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**INSIDE,
PAGE 1B**

Ft. King land seen as too costly

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

A volunteer advisory committee had recommended that 17 parcels of the former Ft. King Ranch be added to a list of conservation lands worthy of purchase by Pasco County.

But, the Pasco County Commission balked at the potentially pricey cost of buying nearly 3,600 acres, and voted against the committee's wishes.

The property, owned by the limited liability partnership of Secret Promise, is situated off State Road 52, near the Ehren Cutoff. It stretches from the northern boundary of Cypress Creek to the Crossbar Wellfield, near Bellamy Brothers Boulevard.

"That's a very, very large purchase," said Pasco County Commissioner Mike Moore. "It



KATHY STEELE

Florid Estate Winery is located on land offered to Pasco County for its conservation lands' program.

could crush future projects. It's almost to the point if we add this, we can't add anything else."

Currently, the county's ELAMP, or Environmental Lands Acquisition and

Management Program, has nine properties under review for purchase. The program's budget has a balance of about \$27 million

See LAND, page 11A



RICHARD K RILEY

Kevin Campbell, events coordinator for Little Everglades Ranch, and Melissa Black displayed a WWII amphibious landing craft at the Kumquat Festival in Dade City. It will be used for rides at the Ranch Days event in February.

Ranch Days is back for its second act

By B.C. Manion

bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

When the organizers were gearing up to debut Ranch Days last year at Little Everglades Ranch, north of Dade City, they proceeded with caution.

They wanted to see how the event went, before making plans for another one.

Apparently, the event went well because now event planners are gearing up for the second annual Ranch Days on the 2,050-acre property, owned by Bob and Sharon Blanchard.

Slated for Feb. 10, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and for Feb. 11, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the event offers a chance to listen to music, grab a bite to eat, and take home a purchase or two. Little Everglades Ranch is at 17951 Hamilton Road, north of Dade City.

Last year, about 5,000 turned out, said Kevin Campbell, who along with his wife, Andie, coordinates events at Little Everglades Ranch.

"For a first-year event, we were pleased with the amount of people that we had

out," he said.

This year, he said, there have been some improvements.

"The stage is bigger and better," Campbell said.

"Where we have the stage sits on a real gentle kind of hill to the north, and there are three or four real big live oak trees kind of around it."

"The music is great. We went a little bit harder on some of the headline entertainment," he said.

This year's lineup includes Thomas Wynn and The Believers, as the headline act on Feb. 10. "They're kind of a bluesy-rock Florida group."

Another act, Colin Axxxwell, is coming from Nashville.

"He's just so good. I had to book him," Campbell said.

There's also Bill "The Sauce Boss" Wharton.

"Bill is a 72-year-old man who has been playing music for many years. For the last 30 years, he cooks out a batch of gumbo on the stage. He comes up in a chef's coat and a

If you go

RANCH DAYS

WHERE: Little Everglades Ranch, 17951 Hamilton Road, Dade City

WHEN: Feb. 10, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Feb. 11, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

COST: Admission is free; parking is \$10 for cars, \$25 for buses and RVs; vendor charges for food, rides and purchases

DETAILS: Live music on two stages, ranch tours, exhibitions of a high-wire act, a juggling and variety act, birds of prey and indigenous snakes, kids' activities and more

INFO: Visit RanchDays.com.

chef's hat. He plays guitar all by himself, with a bass drum and a high hat.

"When he first comes out, I think he has a 12-gallon pot. We give him all of the ingredients and he fills this pot up, and he starts his batch of gumbo — and then 67 minutes later he takes the batch of gumbo ... and he gives out 100 bowls of gumbo."

Another act, Mean Mary, is back again from last year.

See RANCH, page 11A

Pasco joins lawsuit seeking opioid settlement

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County has joined the national trend for municipalities to fight back against distributors and manufacturers of opioid medications.

County commissioners voted to become one of several plaintiffs in litigation that seeks to replicate the kind of payouts attorneys won in the late 1990s against the tobacco industry.

Pensacola-based Levin Papantonio will represent Pasco County. The law firm is part of a consortium that is pursuing lawsuits in several states including West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

At stake is money that could be made available to the county for drug addiction treatment and the costs to law enforcement.

Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco spoke in favor of the lawsuit, prior to the county commissioners' vote on Jan. 23 in New Port Richey.

"We feel the epidemic every day," Nocco said.

In 2016, Pasco County had 165 drug overdose deaths, and 120 were related to opioids.

This is a legacy of marketing strategies that promoted prescription opioids as safe and nonaddictive, the sheriff said.

"It's actually a pill that made them addicts," Nocco said. "Someone is accountable for it. They should be sued," the sheriff said.

Nocco noted the unexpected consequences from the state's successful closure of pill mills, which distributed the opioids. He said people addicted to prescription pain medications turned to other sources, including heroin and fentanyl.

The sheriff recalled an instance when officers found a man beating on the chest of a homeless man. Initially, it appeared to be an assault. Instead, Nocco said it was a heroin overdose.

