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**INSIDE,**  
**PAGE 1B**

## An underpass for U.S. 41/SR 54?

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

Talk of solving traffic jams at U.S. 41 and State Road 54 often centers on building elevated lanes to ease massive numbers of vehicles through the intersection.

But now, Pasco County's Metro Planning Organization wants to toss in a new solution - an underpass that would tunnel under the intersection.

Consultants with Tindale-Oliver will complete a \$15,000 study to determine if the underpass would work, and what the potential costs would be. The study, which will also consider an underpass at Little Road and State Road 54, is expected to take 60 days to 90 days.

"We should be able to see every possible



Pasco County will consider an underpass as a solution to traffic gridlock at U.S. 41 and State Road 54.

option that is available," said Pasco County Commissioner Mike Moore.

Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey agreed.

"I think we should see if it's an option or

not," she said.

The study's answers will determine whether to add the underpass to a list of

**See UNDERPASS, page 19A**

## It's Kumquat Festival time

A day set aside for tiny orange fruits and fun

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

It's that time of year when the tiny tart orange fruit reigns supreme in Dade City — the town on the eastern edge of Pasco County, with quaint shops lining its downtown streets and a historic courthouse in its center square.

About 35,000 people are expected at the festival this year, said John Moors, executive director of The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, which is the event organizer.

"They literally come from all over," he said, noting visitors come from Sarasota, Sun City Center, all over Pinellas County, The Villages, The Nature Coast, Orlando, Lakeland, and other nearby areas.

Volunteers work all year to prepare for the event, and on festival day, crews begin to arrive at 4:30 a.m., to get the vendors lined up on the streets.

"We couldn't do this without the almost 200 volunteers," Moors said.

The free event features Kumquat Growers, in the Wells Fargo parking lot, where visitors can learn all about kumquats and purchase some to take home.

There are lots of fun things to see and do, too.

The festival features more than 400 vendors, offering everything from arts and crafts, to fresh produce to all sorts of kumquat products.

There's a Kid's Corral, with all sorts of activities for children, a Quilt Show at the Hugh Embry Library, and a car and truck show in the parking lot at the Judicial Courthouse.

If you enjoy entertainment, you'll find plenty of choices — with a full slate of acts scheduled throughout the day. There's also a Health & Wellness Area and an area where festival sponsors have set up their booths.

There's free parking, free shuttles and



This is a peek at last year's festival, from a view looking west up Meridian Avenue.



Bruce Gode, of Kumquat Growers Inc., arranges a display of kumquats for sale at last year's festival. The tiny tart orange fruit plays a starring role at the Dade City Kumquat Festival each year.

free admission.

There's also free entertainment all day, Moors said.

"You can spend your money on some of the arts and crafts that are featured, or in some of our wonderful shops," he said.

The sponsors, including this year's head-

### If you go

#### 21st annual Kumquat Festival

**WHERE:** Downtown Dade City

**WHEN:** Jan. 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**COST:** Free admission and free parking. Free shuttles run continuously from the Pasco County Fairgrounds on State Road 52 and from a lot next to Jarrett Ford on the U.S. 301 Truck Route. The shuttles run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Parking is available near the festival, but those spaces fill quickly.

**DETAILS:** More than 400 vendors will be offering arts and crafts, foods and all things kumquat. There will be live entertainment, a car show, a quilt show and activities for kids.

**INFO:** There are information booths at the intersection of Seventh Street and Meridian Avenue, and also at the intersection of Third Street and Meridian Avenue. (They're Orange Tents with information in large green lettering.) Pick up your festival information flyer there.

line sponsor Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, play a vital role in making the event a success, Moors said. "We couldn't do this without the support of our sponsors," he said.

Besides entertainment, there's plenty of choices for food and drink.

"The local restaurants do a great business. They adjust their menus, so they can get our attendees in and out. Have them well-fed, quickly and efficiently, so they can get on and enjoy the festival," Moors said.

**See KUMQUAT, page 19A**

## Mother of twins dies after casino boat fire; donations sought

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

A GoFundMe account has been set up to aid the children of Carrie Dempsey.

The 42-year-old woman, who lived in Lutz, died Jan. 14, hours after a fire engulfed a casino shuttle boat ferrying about 50 passengers to a casino ship in the Gulf of Mexico.

She was the sole fatality among about 15 passengers who needed medical attention, according to news reports.

Dempsey leaves behind 12-year-old twins, Chad and Megan. Dempsey's husband, Joseph Dempsey II, died in 2011, at the age of 33, according to an obituary.

The children are being cared for by their grandparents.

"We are reaching out to raise funds for Chad and Megan's care and education, that their grandparents may not have been financially prepared for," according to a written statement on the GoFundMe page. "Chad and Megan are two kind-hearted, athletic and academically gifted children who deserve a bright future. They have incurred so much loss and heartache in their

For information and to donate, visit  
[GoFundMe.com/the-dempsey-family](http://GoFundMe.com/the-dempsey-family).

short lives."

Bridget Verrecchia is listed as the fund's organizer. She is vice president of the ways and means committee of the PTA executive board for McKittrick Elementary School, according to the school's website.

Segal Funeral Home is handling funeral arrangements.

According to an obituary, Dempsey moved to the Tampa Bay area in 1985 from Cleveland, Ohio.

She will be "remembered for her sense of humor, quick wit and infectious laugh, but mostly as a devoted and loving mother," the obituary states.

Graveside services are scheduled for Jan. 25 at 2 p.m., at Gan Shalom Cemetery, 3527 E. County Line Road in Lutz. In lieu of flowers, a college fund will be established for Dempsey's children.

The cause of the fire aboard the Island Lady is under investigation, according to a spokesman with the U.S. Coast Guard.



Carrie Dempsey

FACEBOOK.COM

About 50 people were aboard as the shuttle, operated by Tropical Breeze Casino, steered toward the gulf, and a casino ship in international waters.

The boat's captain noticed the engine was overheating, and prepared to return to

**See MOTHER, page 19A**

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COURTESY OF MYSTIC POINTE

Mystic Pointe will begin preleasing soon on 252 upscale apartments within a gated community that will offer amenities such as a heated saltwater swimming pool, dog park and children's playground.

## Mystic Pointe to open luxury apartments soon

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Residential construction is rapidly changing the landscape along State Road 54, west of its intersection with U.S. 41. Much of the construction is for single-family homes.

But, a new project on State Road 54, at Meadowbrook Drive, is adding 252 apartments to the mix.

Mystic Pointe is under construction at 2770 Mystic Pointe Parkway. The upscale, gated community will sit between Bexley by Newland Communities to the west and Ballantrae to the east.

Preleasing on one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments could begin within the next month or so.

"Pasco County is booming all along State Road 54 corridor, by leaps and bounds," said Jenece Chaplin, property manager at Mystic Pointe for Rane Property Management LLC. "We're lucky to be part of that. It's a great spot, a great location."

The design theme for the complex is tropical.

"It will have that Key West style," said Chaplin.

Residents will be able to choose from a

variety of floor plans. Features include wood flooring throughout (with the exception of carpeted bedrooms), granite countertops and stainless steel appliances.

Each of the complex's apartment buildings will have elevators.

Residents also will have access to a clubhouse, heated saltwater swimming pool, a dog park, a bocce court, bicycle storage, a state-of-the-art fitness center, business center, and an outdoor kitchen area with a fire pit and barbecue.

The pet-friendly apartment complex will consider larger dogs, which Chaplin said many complexes don't allow.

Rents will start at about \$1,180 for a one-bedroom/one-bathroom apartment, but Chaplin said the fee will include valet trash, Internet connection, a cable package from DirectTV and pest control.

Mystic Pointe touts its proximity to many area destinations. It has easy access to the Suncoast Parkway and Interstate 275 for trips to downtown Tampa, Brooksville, New Port Richey, area shopping malls, such as The Shops at Wiregrass and Tampa Premium Outlets, and west coast beaches.

For information, call Mystic Pointe at (813) 702-2876.

### CORRECTIONS:

Hope Allen is the president and CEO of The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce. Through an editing error, her title was incorrect in a story published on Jan. 17 by The Laker/Lutz News.

A recent article on the Pasco Sheriff Explorer's program listed an incorrect time for Explorer's interest meetings. Meetings are every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Pasco Safety Town, 15362 Alric Pottberg Road in Shady Hills. For more information, visit PascoExplorers.com.

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**ACADEMY AT THE LAKES**  
PreK3-Grade 12

# Event raises awareness about human trafficking

By Randy Underhill

Special to The Laker/Lutz News

The third annual Light Up the Night Awareness event was more than just the glimmer of candles.

It radiated hope, for many. The beautiful, clear cool weather attracted a large gathering to help support victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and drug abuse.

The event began at 4:30 p.m. with the 5K run and 1-mile walk/run at the Porter Campus of Pasco-Hernando State College, with 314 participants.

Ceremonies then moved to the upper deck of the parking garage at The Shops at Wiregrass, where inspirational speakers, musicians and vendors provided activities and entertainment for all ages.

Awards were presented to a number of organizations, including Bridging Freedom, Healing Root Ministry, Justice Restoration



Jen Holloway, of News Channel 8, and Cpl. Alan Wilkett address the large crowd at the start of the third annual Light Up the Night events, held on the upper level parking garage of The Shops at Wiregrass.

Center, Loving You Where You Are At, and Redefining Refuge.

Ceremonies concluded with a candle-light vigil.



RANDY UNDERHILL

Three-year-old Olivia Luna, of New Port Richey, is held by her mother Veronica, as the little girl pets a therapy horse owned by Julie Shematz, from Beauty from Ashes Ministries.



Eddie Rhea, a survivor of abuse, addresses a crowd at Pasco-Hernando State College before the 5K and 1-mile walk/run. She was abused for a number of years, but survived and now heads Healing Root Ministry at First Baptist of Lutz.



Jennifer McGill, a Nashville recording artist, performs 'Unbreakable' for the large crowd on a cool pleasant evening for the Light Up the Night awareness event on Jan. 20.



Redefining Refuge receives a donation of \$5,000 to support the work they have done to help care for victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and drug addiction. Several other organizations also received donations during the event.

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## COALITION MEETING

The University Area CDC Partners Coalition will meet for breakfast Jan. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at the University Area CDC Community Center, 14013 N. 22nd St., in Tampa. Participants can learn about programs and initiatives happening in the USF area. A complimentary breakfast will be served. Admission is free, but reservations are required by emailing [lgil@uacdc.org](mailto:lgil@uacdc.org).

## VALENTINE BRACELET

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a craft class for ages 16 and older on Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants can learn the Japanese art of Kumihimo and make a Valentine-theme bracelet. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

## AESOP'S FABLES

The Creative Arts Theatre Company will present "The Fable Detectives" Jan. 25 at 10:30 a.m., at the Keystone Recreation Center, 17928 Gunn Highway in Odessa. The 'detectives' work as a team to complete a collection of Aesop's Fables. The show is for ages 3 and older. For information or to register, call (813) 273-3652, or visit [HCPLC.org](http://HCPLC.org).

## HISTORY PRESENTATION

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will present "The History of African-Americans in Tampa" Jan. 25 at 1 p.m. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

## MONA LISA PLAY

The Atlantic Coast Theatre for Youth will present "Mysterious Mona Lisa" Jan. 25 at 10:30 a.m., at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa. The play will explore the art, science and music of the original Renaissance man, Leonardo Da Vinci. Admission is \$7 for members, \$8 for general admission and \$28 for a family four-pack. Children age 4 and younger are free, but are still required to have a ticket. For information, call (813) 922-8167.

## LIVING TRUST SEMINAR

Attorney Andrew Curtis will host a free seminar on revocable living trusts Jan. 25 at 3 p.m., at Hampton Inn & Suites, 2740 Cypress Ridge Blvd., in Wesley Chapel. Seating is limited. To RSVP, call (352) 315-0333.

## AARP CHAPTER MEETING

The Land O' Lakes AARP Chapter 4764 will meet Jan. 26 at 10:30 a.m., at the Land O' Lakes Heritage Park (formerly Land O' Lakes Community Center), 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. New chapter leaders will be installed and a "Beyond Excellent" award bestowed. There will be a potluck after the meeting and cake for dessert. For information, email [hformino@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hformino@tampabay.rr.com).

## 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 "This is Spinal Tap" Jan. 26 at 10:30 p.m., and "Steel Magnolias" Jan. 28 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](http://TampaTheatre.org).

## AMERICANA SHABBAT

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host "Americana Shabbat" Jan. 26 and Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m., with a musical service by Joe Buchanan, country and blues style. For information, call (813) 962-6338.

## ODESSA POW WOW

Spirit People Intertribal Family Inc., and the Gunn Highway Flea Market will present The Odessa Pow Wow Jan. 26, Jan. 27 and Jan. 28, at 2317 Gunn Highway in Odessa.

## Stuffed animal party

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz-Lake Fern Road, will host a Stuffed Animal Slumber Party Jan. 26, overnight to Jan. 27.

Participants can bring a stuffed animal to the library between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., Jan. 26 and leave them overnight to have a slumber party with other stuffed animals.

Children can come back Jan. 27 at 10:30 a.m., for story time, a craft and a picture review of all the activities the animals took part in. Light refreshments will be served.

The party is for ages 3 to 12.

For information, call (813) 273-3652.



There will be flute players, storytelling, dancing, drumming, raffles, door prizes and more. Cost is \$5 per person at the gate, or \$10 per family of five. Children age 12 and younger, and veterans and active military service members are free with ID. For information and schedule details, visit [CrazyCrow.com](http://CrazyCrow.com), and click on the Events link.

## BETMAR SKITS & PLAYS

Betmar Dessert Theatre will present "Healthy Humor," eight skits and two one-act plays about the life of a pharmacy, in Clubhouse Two, 37137 Lakewood Drive in Zephyrhills. The show dates are Jan. 26 and Jan. 28 at 7 p.m., and Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For information, call (813) 788-0727.

## KUMQUAT FESTIVAL

The 21st annual Kumquat Festival will take place Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Historic Downtown Dade City. There will be music, arts and crafts, a car show, children's activities, a farmer's market, a health and wellness section, kumquat pies and products, and more. Admission is free. For information, visit [KumquatFestival.org](http://KumquatFestival.org).

## FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING

Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller Paula S. O'Neil will host "The Big Shred" Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. to noon (or until the truck is filled), at the West Pasco Judicial Center, 7530 Little Road in New Port Richey. Participants can bring up to five boxes or bags of paper documents, per customer. All staples, paper clips and other metal clasps must be removed. The document shredding is free.

