest is produced by Fine Arts of the Suncoast Inc., a charitable organization dedicated to developing a community culture that embraces the arts.

All proceeds from the Suncoast Arts Fest benefit “Arts for Education,” a grant fund created by the festival’s parent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Fine Arts of the Suncoast Inc. This mini-grant program provides project support to supplement arts education funding in public, private and charter schools in Pasco County.

In 2017, more than \$6,000 in mini-grants was awarded, bringing the grand total distributed to nearly \$100,000 since the organization’s inception.



Mr. Harley will be providing an interactive show for children during the Suncoast Arts Fest, being held this weekend at The Shops at Wiregrass. He is slated to perform on Jan. 21.



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A Menu For All People

Special to The Laker / Lutz News

Here's one for you: A family walks into a restaurant. The mom wants an upscale seafood entrée and a glass of wine. The kids are thinking more along the lines of spaghetti, or maybe chicken tenders with a soda or chocolate milk. The dad, he just wants a country-fried steak with mashed potatoes.

The solution to this riddle is pretty simple: The family has obviously walked into Franky D's Family Kitchen in Lutz, where there's something for everyone.

Twin brothers Dan and Dennis Demarco saw the need for such a place in the community, and decided to tackle it head on. They come well-qualified, too. Dennis has degrees in culinary arts and nutrition from Johnson & Whales University. He and his wife, Mireya, are the ones making the magic happen in the kitchen. Dan and Shellie have the business and marketing end covered.

"So long as they stay out of my kitchen, I'll do whatever Dan and Shellie ask," Dennis says, half jokingly. "But seriously, we're a family. We all work hard at what we do, and we want this to be a place where others can bring their family and friends and enjoy!"

Dennis also prides himself on having a kitchen with no microwave. "All our food is served fresh and cooked properly. No nukes!"



The Demarco family is ready to serve you at Franky D's. From left to right: Dennis, Mireya, Tati, Joseph, Dan, and Shellie.

With an obvious sense of family pride, Dan adds that the name "Franky D's" is a tribute to their father. "He's truly a wonderful and hard-working man. And, our 50-seat, private meeting room honors our mother, Jackie Mae. Growing up, her kitchen was a place where all were welcome, and no one left hungry."

Shellie likes to point out that the Jackie Mae room has a large screen TV, that can be used for PowerPoint or other video presentations. "Instead of holding yet another meeting in the 'bored' room, why not get your staff out of the office for a change?"

Franky D's has recently begun serving breakfast as well, making it an ideal place to visit morning, noon or night. So whether it's a simple burger, or a savory prime rib, there really is something for everyone at Franky D's.

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Through our local relationships we will regularly observe players, games and school soccer and view this as a key aspect of identifying players for the academy whilst transferring our knowledge and ability to the local community. With our strong links to English Premier League AFC Bournemouth we are excited to share many projects with the local soccer community that will enhance the players, coaches, parents and schools soccer.

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Get control of the weeds in your lawn

By Nicole Pinson

Special to The Laker/Lutz News

Did you have weeds in your lawn last year?

I sure did.

One of my resolutions is to gain control of the weeds in my bahiagrass lawn. Common weeds that invade Florida lawns include heartleaf drymary and crabgrass.

Heartleaf drymary is one of my least favorite weeds because its sticky seeds get all over my dog's furry paws.

Crabgrass is another difficult weed to control. There are few options once it grows in the lawn.

Post-emergence herbicides work on established weeds, but some may harm existing landscape plants or turfgrass.

For example, there are no effective post-emergence controls for weeds such as crabgrass in most lawns. You could spot treat with a product such as glyphosate, but you would need to use care not to spray the turfgrass, as it can injure your turf.

Additionally, post-emergence herbicides offer no protection against future weeds

However, there's another option in the weed control toolbox: pre-emergence herbicides.

These herbicides can help reduce the amount of summer weeds because they are applied before weeds grow and seeds

sprout. They work because they prevent or inhibit the weed seeds from sprouting or germinating.

These products are not a magical fix to apply throughout the year. If you want to get a handle on weeds before they grow, you must apply pre-emergence herbicides in late winter or early in the year.

Timing is critical.

If applied too late, they won't work, and they will be a waste of time, money, and product.

The general rule of thumb is this: apply pre-emergence herbicides in Central Florida around mid-February — Feb. 15 is a date often recommended, but technically, they should be applied "before soil temperatures remain above 50°F for 24 consecutive hours."

In addition to initial treatment, it's very important to make a follow-up application within 60 days of the initial treatment.

To find a pre-emergence herbicide suitable for your lawn, first identify your type of grass (St. Augustinegrass, bahiagrass, zoysiagrass or Bermudagrass). Next, look for the active ingredients listed under pre-emergence herbicides.

When you visit the garden center, check product labels for one of these active ingredients. Local nurseries, hardware stores, feed stores and professional landscape supply companies may carry these products. Be sure to read and follow product labels.

Remember, hand-pulling weeds is always an option.

Be sure to practice good landscape management practices to reduce weeds. These practices include to provide your lawn the right amount of irrigation (but not too much because weeds love water), apply fertilizer appropriately (but not too much because weeds love fertilizer), and mow your lawn at the recommended mowing height.

Did you know that proper mowing is one of the most important things you can do to improve the health of your lawn? Correct mowing heights for turfgrasses:

- Regular cultivars of St. Augustinegrass 3.5 inches to 4 inches
- Dwarf cultivars of St. Augustinegrass 2.5 inches
- Bahiagrass 3 inches to 4 inches
- Zoysiagrass 2 inches to 2.5 inches
- Bermudagrass 0.5-inch to 1.5 inches

If you have trouble identifying a weed, contact your local Extension office for help.

You may learn how to take care of your grass by visiting University of Florida's online library at [Edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu). Type the name of your grass, for example St. Augustinegrass, in the search box to get a list of publications.

Pre-emergence herbicides may save you time and money by preventing those weeds from sprouting. I hope you, along with me, get a handle on our lawn weeds this year!

Crabgrass control

More information is available on crabgrass control and the time to apply pre-emergence herbicides, by going to this link: tinyurl.com/yd3zy2zg. The document lists various turfgrasses we grow in Florida and the pre-emergence herbicides available for each type of grass. These herbicides are listed by their active ingredients, not brand names.

REFERENCES:

- Telenko, D.E.P., R. Leon, and J.B. Unruh (2016). Crabgrass Biology and Management in Turf. IFAS Publication Number ENH 1134. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Retrieved from <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP39500.pdf>
- Trenholm, L.E., J.B. Unruh, and J.L. Cisar. (2015). Mowing Your Florida Lawn. IFAS Publication Number ENH 10. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Retrieved from <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/LH/LH02800.pdf>
- For additional information, email pinson@hillsboroughcounty.org, or call (813) 744-5519, ext. 54145.

Nicole Pinson is the Urban Horticulture Agent in Hillsborough County.