"He was trying to revive him," Nocco said.

Pasco County deputies routinely carry Narcan, a medication that can help reverse the effects of an overdose.

In December, Pasco County commissioners heard a workshop presentation from attorney Jeff Gaddy, of Levin Papantonio.

The local law firm of Lucas/Magazine initially approached the county about the lawsuit proposal.



Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco

No upfront costs will be charged to the county. If a settlement is reached, attorneys would be eligible for a maximum 25 percent contingency fee from the county's share of the settlement.

See OPIOID, page 11A

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A quarter century of dedication

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club and Keep Pasco Beautiful Committee honored Gloria Dale for her 25 years of service and commitment to the Keep Pasco Beautiful annual Coastal Cleanup event. From left, Lottie Kelly, coordinator of the Pasco County event, and club conservation chair Lonna Vizzari presented Dale with a Certificate of Appreciation for her dedication to this cause.

Lutz resident receives 'Community Champion' award

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

It's not all that uncommon for Freddy Barton to spend part of his weekend working — heading out to talk to people in the community.

If he's headed out from his Lutz residence on his motorcycle, chances are he's going to go hang out with some kids — to find out what's on their minds.

"I'm talking to kids. I'm trying to probe their mind, to figure out, 'What does it take to make you feel that you can have a chance in life?'" he said.

Barton recently was named one of six "Community Champions" across the state by Molina Healthcare of Florida at the organization's eighth annual recognition event. The awards dinner was held at Busch Gardens.

Over the course of his life, Barton has done volunteer and professional work aimed at helping youths to avoid violence, helping both youths and adults to develop job skills, and helping those who have been incarcerated to make successful transitions into society after their release.

While working with incarcerated men, he created relationships through mentoring that continue to this day.

The Community Champions program celebrates the vision of Dr. C. David Molina, the founder of Molina Healthcare, as well as community partners who work together to care for society's most vulnerable individuals.

Each Community Champion was nominated by a community-based organization.

Recipients received a \$1,000 grant to give to a deserving nonprofit organization. Barton chose to donate his to the Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, where he previously worked.

Barton said he was nominated for the award by two professional colleagues and by one of the men he mentors.

He was gratified by the recognition.

In his current role, as executive director of Safe and Sound Hillsborough, he works in a collaborative that aims to prevent violence.

Safe and Sound is the outgrowth of a think tank pulled together by Hillsborough County Commissioner Kevin Beckner in 2013, in response to the Sandy Hook shooting deaths.

"When that happened, it was like a national wakeup call to everyone," Barton said.

"You can't do anything to stop the random shooter, but you can do something to address the community violence that occurs," he said. "We look at violence as a disease, something that is preventable."

"My role is to work within the communities in which we serve, tie together elected officials, public agencies, private sector, residents, youths, adults — all together — to find out what we need to do to address the factors that contribute to violence," he said.

The work includes looking at issues such as truancy, mental health needs, job opportu-



B.C. MANION

Freddy Barton has been named one of six 'Community Champions' across the state by Molina Healthcare of Florida.

nities and re-entry after incarceration, Barton said.

Before taking his current job, he worked for Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, which built homes, built commercial development, had a workforce development team and created a vocational school.

Currently, he said, he's out in the community, working to discern what the problems are and how they can be addressed.

"How do you stop violence? We've been trying to stop violence since Cain killed Abel."

"It's not going to stop overnight. It didn't start overnight," he said.

But, there are some steps that can help, he added.

"I'm focusing on out-of-school-time opportunities for kids," Barton said. "If we don't find something for kids to do, they're going to find something to do. And, it's not going to be what we think."

For instance, Barton was instrumental in getting Hillsborough County to unlock a recreational center that had not been used for several years.

"With The Children's Board and the county's (Hillsborough County) help, we started up a camp. We said, 'Let's only have about 30 kids, let's run a test. Within a day, we had 54 kids signed up.'

"Now, it's an afterschool Safe Haven for kids. We've got all types of programming."

Kids need to be engaged, and they need opportunities, Barton said.

"We look at spring break, we look at summer break, we look at over the winter break — whenever the kids are out of school," he said.

It's also important for youths to understand the repercussions of their actions, he added.

"They're living out fantasies that they see in video games," he said. Often, they don't realize the serious consequences that can result," Barton said.

Baron and his wife, Denise, have two sons, 14-year-old Tahj and 11-year-old Cameron.

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Kumquat Festival offers a slice of Old Florida charm

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Kumquat Festival, which pays homage to a tiny orange fruit with a tangy flavor, carried on in its usual fashion — despite this year's challenges to the kumquat crop. Citrus greening, insects and Florida's re-

But, there were kumquats to sample, and

The atmosphere was festive, there were lots of vendors — and there were quilts and

John Moors, executive director of The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce

Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, put it like this in a news release: "tens of thousands of people came from all over the Tampa Bay region - residents, winter visitors and tourists joined in the fun. Over 400 vendors and sponsors sold and promoted their wares and services. Our entertainment stage at the Historic Courthouse featured free live performances from wonderful local talent all day. Many of the shops and restaurants in Dade City and the surrounding area enjoyed their busiest day of the year."