## BLOCK PRINTING

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer Printmaking/Stamp Carving 101 on Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. to noon, for ages 9 and older. Participants will learn the basics of block printing, and design, carve and print a bookmark. Proper dress code, registration and signed liability waiver are required. For information or to register, call (813) 929-1214.

## TASTE OF TRINITY

The ninth annual Taste of Trinity fundraiser will be Jan. 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Seven Springs Middle School, 2441 Little Road in New Port Richey. There will be food and desserts, as well as a business

expo, stage music and a bounce house. Admission is \$5 per person and \$15 for a family four-pack. Proceeds will benefit the middle school. For information, contact Maria Johnson at (727) 934-0940 or [maria@wpba.biz](mailto:maria@wpba.biz).

## YARD ART CONTEST

The Hillsborough County UF/IFAS Extension Service will accept entry forms from Hillsborough County residents for its Recycled Yard Art contest until Jan. 28. Individuals and groups can enter four age categories: elementary school, middle school, high school, and adults. Submissions will be on display during the Florida State Fair. For complete rules and entry form, visit [Hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu](http://Hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu).

## VINTAGE & ARTISAN DAY

The Grove at Wesley Chapel will host The Shabby Chic Vintage Market & Artisan Day Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be DIY workshops all day, free paint demos, home décor, local artisans, food and food trucks, live music, original art, painted furniture, vintage and antique vendors, yard art and more. Admission is free. For information, call (727) 674-1464, or visit [SimplyEventsFl.com](http://SimplyEventsFl.com).

## BLOCK PARTY

Florida Hospital ER Central Pasco will host a family block party Jan. 28 from noon to 3 p.m., at 16625 State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes. Families can tour the new ER, take part in activities, demonstrations, music, food and more. Admission is free, but participants must register at [tinyurl.com/FHCentralPascoER](http://tinyurl.com/FHCentralPascoER).

## MAKE A FLAG CASE

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a woodworking project, for ages 16 and older, Jan. 29 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The project will be a flag display case. This is a two-part class. Participants must be able to attend both sessions. Proper dress code, registration and signed liability waiver are required. For information and to register, call (813) 929-1214.

## HOUSING OPTIONS

Keystone Place at Terra Bella will host an information session on "Evaluating Seniors Housing Options" Jan. 29 and Jan. 31 from noon to 1:30 p.m. (lunch served), and Jan. 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (dinner served)

at Plantation Palms Golf Club, 23253 Plantation Palms Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. Topics will include different community types, the cost of living, health and wellness benefits, assisted living and more. To register, call (813) 388-2121, or visit [KeystonePlaceAtTerraBella.com/rsvp](http://KeystonePlaceAtTerraBella.com/rsvp).

## WRITING PROGRAM

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host the Land O' Lakes Scribblers Jan. 30 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., for ages 16 and older. Participants can practice writing skills with creative writing prompts. Local authors also can gather to share their writings. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay will host an orientation Jan. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Wesley Chapel Honda, 27750 Wesley Chapel Blvd., for anyone interested in becoming a mentor/volunteer. To learn more about the organization, visit [BBBTampaBay.org](http://BBBTampaBay.org). For information, contact Deb Kristol-Irwin at (813) 997-6881 or [DebK@bbbstampabay.org](mailto:DebK@bbbstampabay.org).

## FREE OILS CLASS

Deanna Jacobs will present a free class on "Chemical-Free Home with Oils" Jan. 30 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave., in Zephyrhills. For information, call (813) 479-7724.

## UKULELE COURSE

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer a Level 3 hands-on ukulele course Jan. 30 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. To register, call (352) 567-3576.

## STEAMPUNK JEWELRY

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Victorian steampunk jewelry class Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to noon, for ages 16 and older. Proper dress code, registration and signed liability waiver are required. For information and to register, call (813) 929-1214.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will host its monthly birthday celebrations Jan. 31 at 1 p.m., with refreshments, music and dancing. For information, call (813) 264-3804.

## ENGLISH AND COFFEE

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a class on practicing English as a second language Jan. 31 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., for ages 16 and older. There will be coffee, snacks and conversation. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## WINE CORK TRIVET

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will host a Pinterest Club: Wine Cork Trivets Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

## VENDORS WANTED

Regal Railways' Toy Train, Collectible and Hobby Show & Sale, scheduled for Feb. 17, is looking for vendors. Any train memorabilia, trains, tracks, accessories, baseball, crafts, comic books, coins, antiques, die-cast cars and other hobby or collectible-related items are welcome. Six-foot tables are \$20, or two tables for \$30. The event will take place at the New Lake Civic Association in New Port Richey. For information, call (727) 244-1341, or visit [RegalRailways.com](http://RegalRailways.com).

## AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Zephyrhills Amateur Radio Club meets for breakfast every Thursday morning at 8 a.m., at Village Inn, 5214 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills. For information, call Gerald Hewitt at (813) 780-1980.



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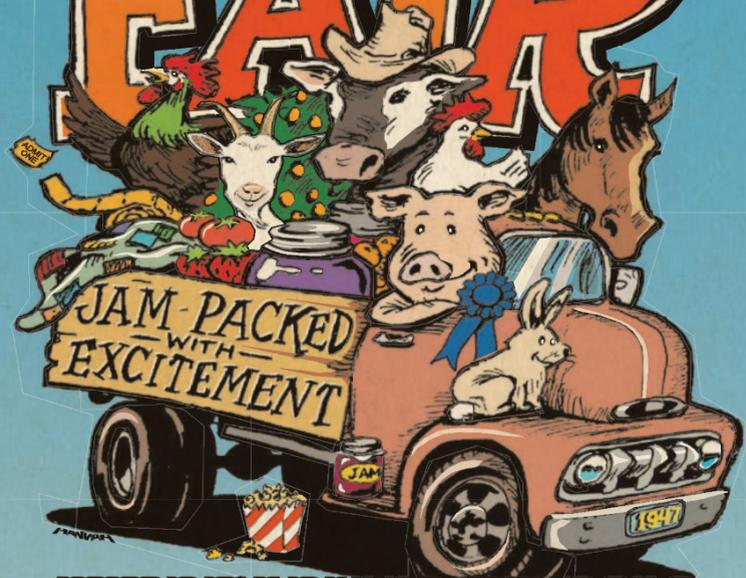


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# Crystal Lagoon toasted with champagne at ribbon cutting

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

The ribbon cutting for the Crystal Lagoon at Epperson — the first waterbody of its type in the United States — received warm applause from the crowd on an untypically chilly Florida morning.

The weather is expected to be warmer on April 28, when Olympic swimmer and gold medalist Michael Phelps is scheduled to kick off festivities at the lagoon and the master-planned community of Epperson.

About 75 people gathered on Jan. 18 at the beachfront at the lagoon to toast champagne to celebrate the final drops of 16 million gallons of water topping off the lagoon.

With temperatures dipping into the 30s, people bundled up and sipped coffee or hot chocolate to stay warm.

The frigid air, however, did not chill the guests' enthusiasm.

"This is just a great day," said Pasco County Commissioner Ron Oakley. "It's just amazing what you've done here. The only word that describes it is 'awesome'."

Other dignitaries at the event included Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Wells Jr.; Pasco County commissioners Mike Moore and Kathryn Starkey; Greg Singleton, president of Metro Development Group; and Christopher Souza, regional manager for Crystal Lagoon.

"The blues and the different hues of the water really pop out here," Singleton said,



KATHY STEELE

Representatives from Crystal Lagoon, Metro Development Group and members of the Pasco County Commission cut the ribbon to celebrate a 'topping off' of water flowing into the Crystal Lagoon at Epperson.

during his opening remarks.

The ceremony was held on a small sandy beach that will be known as Gasparilla Island, built around a "tidal basin."

"We envision it as a family area," Singleton said.

The lagoon also will have Caribbean-style beaches and cabanas, a waterslide, entertainment plaza and water activities, including swimming, kayaking and paddleboarding.

Pasco County Commissioner Mike Moore said the lagoon will put a national spotlight on Pasco.

"Anytime we get national attention, it's a good thing," Moore said.

Metro Development is building Epperson, which is expected to have 2,000 homes. There also will be commercial development, and a town center.

"It's going to bring jobs to the area," said Singleton. "This is the gateway to Connected City in the area. It's going to bring positive things to the county."

Next to Epperson, the master-planned community of Mirada also will be built. It will have its own, larger Crystal Lagoon.

Mirada and Epperson are within, what is designated as, the Connected City corridor. About 7,800 acres is set aside as a state-approved development district meant to foster residential communities and employment centers that are the wave of the future. The borders are Interstate 75, State Road 52, and Curley and Overpass roads.

Cutting-edge technology, including gigabit Internet speeds and self-driving vehicles, will be featured throughout Connected City.

Pasco County is a partner in the development of Connected City.

The project seemed almost too ambitious when Metro Development initially brought the project to Wells, prior to his election to the county commission about four years ago.

"I said, 'You're nuts. There's no way,'" Wells said. But, he added, "This is a perfect example of a public-private partnership."

Other developers are expected to offer their own projects for Connected City, which has an estimated build-out of 50 years. Metro Development is the beginning phase.

"They were pioneers in bringing it (Crystal Lagoon) to the United States," said Souza, who described Crystal Lagoon as a water technology company. "It was a good starting point for us."

The company now has an American headquarters in Miami.

Metro Development is building another Crystal Lagoon in south Hillsborough County for the Southshore Bay community. A lagoon also is planned in Fort Myers.

## Festival-goers enjoy heaping helpings of barbecue and blues

By B.C. Manion

bcmajian@lakerlutznews.com

Visitors to the eighth annual Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues Festival had plenty of tasty temptations awaiting them.

The scent of barbecue smoke flavored the air, as guests made their way up and down aisles of booths offering slabs of ribs, pork sandwiches, pulled pork, coleslaw, baked beans, and all sorts of sides. There was plenty of beer to wash down those meals, and there were treats — such as funnel cakes and fried Oreo cookies, to top them off.

Chris and Missy Moon, of Dade City, said they came with a strategy. They planned to try a variety of foods, sharing their purchases as they went along.

"We're going to make our rounds," Missy Moon said.



Chris and Missy Moon, of Dade City enjoyed sampling the variety of foods at the eighth annual Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues Festival.

"We skipped breakfast, so we'd have plenty of room," Chris Moon said, noting the couple came to the event to support the community.



B.C. MANION

Ed Wright, left, and Chuck Riley, of the Ed Wright Duo, were the opening act at the eighth annual Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues Festival.

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We provide detailed feedback and reflection that underpins ongoing sessions and continues to lay foundations for the player pathways. This process creates an environment where players look to maintain their place within the Academy as well as players striving for opportunities within the center. Our detailed philosophy has demonstrated a wide range of success in player performance, player development and personal qualities.



Through highly qualified UEFA Pro licenced coaches (highest world soccer coaching qualification) we have embedded the "FA DNA" which is consistent with our beliefs that the player is at the center of the journey, and by utilizing technical, physical, psychological and social corners we can really influence the person and player with consistent knowledge that is required of the modern day player.

As part of our Academy philosophy we recognize our duty of care to support the community within projects and selected programs. It is important that we can enable the Academy to be within the heart beat of the soccer community and share experiences with groups that the center can support.

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.

For more information to register, go online or for further questions, please email: [info@elitesoccerskillsacademy.com](mailto:info@elitesoccerskillsacademy.com)

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# Two Unique Pulte Communities Designed For Families

**P**ulte Homes offers two distinct communities for families wanting a new home in the area's most desirable north of Tampa.

Birchwood Preserve in Lutz and Starkey Ranch in Odessa offer multiple floor plans designed for the way families live today, with Pulte's unique Life Tested® home designs. Plus, both communities provide lifestyle amenities from everything to swimming pools with cabana seating to family play areas for fun in the outdoors.

Because Pulte recognizes that today's homebuyers are looking for different community features, Birchwood Preserve and Starkey Ranch offer families very distinctive benefits. Here is an introduction to both.

## BIRCHWOOD PRESERVE

Birchwood Preserve is a smaller community of just 196 home sites, has a beautifully landscaped gated entrance and no CDD. Owners help support shared amenities and common areas with an affordable HOA.

Close to 40 new homes have been sold since Birchwood Preserve's grand opening last May. Sales continue to be brisk, with many buyers coming from surrounding neighborhoods, WestChase and Citrus Park. Home prices begin at \$321,990.

Birchwood Preserve offers 10 unique single-family models, which range from 1,904 to 4,600 square feet and offer three to six bedrooms, two to six bathrooms and two- or three-car garages. Because families with children make up over 80 percent of buyers, larger two-story homes are



selling especially well.

Birchwood Preserve's fabulous amenity center is the heart of the community. It boasts a luxurious swimming pool with cabanas and hammocks, a multipurpose clubhouse with kitchen, and children's exploration climbing dome playground, swing set and other discovery play equipment.

Families choose Birchwood Preserve because of its A-rated schools. It is the only new, single-family-home community in Lutz whose children are zoned to all three schools at the highly desirable public school complex on Lutz Lake Fern Road — Steinbrenner High, Martinez Middle and McKittrick Elementary.

Another plus is the community's convenient location, located a half mile from Dale Mabry Highway and less than two miles from the Veterans Expressway. It offers easy access to St. Joseph's Hospital-North, Tampa International Airport, the Westshore Business District, International Plaza and Gulf Coast beaches.

For more information, go to [Pulte.com/birchwoodpreserve](http://Pulte.com/birchwoodpreserve), or call (888) 500-2107.

## STARKEY RANCH

It's hard to imagine a community that's greener than Starkey Ranch. Located in rural Odessa along the in-demand State Road 54 corridor, about half of the community's 2,400 acres is

devoted to lakes, ponds, wetlands and parks.

To the north and east, its only neighbor is the 18,000-acre Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Preserve. At dawn and dusk, the community feels like a bird sanctuary, with wood storks, herons, egrets and cranes. Reclaimed water is used for irrigation in parks, common areas and individual yards.

Pulte Homes offers 20 energy-efficient home designs in this beautiful, exclusive community. Its newest Starkey Ranch neighborhood, Monroe Commons, is an enclave of 95 home sites located adjacent to Huckleberry Pond and the Starkey Ranch District Park.

Monroe Commons is introducing six new home designs, offering two to five bedrooms and 1,950 to 2,470 square feet. Residents love splashing in the community's pools, exploring the playgrounds, hiking wilderness trails and playing baseball or soccer at its multi-sports fields.

Priced from the high \$200s, each new smart home comes with ultra-fast fiber-to-the-home connectivity and the Diamond-rated Environments for Living energy efficiency package. Pulte is looking forward to the upcoming grand opening of the community's newest models, the Clearwater and the Sienna, which will take place this spring.