Celebrating a day to honor trees

By Mary Rathman

mrathman@lakerlutznews.com

Arbor Day is an annual observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care.

As a formal holiday, it was first observed in 1872, in Nebraska, but tree planting festivals are as old as civilization. The tree has appeared throughout history and literature as the symbol of life.

The idea for Arbor Day in the United States originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Among the pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was Julius Sterling Morton from Detroit. He and his wife, Caroline, were lovers of nature, and the home they established in Nebraska was planted with trees, shrubs and flowers.

In 1872, the State Board of Agriculture accepted a resolution by Julius Morton "to set aside one day to plant trees, both forest and fruit."

The trees planted on Arbor Day show a concern for future generations. The simple act of planting a tree represents a belief that the tree will grow and provide wood products, wildlife habitat, erosion control, shelter from the wind and sun, beauty and inspiration, for everyone.

By 1920, more than 45 states and territorial possessions were celebrating Arbor Day. Today, it is commemorated in all 50 states.

For many years, Arbor Day was observed on Julius Morton's birthday, April 22, but today, National Arbor Day is usually celebrated on the last Friday in April.

Many states and municipalities have implemented state or locally recognized Arbor Days that reflect the best time for planting in their region. Florida celebrates Arbor Day the third Friday in January — a tradition that began in 1886.

Visit ArborDay.org to learn when Arbor Day is recognized in each of the states.

MEMORIAL TREE CELEBRATION

WHEN: The Dade City Garden Club and the City of Dade City will host an Arbor Day Memorial Tree Celebration Jan. 19 at 10 a.m., at the garden club, at 13630 Fifth St.

DETAILS: Dade City is an official "Tree City," which means it has a tree ordinance in place, maintains core standards of sound urban tree management, contributes funding, and celebrates Arbor Day. Memorial trees, dedicated in memory or in honor of a special person or occasion, will be recognized by Deborah Garnett Parks, president, and Gail Stout, chairperson.

Trees will be planted by city staff at the Garden Center and the Hardy Trail at Church Avenue and Ninth Street, and a small memorial plaque is placed in front of the tree.

The program also will feature a Proclamation from the City of Dade City to be read by Mayor Camille Hernandez, and speakers from the Florida Forest Service, University of Florida IFAS Extension.

The event is open to the public.

INFO: Call Gail Stout at (352) 567-0607.



ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

WHEN: Jan. 19 starting at 11 a.m. at Frances Avenue Park, 5580 Frances Ave., New Port Richey

DETAILS: Trees, free seedling will be available, while supplies last. Seedling species will include Pawpaw, redbud maple, sycamore, wild black cherry, hoptree and sassafras. There will be a children's program about trees, the city's Public Works department and the children will plant trees as part of the celebration and the city's designation as a National Tree City USA.

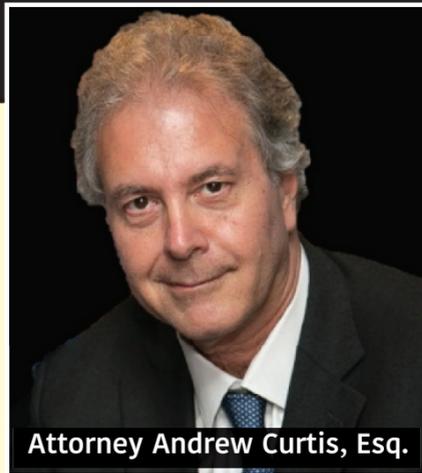
Free seedlings also will be available at Tasty Tuesdays on Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon, at the New Port Richey City Library on Main Street. Approximately 600 seedlings will be handed out to the community during the week of Arbor Day.

INFO: KeepPascoBeautiful.org

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Attorney Andrew Curtis, Esq.

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ABOUT ATTORNEY ANDREW CURTIS

LLM in Taxation - NYU Law School 1986

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MBA - University of Michigan 1978

BS - Cornell University 1977

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Trusts Are Not Exclusively For The Wealthy

Despite popular belief, wealthy people aren't the only folks who may need revocable living trusts.

Attorney Andrew Curtis, whose practice concentrates in the areas of trusts, estates and elder law, is very familiar with this common misconception.

"It's a false notion," Curtis said. "For example, I recently had a fellow visit my office whose mother had just died. All his mother owned was a \$100,000 condo, and her will read, 'I leave my condo to my child.'

"Although this seemed clear and simple, the child had to go through probate before he could sell the condo, and that legal fee was \$2,500. A revocable living trust could have avoided this."

There are many additional reasons why a revocable living trust may be advisable for a person of modest means. Curtis outlines some of these below.

1. A trust can protect you against incapacity

Let's say, for example, you get Alzheimer's disease. With a trust, you designate someone to manage your assets if such an unfortunate event occurs. Without a trust, court proceedings might be necessary, and the court may choose a stranger to handle your affairs.

2. A trust might also allow you to "rule from the grave"

After you pass on, your assets may be distributed according to specifications made while you were still alive. This prevents potentially undesirable scenarios — such as your children leaving their inheritance to people you never liked, such as a spouse. If you leave

your assets to your kids in a lifetime trust, they may each use the money for normal living, but upon their deaths, the remaining assets will pass to your grandchildren or to the surviving sibling(s) — and not to their spouses. Further, after you are dead, the trust can protect against your spouse leaving the money to a new spouse or significant other.

3. Trusts are extremely useful in second marriage situations

If you simply leave your assets to your new spouse, he/she is free to leave them to his/her children, not yours, once you pass away. This scenario is avoidable with a trust, and your assets can pass to your kids.

4. Trusts may be used to manage assets inherited by children who aren't good with money

For example, you may provide that the child will only get the income from his/her inheritance.

5. Trusts may also protect your children's inheritance, if they go bankrupt, divorce or face a lawsuit

Further, if you have a handicapped child, a "supplemental needs trust" may be utilized to prevent loss of his or her government benefits.

Learn how Curtis can help you set up a Revocable Living Trust at a free seminar on Jan. 25 at the Wesley Chapel Hampton Inn & Suites at 3pm. Seating is very limited, so be sure to call (352) 315-0333 today to reserve your seat.

The cost of a revocable living trust is \$399 for a single person and \$499 for a married couple (plus incidental costs.)

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HIV, HEP C TESTING

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County, in conjunction with the public defender's Mobile Medical Unit, will offer free rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing at several locations throughout January.

Results from the rapid tests will be available in 20 minutes.

A calendar of times and locations for the free testing can be viewed online at Pasco.flhealth.gov.

For information, call the Florida Department of Health at (727) 619-0260.

ROBOTICS FOR NEUROSURGERY

Florida Hospital Tampa is the first hospital in Florida to acquire the latest generation robotic imaging technology for use in neurosurgery that provides neurosurgeons with a more complete view of the brain during surgery.