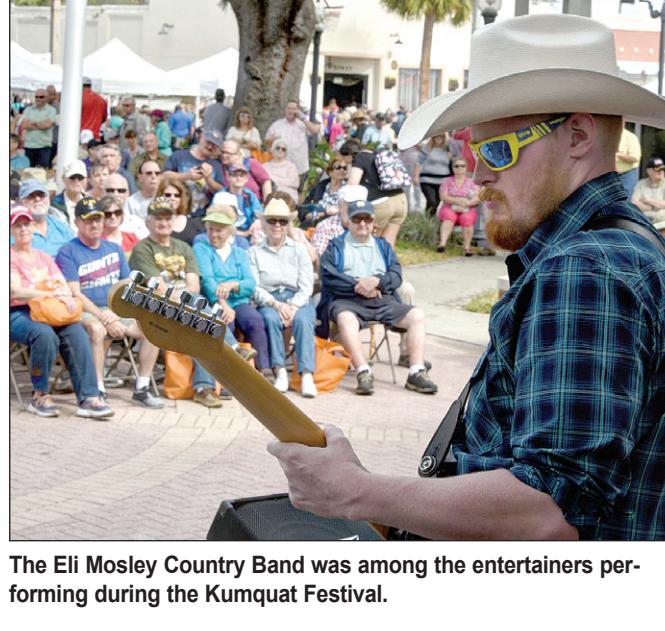
shuttles, could not happen if it weren't for the generous support of sponsors.



kumquat pie.



jelly businesswoman Cristi Williams, of Jovita Treats, and her assistant, Faith DiMaria, 9.



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A flyer for the "Summer Camp EXPO". The top features a stylized sun graphic with the words "FAMILY-FRIENDLY" along its top edge and "Summer Camp EXPO" in the center. To the right is a list of camp types: CHILD CARE SUMMER CAMPS, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, ARTS AND CRAFTS, SPORTS CAMPS, and PERFORMING ARTS. Below the sun is a photo of children in a sack race. A yellow banner across the middle says "SATURDAY, MARCH 24 • 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.". To the left is the "FLORIDA HOSPITAL CENTER ICE" logo. Three teal boxes on the right offer exhibition packages: "On-Line Camp Listing & Program Guide \$250.00", "Standard Exhibitor \$500.00", and "Standard PLUS Exhibitor \$800.00", which includes print ads in "The Laker|LutzNews". Below these is a call to action: "SPACE IS LIMITED. RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY! 813-909-2800". At the bottom are logos for "The LAKER / Lutz News" and "Family-Friendly Tampa Bay".

What's Happening

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

GOODWILL BOOK DRIVE

Goodwill's BookWorks childhood literacy program's annual book drive starts Feb. 1 through March 15. Participants can donate children's books in good condition or make a donation to purchase books. To donate, drop off books with a note "For BookWorks" at any Goodwill-Suncoast store or donation site in Hillsborough and Pasco counties. For locations, visit Goodwill-Suncoast.org.

AMERICANA MUSIC

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host Jim and Suzanne Hale in concert, as part of their Silver Jubilee Tour, Feb. 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

GETTING THROUGH DIVORCE

St. Timothy Catholic Church, 17512 Lakeshore Road in Lutz, will offer a "Surviving Divorce" class starting Feb. 1 at 7 p.m., in the parish center. This is a 12-week program designed as a guide to encounter Christ's healing power in a personal way. The ministry is open to all faiths for the length of separation or divorce. To register, visit SaintTims.org/surviving-divorce/. For information, email Gina Gawienczuk at gina@sainttims.org.

SALSA SOCIAL

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Social Seniors: Salsa Social Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon, for age 55 and older. The special guest will be "Dancing with Grace." Refreshments will be provided. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host a Teen Advisory Board meeting Feb. 1 at 6 p.m., for grades six to 12. Participants can get volunteer hours for scholarships and school clubs by attending. Board members help to plan and run teen library programs. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

CIVIL WAR PRESENTATION

The Historic Hernando Preservation Society will host author Erwin Wunderlich Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m., at Brooksville City Hall, on the topic of "The Civil War in Florida." Admission is free. For information, visit HistoricHernandoPreservationSociety.org.

WRITING SEMINAR

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will host a writing activity Feb. 1 and Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. Participants can learn story construction, plot and character development. The new program will take place every other Thursday. For information, call (813) 264-3804.