In 2016, Starkey Ranch received national recognition as the Master Planned Community of the Year by the National Home Builders Association.

For more information, go to [Pulte.com/starkeyranch](http://Pulte.com/starkeyranch), or call (877) 752-0173



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\*Flex cash offer is available on new contracts that are accepted by Pulte Homes between 1/01/18 through 1/31/18. This offer includes Birchwood Preserve only, and is not valid with other promotions or discounts or on contract re-writes. Buyer will receive a credit at closing of up to \$25,000 of which \$5,000 will be applied toward closing costs and \$20,000 towards design center options only. Total amount of credits may not exceed lesser of \$25,000 or 6% of purchase price of the home. Buyer is responsible for paying cost of closing costs, pre-pays or options that exceed the incentive amount. Any unused amount of these credits is the property of Pulte Homes, and may not be applied to purchase price. Offer may not be redeemed for cash or equivalent. Speak to a sales consultant for details. \*\*Closing Costs offer is available on new contracts that are accepted by Pulte Homes between 1/1/18 and 1/31/18. This offer includes Starkey Ranch only, and is not valid with other promotions or discounts or contract re-writes. Offer may not be redeemed for cash or equivalent. Speak to a sales consultant for details. Quick move-in homes are subject to prior sale or withdrawal from market, and price is subject to change at any time without notice. The interior photograph depicts a model containing features or designs that may not be available on all homes or that may be available for an additional cost. Community home prices shown are estimated base prices, do not include lot premiums, upgrades and options, and are subject to change without notice. Community Association fees required. Square footage and dimensions listed are approximate and may vary in actual construction. Everyday Entry® is a trademark of PN II, Inc. This material shall not constitute a valid offer in any state where prior registration is required or if void by law. Additional terms, conditions and restrictions apply. Contact a sales consultant for details. CGCI1519936. © 2018 Pulte Home Company, LLC. All rights reserved. 1/16/18



# Asturia is a Neighborhood — Not Another Sprawling Community

**A**sturia's uniquely small size makes it stand out among other new home developments along the in-demand State Road 54 corridor in Odessa and Land O' Lakes.

While nearby planned communities have between 3,000 to over 5,000 homes in their master plan, and are looking at several years of construction, Asturia is building just 550 homes and will complete construction in just a few years.

"Asturia feels more like a neighborhood than a sprawling community because our nature trails, pocket parks, first-class amenities and community events encourage you to get to know your neighbors," said Lane Gardner, managing director for Hines, Asturia's developer.

"And, because Asturia offers a variety of lifestyles, it is perfect for families with school-aged children looking for larger homes, and young families buying their first home."

Lane continues that Asturia also attracts empty-nesters wanting to downsize to a new home with all the latest upgrades. "These folks chose Asturia because we are a friendly, walkable community that promotes a healthy, active lifestyle," he said.

Hines, which is based in Jacksonville, professionally manages the design and development of Asturia's master plan, including overseeing residential neighborhoods, community amenities, parks and primary infrastructure. It also is responsible for community branding, marketing and the sale of multifamily and commercial parcels.

It's this commitment to the integration of natural resources, high-quality design standards and thoughtful master planning that has earned Asturia several prestigious regional design and planning awards.

It's been just two years since Asturia began selling homes, and already the development has moved



into its second phase.

Phase Two opened in December and is selling 157 large home sites, most with conservation and water views, and all providing privacy and peaceful, quiet surroundings. A boardwalk connects the two neighborhoods within Phase Two, and will intersect with Asturia's multi-use pathway that meanders for miles through residential areas, parks, playgrounds and the Amenity Center.

### THREE PREMIER BUILDERS

Ashton Woods, David Weekley Homes and ICI Homes, some of the best builders in the country, are

Asturia's exclusive builders.

ICI Homes is the community's newest builder and is celebrating the grand opening of its Serena Model this weekend, Jan. 27 and Jan. 28. Visitors can enjoy refreshments and can enter a \$500 gift card raffle.

Ashton Woods and David Weekley Homes, Asturia's builders since the community opened, both boast of successful sales during Phase One.

"We've successfully sold out of the Garden Series homes, and only one Cottage Home remains available in Phase One," said Jennifer Cole, senior marketing director of David Weekley Homes.

And Kristin Wilson, sales and

marketing manager for Ashton Wood, reports, "We've sold over 100 homes in Asturia and are very pleased with the keen interest in this community."

"Our buyers are fortunate that they can choose from such premier builders like ICI Homes, David Weekley Homes and Ashton Woods to build the home of their dreams in Asturia," said Gardner.

### AWARD WINNING AMENITY CENTER

Asturia's distinctive, 5,800-square-foot Amenity Center and Clubhouse earned the prestigious Silver Aurora Award for the Best Recreational Facility at the 2017 Southeast Building Conference.

This contemporary-design Amenity Center includes a fully equipped, modern clubhouse; covered outdoor dining areas; a luxurious, beach-entry, resort-style swimming pool; and an expansive event lawn for spontaneous outdoor games, such as Gaga Ball, volleyball and soccer.

For kids, there is a Kompan dome, swings, slide and spinners in the playground area that are designed to promote imaginative play and build strong bodies.

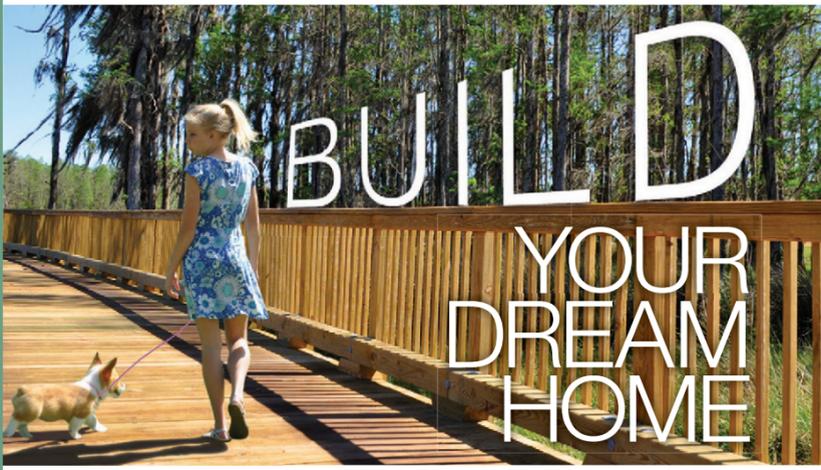
Asturia has wide, meadow-like spaces, lovely ponds, thick stands of cypress and hardwood trees, and large tracts of scenic wetlands. It is an exceptionally kid-friendly and family oriented community surrounded by miles of multi-use trails that are interspersed with playgrounds, dog parks and pocket parks.

Make Asturia your new home by visiting its models, registering at the community's website, [AsturiaFlorida.com](http://AsturiaFlorida.com), or by calling (813) 227-4148.

# Asturia

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Master-planned Community

**Build** the lifestyle of your dreams where preserved woodlands respectfully intertwine with the best lots in Tampa. Asturia's unrivaled amenity package features a modern community clubhouse, a fully-equipped fitness center and a luxury resort-style swimming pool. Recreational parks, walking trails, lush picnic areas and an incredible explorer-dome playground are part of this award-winning community. **Reserve your lot today.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US TODAY.

[www.AsturiaFlorida.com/LL](http://www.AsturiaFlorida.com/LL)

(813) 227-4148 14701 STATE ROAD 54 ODESSA, FL 33556



A **Hines** Community



# ICI Homes Opens New Model In Asturia

**H**ere's a great way to win a \$500 gift card and tour a brand new model home.

Come out to Asturia this weekend for the grand opening of its latest model — the four-bedroom, three-bath Serena built by ICI Homes, the community's newest builder.

The grand opening celebration of the Serena model is Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. (Jan. 27 and Jan 28), at 15134 Aviles Parkway. Asturia is located in Odessa on State Road 54, just west of the Suncoast Parkway.

"We are excited to be building in Asturia. Its location in the heart of Pasco is ideal for both first-time homebuyers and those moving up to a larger home," said Ron Ferguson, division manager of ICI Home's West Florida Division.

ICI offers two series in Asturia — seven distinct plans on 55-foot lots that begin at \$288,900 and start at 1,789 square feet, and six larger homes on 65-foot lots that begin at \$377,900 and start at 2,402 square feet. Both home series are being built in Asturia's heavily wooded second phase that recently opened.

"These home sites are some of the most beautiful conservation and water lots in all of Pasco County," said Ferguson. "We are very pleased to offer these gorgeous home sites to families looking for both smaller homes and those moving up to larger, more expensive models."

The new Serena model home is one of ICI's best-selling plans. This one-story home features a large gathering room with views out to a covered lanai. A spacious gourmet kitchen and dining area are perfect for spending quality time with family and for entertaining guests. The large owner's suite has a master bath that leads into a large, double-entry walk-in closet. Two bedrooms at the front of the home share a bath, plus a separate guest bedroom and bath all provide living spaces away from



the main living areas.

In addition to this furnished model, ICI Homes is building three showcase homes that will be move-in ready within the next few months. A Serena will be completed in the next few weeks, a two-story Santa Maria in late February and a one-story, 2,500-square-foot Costa Mesa in late March.

ICI Home also builds homes in Bexley, another master-planned community located close-by in Land O' Lakes.

"We've been in Bexley since its inception, and our homes there are larger with a minimum 3,000 square feet," said Ferguson.

"Because we do not offer smaller homes in Bexley, we are pleased to now be able to refer families who want the quality of an ICI home in a smaller floor plan to Asturia."

ICI Homes does have one move-in home that will soon be ready in Bexley, the Pamela. At 3,089 square feet, the four-bedroom, three-bath, three-car garage home is one of ICI



Homes' newest floor plans. It features a 12-foot-high foyer that offers the unique option of walking into a flex space/study, the kitchen and gathering area, or straight into the private owners suite. A gourmet kitchen is just steps away from the large gathering and dining rooms, both of which open to a large covered lanai.

ICI Homes sets itself apart from other builders with its unusual ability to make custom changes without sacrificing affordability.

"We believe in a hands-on approach with all of our new

## NEW DIVISION MANAGER

Ron Ferguson is the new West Florida division manager for ICI Homes. He oversees the company's communities in the Tampa region, including Asturia and Bexley in Pasco County. Ferguson joins ICI Homes after 12 years with David Weekley Homes, where he served as project manager in the Tampa/St. Petersburg area for the past five years. He has more than 18 years experience in construction management and has earned high customer satisfaction results throughout his career.



homebuyers, offering custom changes by experienced design professionals that help make decisions for the homebuyer easier and affordable," said Ferguson.

ICI is one of Florida's most premier builders and for many years has been ranked in the Top 100 Builders in the nation by Builder Magazine.

Always on the cutting edge of Florida new-home design and technology, ICI Homes takes pride in offering a wide variety of architectural styles and floor plans to match its buyers' lifestyles and price range. From spacious, affordable homes to one-of-a-kind mansions, each home reflects the benchmark quality and affordable customization for which the company is known.

Established in 1980 and headquartered in Daytona Beach, ICI Homes is the recipient of countless prestigious awards for design and innovation, and has long enjoyed local, regional and national acclaim.



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

# GRAND OPENING

*Of Our Serena Model Home*

Join us at 15134 Aviles Parkway, Odessa Florida 33556

**Saturday, January 27th from 9am-5pm  
or Sunday, January 28th from 12-5pm**

**ENTER TO WIN A \$500 GIFT CARD SPONSORED BY Hines**

FOR MORE INFORMATION call (813) 252-1108 or visit [www.ICIHomes.com](http://www.ICIHomes.com)

Prices and offerings are subject to change. See a Sales Associate for details. Intervest Construction of Tampa, LLC 2660 Cypress Ridge Blvd, Suite 104, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 / CGC #1523402





BUKHTA79/STOCK.ADOBE.COM

## Easy Ways to Create Ambience in Your Home

If your home interiors lack charm, don't worry. These five simple additions and updates can add ambience and character to your home.

**1. Use bold colors.** Colors have the power to create specific moods. To ensure a welcoming atmosphere, make sure you select shades wisely. The science behind color psychology can help you choose paint, upholstery and more. Warm colors like red, orange and yellow make people feel more cozy and intimate. Cooler colors like grey and green are better for invoking calm, and are used to make a room feel more spacious.

**2. Add a touch of softness.** Use plush, cozy materials, such as decorative pillows and throws, to create inviting places to sit. Soften wooden or tile floors with area rugs. Add some warmth to hallways and narrow foyers with runners.

**3. Breathe new life into spaces.** Indoor plants can give life to an otherwise stagnant living area. For

those not blessed with a green thumb, consider artificial plants. High-quality options can look very realistic and will save you time on care and maintenance. Or, add a simple vase to the kitchen table and brighten up the room with a new bouquet of fresh-cut flowers each week.

**4. Make music.** A piano brings a level of elegance to any room, but you don't have to overspend to get a beautiful sound or visual. New digital pianos reproduce the subtle nuances of the world's finest grand pianos at various price points.

From candles to unique fixtures to bright open windows, the type of lighting used to illuminate a room sets its tone. Choose curtains and candles for cozy, romantic nights. Draw them open in the day for bright, sunlit spaces. Install interesting fixtures as a focal point in empty hallways and in living spaces.

Story courtesy of StatePoint

## Add Technology to Your Living Spaces

A smart, connected home is what's in style today. In fact, since 2014, research shows smart technology has increased in priority during renovations, especially for first-time homebuyers.

### 1. STAY COOL AND COMFORTABLE

Certain smart thermostats on the market today intuitively understand when to turn on heating or cooling equipment based on your home's unique energy profile, the weather outside and thousands of other data points – making sure you're comfortable 24/7. Some units even claim to save homeowners enough energy to pay for themselves.

### 2. DESIGN THE PERFECT SHOWER

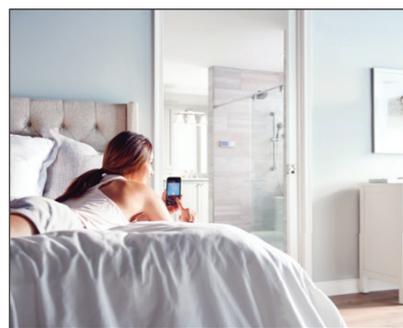
Moen has introduced the first Wi-Fi/cloud-based digital shower on the market. It allows you to precisely set shower temperature and flow with an in-shower digital controller or from a smartphone app. Need extra snooze time? Power on the shower from bed, and it will alert you when the temperature is ready. Picky about your shower preferences? You can set up to 12 custom pre-sets, to ensure you shower is a perfect shower every time.