Synaptive Medical Inc.'s BrightMatter product suite, including its next-generation Modus V robotic arm with digital microscope, transforms imaging, surgical planning, patient data collection and intra-operative vision from disjointed analog methods to a fully integrated platform with navigation, robotic automation, digital microscopy and data analytics.

Modus V is derived from technology used on the International Space Station and sets a new standard for robot-assisted neurosurgery with the most powerful optics available on the market. The optics provide unprecedented views of patient anatomy,



COURTESY OF KIRSTY CHURCHILL

Little things make a big difference

A group of women from the Silver Sneakers program at the James P. Gills YMCA delivered handmade blankets, shawls and slippers to patients at the Gulfside Center for Hospice Care at Heather Hill, in New Port Richey. The group also left additional blankets for patients to receive as they enter Gulfside. This is the third time the group has donated handmade gifts to hospice patients. From left: Shirley Colligan, Deborah Miller, Glenda Hunter, Arlene Kovacs, Lori Fridy and Jennifer Chianella.

and may allow surgeons to perform less invasive procedures with more precision.

Less invasive procedures may lead to faster recovery times, reduced complications and, in some cases, may render an inoperable diagnosis operable.

FALL PREVENTION

Access Health Care Physicians, 5350 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill, will offer a lecture on "How Not to Fall Down: Let's Talk Prevention" Jan. 18 from 5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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

STROKE LIFESTYLE

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will offer a six-week stroke lifestyle class on Thursdays, from Jan. 18 to Feb. 22 at 10 a.m., in the CREATION Health Wellness Center Education Room, 38233 Daughtery Road in Zephyrhills.

The series will focus on stroke education, prevention, exercise and diet.

Depression and support for post-stroke and TIA (transient ischemic attack) patients, and caregivers, also will be covered.

The cost is \$30 for all six classes. Registration is required.

For more information, please call (813) 779-6476.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Affordable Health Screenings will visit Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 20735 Leonard Road in Lutz, Jan. 19, sponsored by The Vein & Vascular Institute of Spring Hill.

Residents living in and around Lutz can learn about the risk of cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic conditions.

Continued on next page



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The screenings will be accessible for wheelchairs and those who have trouble walking.

Packages start at \$149. Preregistration is required.

Call (877) 237-1287, or visit LifeLineScreening.com.

NEWBORN CARE

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a newborn care class Jan. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon, in Garden Classroom A.

The interactive class will cover various aspects of infant care, including feeding, diapering, bathing safety, signs of illness and newborn characteristics.

The cost is \$25, which covers the expectant mother and a support person.

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

YOGA FOR STRESS RELIEF

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a free "Yoga for Stress Relief" class Jan. 22 at 6 p.m.

Fundamental techniques are offered, tailored to the level of ability and fitness of the participants, with an emphasis on relaxation and mindfulness.

Guests should wear comfortable exercise clothing, and bring a large beach towel or yoga mat. For information and to register, call (813) 929-1214.

OPIOID EDUCATION

Oak Hill Hospital, 11307 Cortez Blvd., in Brooksville, will host a community educa-

tion seminar on "Understanding the Opioid Crisis" Jan. 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., in its Graduate Medical Education Conference Center.

The guest speakers will be Dr. Salman Muddassar, board certified in internal medicine, and Dr. Sadiya Usman, postgraduate year-three resident physician in internal medicine.

Topics will include what the opioid crisis is, why it started, and what we can do to manage the proper use of opioids.

There will be a question-and-answer session after the presentation.

A hot meal will be provided. Reservations are required.

For more information and to RSVP, please call (352) 597-6333, or visit OakHillHospital.com/ForYourHealth.

SMOKING CESSATION

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will offer the IQuit Smoking Cessation class Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Participants can learn strategies for quitting all forms of tobacco, and get free nicotine replacement therapy, such as patches, gum and lozenges, while supplies last. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

HOSPICE LEGACY STROLL

The inaugural Hospice Legacy Stroll, to benefit Gulfside Hospice, will take place Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Sims Park in New Port Richey.

There will be a bubble release remembrance ceremony, a memorial walk through the park, a memorial wall, a video story booth, and family friendly activities.

The cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students.

To register, visit HospiceLegacyStroll.org.



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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."

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SAINT LEO APPOINTS PROVOST

William J. Lennox Jr., president of Saint Leo University, has announced the appointment of Jeffrey D. Senese as provost and senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, effective Jan. 16. This is a newly created position at Saint Leo.

The position is designated as the chief academic and student affairs officer of the university, and will provide oversight of all educational programs offered on the University Campus, at centers, and online.

Included in the duties of the provost are the development, implementation, and assurance of the quality of the undergraduate and graduate programs, instruction, research and service.

Senese will provide direct, ongoing supervision of the deans of the three schools at the university, as well as the vice president of Student Affairs & Campus Operations.

He also will be responsible for overall administration of academic and student affairs of the university.

Senese earned a Bachelor of Science in the administration of justice from Pennsylvania State University; a Master of

Arts in criminology from Indiana State University; and, a Doctor of Philosophy in multidisciplinary social sciences from the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University.

OPEN HOUSE FOR TECH SCHOOL

Wendell Krinn Technology High School, in New Port Richey, will host parent nights at 6:30 p.m., to showcase the school's college and career-ready academic opportunities, on these dates:

- Jan. 17 at Fivay High School, 12115 Chicago Ave., Hudson
- Jan. 24 at Gulf High School, 5355 School Road, New Port Richey
- Feb. 1 at Marchman Technical College, 7825 Campus Drive, New Port Richey

Applications for the tech school also are now being accepted online through Feb. 8 at PascoSchools.org.

The school will offer 14 college and career-ready pathways.

Students accepted at the school also can earn up to 28 credit hours and credits toward a college degree.

The school will open at the current Ridgewood High School, giving students easy access to Fred K. Marchman Technical College next door for hands-on industry certification courses and Pasco-Hernando State College for dual enrollment courses.

For information, visit PascoSchools.org, and click on the Wendell Krinn Technical High School banner at the top, or call (727) 774-3900.

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COURTESY OF FLORIDA HOSPITAL

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers' starting tight end, Cameron Brate (No. 84), visited Gulf Trace Elementary to run, race and rally around the commitment of the students and the school to health and nutrition.

STUDENTS AND FITNESS

Gulf Trace Elementary School students are currently running every morning before school, as part of The Morning Mile Program created by Fitz Koehler, Fitness International LLC.

For every 5 miles a student walks or runs, he or she receives a motivational charm and is encouraged to aim to be part of the "100 Mile Club."

The Florida Hospital West Florida Division, Tampa Bay Buccaneer Cameron Brate, and the Buccaneer mascot, Captain Fear, surprised the students at a rally Jan.

10 in recognition of their commitment to better health.

Other schools participating in the program include East Pasco Adventist Academy, Lacoochee Elementary, Anclote Elementary, Quail Hollow Elementary and Pine View Elementary schools in Pasco.