TEEN GAME NIGHT

There will be a teen game night at the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, Feb. 2 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., for ages 12 to 18. Teens can play new video games and have free snacks. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

Z BOOK CLUB

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host the Z Book Club Feb. 2 at 3 p.m., to discuss "Circling the Sun" by Paula McLain. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

MOONLIGHT AND IVORY

The 21st annual "Moonlight and Ivory" concerts, sponsored by the Heritage Arts Center Association, will be Feb. 3 at the historic Dade City Woman's Club, 37922 Palm Ave. There will be a matinee at 2 p.m., followed by an art show. Doors open for the evening performance at 7 p.m., for the art exhibit, with the concert at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will fund the arts in the area,



Leisure Days quilt show

The quilters of Leisure Days RV Resort, 34533 Leisure Days Drive in Zephyrhills, will host their 13th annual Quilt Show Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be quilts by individual quilters, wall hangings, and specialty quilts from family treasures. The cost is \$3. For information, call (813) 395-5706.

Farm Fest & Quilt Show

The 28th annual Farm Festival and Quilt Show will take place Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village in Dade City. There will be a show of quilts and clothing, local quilters on display, quilts and supplies for sale, quilt appraisals, a trunk show, cane grinding and syrup making (Saturday), an arts and crafts show, vendors, children's activities, an antique car show, live entertainment (Sunday), concessions, raffle drawing, and a Southern Draft Horse Pulling Competition (Saturday). No pets, coolers, food or beverages will be allowed. Admission for adults is \$10 on Saturday and \$5 on Sunday. Children age 6 to 12 are \$5; age 5 and younger are free. For information, visit PioneerFloridaMuseum.org.

including two \$1,000 scholarships. Tickets cost \$15 for the matinee and \$25 for the evening performance. For information, call Judy Schaper at (813) 997-4631 or Jean Johnson at (352) 521-4778.

THE MARKET PLACE

The Market Place at Hibiscus Park in Dade City will be Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be fresh produce, garden accessories, home décor, soaps, jewelry, honey and more. The Vendor of the Month will be Brookstone Wine from Brooksville. The event is pet-friendly. For information, contact Lucy Avila at (352) 424-4972 or lucyavila707@gmail.com.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING

Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller Paula S. O'Neil will host "The Big Shred" Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon (or until the truck is filled), at the Robert Sumner Judicial Center, 38053 Live Oak Ave., in Dade City. The limit is five boxes or bags of paper documents per person. All staples, paper clips and metal clasps must be removed. For information, visit PascoClerk.com.

SNOWBIRD PALOOZA

The City of Zephyrhills will host "Snowbird Palooza" Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave. There will be free health checks, entertainment, games, raffles, exhibitors, a card game lounge and tournaments, karaoke contest, an Elvis impersonator, recording artist Kris Pierce, and more. Admission and parking are free. For information, call Simply Events at (727) 674-1464.

HARRIET TUBMAN STORYTIME

Barnes & Noble, at The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel, will host an "I Am Harriet Tubman" storytime Feb. 3 at 11 a.m. The book tells the story of Tubman's role in the fight against slavery. For information, call (813) 907-7739.

HOME EXPO

Wilderness Lake Preserve, 21330 Wilderness Lake Road in Land O' Lakes, will host a Community Home Expo Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be door prizes; industry experts in roofing, painting, carpet

cleaning and pool services; and more. Admission is free.

HARRY POTTER NIGHT

Barnes & Noble, at The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel, will host a Harry Potter Book Night Feb. 3 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Harry Potter. Guests can dress as favorite characters, meet fellow fans, and play trivia, games and more. For information, call (813) 907-7739.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host a Super Bowl viewing party Feb. 4 at 5:45 p.m., on a 12-foot by 12-foot big screen. There will be food and refreshments. Bridge tables will also be set up. The cost is \$8 for adults. Children age 12 and younger are free. To RSVP, email frontoffice@kolami.org, or call (813) 962-6338.

HAM & TURKEY DINNER

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 32145 St. Joe Road in St. Joseph (6 miles west of Dade City), will host its 55th annual Ham & Turkey Dinner Feb. 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., dine in or carryout. The cost is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids age 10 and younger. For information, call (352) 588-3641.

LEARN TO WRAP TEFFILIN

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host "World Wide Wrap" Feb. 4 at 9:15 a.m., to celebrate the Mitzvah of Tefillin. Participants can learn how and why Tefillin (black leather boxes) are wrapped. There will be bagels and light refreshments. For information, call (813) 962-6338, or email execdirector@kolami.org.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PICNIC

The Jefferson County, New York picnic will take place Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Lions Club, 5728 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills. Guests should bring a beverage. Food will be provided. The guest entertainer is Virgil and Friends ventriloquist. There also will be door prizes, raffles, and a roll call of towns. Admission is \$3. For information, call Jim Dashaw at (813) 395-6871, or visit JeffPicnic.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Photography Club will meet Feb. 6 at 7 p.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park (formerly the Land O' Lakes Community Center), 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The topic will be artificial light. All levels of photographers can attend. For information, call (813) 838-1473, or email LandOLakesPhotoClub@gmail.com.

MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City will host a Mystery Book Discussion Group Feb. 6 at 2 p.m., to talk about "As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust: A Flavia de Luce Novel," by Alan Bradley. New members can attend. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

GARDEN CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Garden Club will meet Feb. 6 at 10:30 a.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park (formerly the Land O' Lakes Community Center), 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. There will be a short business meeting at the center, followed by lunch at ABC Pizza, 405 Land O' Lakes Blvd., and then a tour and presentation at Everlast Orchids Supplies, 17019 U.S. 41 in Spring Hill. For information, visit Facebook.com/lolgclf/.

CHICKEN LITTLE MUSICAL

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will present "Chicken Little: A Musical Appalachian Jamboree" Feb. 6 at 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., Feb. 7 at 10:30 a.m., and Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. The original program will be filled with mountain music. Admission is \$7 for members, \$8 for general admission, and \$28 for a family four-pack. Children age 4 and younger are free, but must still have a ticket. For information, call (813) 922-8167.

AFRICAN MUSIC

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will celebrate Black History Month with live African music Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. The special guest will be Ward Cox, who will play African songs on the instrument, the Kalimba. For information, call (813) 264-3804.

LUTZ GARDEN CLUB

The Orange Blossom Garden Club of Lutz will meet Feb. 7 at 10 a.m., at the Lutz Civic Center, 98 First Ave., N.W. Gil Sanchez, a member of the Tampa Rose Club, will present "Antique Roses." Members can bring a small rooted cutting to trade (must be labeled) and a canned good for the food bank. For information, visit the club on Facebook.

DANCE USF PERFORMANCE

Hillel Academy will host Dance USF on Feb. 7 at 11:15 a.m. DanceUSF professor and choreographer John Parks, and three dancers, will perform for students and discuss the art of dance. For information, call (813) 963-2242.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Democratic Club will meet Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m., at Brick City Eatery, 16540 Pointe Village Drive, Suite 108, in Lutz. The guest speaker will be Ryan Torrens, candidate for Florida Attorney General, on the topic of "Our Number One Issue: Florida's Addiction Crisis." For information, Facebook.com/LOLDemocraticClub or MakingPascoBlue.com.

CARROLLWOOD TOASTMASTERS

The Carrollwood Toastmasters will meet Feb. 7 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave. Guests are invited. For information, visit Carrollwood.toastmastersclubs.org.


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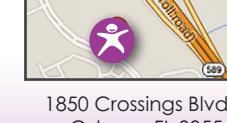


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These graduates have taken a different path to success

By B.C. Manion
bcmianion@lakerlutznews.com

One plans to help build ships. Another wants to work in child care. Two others plan health care careers. And, that's just four of the more than 50 graduates who received their diplomas during the 2018 Commencement Ceremony on Jan. 25 at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel.

Some had completed their GEDs. Others had finished the cosmetology program or Early Childhood Apprenticeship. And, there were some receiving high school diplomas, either finishing up credits they needed, or graduating ahead of their class.

All of the graduates had something in common: They smiled broadly as they marched into the auditorium, as members of the audience clapped and cheered.

This was their moment, and they soaked it in.

Graduate Hailey Pecora, of Dade City, plans to enroll at Pasco-Hernando State College, to pursue a degree in nursing.

Her grandmother, Xandra Erickson, came from Jacksonville, to share in the moment.

Her pride was evident. "She has done this graduation thing at 16. She's already enrolled in college."

Graduate Sita Ramrattan completed the Early Childhood Apprenticeship.

Next, the 44-year-old plans to earn her associate's degree, at either Saint Leo University or Pasco-Hernando State College.

Eighteen-year-old Gunter Winkler, of Zephyrhills, wants to pursue welding, with the aim of going into shipbuilding.

He was pleased to be moving onto the next step, and to have his parents, grandparents and best friend there to help him mark the accomplishment.

Sandra Vogel, a school counselor for adult education, simply loves graduation ceremonies.

"It gives you a warm feeling because you know what they've gone through to get here."

"They've worked really hard, and we're really proud of them," Vogel said.

Leslie Ruttle, a resource teacher, said that besides recognizing the graduates, the cere-



B.C. MANION
Sixteen-year-old Hailey Pecora plans to pursue a nursing degree.

mony can serve as a stimulant for others.

"A lot of our students, the way we get them, it is word of mouth. A relative, or a friend, or something like that has gone through the program," Ruttle said. "We'll get some students tonight," she predicted. "They'll come here, and they'll see other people have been successful and they'll think: I can do it, too."

"So many of the students have gone through trials," said Wendy Beard, program manager for adult education. "Now, another door is opening for them."

Throughout the auditorium, there were family members, friends and fellow students cheering on the graduates.

Ambrose Helms, 17, of Wesley Chapel had a giant fan club. Roughly 30 people were expected to come help him celebrate.



B.C. MANION
Forty-four-year-old Sita Ramrattan celebrated the completion of her Early Childhood Apprenticeship.