### 3. KEEP YOUR EYE ON FIDO

Ever wonder what your dog is up to while you're away at work? Now there are fun, tech-based ways to check in on your furry friends. HD pet cameras enable owners to monitor their pets with a wide-angle view, day and night. Some even offer an app that allows owners to toss a treat to their dogs or play a game of catch. Plus, a barking sensor sends notifications to your phone so you can see what's happening at home and allows you to calm down your pooch via a two-way chat.

### 4. BE HANDS-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Imagine the convenience of a



kitchen faucet that turns water on or off, without a touch. Faucets with touch-less technology feature single-sensor, hands-free activation, allowing you to easily activate your faucet with the wave of a hand. This is ideal when your hands are too full or messy to turn on the faucet, and also helps minimize the spread of dirt and germs, since you don't have to touch the faucet.

### 5. CREATE THE RIGHT AMBIENCE

The perfect lighting can be right at your fingertips. Instead of regular incandescent bulbs, smart light bulbs allow homeowners to control lighting with a few taps on their smartphone or tablet. Want to turn on lights when you're away, or adjust for brightness and color? It's no problem with smart light bulbs. What's more, the bulbs last longer and even help save energy.

### 6. MAKE FOOD PREP SMARTER

Not sure how to blend your favorite concoction? High-performance, bluetooth-enabled blenders are compatible with a family of self-detect containers that sense which container is being used, and then automatically adjust settings.

From customizing your kitchen to creating a luxurious bathroom, smart home devices cater to your preferences and elevate everyday experiences.

Story courtesy of StatePoint

## This Month's Featured House

19419 SUNSET BAY DR, LAND O' LAKES, FL 34638



LAKESHORE RANCH WATERFRONT HOME! Beautiful 4 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage home features upgraded 42" cabinets, granite countertops throughout, stainless steel appliances (gas stove), diagonal tile throughout except bedrooms. Master bedroom has a huge walk in closet plus room for an additional sitting area. 4th bedroom does not have a closet and is currently being used as



a bedroom. Relax on your lanai surrounded by wildlife with views of your tranquil waterfront. Lakeshore Ranch is a unique gated community in Land O' Lakes that features a 24 hour guard at the gate house, community security rover (nights & week-



Kathy Huntzinger, REALTOR  
813-784-1346  
khuntzinger@gmail.com

ends), stunning clubhouse with monthly events for adults & children, 3 pools (lap, resort style, & baby), state of the art fitness room, shaded playground, fishing dock, amphitheater, dog park, tennis & basketball courts, and an abundance of conservation areas throughout. HOA includes basic cable & internet. Trash collection is included with CDD. Lakeshore Ranch is a fast & easy commute to I-75 and Veteran's Expressway. Close to shopping, golf, and much more! \*\*Property is eligible for USDA 100% Financing\*\* Priced at \$219,900.



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## Find the Right Home Mortgage So You Don't Overpay

For all the companionship pets provide, they can also mess up a clean, tidy home pretty quickly.

Ample bedrooms and bathrooms? Check. A roomy kitchen? Check. A nice-sized backyard, storage space in the attic and just the right amount of curb appeal? Check, check and check.

Once you've found your perfect home, the next step is finding the right mortgage — which often means confusing requests or financial surprises as you go through the application process.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 64 percent of Americans own their home. But, getting there wasn't necessarily easy. A 2017 NerdWallet survey reports that 42 percent of homeowners felt the homebuying process was stressful, a third said it was complicated and 21 percent found it intimidating.

To help you prepare for your mortgage game day, here are three top tips from mortgage experts.

• **Maximize your financial fitness.** There are five steps consumers should take to improve their financial fitness before applying for a mortgage. These include demonstrating stable employment, managing debt, paying down credit accounts, accumulating assets like savings and retirement accounts to boost credit histories, and review-

ing (and correcting, if necessary) your credit reports.

• **Know your numbers.** Borrowers can take advantage of free online tools, to determine how much house they can afford. Using two pieces of data -- monthly income and monthly debt -- a borrower can quickly calculate their debt-to-income ratio. In most instances, this ratio should not exceed 43 percent, meaning your monthly mortgage payment and other debt obligations (car loan, school loan, credit card payments) should not comprise more than 43 percent of your gross monthly income.

• **Know what type of mortgage is best for you.** One of the biggest decisions borrowers make is deciding whether to get a fixed-rate or adjustable-rate mortgage. When interest rates are low, a fixed-rate mortgage may be the better option. But, if interest rates are higher, an adjustable rate mortgage could make sense because its lower initial rate means lower monthly payments for a specific time period (usually five, seven or 10 years) before the rate could change.

Don't begin your homebuying process without the right financial knowledge, and be sure to leverage the many free resources available to help you be financially prepared.

*Story courtesy of StatePoint*

JOIN US FOR A COMPLIMENTARY INFORMATION SESSION

# Evaluating Senior Housing Options

## TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- » A guide to the different senior housing community types
- » The cost of living in a senior living community and how it compares to living in your home
- » The major health and wellness benefits of senior living
- » Understanding the facts about assisted living
- » Ways to potentially offset the cost of living in a senior living community

## CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THREE SESSIONS!

**Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**  
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  
*Lunch will be served*  
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
*Dinner will be served*

**Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**  
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  
*Lunch will be served*

## at Plantation Palms Golf Club

23253 Plantation Palms Blvd. • Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

**Please call (813) 388-2121 to reserve your seat!**

You may also register online at  
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## INFORMATION CENTER:

24140 State Road 54, Suite 104 • Lutz, FL 33559

**Discover the area's newest rental independent living, assisted living, & memory care community coming this Spring to Land O' Lakes**

**Join us and learn about the Keystone lifestyle. Ask questions that are important to YOU!**



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[www.KeystonePlaceAtTerraBella.com](http://www.KeystonePlaceAtTerraBella.com)



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## CalAtlantic Homes introduces Sylvan Crossing in Lutz. Your Luxury Townhome Awaits.

Sylvan Crossing, an award-winning collection of townhomes, in an elegantly appointed gated community, offers three different floor plans with the upscale features that you desire. The distinctive architecture of your home has beautiful features that include stacked rock, shutters, paver entries and driveways.

This well-thought-out community brings to its residents an amenity center to relax and unwind and includes a heated pool, outdoor kitchen and BBQ, poolside umbrellas and cozy hammocks. In addition, there is an open-air entertaining area with a 70" television, a ping pong table and wifi so you can stay completely connected.

Located in the popular area of Lutz, Florida you're just north of Tampa but close to all the major conveniences like shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and healthcare facilities as well as the 589-acre county nature park, Lake Park.

## Our Models are Now Open!

Three New Model Homes - Visit Today  
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Prices, plans and terms are effective on the date of publication and subject to change without notice. Depictions of homes or other features are artist conceptions. Hardscape, landscape and other items shown may be decorator suggestions that are not included in the purchase price and availability may vary. Ryland Homes of Florida Realty Corporation (CQ268118). (Standard Pacific of Florida (CQ1038741).

# Ashton Woods Homes In Asturia Come In Every Size and Price

**M**any families looking to move to Asturia choose Ashton Woods as their builder because it offers homes in every size and price range. Plus, it has a large selection of quick move-in homes that are ready to close within 90 days.

“At Asturia, we have something for everyone,” said John Reny, Florida president for Ashton Woods, the nation’s largest privately held homebuilder. “Because we offer four distinct homes series at Asturia, we offer price points and home sizes for every budget and lifestyle.”

For many first-time homebuyers, as well as those looking to downsize, the Grove and Evergreen series offer an ideal new home solution. Their unique floor plans place the garage in the rear of the home, which opens up the front to large covered porches.

“We call this front-porch living, because it takes advantage of Florida’s wonderful year-around weather and makes it easy to get to know your neighbors,” said Reny. “We’re also seeing a big demand for alley-load homes because their smaller size makes them low maintenance and more affordable.”

Ashton Woods is the only builder in Asturia to offer alley-load homes. It has three quick move-in homes ready now, and another seven will be available in the spring. Homes are one or two stories and range from 2,003 to 2,502 square feet. Prices in the Grove and Evergreen series begin in the \$240,000s.

Ashton Woods also has traditional one- and two-story homes built on larger home sites in its Heritage and Classic homes series. Prices begin in the \$280,000s, and living areas are between 1,802 and 3,129 square feet.

“Our goal is to always have a good supply of quick move-in homes because so many families need to move fast,” said Reny. “Many buyers have sold their existing home sooner



than expected, or they are renting and do not want to renew their lease while a new home is being built.”

Known for its commitment to personalized design, every home Ashton Woods builds comes with the same standards of top-quality construction and finishes.

“Other builders may talk about having a focus on design,” said Reny. “But we often hear from people who walk into one of our award-winning model homes that they don’t just see the difference, they literally feel it.”

Ashton Woods is so well-regarded that it was named the 2017 Builder of the Year by Builder and Developer magazine. And, for the fourth consecutive year, it has been ranked among the top three for Most

Trusted Builders in America.

“With Ashton Woods, you’re partnering with more than just a homebuilder—you’re partnering with a team of expert designers and builders whose main goal is to help you create your perfect home,” said Reny. “Not only do we blaze new trails in design, we offer buyers highly personalized service every step of the way.”

From the sale of its first home in 1989, to being recognized today as the nation’s largest private homebuilder, Ashton Woods is well-positioned for the future. Headquartered in Atlanta, in addition to Tampa Bay, Ashton Woods sells new homes in Atlanta, Austin, Charleston, Dallas, Houston, Naples, Orlando, Phoenix, Raleigh, San

Antonio and Sarasota.

Asturia is centrally located on State Road 54 in Pasco County, with close proximity to the Suncoast Parkway, U.S. 41, U.S. 19 and Interstate 75. When completed, the community will have 550 homes in the heart of one of Tampa’s fastest-growing suburban corridors.

Set among parks, playgrounds, trails and shade trees, Asturia is a master-planned community where neighbors greet each other from their front porches, lounge together at its resort-style pool and work out at the community’s state-of-the-art amenity center. Asturia is a place where families thrive, kids make friends easily and neighborhood schools that are among the best in Tampa Bay.

IF YOU’VE DREAMED OF A HOME LIKE THIS,  
WE ADMIRE YOUR IMAGINATION.

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WAS  
\$385,428  
NOW  
\$354,990



Discover more than you could have imagined when you explore this quick-move-in opportunity with The Lincoln plan at Asturia. This home features a spacious kitchen with large center island, white Shaker-style cabinetry, quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances and a porcelain farmhouse sink. Other thoughtfully designed features include an upstairs laundry room and an oversized master bathroom. Experience a place where high design is more approachable than ever. At Asturia, you’ll love the possibilities.

**ASTURIA single-family homes from the high \$200s**

**More amenities within reach of your new home.**

- Miles of walking trails and abundant green space
- Stunning Community Center with swimming pool and fitness center
- Playgrounds and picnic areas

**Tour the featured home and our other quick move-in homes, available now.**

ADDRESS	HOMESITE	DESIGN	DETAILS	PRICE	NOW
2493 Cornerstone Street	0211	Ortega B	<b>36’ Grove Series</b> 3 beds / 2.5 baths / 2-car garage ALLEY LOAD / 2193 sq. ft.	\$299,990	
14844 Caravan Avenue HO	0206	Elm C (Model)	<b>45’ Evergreen Series</b> 4 beds / 4.5 baths / 2-car garage ALLEY LOAD / 2395 sq. ft.	<del>\$419,990</del>	<b>\$374,990</b>
2506 Claymore Street	1419	Suwannee A	<b>45’ Evergreen Series</b> 4 beds / 3 baths / 2-car garage ALLEY LOAD / 2204 sq. ft.	\$307,990	
2527 Verona Lane	0811	Lincoln D	<b>55’ Heritage Series</b> 3 beds / 2.5 baths / 2-car garage / 2329 sq. ft.	<del>\$384,990</del>	<b>\$354,990</b>
2483 Portico Street	0302	Athens B	<b>55’ Classic Series</b> 4 beds / 3.5 baths / 3-car garage / 3129 sq. ft.	<del>\$453,990</del>	<b>\$414,990</b>

Schedule a time to see these quick move-in homes today.

813.734.7271 / [ashtonwoods.com/tampa/asturia](http://ashtonwoods.com/tampa/asturia)

**ASHTON WOODS.**

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# Cornerstone brings you safe, crystal clear water for your family

*Plus, refined water that prevents scaling and doubles the life of appliances*

**M**any people take for granted the water in their home — both working water used for taking showers and washing clothes, and drinking water for making coffee and ice cubes.

It's not until their showerheads become corroded with mineral build up, or their ice cubes look cloudy, do many families consider a water treatment and purification system for their home.

Unfortunately, by the time they do, the damage often has already been done to home appliances, faucets and grout which have become pitted, scratched, stained and may even require replacement.

The good news is that all of these symptoms of poor water quality can be resolved with a quality home water system that pays for itself in just a few years. Refined water also extends the life of a hot water heater because less sediment is deposited in the tank.

Like many of her customers, Dana Spears, owner of Cornerstone Air Conditioning, Plumbing & Electrical in Land O' Lakes, also waited too long before installing a water treatment and purification system in her home.

A wife and mother of five children, Dana and her husband, James, built a new home four years ago.

"We didn't think to put in a water system them, and that was a huge mistake because today my beautiful, expensive kitchen and bathroom faucets are pitted and scratched, my grout is cracking and there is so much corrosion in my dishwasher that we need to replace it," said Dana.

Cornerstone's Plumbing Department has always offered water treatment, but Dana found a real need to expand this area for her customers.

"Not only did my family home



need a water system, but many of our customers were also inquiring about what system was best for their home," said Dana.

Dana and her team researched dozens of manufacturers and systems, and selected Westinghouse because of its effectiveness, efficiency and 10-year guarantee.

"Westinghouse also offered Cornerstone exclusivity, which means we are the only plumbing company in the area that can sell their exceptional water systems," said Dana.

The Westinghouse Progressive Revolution Series works 24 hours a day delivering clean, soft working water to the entire house. Its refined water makes clothes and linens softer and brighter, and kitchen and bathroom faucets and showerheads become free of water spots, soap scum and scaling that restricts water flow.

For drinking water, the Westinghouse system delivers fresh, purified water on demand from a special faucet installed at the kitchen sink. Its technology removes nearly all of the contaminants in city water,

and leaves nothing but pure, clean, fresh tasting water.

"If you're buying bottled water, you can stop. And if you're relying on faucet or refrigerator filters, this gives your family a much higher level of purity," said Dana. "Essentially, you get unlimited bottled water — just think how much money you will save because you will no longer need to buy bottled water!"