Participating Hillsborough County schools include Sheehy Elementary, Dunbar Elementary Magnet, Witter Elementary, Shaw Elementary, B.T. Washington Elementary, Forest Hills Elementary, Sligh Middle Magnet, and Apollo Beach Elementary.

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FLU, from page 1A

mostly since Christmas, around Dec. 24, Dec. 25," said Dr. Nadeem Khan, a community physician and the medical director, Infectious Diseases at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel.

In the first week of 2017, the hospital had eight confirmed cases of the flu. This year, it had 12 cases during the same week last year. The Wesley Chapel hospital also had 16 confirmed cases from Jan. 5 through Jan. 8, which is more than it had seen the entire previous week, according to figures supplied by the hospital.

"A lot of people did not get vaccinated this year. A lot of the patients you talk to, just didn't do it," Khan said.

Holiday crowds also likely figured in, Khan said.

During the holidays, people tend to travel, he observed. "You're in planes. You're in airports. There's delays.

"Somebody is sneezing and coughing, and you can't do anything about it," he said.

The sudden cold weather likely contributed, too, he said.

"When your immune system goes down a little bit, you're more susceptible," he explained.

The flu cases seem to be coming in earlier than usual this year at Saint Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road, in Lutz, said Cindy McGrath, nursing manager in the hospital's emergency department.

Both health care professionals said there are ways to reduce your chances of catching the flu, and it's important to protect yourself.

Aside from getting a flu shot, washing your hands frequently with soap and warm water is perhaps the most important step you can take to protect yourself, Khan said.

"At restaurants, we're picking up salt and pepper shakers. No one cleans those, ever. We're touching menus that no one cleans. You need to make sure that you're washing your hands, or using hand sanitizer," he said.

He also recommends wearing a mask in crowded places, such as airports, airplanes and other places where you could be risking exposure from being too close to others in tight quarters.

"If you're not sure what's going on around you, it's always better to get a mask."

"Even if you look funny, or you think people are going to stare at you, who cares?" Khan asked.

Those who are most vulnerable to the flu include the very young and the elderly, according to the Florida Department of Health's website. Pregnant women also are at risk.

People who have underlying medical conditions also are more susceptible to catching the flu, McGrath said.

Once flu symptoms begin to show up,

FLU SYMPTOMS:

The infectious period can start 24 hours to 48 hours before symptoms show up.

- High-grade fever, generally 101 degrees Fahrenheit or above
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Dry cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuff nose
- Body aches, chills
- Diarrhea, vomiting
- Breathing difficulties

PREVENTION TIPS

- Get a flu shot
- Wash your hands often, with soap and warm water, rubbing hands for 15 seconds to 20 seconds, then drying with a clean towel.
- Stay away from people who are sick, and avoid crowded spaces, if possible
- Wear a mask to protect yourself in crowded places, such as airplanes

AVOID SPREADING THE FLU

- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover sneezes or coughs
- Use a disposable tissue when blowing your nose and discard that tissue immediately
- Wash your hands often, using soap and warm water. Rub your hands for 15 seconds to 20 seconds. Be sure to use a clean towel when drying your hands.
- Do not share glasses, forks, spoons, toothbrushes and so on.

Sources: Dr. Nadeem Khan, Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel; Cindy McGrath, nurse manager for the emergency department and Kim Demers, assistant nurse manager for the emergency department at Saint Joseph's Hospital — North; and, FloridaHealth.gov.

it's a good idea to see a health care provider for antiviral medication, both McGrath and Khan said. The sooner, the better, they said.

State and federal health officials still recommend getting a flu shot, even though it may not always prevent the flu.

"Flu vaccines can vary in effectiveness from season to season, but they continue to be the best way to prevent influenza infection and serious influenza complications," said Gambineri, of the state health department.

Khan agrees.

"You might get sick even if you've had the flu shot, but not sick enough to be in the hospital or the ICU (intensive care unit)," he said.

Catching the flu can have serious consequences, Khan said.

"We definitely lose patients from influenza. That is something that people don't understand. Young, healthy individuals, 23 to 30 years old. They die," he said.

CHAMBERS, from page 1A

ness owners together, and see their relationships grow and prosper," Beauchaine said, in a written release.

Before joining The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Beauchaine was an account manager at The Laker/Lutz News for about three years.

She also owned a business in Lutz for five years, and has worked in retail and office management.

CHURCH, from page 1A

for a long time. If you grew up in the tradition, you want an Episcopal church," she said. Other Episcopal churches are miles away — in New Tampa, Zephyrhills and New Port Richey.

As the effort gets underway for a new church in Wesley Chapel, Hymes noted: "It just turns out that God sends servants and God sends resources, so that we are really able to focus on establishing a presence out there at this time."

She is looking for people who want to part of a ground-floor, grassroots effort.

"We're looking for entrepreneurial types. We're looking for people who are visionaries. People who can see things that aren't there yet," Hymes said. "We're going to need people who vision and dream," she added.

"Normally, when you walk into a church, you're worshipping — things are there," Hymes said.

Some people definitely prefer it that way, she said.

If, however, "you're comfortable with not knowing everything and the details, those are the people that we need.

"It's kingdom-building work," she said, and she's looking to attract people from all walks of life to play a role.

There may be architects and construction workers, business people and others, she said. Retired people, who have just wrapped up a long career, may want to get

Her husband, Gary Beauchaine, is a small business owner and a member of the Central Pasco chamber.

The couple has two adult daughters who are area residents.

For more information about The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce, call the chamber at (813) 994-8534, or visit WesleyChapelChamber.com.

For more information about The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce, call (813) 909-2722, or visit CentralPascoChamber.com.

involved in beginning something new, she said.

"Maybe you've been a strategic planner your whole life," she said. "You're not done yet.

"Right now, we're in this wonderful dance of the Holy Spirit, wondering what is going to happen next," said Hymes, who is clearly excited by the prospect.

"How many people have a chance to get on the ground floor of a brand-new church that does not have a name yet?"

"Every time we meet and every time a new person shows up, the DNA for this church is being created," Hymes added.

For those who do not know much about the Episcopal Church, Hymes offered a brief overview.

"Our history and our roots run deep. The Episcopal Church's roots are rooted in the church of England, which started in the 16th century. What we offer is an ever-ancient liturgy that people can tap into and hold onto," she said.

"If you're led to the doors of this church, we welcome you, and we invite you into the rich Anglican tradition," she said.

At the same time, the church's ministries adapt to meet the changing needs of the community it serves, she said.

Those helping to lay the groundwork for the church will be learning about the needs it is called to serve in Wesley Chapel area.

If you'd like to get involved or would like to know more, contact Hymes at (813) 418-1281 or by email at ahymes@episcopalswfl.org.

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Locals shine during 2017-2018 college football

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Another exciting and memorable college football season is in the books. In addition to the University of Alabama capturing its sixth national title under head coach Nick Saban and the University of Central Florida finishing with an unblemished 13-0 record, several locals had noteworthy individual campaigns in 2017.