"I feel excited because he's graduating early," said Latoya Lovett, his cousin, who had staked out a place near the front of the auditorium for Helms' supporters.

Nicole Robinson was there to support Olivia Paradilla, a graduate from Land O'Lakes High.

"She's my best friend. I know she'll do great things," Robinson said.

Catherine Agovino came to support Niki Atkins and Danielle Cary, who had completed their Early Childhood Apprenticeship. "It's a big accomplishment," Agovino said.

Hope Corcoran, who delivered the student address, underscored the reality that high school is not a perfect fit for everyone.

She was born in China, where she was abandoned, as an infant, on the side of the road.

She was adopted and attended schools in Wesley Chapel.

"It didn't go as I would have liked," Corcoran said. "I felt like I didn't fit in. I was constantly bullied and teased. I would come home crying to my mom, and I told her I didn't want to go back because I felt so different from the other kids."

"I was made fun of for being overweight and for having slanted eyes," she said.

"It got to a point where I ended up enrolling into home-school," she said.

"And, then I found out about the GED program and that I could finish high school and get my diploma."

"It was through this program that I met Miss Linda Rockwell."

"I'm so thankful that I had the opportunity to meet this incredible woman. She cares about her students and wants to see them achieve the best future possible," Corcoran said.

Along the way, Corcoran said she learned some lessons.

"I have learned that people drop out for different reasons. Sometimes bullying. Sometimes academic reasons and family struggles. Everyone has their own story."

"Many students feel lost in high school and don't know where to begin. There are so many things that go on, behind the scenes, that we are unaware of."

"It's expected that students all learn the same way, with the same lessons, same techniques and same books, when that is simply not the case. High school isn't for everyone."

"Some students have jobs, to help support their families. Or, need to stay home to take care of them, along with other responsibilities, outside of school that can get in the way of academic work," Corcoran said.

"A few nights ago, I was texting Miss Rockwell and I was telling her I wasn't sure what else I should talk about. Her response was: 'Talk about how there's more than one path to success. How each person chooses their path. You can talk about how not everyone has the same definition of success, and that getting a GED is just the first step to success.'"

Corcoran observed: "I couldn't have said it better myself."

Rezoning of some west Pasco schools invalid, judge says

By B.C. Manion
bcmianion@lakerlutznews.com

A circuit court judge has invalidated school rezoning actions by the Pasco County School Board for some of the district's west schools, citing violations of a public notice requirement and of the state's Sunshine Law.

In a ruling dated Jan. 10, Circuit Court Judge Kimberly Sharpe Byrd determined that members of the district's boundary committee "held discussions on Boundary Committee business outside of a noticed public hearing, and when it held breakout sessions of the middle school and high school groups."

The school board also violated a section of the state's public notice requirements, according to the judge.

The judge's ruling did not affect any zonings involving schools in other parts of the county.

In response to Byrd's findings, Pasco School Superintendent Kurt Browning held a news conference to discuss the ruling and talk about the district's next steps.

"Our attorneys are currently determining how to respond to the order," he said, and It

will be up to the Pasco County School Board to decide how to proceed.

Meanwhile, Browning gave parents of all students affected by the invalidated rezoning the opportunity to choose to return to the school they were rezoned from, or stay where they are at, for the rest of the school year.

Parents had the opportunity, before Jan. 20, to indicate their wishes via a form on the district's website.

"Parents who don't complete the form will be presumed to want (their student) to stay in their current school," Browning said.

"We believe it would be entirely disruptive of us to just literally give parents no choice, give students no choice and pick them up out of classrooms, let's say Friday, and Monday they start back at Seven Springs Middle and J.W. Mitchell (High School)," Browning said.

The vast majority of parents opted to keep their children at the school they had been reassigned to attend.

During the news conference, Browning said the district expects to rezone schools again before the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, so it is possible that someone

could choose to leave River Ridge to go back to J.W. Mitchell, and then be rezoned back into River Ridge again.

"The same thing could be said of Seven Springs Middle and River Ridge Middle, as well," he said.

It is possible that the upcoming rezoning on the west side of the district will include additional schools, Browning said.

That rezoning will be done using the district's new rezoning procedure, Browning said.

"I eliminated the boundary committee. The committee was problematic," Browning said. "I think this order exposed that there were opportunities for possible Sunshine violations, and according to the judge (there were) four Sunshine violations."

Besides citing communications outside of committee meetings, the judge also had a problem with breakout sessions used.

Individuals could not hear what was going during them, and there were sidebar conversations, Browning said.

"It's problematic. I think If you are going to be making public decisions, they need to be made in the public, where people can hear them and they can participate at the

appropriate time.

"I think this has taught us a lesson. I think it will send a message to school districts and county commissions and local governments across the state," Browning said.

Under the new rezoning procedure, the superintendent determines a rezoning is needed, has proposed boundaries prepared, takes them to a public workshop and then takes the final recommendation to the school board for action.

"It follows the process that the department of transportation uses when they go to site a road," Browning said.