As sediment builds up, it doesn't take long for water coming from a faucet that is not treated first by a purification system to taste like minerals and even look a bit cloudy. Many families spend \$20 or more on bottled water for their family a week, Dana explains.

Cornerstone also installs water treatment and purification systems for homes on well water. Well water is tested for iron, bacteria and other elements, and the system custom designed to meet the specific needs of a family's well.

The Westinghouse system can be installed same day or next in most homes with city water, especially in newer homes that are pre-plumbed for a water treatment system. Homes

## Why Refined Water?

**Pure, clean, fresh tasting water.** The purification process removes nearly all of the contaminants in your city or well water and gives you a limitless supply of higher quality drinking water.

**Save money:** Pure, crystal clear water from your faucet means you can stop buying bottled water for your home.

**No hard water spots and soap residue:** Glassware comes straight from the dishwasher, crystal clear. The same goes for stemware and flatware.

**Soft skin after shaving and bathing:** Rinses away all soap and cleaning products completely, leaving you with soft manageable skin and hair. Razorblades last longer and you can shave you closer.

**Water becomes a powerful solvent** - all by itself. Refined water will lift stains and clean surfaces, plus eliminate tough stains brought on by your old harsh water. Refined water also reduces the time it takes to clean your home, and also the need for harsh and sometimes toxic cleaners.

on a well may take up to two weeks for the testing and installation to be completed

Cornerstone's licensed plumbers are trained by Westinghouse and are certified to install its systems. Every installation is different, and all are integrated with the home's water system. All work is guaranteed and under warranty for a full year.

Cornerstone was founded in 2006 as an air conditioning service company. In 2012, it expanded into plumbing services, and two years later added electrical services. Its phones are answered 24/7, and technicians are available around the clock, including weekends and holidays.

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# Pasco could ease ban on digital signs for tourist venues

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County is getting ready to ease a ban on digital signs, but will retain strict limits.

The Pasco County Commission reviewed a proposal on Jan. 9 that would allow digital signs for "regional attractors" that hold a minimum of 50 tourist-related events a year.

The venues must be located on at least 200 acres or have buildings totaling a minimum of 35,000 square feet to qualify.

The venues also must have 450 parking spaces or a minimum seating capacity for 2,000 people, and must have frontage on an arterial road or Interstate 75.

No digital signs would be permitted within Pasco's designated northeast rural district. Currently, some area schools are permitted for digital signs, including Pasco-Hernando State College.

According to the proposed ordinance, the signs for regional tourist attractions could display "multiple differing messages in a short amount of time to the traveling public without creating the clutter of temporary signage and advertising devices."

The two immediate beneficiaries of the



A digital sign at Pasco-Hernando State College is one of the few permitted digital signs in Pasco County. An amended ordinance could soon permit regional tourist venues the same privilege.

new sign rules could be Pasco County Fairgrounds and Florida Hospital Center on Ice.

Pasco County commissioners are scheduled to vote on the matter at two public hearings. The first is on Jan. 23 in New Port

Richey; the second on Feb. 6 in Dade City.

"We've been trying to do this for quite some time," said Dicky Brown, president of the Pasco County Fair Association.

The Pasco County Fair is held there annually but, Brown said, the venue hosts many

more events throughout the year.

Some of those events include mud runs, gun shows and circuses.

"The digital sign would definitely give us some more attention," Brown said.

Brown also noted that the county also could use the sign to get messages to residents during emergencies.

In recent months, the county has been addressing the matter of digital advertising in the age of LED lights, and rotating displays.

In February, commissioners agreed to lift a 17-year ban on digital billboards in a deal with outdoor advertising companies to eliminate older, static billboards.

The goal is to end clutter and blight on county roads.

Digital signs generally would remain banned.

The new rules under consideration would be the exception.

Restrictions on permitted digital signs would include:

- A height limit of 11 feet, as part of a monument sign
- A maximum of 60 seconds each for rotating messages
- No special effects, such as flashes, scrolls or animation

# County seeks business park for future development

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County wants to encourage more business parks and diversify the county's job base.

The county's Office of Economic Growth is spearheading that effort by scouting for vacant land that can be made site-ready to attract developers on speculation.

In keeping with that goal, county staff members introduced a proposal for the Vibrant Sun Business Park at a Jan. 11 meeting of the Development Review Committee.

The park, on a large triangular swath of county land, would be bordered on the east by Old Pasco Road and on the west by Interstate 75. It also is near State Road 54 and Overpass Road.

If approved, the site would be available for 2.2 million square feet of corporate offices, manufacturing and distribution, industrial, and mixed office uses.

The county especially wants to encourage corporate business parks with campuses of multiple buildings.

A site-ready property could clear the way for quicker development, county offi-

cials said.

Committee members voted to recommend approval of a comprehensive land use change, as well as a rezoning of the site.

The Pasco County Commission will make the final decision.

"We have enough residential approved in the county," said Chris Williams, a committee member and director of planning for Pasco County Schools. "We need some business and light industrial that can attract companies and bring some jobs."

It's unknown what development offers might be made to the county, however.

"We're looking to prepare the site as a ready site. We don't have a plan in place for disposition of the parcel," said Peter Lent, program administrator for the county's Office of Economic Growth. "We don't have a use in mind right now."

That bothered some area residents, who live off Old Pasco Road. They said they worried about the lack of information on what businesses might operate on the site. They also had questions about traffic impacts, loss of property values and whether a business park fit well next to residential.

Dennis and Ethel Seaton live on Bay

Pines Drive, across from the proposed park. They have a 14-year-old son who has cerebral palsy and is sensitive to "bright lights and sudden noises," his father said.

"There would be big lights up there," he said. "This would cause major concern for us. It's going to cause overwhelming congestion and my son to go into seizures."

Residents also asked if the county had a plan to deal with the increasing traffic congestion in the area.

The speed limit on Old Pasco Road is 35 mph but resident Jean Jakes said, "No one, including school buses, obeys it. You're going to have to put a (traffic) light every three steps."

Jakes didn't see how industrial next to residential could be a good fit.

"There is no compatibility," she said. "It doesn't match the neighborhood. It doesn't match the area. It doesn't match the use of the land."

County officials said differently zoned areas often sit next to each other, but that buffering requirements would provide separation between the business park and nearby homes.

The 91-acre site is close by an area in

northeastern Pasco already targeted for new residential and commercial development.

The Connected City corridor encompasses about 7,800 acres of property designated as a state-approved development district. It is bordered by Interstate 75, State Road 52, and Curley and Overpass roads.

The initiative is focused on creating communities that are the wave of the future, with new jobs based on cutting edge technology. The first master-planned community under construction is Epperson, at Overpass and Curley.

Major road projects are underway to widen State Road 52 and build a new interchange at Overpass and I-75.

Old Pasco Road intersects State Road 52, which is being widened from two lanes to six lanes, from west of Old Pasco to east of Corporate Boulevard.

But, in response to residents' queries, county officials said there are no plans or funds for widening Old Pasco. Any project likely would be in the long-range plan stretching to 2040.

Right of way is being obtained for the Overpass interchange, but construction isn't scheduled until 2022.

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# HEALTH & WELLNESS

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

## HEALTHY EATING SEMINAR

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host a segment of "Healthy Eating Produces Healthy Living," Jan. 25 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This is a free series of 10 book reports followed by informal discussions, to present an understanding of what creates health and how to be an active participant.

Each week builds on information presented in previous weeks.

For reservations, call (813) 780-0064.

## SELF-CARE SATURDAY

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will present "Self-Care Saturday" Jan. 27 at 2 p.m., for anyone who wants to learn new ways to relax and take care of their mental health.

Participants should wear comfy clothes and bring a towel or blanket.

For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## 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](http://HospiceLegacyStroll.org).

## ER OPEN HOUSE

Florida Hospital ER Central Pasco will host a family block party Jan. 28 from noon to 3 p.m., at 16625 State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes.

Families can tour the new ER, take part in activities, demonstrations, music, food and more.

Admission is free, but participants must register at [tinyurl.com/FHCentralPascoER](http://tinyurl.com/FHCentralPascoER).

## TAI CHI CLASS

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host Bonnie's Tai Chi class Jan. 29 at 6 p.m.

The class aims to bring physiological systems, from digestion, cardiovascular, respiration, immunity and mental activity, to a higher level, in a gentle and low-impact manner.

Tai Chi can provide greater flexibility, core stability, improved balance, less fatigue and reduced stress aid to help prevent and deal with issues such as fibromyalgia, Parkinson's disease, joint replacement, lowering blood pressure, depression, anxiety and breathing.

The class is for adults. A signed liability waiver is required.

For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## THYROID LECTURE

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will present a thyroid lecture Jan. 30 at noon, in the fourth-floor classroom.

Dr. Mia Fronteras, board-certified endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, will discuss thyroid issues and the right treatment to feel your best.

A light lunch will be provided.

To register, call (844) 504-9378, or visit [FHWesleyChapel.org/events](http://FHWesleyChapel.org/events).

## INFANT/CHILD CPR

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer an infant/child CPR course Feb. 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., in Garden Classroom A.

Participants can learn to perform CPR



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## More than a place to exercise

The Health & Wellness Center at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel celebrated its five-year anniversary.

The center, which opened its doors in 2013, as a fitness facility featuring comprehensive health and wellness programs, now has more than 5,500 members who have come in to work out nearly 1.4 million times.

The center features indoor pools, a cushioned indoor track, group fitness

rooms, state-of-the-art TechnoGym fitness equipment, and more. There are also de-certified and certified personal trainers.

Members have a choice of more than 120 group fitness classes per week to take part in. Classes include the Les Mills programs, Pilates, Zumba, and aqua classes.

The facility offers child care services and has a Fit Fresh Café.

For more information, please visit [FloridaHospital.com/Wesley-chapel](http://FloridaHospital.com/Wesley-chapel).

and choking rescue techniques on both infants and children according to American Heart Association guidelines.

The cost is \$40 per person, plus a \$10 fee if a completion card is required.

To pay the extra fee, call (877) 692-2922.

To register, call (813) 443-2046.

## HANDS-ON CPR

The Heart Institute at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point in Hudson will offer a free community hands-on CPR demonstration training Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon. Classes will take place every hour.

Light refreshments will be served.

All sessions will be at the Rao Musunuru MD Conference Center. Participants should use the back entrance at 14108 Glacier Drive.

To register, call (727) 869-5498 or (888) 741-5119.

## CRISIS CENTER RECEIVES GRANT

The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Florida Medical Clinic Foundation of Caring.

The center serves as Hillsborough County's certified rape crisis center, and staff are thoroughly trained in policies and procedures for interacting with survivors of sexual assault.

Survivors who report to an emergency room following an assault often communicate that the lack of privacy, long waits and overall treatment can be traumatizing.

The grant will allow the center's sexual assault nurses and victim advocates to adequately train emergency room employees, who are often the first point of contact for survivors of sexual assault, in hospitals throughout Tampa.

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6600 Madison Street, New Port Richey

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 | 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Florida Hospital – Zephyrhills  
CREATION Health Wellness Center  
38233 Daughtery Road, Zephyrhills

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 | 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Good Samaritan Clinic  
5334 Aspen Street, New Port Richey

Thursday, February 15, 2018 | 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Regional Medical Center, Bayonet Point  
14000 Fivay Road, Hudson

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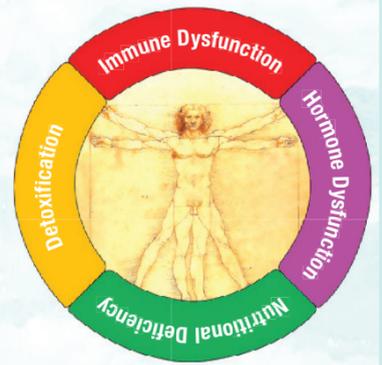
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# Chalk Talk

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## CELEBRATE YOUTH

The second annual Celebrate Youth event will take place Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Safety Town in Hudson, as part of National School Choice Week.

There will be an Education Station with information on VPK-12, Pasco district options, public school options, private school options, scholarships and more.

There also will be a petting zoo, a bounce slide, a rock climbing wall, a bungee trampoline, princesses, a safety house and a Smokey Bear cabin.

Participants can register to win a 55-inch Smart TV or an iPad.

Admission is free, but registration is required. Visit [CelebrateYouth.org](http://CelebrateYouth.org).

## SAINT LEO 1960S SERIES

Saint Leo University's Arts and Sciences launched the 1960s project last fall to communicate the lasting influence the decade had on American institutions and cultural attitudes.

The LED (learning, enlightenment, discoveries) Series, features creative presentations or TED-like talks and centers on the 1960s.

Upcoming sessions will be in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardrooms of the Student Community Center, at 12:30 p.m.

• Jan. 31: "The 1960s and the Destruction of Liberal Politics," by Michael Novak, assistant professor of theology; and, "You Don't Own Me: 1960s Women's Music and the Feminist Revolution," presented by Gianna Russo, assistant professor of English and writing, and Pam Decius, humanities instructor

• Feb. 6: "White Allies: From 1960s to Black Lives Matter," presented by Eileen O'Brien, associate professor of sociology in Virginia; and, "Imagination (Almost) Takes Power: The Aborted French Revolution of May '68," by Patricia Campion, associate professor of global studies and sociology

For information, contact Megan Orendorf at (352) 588-8401.

## Open houses

**Land O' Lakes Christian School**, 5105 School Road in Land O' Lakes, will host an open house Jan. 28 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For information, call the school office at (813) 995-9040, email [school@fbclol.org](mailto:school@fbclol.org), or visit [LOLCS.org](http://LOLCS.org).

**Hillel Academy**, a private Jewish community day school, will host an open house Jan. 30 at 8:30 a.m., at 2020 W. Fletcher Ave., in Tampa.

Guests can hear a brief presentation and take a tour.

Also, produce from the school's hydroponic Tampa Urban Benefit Farm (TUB Farms) garden will be harvested by students, TUB Farms staff and WWII Holocaust survivors, who will be invited to take the food home. Additionally, seeds will be planted for new produce.

For more information, please call (813) 963-2242, or you can send an email to [admissions@hillelacademytampa.com](mailto:admissions@hillelacademytampa.com).

**Saint Anthony Catholic School**, 12155 Joe Hermann Drive in San Antonio, will have its annual open house Feb. 1 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., for kindergarten through eighth grade.

For more information, please call (352) 588-3041, visit [StAnthonySchoolFL.org](http://StAnthonySchoolFL.org), or email [sisteralice@stanthonyschoolfl.org](mailto:sisteralice@stanthonyschoolfl.org).