Here's a look back at some of the top performers from The Laker/Lutz News coverage area, including both Pasco and Hillsborough counties, that shined in the Division I FBS and FCS ranks in 2017:

AUDEN TATE, WIDE RECEIVER, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

HIGH SCHOOL: Wharton High School; graduated in 2015

Tate offered one of the few bright spots for a Florida State team that took a step back in 2017, finishing an uncharacteristic 7-6.

A viable red-zone threat, the 6-foot-5, 225-pound junior tallied 40 receptions for 548 yards and a team-leading 10 touchdown receptions.

And, his last game was his best.

In the Seminole's 42-12 win over Southern Mississippi in the Dec. 27 Independence Bowl, Tate tallied three touchdown passes as part of a five catch, 84-yard performance.

Tate has since announced he will forego his senior season to enter the 2018 NFL draft. Many outlets project the wide-out to be one of the top receivers selected, possibly between the first and fourth rounds.

A native of South Carolina, Tate moved to Tampa after his freshman year of high school. At Wharton, he developed into one of the nation's most sought-after recruits, with his rare combination of size and athleticism.

CHASE LITTON, QUARTERBACK, MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

(HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA)

HIGH SCHOOL: Wharton High School; graduated in 2014

Litton capped off his junior season — and third year as Marshall's starter — in impressive fashion.

He threw for 3,115 yards and 25 touch-

downs, leading the Thundering Herd to an 8-5 record that was capped by a 31-28 win over Colorado State University in the Dec. 16 New Mexico Bowl.

The 6-foot-6, 232-pound Litton became just the second quarterback in school history to complete at least 60 percent of his passes in three consecutive seasons. The other was Byron Leftwich, who spent a decade in the NFL from 2003 to 2012.

Litton, who recently declared for the NFL Draft, cemented himself as one of the Marshall's all-time great passers. He ranks fourth in program history in career touchdown passes (72); fourth in most pass completions (772); and fifth in career passing yards (8,832).

In four years at Wharton, Litton amassed more than 7,600 passing yards and 54 touchdowns. He was also a standout basketball player with more than 1,000 career points.

ALEX MCGOUGH, QUARTERBACK, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

HIGH SCHOOL: Gaither High School; graduated in 2014

The four-year starter guided Florida International to an 8-5 record — tying the best mark in the program's 16-year history. (FIU also went 8-5 in 2011).

McGough's senior season was also his best season number-wise. Completing 65 percent of his passes, the 6-foot-3, 218-pound pocket passer tallied 2,798 passing yards, 17 touchdowns and eight interceptions. A capable runner, he added 231 yards and five touchdowns on the ground.

McGough exits the FIU program with numerous passing records, including most career touchdown passes (65).

His accomplished career came to a bittersweet end in the Gasparilla Bowl on Dec. 21, when he fractured his left collarbone on the team's first offensive drive. FIU ended up losing to Temple 28-3.

McGough was rather lightly recruited out of Gaither (FIU was his only Division I



Chase Litton

scholarship offer) despite being one of Tampa Bay's most decorated passers — amassing more than 5,100 career passing yards and 52 touchdown passes in four varsity seasons. He also played baseball and soccer.

McGough's younger brother, Shane, also plays for FIU and graduated from Gaither.

SHAHEED SALMON, LINEBACKER, SAMFORD UNIVERSITY (HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA)

HIGH SCHOOL: Land O' Lakes High School; graduated in 2014

The 6-foot-2, 233-pound senior outside linebacker followed up last year's All-Southern Conference campaign with an even better showing, posting a team-leading 109 total tackles, along with 15.5 tackles for loss, four sacks and an interception. He again received First Team All-Southern Conference honors and was named Third Team Stats FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) All-American.

Salmon had four games with 10 or more tackles, including a career-high 18 in the team's NCAA Playoff game at Kennesaw State.

He also was named Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Month in November.

The defensive stalwart and sure tackler was also one of the key reasons Samford posted an 8-4 overall record (6-2 conference play) and reached the FCS Playoffs in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 1992.

At Land O' Lakes High, Salmon was a three-sport standout, competing in football, basketball and track. In his senior year, he led the Gators in tackles (117), tackles for loss (21.5) and sacks (8.5).

AMANI ORUWARIYE, CORNERBACK, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY (STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA)

HIGH SCHOOL: Gaither High School; graduated in 2014

Despite missing two games to injury, the 6-foot-1, 209-pound redshirt junior firmly established himself as one of the Big Ten Conference's top cornerbacks — posting a team-high four interceptions, along with 12 passes defended and 28 total tackles — helping the Nittany Lions to an 11-2 record and Fiesta Bowl win.

The on-field performance proved good enough for second team All-Big Ten honors — Penn State's first cornerback to do so since 2008.

Expected to return for his senior season, Oruwariye is regarded for his size, length and athleticism at the defensive back position.

Prior to college football, Oruwariye was a three-year letterman at Gaither High and earned team MVP honors his senior year. He also earned first-team all-district honors and was selected to play in the Hillsborough County All-Star Game.



Amani Oruwariye

OTHER NOTABLES: JANARION GRANT, WIDE RECEIVER, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY (PISCATAWAY, NEW JERSEY)

HIGH SCHOOL: Pasco High School; graduated in 2013

Battled injuries all season long, but still managed to finish with 600 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns in seven games. Exits Rutgers as its all-time kickoff return yardage leader (2,857 yards) and tied for the NCAA record for combined kick return touchdowns (8).

NATE CRAIG-MYERS, WIDE RECEIVER, AUBURN UNIVERSITY (AUBURN, ALABAMA)

HIGH SCHOOL(S): Pasco High School; Tampa Catholic High School; graduated in 2016

Dade City native displayed a solid sophomore campaign, tallying 16 receptions for 285 yards and three touchdowns. Will be expected to make a bigger impact in 2018.

CHRIS FADDOUL, PUNTER, FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

HIGH SCHOOL: Wiregrass Ranch High School; graduated in 2017

Freshman averaged 39.4 yards per punt, including eight of 50 or more yards. Also, pinned 16 punts inside the 20-yard line.

SHANE BUCENELL, QUARTERBACK, CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA)

HIGH SCHOOL: Wiregrass Ranch High School; graduated in 2015

Sophomore passed for 737 yards, six touchdowns and four interceptions. Also, rushed 164 yards. Last month announced plans to transfer to another school.



IDLEWILD MEN'S SPRING SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

Registration is ongoing for Idlewild Baptist Church's Men's Softball league. Games are played Monday evenings from March 5 through April 23, with playoffs held April 30 and May 7. The league is open to all members in the community. Cost is \$45. For information, email the Recreation Ministry at ibcrec@idlewild.org.

SPECIAL NEEDS SPRING SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

Registration is ongoing for Idlewild Baptist Church's Champions Division Spring Softball League. Games are played Saturday mornings from March 24 through May 12; all games start at 9:30 a.m. The league is open to all members of the special-needs community, including players with wheelchairs or walkers. All participants must register online and complete a liability waiver at Idlewild.org/recreation. For information, email Deana Troyer at dtroyer@idlewild.org, or call (813) 264-8773.