Browning said he understands that parents don't want their children to be rezoned.

"As a parent of two boys that went through this system, I would not want to be told that I'm going to have to take my children out of Pasco High School, where I went to school, where my mother went to school and send them to another school in Pasco County."

"Fundamentally, it's aggravating," he said.

However, the district has to accommodate growth and must redraw boundaries to address school crowding, Browning said.

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Thousands turn out for barbecue and blues

By B.C. Manion

bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

The results are in, and the eighth annual Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues Festival drew a crowd of more than 12,000, according to festival organizers.

The event, held Jan. 20, at the festival venue at Zephyrhills Municipal Airport, featured blues music, award-winning barbecue, and vendors offering goods and services.

The Ed Wright Duo, The Doug South Band, The Legendary JCs, Chuck Riley's All-Star Revue and Someday Honey Entertainers were the slate of entertainers lined up for the festival.

People set up lawn chairs to listen, while others danced in front of the Florida Hospital Pavilion stage.

Dozens of professional and backyard barbecue teams competed for prizes and bragging rights.

Melanie Monson, executive director of The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce, was enthusiastic about the event's success.

"It is exciting to say this was our favorite BBQ yet; our team was amazing. We, at the chamber, are ecstatic with how everything came together," Monson said, in a news release.

She noted having the event at the same facility for the second time made it easier to organize setting up the event, and offered a simpler layout for festival-goers to navigate.

She also expressed appreciation for the people who helped pull off the event. About 200 volunteers are involved each year.

"The teams this year were top notch, we had a variety of concessions who put out amazing food, the Kidz Zone was a huge hit, I heard rave reviews of the car show, and the bands were better than ever," Monson said. "I talked to many who traveled far just to hear our bands," she added.



B.C. MANION

As usual, the festival was built around a Florida BBQ Association-approved barbecue competition. More than 50 professional and backyard teams competed in the four standard categories of chicken, pork, brisket and ribs.

Professional teams had the added incentive of potentially winning \$10,000 in prizes.

In the professional barbecue division, Hot Wachulas of Bartow, under head cook Matt Barber, took top place overall winning \$2,000, plus \$700 in individual category awards, not to mention an unprecedented rare score of a full 200 points for Ribs.

Swamp Boys of Winter Haven, led by Rug Bagby, took second place winning \$1,500 and \$850 in individual category awards. Both won trophies as well.

Backyard division winners were 27 South BBQ of Babson Park, under Danny Sharpless, in first place, winning a trophy and \$200, and Smokin' Ain't EZ of Valrico, taking second place under Sam Nowakowski, winning a trophy and \$100.

Monson noted that two of the teams received a perfect 200 score on their individual entry, which she said, "I'm told never happens

Barbecue competition results:

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

Overall Winners: Hot Wachulas, first place; Swamp Boys, second place; GetChewSumBBQ, third place

Chicken: Uncle Toad's BBQ, first place; Backyard Bro's, second place; Hot Wachulas, third place

Ribs: Hot Wachulas, first place; Swamp Boys, second place; Sweet Smoke Q, third place

Pork: Pig Chicka Cow Cow, first place; GetChewSumBBQ, second place; Going Yard BBQ, third place

Brisket: Swamp Boys, first place; Uncle Toad's Competition BBQ, second place; Uncle Kenny's BBQ, third place

BACKYARD DIVISION

Overall Winners: 27 South BBQ, first place; Smokin' Ain't EZ, second place; Big Red BBQ, third place

Chicken: Big Red BBQ, first place; Smokin' Ain't EZ, second place; 27 South BBQ, third place

Ribs: 27 South BBQ, first place; Smokin' Ain't EZ, second place; Papa's BBQ, third place

Pork: 27 South BBQ, first place; Smokin' Bros, second place; Bahr's Smokin Butts, third place

Brisket: Smokin' Bros, first place; Big Red BBQ, second place; 27 South BBQ, third place

and is unprecedented. That makes me proud to know we gave them the right combination to help them excel."

The festival was enhanced this year with a Rock Wall in the Kidz Zone, sponsored by Suncoast Credit Union.

The car show was run by veteran Ronnie

Setser, and Roy Kesner of Riverview took "Best of the Best" in early models with a 1937 Ford 3 Window Coupe.

Other highlights included an aviation showcase, access to the Military History Museum, and a business expo, the news release said.

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People settled in their lawn chairs to listen, or danced in front of the stage, as musicians entertained at the festival dedicated to blues and barbecue in Zephyrhills.



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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 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 additional fee, call (877) 692-2922.

To register, call (813) 443-2046.

KIDS' DENTAL DAY

Premier Community Healthcare will host its third annual Children's Dental Day Feb. 2 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., at three of its

health centers.

If uninsured, free dental services will include dental screenings, fluoride treatments and sealants (as needed). There also will be X-rays and cleanings available.

Most insurance plans will be accepted, including Medicaid and Florida KidCare.

Participants can take part in activities, refreshments and giveaways.