COURTESY OF FLORIDA HOSPITAL

## Students donate blankets

First- and fifth-graders from Oakstead Elementary School donated blankets (some of them handmade) to pediatric patients at Florida Hospital Tampa. Sara Frawley, child life specialist (left), stands with hospital staff members and a wagon full of blankets from the students. Eva Sanchez (in rainbow shirt) helped distribute the gifts with her mom, Lynette Sanchez (far right), a nurse at the hospital.

## SENSITIVITY TRAINING

Pasco-Hernando State College hosted Cole Foust, LGBTQ+ youth and transgender program coordinator for Metro Health, Wellness and Community in Tampa, for a sensitivity training session.

PHSC faculty and staff took part in the training through the college's Faculty

Development Institute Friday series, a monthly educational program to assist faculty in developing new skills and present higher education practice, research and trends.

The session was live-streamed to all five PHSC campuses and included policy discussions, appropriate language use, and issues of inclusivity and safety.

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## UNDERPASS, from page 1A

recommendations already produced by a volunteer task force. The task force for "Vision 54/56" has spent about two years on the matter.

They whittled 18 recommendations to four recommendations. Their choices included a system of parallel frontage roads at-grade level and elevated express lanes at major intersections. No build also is an option, but underpasses weren't in the mix.

Task force member Sandy Graves said digging underground raises concerns about sinkholes. "How would that work?" she asked.

The MPO board, which reviews transportation matters, is composed of Pasco County commissioners, and elected officials of the county's cities. David Gwynn, secretary of District 7 for the Florida Department of Transportation, is a nonvoting advisor.

The board unanimously approved funds for the study at the Jan. 11 meeting in Dade

City. Board members tabled a review and vote on the recommendations from the task force.

If the underpass is deemed feasible, the county could ask the task force to reconvene. The cost of the study initially was \$35,000, which included the consultants facilitating a task force meeting with documentation and additional analysis.

MPO board members balked at the additional \$20,000 of cost, choosing instead to explore holding a future task force meeting with county staff members.

Trinity resident and commercial real estate agent Charles Puccini spoke during public comment and urged the board to carefully consider their final recommendations. He said the roadwork on U.S. 19 has made area businesses less visible and accessible.

"Make sure the solutions do not effectively block and damage the economy of Pasco County," he said.

Regarding the task force, Puccini said: "It's a great idea what you're doing here."

## KUMQUAT, from page 1A

"This year, we're featuring kumquat beer by a number of local craft beer breweries. There's also kumquat wine available for sale by the bottle," Moors said. "People can enjoy a beverage, and stroll along the streets and look at the arts and crafts featured."

While the kumquat takes center stage during the event, this year's crop has been negatively affected by citrus greening and insect damage, Moors said.

Still, Moors said, "there's going to be kumquats for the festival, and there's going to be ample kumquat products, pies, jams, jellies, ice cream, marmalade, kumquat beer and kumquat wine — all of those things will still happen."

The growers are also working hard to re-plant trees and the hope is they'll be back in full production within a year or two.

Meanwhile, preparations go on for this year's festival, which Moors said is Dade City's way to invite visitors to come see what the area has to offer.

"Our message is: Enjoy the festival. Come

### The Kumquat Festival entertainment lineup

Jan. 27 at the Historic Courthouse Square

- 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Saint Leo University Totally TABS
- 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.: Calvary Assembly of Dade City (Christian Contemporary, National Anthem/Prayer)
- 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.: Sweet-n-Southern Cloggers
- Noon to 1:30 p.m.: Eli Mosley, country
- 1:45 to 2 p.m.: St. Rita Catholic Church Folklore Dancers
- 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.: Dean Johnson's Music & Friends, various styles
- 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Seventeenth Street, contemporary/country

Turning Point Church of Dade City is providing and operating the sound equipment.

back and visit the area at your leisure," Moors said.

# Greg Giordano appointed to nominating council

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report



Greg Giordano



**MIKE FASANO**  
TAX COLLECTOR  
PASCO COUNTY FLORIDA

Assistant Pasco County Tax Collector Greg Giordano has been appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission Nominating Council for a four-year term expiring in 2022.

Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Richard Corcoran made the appointment to fill a vacancy that resulted from the expiration of a previous member's seat.

"It is my pleasure to appoint you to serve as a member of the Florida Public Service Commission Nominating Council," wrote Corcoran, in his letter of appointment. "Your appointment is effective immediately."

Pasco Tax Collector Mike Fasano said that he believes Giordano is an excellent choice for the role.

"During our 19 years working together in Tallahassee, much of his time was spent on utility-related issues. Greg demonstrated an understanding of the process, the needs of utility consumers, and the importance of Public Service Commissioners who can approach a utility case with fairness and lack of bias, a trait often missing in some ap-

pointees over the years," Fasano said, in a news release.

The council's responsibility is to review all applicants for openings on the Florida Public Service Commission and determine at least three who meet the qualifications to serve.

The council then forwards the names to the governor who will make the final selection. The Florida Senate must confirm the appointment.

"I am excited about the opportunity Speaker Corcoran has given me," commented Giordano, in the release.

The Public Service Commission Nominating Council will meet this month, as the current vacancy on the five-member Public Service Commission must be filled as soon as possible.

## MOTHER, from page 1A

shore when a fire broke out, according to news reports.

The reports said the captain ran the shuttle aground in the Pithlachascotee River, about 100 yards from shore in Port Richey.

Passengers and crew had to jump into

chilly waters. Rescuers included nearby neighbors, Port Richey police, Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Pasco Fire Rescue, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The boat burned down to its hull, reports added.

For more information, visit [GoFundMe.com/the-dempey-family](http://GoFundMe.com/the-dempey-family).

An online guestbook is available at [SegalFuneralHome.com](http://SegalFuneralHome.com).



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# Compark 75 sold to Atlanta investors

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Compark 75, a Class A industrial park off Wesley Chapel Boulevard, is under new ownership, according to a news release from Cushman & Wakefield.

The real estate services company negotiated the sale of five buildings at the park to MDH Atlantic Acquisitions LLC. The Atlanta-based real estate investment company has more than 11 million square feet of properties in the southeastern United States.

Rick Brugge, executive director of Cushman & Wakefield; Mike Davis, vice chairman; and Michael Lerner, executive chairman, negotiated the sale as part of Cushman & Wakefield's Capital Markets team. They represented HR Pasco LLP, and

closed the deal in November.

The sales price was not made available.

According to the news release, Compark 75 is the only Class A facility currently serving the northeast Tampa Bay area, including north Hillsborough and south Pasco counties.

"It tends to attract very good leases and a high quality of tenants," said Brugge, president of Cushman & Wakefield.

Compark 75 has about 286,000 square feet in five small-bay, light industrial buildings. The buildings are about 91 percent occupied, with about 26,000 square feet available for lease.

The space could be suitable for two to three new tenants, said Brugge.

Current tenants include the Pasco County Tax Collector, U.S. General Services Administration, Ortho Technology, Morgan

Auto Group and Streetside Classics.

The 165-acre site is zoned industrial, and is suitable for warehouse, manufacturing and office uses. About 105 acres is a wetlands and conservation area.

The five buildings were built between 2007 and 2016, using "tilt-wall" construction, where concrete panels are poured on site and later tilted into place. Suites range from 3,300 square feet to more than 41,000 square feet. Features include rear-loading docks, 18-foot to 24-foot clear heights, early suppression fire sprinkler systems and 118-foot truck courts.

While the park is largely leased to tenants, two industrial condominiums under private business ownership are located at Compark 75. They weren't included in the sale.

The Pet Lane mailing address for Compark 75 puts it in Lutz, but the 165-acre site is lo-

cated off County Road 54 (Wesley Chapel Boulevard), about halfway between the interchanges of State Road 54 and State Road 56, with Interstate 75.

Suncoast Parkway is about 12 miles to the west. And, the Tampa Aero Park is on the park's northern boundary.

The park provides diversity to the central Pasco area, which is booming with residential and retail development, such as The Shops at Wiregrass, Estancia, Bexley, and Tampa Premium Outlets.

In 2014 owner Larry Morgan launched a \$15 million expansion of the privately-developed park. Morgan is the founder of Tires Plus, and his family-owned business has several automobile dealerships. Gov. Rick Scott attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion.

The construction marked the first major investment in commercial office construction in Pasco County since the real estate crash in 2008.

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## Changes on tap for high school football

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

An expanded playoff format and other changes are likely headed to Florida high school football next season.

During the Florida High School Athletic Association's Athletic Director Advisory Committee (ADAC) meeting earlier this month, the group endorsed a handful of proposals that would affect the sport beginning this fall.

The first would be to add two more teams from each region to the state playoffs for Classes 1A-4A.

Under the FHSAA's revamped playoff system implemented for the first time last season, four teams in each of the four regions qualified for the postseason based on points.

This year, six teams would qualify, with the top two seeds earning byes into the second round — thus increasing the playoffs from 16 to 24 teams.

The proposed changes are an effort to allow more teams to qualify for the playoffs, and also give the No. 3 and No. 4 seeds the opportunity to play a home game, thereby increasing revenue for their schools.

The FHSAA's Board of Directors will vote to implement the change at its Jan. 29 meeting. If approved, the rule takes effect this fall.

The FHSAA's Football Coaches Advisory Committee previously voted unanimously to recommend the increase in the number of Classes 1A-4A teams advancing to the postseason from each region.

The FHSAA passed the original playoff system in September 2016, as a measure to base football postseason berths on a points system in Classes 1A-4A, rewarding teams for winning records and strength of schedule; Classes 5A-8A are still in districts and eight teams in four regions get into the playoffs.

Zephyrhills Christian Academy (Class 2A) was the only small school from The



COURTESY OF ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETICS

Small schools like Zephyrhills Christian Academy could benefit from the FHSAA's playoff expansion proposal for high school football.

Laker/Lutz News coverage area to make the playoffs last season. The team, which was a No. 4 seed, lost in the first round.

Other small schools in The Laker/Lutz News coverage area that could be affected by the playoff expansion format are Carrollwood Day School (Class 2A) and Cypress Creek Middle High School (Class 4A).

The ADAC also endorsed several other football-related changes:

- **To clearly define the FHSAA's procedures for postponed and interrupted games.** For example, if a game is interrupted due to weather, teams will effectively be required to finish the following day or set up a mutually agreed-upon date by 9 a.m. the next day. The final procedures are expected to be modified before August, in order to be enforced for the 2018 season.

- **To increase points for a "high-quality" loss.** Starting this fall, 35 points will be awarded for losing to a Category 1 team (previously 30). The five-point increase

also applies for losses to Category 2 (30), 3 (25) and 4 (20) teams.

The measure ensures a loss to a Category 1 team (8-2 record or better) is the same as beating a Category 4 team (0-10 to 3-7 record). There was a five-point discrepancy before, allowing teams to play lesser teams and be rewarded more than playing and losing to a top team. Category 1 teams are those that won 80 percent or more of their games; Category 2 teams won at least 60 percent of their games, but no more than 79 percent; Category 3 teams won at least 40 percent of their games, but no more than 59 percent; and Category 4 teams won less than 39 percent of their games.

- **To approve a 40-second play clock** pending approval by the National Federation of State High School Associations. The rationale is to make every game more uniform in that each referee has the ability to speed up or slow down a game. There would be parameters to move to a 25-second play clock following penal-



FILE

The Florida High School Athletic Association's Athletic Director Advisory Committee has proposed several rule changes across several sports, including football, swimming & diving, cross country, and track & field.

ties, on kickoffs and so on.

FHSAA rules changes are imminent in several other sports, too.

- **Swimming & Diving:** The committee agreed to allow the FHSAA to create guidelines regarding pay structure for schools to follow. Lastly, the ADAC voted to have a minimum of four officials at the state swimming & diving meet.

- **Cross Country:** The ADAC approved two action items that will next go before the Cross Country Advisory Committee this December. The first approval was to allow the use of watches with GPS capabilities during all cross-country meets. The final item supported was awarding the top-15 placing runners at the state meet.

- **Track & Field:** The ADAC accepted the Track & Field Advisory Committee's recommendation to add javelin to the state series in 2020. The rule change will reappear in front of the Track & Field Advisory Committee this May.

- **Golf:** The ADAC voted to extend golf's regular season from 14 contests to 16 contests. The FHSAA Board of Directors will vote on this as an action item in the near future.



### FORMER GAITHER COACH IN HALL OF FAME

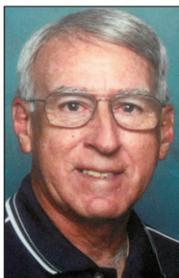
Frank Permy — the man credited with starting the Gaither High School baseball program in 1984 — was among 11 members of the American Baseball Coaches Association's 2018 Hall of Fame Class.

The formal induction ceremony was on Jan. 5 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Permy, who retired in 2014, compiled a 513-276 record in 30 seasons, with 13 district titles and a state runner-up finish. His other coaching stops included Leto High School, Tampa Catholic High School and the University of Tampa.

He becomes just the second prep coach from Florida to be inducted; the other is 1994 inductee Richard Hofman, of Westminster Christian School in Miami.

The 2018 ABCA Hall of Fame class also included former Saint Leo coach John Schaly. Now coaching at Ashland University in Ohio, Schaly spent six years (1992-1997) at Saint Leo, leading the Lions to the Division II playoffs in 1996 and earning Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year honors.



Frank Permy



COURTESY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Royce Luedde



COURTESY OF ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Javion Hanner



COURTESY OF PUERTO RICO LACROSSE

Saint Leo men's lacrosse alum Joe Espinosa will represent Puerto Rico at the 2018 Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) Men's Lacrosse World Championship.

### LACROSSE ALUM TO PLAY FOR PUERTO RICO

Joe Espinosa, a former Saint Leo University men's lacrosse player, has been selected to represent Puerto Rico at the 2018 Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) Men's Lacrosse World Championship.

A 2010 graduate of Saint Leo, Espinosa was one of 30 players selected to the Puerto Rico roster, after the national team hosted a two-day tryout; the team was announced on Jan. 10.

The 2018 FIL Men's Lacrosse World Championship will take place July 12 to July 21, in Netanya, Israel, in Netanya Stadium. The worldwide competition will showcase 50 participating countries. It is Puerto Rico's first-ever appearance.

Espinosa was a short stick midfielder while at Saint Leo.

In a release, Saint Leo men's lacrosse coach Brad Jorgensen said, "We are proud to see Joe representing Puerto Rico in the World Games. His passion for lacrosse and our university is contagious, and we are thankful for it."

## Local signings & offers

**Royce Luedde, a senior at Wiregrass Ranch High School,** has signed to play collegiate soccer at Florida College, an NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) program in Temple Terrace. Luedde, a 6-foot-4 all-state defenseman, has posted eight goals and 22 points for a Wiregrass Ranch team that currently stands with an 20-1-1 record.