5K KUMQUAT RUN SET JAN. 20

Registration is ongoing for the 5K Kumquat Run/Walk, set for Jan. 20 at Hardy Trail, 37856 Church Avenue, in Dade City. The 5K race begins at 8:30 a.m., following the kid's half-mile run/walk at 8 a.m. Cost for adults is \$25; cost is \$5 for students from kindergarten through college. The event, co-presented by Florida Hospital Zephyrhills and Florida Educators Insurance, will benefit the Dade City Youth Council. To register, visit 5Kumquat.com. For information, call (813) 607-4785.



Isaiah Bolden



Jordan Miner

Local standouts selected to U.S. National Team

Two of the top football players in Pasco County — and in all of the Tampa Bay area — have been selected to represent the United States as members of the 2018 Under-19 National Team.

Wesley Chapel's Isaiah Bolden and Wiregrass Ranch's Jordan Miner were among 47 players from 15 states named to the USA Football roster.

As part of the team, Bolden and Miner will compete against Football Canada's Under-19 National Team on Jan. 19 at 9 p.m., at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, in Arlington, Texas. The game will be streamed live at www.internationalBowlix.com.

The matchup is part of International

Bowl IX, which also features 24 high school-and middle school-aged teams from across eight nations on three continents.

Other National Teams will compete against teams representing Canada, Japan, Mexico and the Nordic region, comprised of players and coaches from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Bolden and Miner, both senior cornerbacks, last month signed their national Letters of Intent to play Division I FBS college football — Bolden to Florida State University; Miner to Penn State University. Both were consensus four-star prospects and ranked among the state's top players for the 2018 recruiting class.

PHSC BASKETBALL SHOWCASE REGISTRATION

The Pasco-Hernando State College Men's Basketball program is hosting a hoops showcase at 9 a.m., March 31 at the school's West Campus, 10230 Ridge Road, in New Port Richey. The event is open to high school basketball players entering their senior year that are interested in playing college basketball. The deadline to register is March 1. Cost is \$40 per player. For information, contact head coach Michael Jones at (727) 816-3340 or jonesm@phsc.edu.

SAINT LEO WOMEN'S LACROSSE YOUTH SKILLS CLINIC

The Saint Leo women's lacrosse program will host a two-hour youth skills clinic from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 20 at Saint Leo's University Turf Stadium, 33701 State Road 52 in St. Leo. The clinic is designed for female lacrosse players from 9 to 14 years old. It will consist of drills building fundamentals, along with completion-style games, run by the Saint Leo women's lacrosse coaching staff and current players.

Cost is \$50 per person. Registration closes Jan. 19. For information, contact Marial Pierce at (352) 588-7874 or marial.pierce@SaintLeo.edu.

ADULT WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Registration is open until Jan. 30 for the Bryan Glazer Family Jewish Community Center's Winter Adult Coed Basketball League. The season begins Feb. 13. There will be seven regular season games followed by a playoff tournament. Games will be played Tuesday and Thursday nights, between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. The league is open to players 18 years and older. All skill levels are welcome. Cost is \$75 for JCC members and \$100 for non-members. To register, visit tinyurl.com/ya8fyg6. For information, email Andrew Schwartz at andrew.schwartz@jewishtampa.com, or call (813) 575-5900.

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Cedar Key offers healing balm, restful calm



Worth the Trip

Karen Haymon Long
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

Some say the watery views make Cedar Key a comforting place to visit. Others credit the shorebirds - great blue herons, snowy egrets, white pelicans and roseate spoonbills - for creating a calm now rare in so much of Florida.

Some claim the trees - giant, moss-draped live oaks, gnarly cedars, cabbage palms and junipers - promote peacefulness.

Others attribute the serenity to the fact that the town has just 709 residents, no traffic jams, no traffic lights, no chain stores, no chain restaurants, no dress codes.

It may be all these things and more.

"We love it here because it's 'Old Florida,'" a visitor told us after we met her at the historical museum, then again across the street at Bonish Studio, which bills itself as a gallery of "photography, oddities and libations." She grew up in DeLand, but now lives in Birmingham, Alabama, and was visiting Cedar Key with her husband for the second time.

They came back because they love the feel - the slower pace, the open waters, she said, while lamenting the fact that so much of Florida is paved over by runaway development and has too many people.

Another visitor came even farther to soak up the calm. As we ate lunch on my friend's front porch, a man on a motorcycle asked if we would take his picture so he could prove to his wife he was in Cedar Key. He had flown to Orlando from his home in Ottawa, Canada, and rented the motorcycle with plans to head to Key West.

That changed when a man he met told him, "You don't want to go to Key West. You want to go to Cedar Key. It's so much nicer."

So, he rode the 140 miles across the state to Cedar Key and had a wide grin when we snapped his photo with his motorcycle parked amid palmettos.

"You must really like it here," he said climbing back on his bike, "since it's so hard to get here."

We assured him we did.

Everywhere you look, you see people fishing, or heading toward the water to fish for reds, trout, flounder and even sharks. You see walkers and bikers, and whole families tooling around in golf carts, which are rented out on the island. Locals and visitors alike are friendly. They greet you when they pass on the sidewalk.

They ask: Where are you from?

Then, they say: Enjoy your stay.

The town's charm offers healing if you need it, or a feeling of peace if you don't.

Naturalist and conservationist John Muir was healed here. Just after arriving in Cedar Key in 1867 after his 1,000-mile walk from Louisville, Kentucky, he developed malaria and typhoid, probably from mosquito bites. Sarah Hodgston, the wife of a man who owned a sawmill where Muir found work when he arrived, nursed him back to health.

During those fateful three months he recuperated in Cedar Key, he liked to lie under an oak on Hodgston Hill and look out over the water toward Lime Key, which he sketched in his journal. He spent hours watching birds feeding along the shores and soaring overhead, and wrote of that, too.

Cedar Key, he explained, "is surrounded by scores of other keys, many of them looking like a clump of palms, arranged like a tasteful bouquet, and placed in the sea to be kept fresh."

He grew stronger by the healing powers of nature.

Today, a display about Muir is in the Cedar Key Historical Museum downtown and a plaque stands in the courtyard of the Cedar Key Museum State Park, at 12231 S.W. 166th Court.

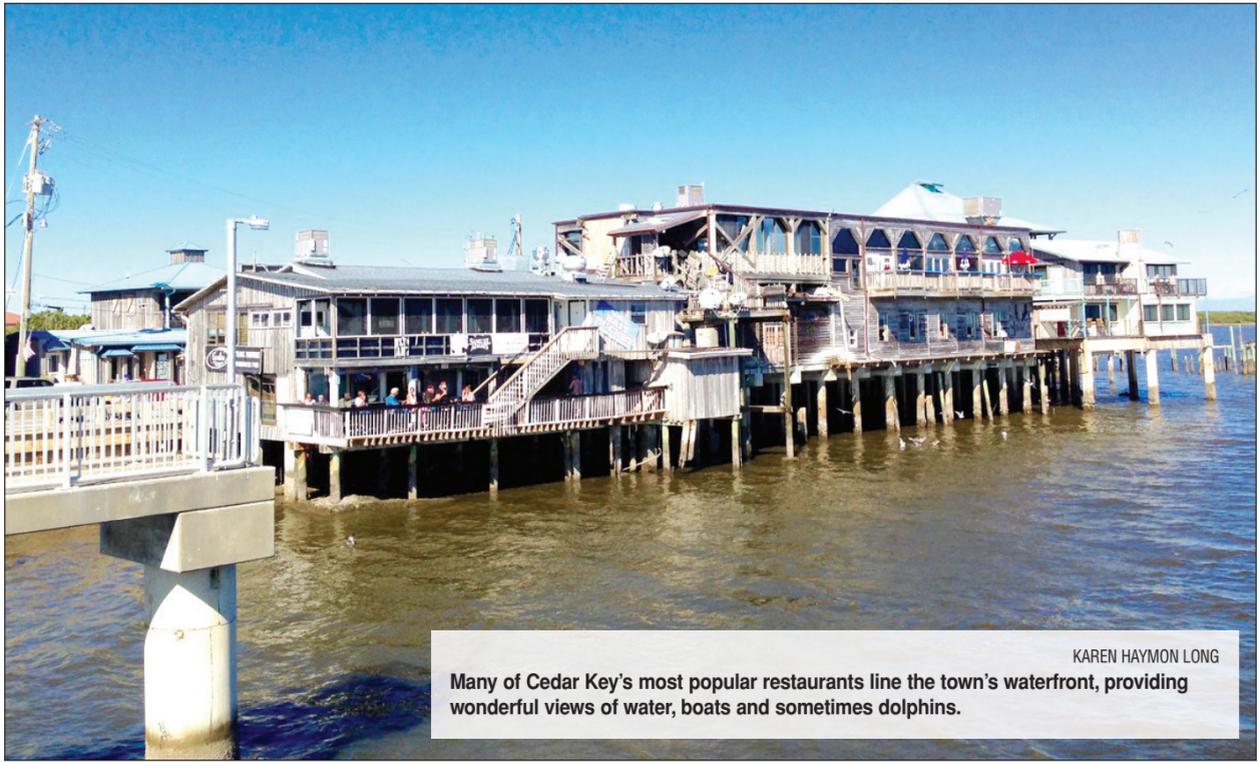
If not for Cedar Key's healing powers, we would have no Sierra Club, which he founded. We would have no Yosemite National Park, whose land he championed to save.

Today, Cedar Key, on the Gulf Coast in Levy County, about two hours from Pasco County and 60 miles southwest of Gainesville, still draws nature lovers, many who come to fish or kayak, birdwatch or stroll the tree-lined streets.

It has become a huge clamming center, so some come to eat fresh clams, and the clam chowder at Tony's Seafood Restaurant downtown, a three-time winner of the world clam chowder championship.

"Have you tried Tony's clam chowder?" a woman asked me in front of the history museum, just across from Tony's. "It's the best I ever had - so creamy. So many clams."

I told her yes, and that it was so popular they now sell it at Publix in black and red cans.



KAREN HAYMON LONG
Many of Cedar Key's most popular restaurants line the town's waterfront, providing wonderful views of water, boats and sometimes dolphins.

TIPS FOR THE TRIP

HOW TO GET THERE: We find the easiest way is to take the Suncoast Parkway north to U.S. 98. Turn left there, then go right on U.S. 19 until you get to State Road 24 in Levy County. Take a left there, and it's 24 miles straight into Cedar Key.

WHERE TO STAY: Cedar Key offers everything from home and condo rentals to stays in motels, inns and campgrounds. For a list, see the Chamber of Commerce's CedarKey.org.

FESTIVALS: Cedar Key has long been known for its annual Old Florida Festival of the Arts. The 54th annual festival is scheduled for March 24 and March 25. Visit CedarKeyArtFestival.com for more details.

The town also has an annual seafood festival in October, a Christmas boat parade and food tasting, and other festivals. For details, also see CedarKey.org.

FUN FACT: Cedar Key used to have a fiber and brush factory that used fiber from cabbage palms to make whisk brooms, hat brushes and other items. Today, you can see examples in the Cedar Key Historical Museum and can even buy replicas made by Dr. John Andrews, the son of the man who founded and owned the factory. Andrews' home, with the brush factory's office downstairs, is part of the museum and is open for tours.



Cedar Key's main street - Second Street - downtown is small, but offers a historical museum, good restaurants, galleries, gift shops, and a shop selling antiques, photos, gifts and libations. The welcome center and a public library are also on that street.



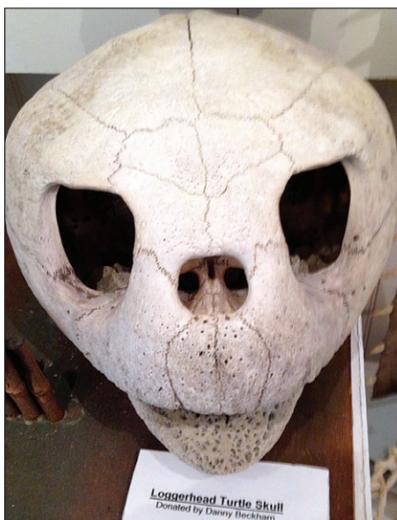
Many fishermen in Cedar Key now use airboats, so they can get into the shallow fishing spots around the town to catch redfish, trout and even snook.



Cedar Key is known for the beauty of its water, its grasses and its many shorebirds.



The clam chowder at Tony's Seafood Restaurant in downtown Cedar Key has won the world clam chowder championship three times. It's so popular that Publix now sells it.



This loggerhead turtle skull is just one of the many things on display at the Cedar Key Historical Museum. The museum also sells a good selection of books about Florida.

"They do?" she asked, all excited. "I'm going to look for it at my Publix when I get home."

Cedar Key has long been known for its

seafood restaurants, many that line the waterfront in sea shanty buildings all in a row.

The restaurants have come and gone through the years. Today, locals highly recommend 83 West, for its fresh seafood. They also say to go to Steamers Clam Bar & Grill, and to Carlin's Steak House and Paddock Pub, famous for key lime cake.

We also like Tony's, of course, and Annie's Cafe, a family owned indoor-outdoor spot at Sixth Street and State Road 24 that serves up good breakfasts and lunches.

One of the best places to start a visit is at the Cedar Key Historical Museum, at the corner of Second Street and State Road 24 downtown. There, you can see all sorts of artifacts on the history of the area - from native American pottery and arrowheads, to

displays on the fishing industry in Cedar Key and the lives of its citizens through the years.