**Javion Hanner, a junior at**

**Zephyrhills Christian Academy,** has picked up a football scholarship offer from Harvard University, a Division I FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) program in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The 5-foot-9, 180-pound athlete posted a team-leading 1,379 all-purpose yards and 10 touchdowns last season. Hanner transferred from Pasco High School after his sophomore year in 2016.

NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) national tournament appearances, three Suncoast Conference championships, and an NJCAA D-II National Championship in 2010. Most recently, she was named Southeast Region Coach of the Year by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) at the 2017 AVCA convention in Kansas City in December.

### ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Registration is ongoing for the Pasco County Parks & Recreation Department's 2018 Adult Softball Spring League. Cost to enter a team is \$475, plus an additional \$25 for a National Softball Association (NSA) sanctioning fee. The price includes an 11-game regular season, and a single elimination tournament. The season begins

the week of Feb. 5. Coed games are played Monday evenings, while men's games are offered Tuesday through Thursday evenings. All games are played at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park (formerly the Land O' Lakes Community Center), 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. For information, call (813) 929-1229, or email A.J. Fernandez at [afernandez@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:afernandez@pascocountyfl.net).

### 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 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 [ibrec@idlewild.org](mailto:ibrec@idlewild.org).

### VOLLEYBALL COACH TAKES NEW POSITION

Longtime Pasco-Hernando State College volleyball coach/assistant athletic director Kim Whitney has been named varsity head coach at Calvary Christian High School, a Class 4A private school in Clearwater.

Whitney has coached at PHSC since 2004, building the team into a junior college national power. She led the program to 13 regional tournament appearances, seven District P championship titles, seven



Kim Whitney

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CHRISTINE HOLTZMAN

At the Land O' Lakes High School Honor Society booth, Arty Contreras, left, a 2016 graduate of Land O' Lakes High School, holds a mirror so Penelope Pratt, age 5, of Tampa, can admire herself painted as a blue tiger.

## Artists and visitors flock to Wesley Chapel for arts fest

By Christine Holtzman  
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

Sunshine and mild temperatures combined to offer perfect weather for the 13th annual Suncoast Arts Fest, at The Shops at Wiregrass on Jan. 20 and Jan. 21. Paseo Drive was closed to vehicle traffic, so approximately 125 vendors could line the street, showcasing their wares — including photographic prints, paintings, ceramics, jewelry, garden decorations, clothing and more.

The free Kid's Art Garden area allowed children of all ages to express their creativity through face painting, watercolors, sidewalk chalk and other interactive activities.

The Emerging Artist exhibit displayed some of the best work created by Pasco County students. The event included free entertainment throughout the weekend, making this a fun, family friendly gathering.

Proceeds from the annual arts festival benefit arts education in Pasco County public, private and charter schools.



Shane Maiden, left, and his 10-year-old son Shane Jr., of Wesley Chapel, use 3D glasses to admire the various lowbrow pop art works of Vodka Bacon Studios. Artist Nelson Perez, who grew up in Tampa but now lives in St. Louis, states that his art is 2D, but has a 3D effect when viewed with 3D glasses.



Bryan Hoag, of Tampa, a cast member with the Bay Area Renaissance Festival, plays the role of 'Simon Lattaire,' the village tin smith.



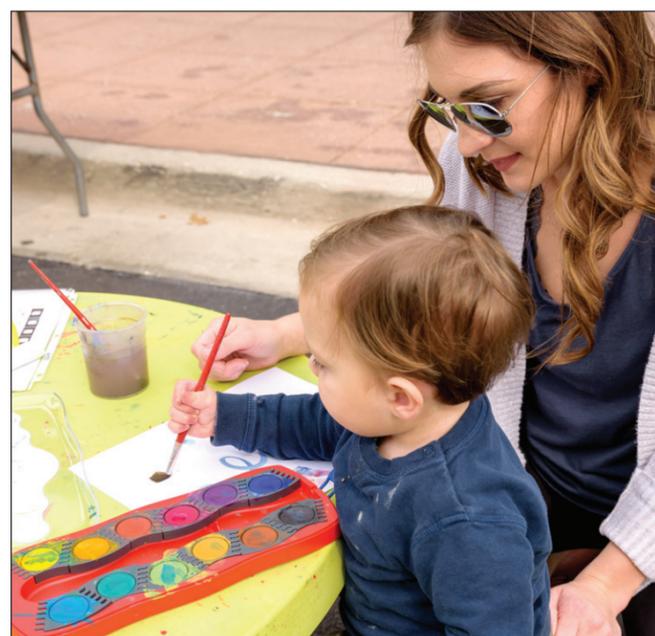
Melrose Hinton, age 4, of Clearwater, left, gets her face painted as her favorite animal, a butterfly, by Ariana Quiles, age 16, a sophomore at Land O' Lakes High School.



The bluegrass folk band Gypsy Wind plays a jazzy number during its set on the afternoon of Jan. 20.



Six-year-old Katie Cullison, left, and her 4-year-old sister Olivia, of Wesley Chapel, use chalk to draw a flower and a heart at the Kid's Art Garden area of the Suncoast Arts Fest.



At the Kid's Art Garden section, Kaitlyn Pratt of Tampa, watches her 1 1/2-year-old son, Reid, as he paints a picture using watercolor paints.

# LOCAL WILDLIFE



## Camera-ready

This rabbit was out for a stroll in Country Walk, in Wesley Chapel. The little furred mammal turned and looked directly at Sharon Thompson, as if posing for the photo.

## PET PAWS

### HUMANE SOCIETY SUFFERS FIRE

The Humane Society of Pasco County, 14949 Harmon Drive in Spring Hill, is a volunteer-based animal shelter that has been finding homes for animals in Pasco County since 1982.

The shelter is a bright and friendly environment, and ensures animals receive the attention they need.

The cats, kittens, puppies and animals receiving medical care are housed in a trailer. The trailer had undergone many renovations over the years, and was always in the process of being improved and expanded, to meet the increasing need for space and resources. However, the trailer has now reached a point beyond repair.

On Dec. 10, during a cold snap, the heater in the trailer caught fire. No animals were harmed.

The society receives no government or

county funding. It is self-sustained and rarely puts out a plea for help. But now, a new building is needed to ensure the safety of the animals.

The humane society is looking for a simple and safe environment for the animals while they wait for their forever families.

To see how you can help, visit [GoFundMe.com/humanesocietyofpasco-county](http://GoFundMe.com/humanesocietyofpasco-county).

### ADOPTION EVENTS

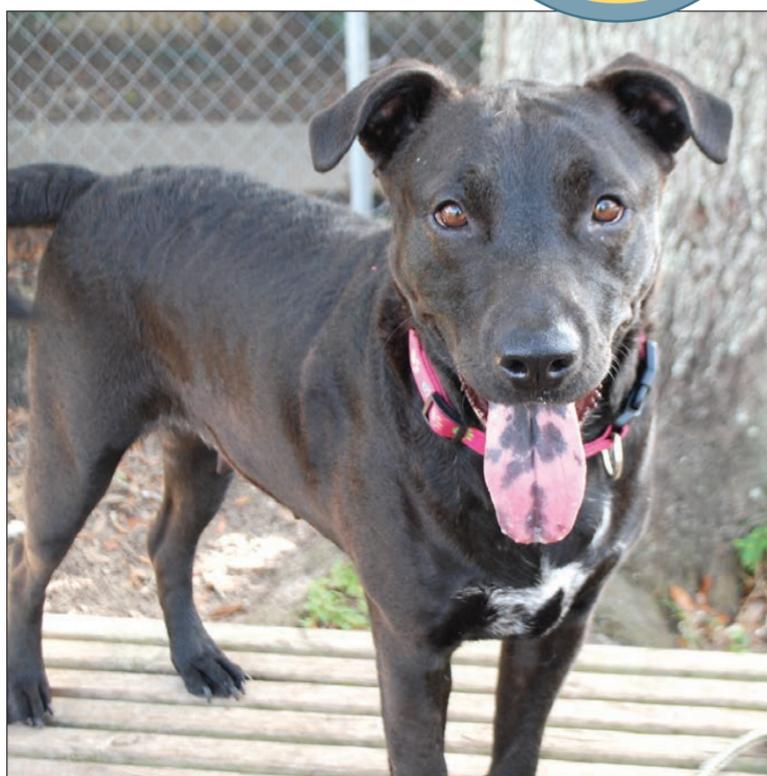
Pasco County Animal Services' Tail Wagon will host these adoption events:

- Feb. 17 from noon to 6:30 p.m., at the shelter, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes

- Feb. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Rural King, 7422 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills

For information, call (813) 929-1212 or visit [PascoCountyFL.net/pas](http://PascoCountyFL.net/pas).

## Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



## Beauty knows basic commands

Beauty is a gorgeous 1 1/2-year-old female Labrador retriever mix that originally came to the shelter last October. She is heartworm negative, spayed, microchipped and vaccinated. She loves to play in the yards. Beauty would need to be in a home with no other pets.



## Tim Tam is quite mellow

Tim Tam is a sweet and friendly 6-year-old tabby cat that came in last December. He can usually be found lounging on a shelter in his cage area. Tim Tam is FIV positive; however, it is not contagious to humans. He is neutered, microchipped and vaccinated, and ready to go to his forever home. Tim Tam should go to a home with no other cats.

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



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Call for appointment: (Includes pre-anesthetic exam, anesthesia, pain & antibiotic pre-medication)

Cat Spay: \$40  
Cat Neuter: \$50  
Dog Neuter: \$50-\$95\*  
Dog Spay: \$60-\$120\*  
\*Based on weight

PETS SHOULD BE HEALTHY & NOT PREGNANT. MUST BE CURRENT ON RABIES & DHPP/FVRCP VACCINES.

### VACCINES CLINIC:

Monday-Friday 1 - 2 pm  
Walk-Ins Welcome. Includes exam & economy vaccines. Consult is add'l \$30 on request.

- Rabies 1 yr \$15.00
- Feline Leukemia 2 yr \$25.00
- Feline Distemper Combo 3 yr \$30.00
- Rabies 3 yr \$30.00
- Canine Distemper Combo 3 yr \$30.00
- Bordetella/Kennel Cough \$18.00

# PET of the WEEK



## Dylan is mischievous

Dylan is an energetic 9-month-old Welsh Terrier. He loves to take walks where he meets other people and their pets. Dylan loves playing ball, and it's not unusual for him to stop and watch TV. He is very affectionate with everyone he meets. Dylan is good at bringing The Laker in from the driveway to the house. Dylan lives in Lutz with Diane Hernandez.

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

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

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

Let us give you something to *Smile* about



## NEW PATIENT EXPERIENCE

# \$99<sup>00</sup>\*

Cleaning, exam, consultation and all necessary x-rays  
ADA D1110, D0210, D0150

EXPIRES 1/31/18

\*New patients only. Not valid with any other offers or insurance. Does not include periodontal therapy. Limited time only.



## BERNIER DENTAL

LAND O' LAKES • DENTAL ASSOCIATES  
BRIAN BERNIER, DDS

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## SPECIALS

**MONDAY:** \$6.99 Cheeseburger & Fries. Dine In or Take Out.

**THURSDAY:** KIDS EAT FREE. 12 & under only. Valid w/adult entree purchase only.

**THURSDAY:** 12oz Prime Rib w/2 sides \$14.99.

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY:** All You Can Eat Seafood Specials.

**\$3.00 OFF**  
**\$20 OR MORE**

Must present coupon. Not valid on daily deals or with other coupons. Exp 1/31/18.

**BOGO 1/2 OFF**

MON-FRI IN HOUSE  
OR TAKE-OUT 11AM-3PM

1 per table. Excludes all you can eat, senior meals, and lobster. Exp 1/31/18.



1930 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Lutz, FL 33549  
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28th ANNUAL  
**Farm Festival AND Quilt Show**

Saturday, February 3, 9-4  
Sunday, February 4, 10-4

**Raffle Drawing for Quilt!**  
Quilt Donated by: Jane Hancock

**Southern Draft Horse Pulling Competition**  
**SATURDAY ONLY 12 NOON**

**ADMISSION:**  
SAT: ADULTS \$10 • SUN: ADULTS \$5  
SAT & SUN: CHILDREN (5 TO 12) \$5 (under 5 free)

**NO PETS ALLOWED.** (Service animals only)

**No coolers, food or beverages allowed.**

- Hoffman Challenge Quilt Collection
- Show of Dolls, Quilts & Clothing
- Local Quilters on Display
- Quilts & Supplies Sale
- Quilt Appraisal & Trunk Show
- Cane Grinding & Syrup Making – Sat.
- Arts & Crafts Show – Traditional Crafts
- Festival Vendors/Concession Stand
- Children's Activities

1 mile north of downtown Dade City off US Hwy 301 at 15602 Pioneer Museum Road 33523

# 352-567-0262

[www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org](http://www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org)

# BUSINESS DIGEST

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

## 2018 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Central Pasco Association of Realtors will host the 2018 Economic Summit on Feb. 1 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Conference Center of the Pasco-Hernando State College, 2727 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

The keynote speaker will be Brad O'Connor, chief economist for Florida REALTORS. Other participants are David Gwynn,

District 7 secretary at the Florida Department of Transportation; Bill Cronin, president and chief executive officer of the Pasco EDC; Camille Hernandez, mayor of Dade City; Kathryn Starkey, Pasco County commissioner; Mary Yeargan, director of district management at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and Bob Thompson, program moderator at Thompson Event Partners.

The summit will provide residential and commercial REALTORS, and businesses, with insight into the "2018 Market and Economic Trends."

The cost, which includes a continental breakfast, is \$20 for CPAR members; and \$25 for everyone else.

For information, call (813) 948-6966, or visit [CentralPascoRealtors.org](http://CentralPascoRealtors.org).

## CENTRAL PASCO PARTNERS WITH NFIB

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce agreed to a partnership with the

National Federation of Independent Business, or NFIB.

Board members said the partnership will provide the chamber with a stronger voice on policy issues in Tallahassee and Washington D.C., according to an email from Central Pasco chamber.

NFIB is the largest business group in the United States, with more than 300,000 members nationally, and more than 9,400 members in Florida.

The chamber will be able to track legislative matters through NFIB. The partnership also gives the chamber access to NFIB's policy directors, who work with state and federal executive, legislative and judicial bodies on issues important to business owners.

The NFIB offers small and independent business owners opportunities to become involved with the state's Leadership Council, Small Business Legal Center and the NFIB Political Action Committee.

The NFIB is offering a special member-

ship rate of \$199 a year for new members, with the promotional passcode of PASCO199. Members will be eligible to vote on NFIB member ballots, access NFIB benefits, participate in teleforums, and receive updates on state and federal legislative and regulatory matters.

For information, call Central Pasco chamber at (813) 909-2722, or visit [NFIB.com/signup](http://NFIB.com/signup).

## FLORIDA HOSPITAL ER RIBBON CUTTING

The Florida Hospital ER Central Pasco will have a family block party and ribbon cutting Jan. 28 from noon to 3 p.m., at 16625 State Road 54, in Land O'Lakes.

The free event will have behind-the-scenes tours, fun activities, demonstrations, music, food and more.

For information and to RSVP, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FHCentralPascoER>.

More BUSINESS DIGEST, page 7B

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# Lake Foreclosure Resale Event

Saturday, Jan. 27th at 10:00 am



Prices starting at \$29,900

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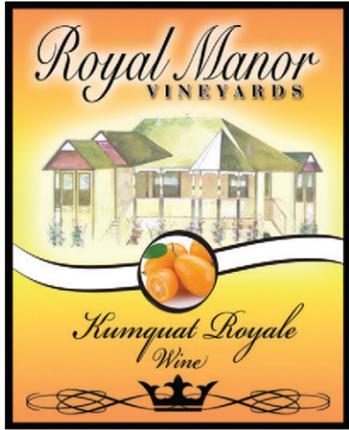
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This premium Royal Manor Wine has an intense kumquat bouquet with crisp and refreshing white grapes, the perfect all around wine!

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Bottle Donation: \$15/Order by the case (12 bottles) and save \$1.00 off per bottle!

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**(813) 783-4364**  
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## LOST / FOUND ITEMS

**LOST CAT!!!**  
Rocky is a 1.5 year old Siamese mix. He was last seen on Wistful Yearn Dr. in Connerton on Tuesday night.  
He has a white coat with a tan patch on his rear, a white and tan striped tail, tan ears, and blue eyes. If seen, he usually responds to the flicking of a can tab. He is an indoor cat that is fixed and microchipped. Please return him to his owners, who miss him terribly! Any info, please call or text **813-690-2779**.

## Yard Sales

## GARAGE / YARD SALES

**NEED VENDORS, CRAFTERS, SELLERS, GARAGE SALE GURU'S.**  
9th Annual Junk in your Trunk Sale!  
Parking lot sale, \$20/spot; St. Mary Church, 15520 N.Bivd, Tampa SAT. 3/10/17;  
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## FREE GARAGE SALE ADS!



**3 lines of text, with 35 characters and spaces per line, FOR FREE\*!**  
Call Rachel at **813.909.2800**  
Ask about discounts for community garage sales & display ads!  
\*Private parties only

## Local Employment

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## Other Employment

## GENERAL EMPLOYMENT

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[\(z\)](http://www.easywork-greatpay.com (z))

## For Sale

## AUCTIONS

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO SELL PERSONAL PROPERTY OF FORMER MIAMI BEACH REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER THOMAS KRAMER AT PUBLIC SALE ON FEBRUARY 14.**  
The Sheriff's Sale will take place Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 11 A.M. at the Miami-Dade County Sheriff's Office, 601 NW 1 Court, 9th Floor, Miami, FL. Inspection: Tues, February 13, 2018 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at two locations: 4 Star Island Drive and 5 Star Island Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139. Exceptional, one-of-a-kind luxury items representing Kramer's well-known extravagant celebrity lifestyle are available for sale including European home furnishings, artwork, exquisite home decor, sculptures, oriental rugs, mask collections, life-size collectible figures and statues, electronics, audio/video equipment, book collections, office equipment, office furniture, patio furniture, concrete outdoor décor/statues, hand tools, power tools, restaurant equipment, fitness equipment and much more. A 2011 Toyota Tacoma truck will be sold separately. All other personal property will be sold as one lot via Sheriff's sale. The contact person for sale inquiries is: Latasha Gethers Hines, Esq. Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton 2525 Ponce de Leon Blvd., 9th Floor Miami, FL 33134 Direct **305.728.2966** email: [\(x\)](mailto:lgh@kttlaw.com (x))

## BUILDING MATERIALS

**CALL EMPIRE TODAYÁ** to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! **1-800-214-0166 (z)**

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N I S I S M E L L A N O M E N T A  
R O T U P R E R A T O  
P H E A S A N T S C R O P  
D R U B A B R A D E  
A R G V I O L A O A T E N  
P E R P E T U A L M O T I O N  
A G A I N T W A I N O N E  
C A M P U S C L I F O R N I A  
E L S E I T I N K K E E P E R  
M E N I N G I T I S I R I S  
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## ADOPTIONS

**SURROGATE MOTHER NEEDED TO CARRY OUR BABY! GENEROUS COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES PAID. CALL ATTORNEY CHARLOTTE DANCJU**  
**1-800-395-5449**  
[\(z\)](http://WWW.ADOPTION-SURROGAC.COM (z))  
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*In accordance with FL statute 63.212(1)(g), only attorneys licensed to practice law in Florida and Florida licensed adoption entities may legally provide adoption services under state law.*

## ADULT EDUCATION

**AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING** - Get FAA certification to work for airlines. Approved for military benefits. Financial Aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Housing assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance **888-686-1704 (n)**

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**AVIATION CAREERS A** Hands on training for career opportunities in aviation, manufacturing and more. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call AIM **866-314-5838 (z)**

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**HAVE 10K IN** Debt? National Debt Relief is rated A-Plus with the BBB. You could be debt free in 24-48 months. Call **1-866-465-4307** now for a free debt evaluation. (z)

**OVER \$10K IN** debt? Be debt free in 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call National Debt Relief at **866-243-0510 (n)**

**SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY?** Up to \$2,671/mo. (Based on paid-in amount.) FREE evaluation! Call Bill Gordon & Associates. **1-800-860-6175**. Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL., member TX/NM Bar. (z)

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# BUSINESS DIGEST

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

## JAIME'S ADULT DAY CENTER ANNIVERSARY

Jaime's Adult Day Center will celebrate its one-year anniversary with a ribbon cutting on Jan. 31 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at 18590 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Lutz.

The event is free. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

For more information, send an email to [info@brightstarchiro.com](mailto:info@brightstarchiro.com).

## ECONOMIC FORECAST LUNCHEON

The Pasco Economic Development Council has scheduled its 2018 Economic Forecast Luncheon for Feb. 2 from 11 a.m.

to 1:30 p.m., at Hilton Garden Inn Tampa Suncoast Parkway, at 2155 NorthPointe Parkway in Lutz.

The luncheon will feature Kyle Baltuch, director of development and economist at Florida TaxWatch. He will discuss his views on the regional economy, with an analysis and forecast for 2018.

TaxWatch is a nonprofit watchdog organization that analyzes tourism, economic development, job creation, manufacturing, health care and municipal pensions.

Advance registration is required no later than Jan. 31.

The cost per person is \$35. The cost for Pasco County staff only is \$25.

For information, call the Pasco EDC at (888) 607-1726, or visit [PascoEDC.com](http://PascoEDC.com).

## WOMEN-N-CHARGE

Join Women-n-Charge Feb. 2 from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Pebble Creek Club, 10550 Regents Park Drive, in New Tampa.

The women share talents and resources, and build relationships with other women in business.

Guest speaker will be Liza Marie Garcia, of NOW SC PRESS, who will talk about "Perfecting Your Pitch."

Please note the new costs are \$15 for members and \$18 for guests who RSVP by Tuesday prior to the meeting. Afterward, the cost is \$20 for members and \$23 for guests.

Register at [Women-n-charge.com/meetings/](http://Women-n-charge.com/meetings/). For information, call (813) 600-9848, or email [info@women-n-charge.com](mailto:info@women-n-charge.com).

## BNI BREAKFAST

Business Network International, or BNI, will have a kick-off breakfast for the new Land O' Lakes chapter Feb. 7 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., at Plantation Palms Golf Club, 23253 Plantation Palms Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

BNI is a networking organization with more than 8,000 chapters worldwide.

The kick-off breakfast is an opportunity for the area business community to find out about BNI.

Seating is limited.

For information and to RSVP, call Joey Zani at (813) 948-3584.

## NETWORKING BREAKFAST

The Wednesday Morning Network Group will meet Feb. 7 at 7:30 a.m., at Hungry Harry's Family Bar-B-Que, at 3116 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

Each attendee will be able to present a 30-second pitch. The cost is \$7 for members, if preregistered by Feb. 1; or \$10 for members and non-members at the door.

You can register online at [CentralPascoChamber.com](http://CentralPascoChamber.com)

For more information, you can call the chamber at (813) 909-2722, or send an email to [office@centralpascochamber.com](mailto:office@centralpascochamber.com).

## NORTH TAMPA LUNCHEON

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will have its February 2018 Momentum Thursday on Feb. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at St. Joseph's John Knox Village, at 4100 E. Fletcher Ave., in Tampa.

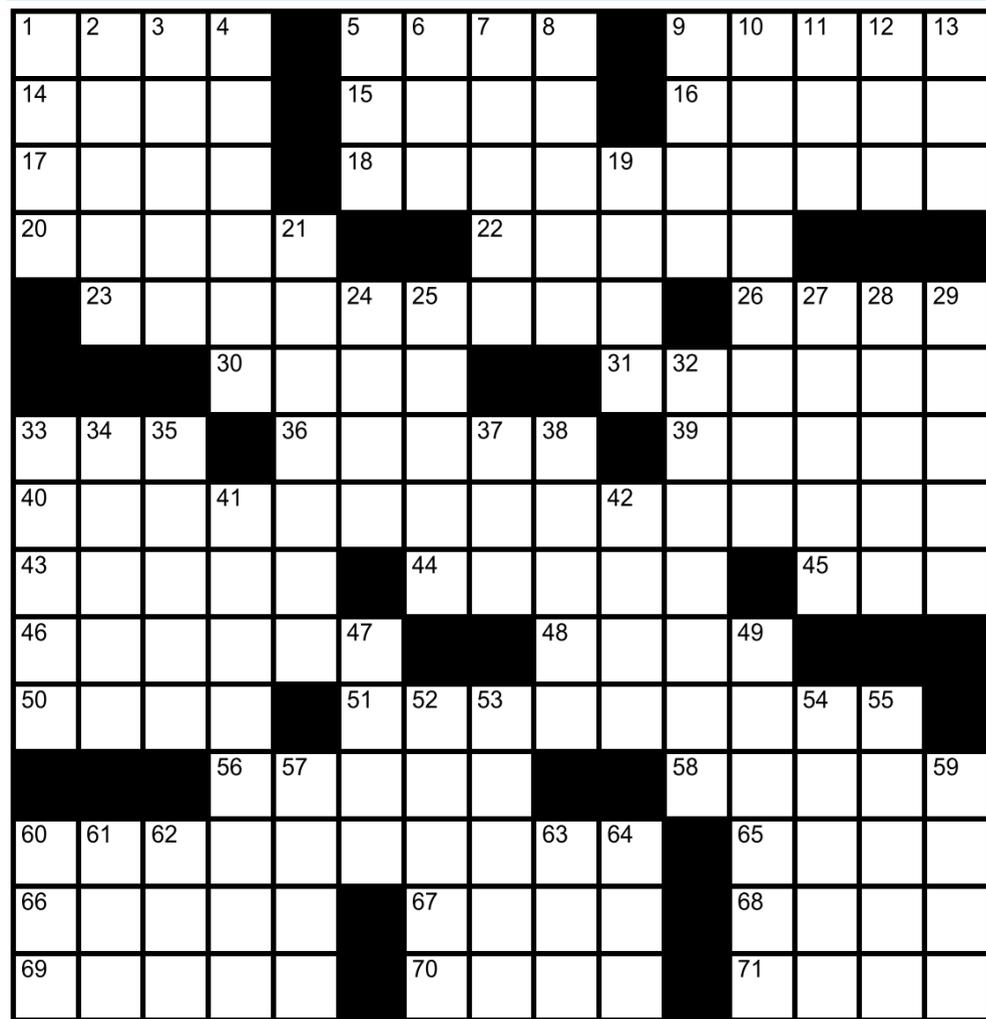
Guest speaker will be Clinton W. Babcock of Sandler Training.

For early bird registration, RSVP online with credit card or to the chamber office at [Contact@NorthTampaChamber.com](mailto:Contact@NorthTampaChamber.com) by 5 p.m., Feb. 7, at the discounted rate of \$15 (whether you eat or not).

After that date, the cost is \$20 (whether you eat or not), payable at the door by cash, check or credit card.

For more information, please call the chamber at (813) 563-0180, or visit [NorthTampaChamber.com](http://NorthTampaChamber.com).

# The LAKER / Lutz NEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## ACROSS

1. Call at first
5. Clothing
9. Kind of drive
14. Economical
15. Sandler of "Big Daddy"
16. Slow, musically
17. Egyptian fertility goddess
18. Tumors containing dark pigment
20. Add
22. A Muse
23. They're game
26. Clip
30. Clobber
31. Rub
33. Parenthesis, essentially
36. Kind of concerto
39. Like Cheerios
40. Constant motion without an energy source
43. "Encore!"
44. Author Mark
45. "\_\_\_ moment"
46. College grounds
48. History Muse
50. "... or \_\_\_!"
51. A proprietor of an inn
56. Hawaiian island
58. Prepare, as tea
60. Deadly disease where brain swells
65. Western blue flag, e.g.
66. About
67. Kill, in a way
68. Butts
69. North American flycatcher
70. At one time, at one time
71. Cast

## DOWN

1. Buttonhole, e.g.
2. "Belling the Cat" author

3. Strong belief
4. Followed
5. Cap
6. "\_\_\_ to Billie Joe"
7. Greek physician and writer
8. Brainy
9. Coagulate
10. Member of Obama's party
11. Biochemistry abbr.
12. Baseball's Master Melvin
13. Bygone bird
19. Astronaut's insignia
21. Rags to riches person
24. Exec
25. Circa
27. 4:1, e.g.
28. Ancient Greek theater
29. Pasta choice
32. Sticks
33. Abreast (of)
34. Fit for a king
35. Stuffs
37. Police, with "the"
38. "Wellaway!"
41. The Banzai \_\_\_\_\_
42. 1/500 of the Indianapolis 500
47. Blab
49. Field of vision?
52. Green
53. Fertilizer ingredient
54. Like "The X-Files"
55. Despot's duration
57. A chip, maybe
59. "Check this out!"
60. Blueprint
61. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
62. "What's \_\_\_?"
63. "\_\_\_ alive!" (contraction)
64. Boozehound

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B



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