The museum also sells an array of Florida history books, including those focusing on Cedar Key and on Muir.

Nearby are art galleries, gift shops, places to eat and drink, and spend the night. The Island Hotel offers all three, with rooms, a cozy bar and a highly regarded restaurant. Be sure to try the island's signature salad there, made with heart of palm, sugared dates, seasonal fruit and peanut butter ice cream dressing.

Just before sunset, follow locals and visitors west to watch the sun slip into the water. Breathe the briny air, and you'll wish you, too, could be a local.

LOCAL WILDLIFE



A majestic sight

Lillian Cucuzza, of Land O' Lakes, noticed this great blue heron on her roof while she decorated for the holidays. The diagonal striping effect was a result of Cucuzza snapping the photo through the palm fronds in the front of her house. All the heron needed was a Santa hat to complete Cucuzza's decorations.

Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



Charlie is a lady

Charlie is 7 years old and came to the shelter last October as an underweight stray with a bad skin infection. She has since added on some weight and loves to lounge in the Feline Freedom room. Charlie is spayed, vaccinated and microchipped, and would love to lounge on your couch.

PET PAWS

PET SUPPLIES PLUS PARTY

Pet Supplies Plus, 21703 Village Lakes Shopping Center Drive in Land O' Lakes, will host a one-year anniversary party Jan. 20 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The event will include a free dog wash all day, free nail trims from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and a pizza party from noon to 1 p.m., and again from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

There also will be Tampa Bay Rays baseball giveaways, face painting, vendor samples, and available adoptions.

The first 50 guests will receive a free small bag of Redford dog food.

For information, call (813) 575-9738.

BE A SHELTER VOLUNTEER IN PASCO COUNTY

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, will offer a new volunteer orientation Jan. 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For information, call (813) 929-1212.

OILS FOR PETS

Essential Oils will host a free class, "Essential Oils for Pets," Jan. 23 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave., in Zephyrhills.

For information, call Deanna Jacobs at (813) 479-7724.



Chucky has a cute snort

Chucky is a fluffy, handsome boy, about 5½ years old. He came to the shelter last June, as a stray. Charlie is a staff and volunteer favorite, and loves cheese and walks in the Pasco County parks. He is recommended to go to a home as an only pet and a home without children. Charlie's most notable feature is his adorable snorting that is emitted when he is enjoying one of his favorite activities.

If you would like to adopt Charlie or Chucky, 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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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to news@lakerlutznews.com

PASCO EDC HITS \$1 MILLION MICROLOAN MARK

The Pasco Economic Development Council reached a \$1 million milestone for its microloan program when it awarded a \$35,000 loan to Superior Precast, according to a news release from the Pasco EDC.

Since the program's launch five years ago, the Pasco EDC has provided 38 microloans, which resulted in the creation or retention of 270 jobs in Pasco County.

CORRECTION:

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce has relocated to 1868 Highland Oaks Blvd., Suite A. An item in Business Digest published on Jan. 10 said a different chamber had made the move.

To fund the program, Pasco EDC collected \$724,000 from private donations and the business community. The Pasco County Commission allocated \$400,000 from the Penny for Pasco Jobs and Economic Opportunities Fund.

To qualify for a microloan, small business owners must demonstrate experience, resources, a solid business plan, and also be unable to obtain a traditional loan.

"When I see a success story and milestone like this come around, it makes me feel proud of the investments we are making in our community to help our small busi-

nesses," said Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Wells, in a written statement.

Superior Precast is a new project supplier to the Florida Department of Transportation. It manufactures precast concrete products for the Reinforced Earth Company (REC), for use in major Florida road projects. The company is located in nearly 63,000 square feet of industrial space in Dade City.

The \$35,000 loan is the largest amount that can be loaned. The money will be applied to the company's working capital budget to support increased product demand.

Applications for the microloan program are accepted from small business owners who run a for-profit company in Pasco. Proceeds from the loan may be used for working capital, inventory, supplies, furniture, fixtures, machinery and equipment. The funds can't be used to buy real estate or to refinance existing debt.

For information, visit PascoEDC.com.

FASTSIGNS OPENS

FASTSIGNS of New Tampa/Wesley Chapel will have a ribbon cutting Feb. 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 19651 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

The sign, graphics and visual communications company offers visual marketing solutions to customers of all sizes, and across all industries, according to a company news release.

FASTSIGNS' owner, Brian Levinson, is a Florida native who recently relocated to the Tampa area to launch his company. He formerly worked for a defense contractor, where he managed teams that developed cyber security solutions for fighter jets, naval combat systems and missile defense systems.

Adam Duty is graphics designer; Corinn Pope is outside sales professional; Alyiah Merlo is customer service specialist; and Christina Krenek is with corporate communications.

See BUSINESS DIGEST, page 7B

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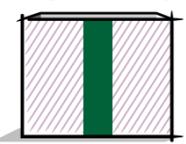
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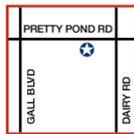


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Monday, February 19 at 2 p.m.

Join your friends at American House Zephyrhills for our President's Day Celebration! Enjoy delicious refreshments and a lively discussion with guest speaker, retired college professor and memorabilia collector, Dick Woodworth, as he presents on presidential campaign items dating back to 1824. Mix and mingle with friends and neighbors of our beautiful community, and while you're here, let us show you around and introduce you to our caring staff. Remember to wear your favorite red, white and blues – we hope to see you there!

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Catalog and photos available at www.moeckerauctions.com
Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors Case #2017-025084-CA-01
Preview: Mon, January 22nd from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and 1 hour prior to sale - 15%-18% BP - \$100 refundable cash deposit to register (800) 840-BIDS - info@moeckerauctions.com
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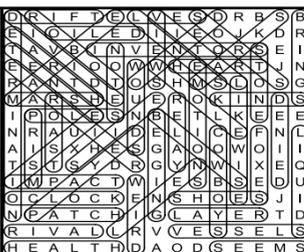
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EAST PASCO NETWORKING GROUP

The East Pasco Networking group will meet Jan. 23 at 7:30 a.m., at the IHOP, 13100 U.S. 301 in Dade City.

Guest speaker will be Cliff Martin, general manager of Jarrett Ford.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce has scheduled its monthly economic briefing for Jan. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Hunter's Green Country Club, 18101 Longwater Run Drive in Tampa.

Guest speaker will be Loren Rhodes, of the Rhodes Group. He will talk about the Hyatt Place Hotel and Convention Center.

The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. For more information, email the chamber at office@WesleyChapelChamber.com, or visit WesleyChapelChamber.com.

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| DRIFT | MARBLE | SHOES |
| EARLIER | MARKS | SORTS |
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| ELVES | NOTES | TENSE |
| EMOTIONS | O'CLOCK | VESELS |
| FOXES | OILED | VIEWS |
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SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

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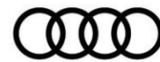
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