Locations include Dade City Dental Center, 37944 Pasco Ave.; Spring Hill Family Health Center, 7551 Forest Oaks Blvd.; and, New Port Richey Family Health Center, 2114 Seven Springs Blvd.

To schedule an appointment, call (352) 518-2000.

TEEN TALK FOR BOYS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer "Teen Talk for Boys" Feb. 2 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Garden Classroom B.

Topics will include puberty's physical and emotional changes for ages 10 to 14, as well as conception, sexuality and abstinence for older teens.

The cost is \$35. To register, call (813) 443-2046.

BREAST-FEEDING CLASS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a breast-feed-

ing class Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon, in Garden Classroom A.

The class is for expectant moms and a support person. Topics will include latching and positioning, benefits of immediate skin-to-skin contact, newborn hunger signs, tips for returning to work, breast-feeding lifestyles, and when to call a health care provider or lactation consultant for help.

The cost is \$25. 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.

ACTIVITY WITHOUT INJURY

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will host a lecture on "Active Adulthood Without Injury" Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m., in the Health & Wellness Center second-floor classroom, in the Wellness Plaza.

Dr. Barbara Morris will discuss how to become and remain active, injury-free.

For information and to register, call (844) 9378, or visit FHWesleyChapel.org/events.

DIABETES EDUCATION

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer a Diabetes Academy Feb. 6 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

OILS FOR STRESS

Deanna Jacobs will offer a free class on essential oils for stress and emotional upheaval Feb. 6 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave., in Zephyrhills.

For information, call (813) 479-7724.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

The Land O'Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host an Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group Feb. 7 at 11 a.m.

Participants can learn about the services and support available for patients with dementia.

For information, email Phyllis Bross at pebross@verizon.net.

Continued on next page

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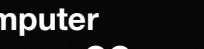
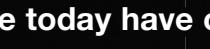
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Dr. Colon-Rivera earned her medical degree from Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Mexico. Active member of the Puerto Rico, Florida & American Medical Associations; American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology; American College of Obstetrics and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

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

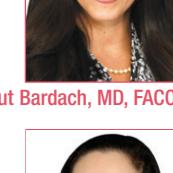
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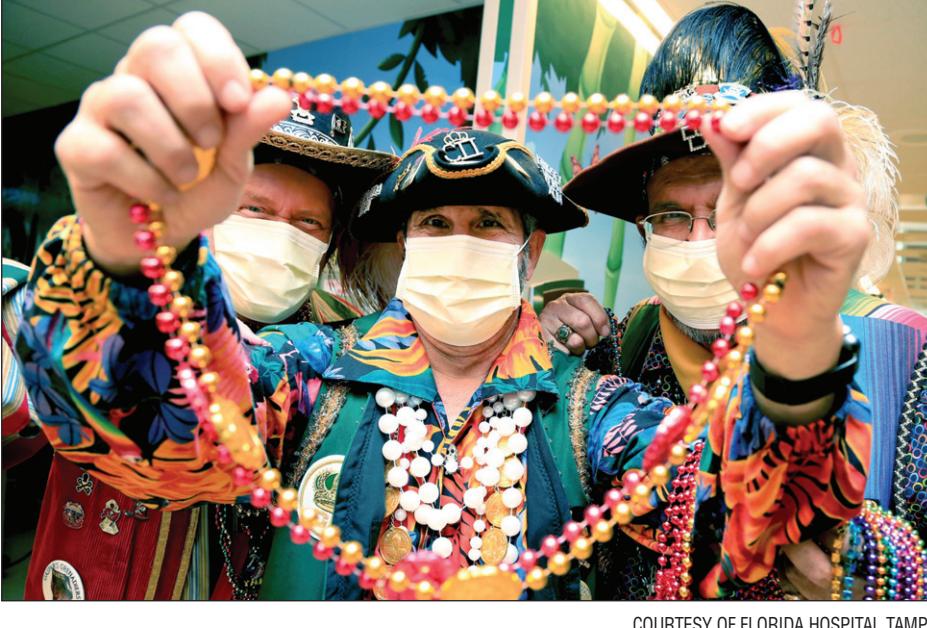
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COURTESY OF FLORIDA HOSPITAL TAMPA

Pirate invasion infuses fun

Moms and babies, and young kids, as well as staff members of Florida Hospital Tampa were visited by pirates on Jan. 23. The pirates invaded to visit with the patients and hand out beads to kick off Gasparilla 2018.

CHAIR YOGA

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a new chair yoga program Feb. 8 at 11:30 a.m.

The fitness goal for the program is to improve balance and increase endurance, flexibility and range of motion.

The class is taught in seated and standing positions.

Participants should bring water, wear comfortable clothing, and bring a yoga mat, towel or blanket if you want to relax on the floor for the final pose.

For information, call (813) 929-1214.

TAI CHI CLASSES

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer Bonnie's Tai Chi class Feb. 8 at 5 p.m., for adults.

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.

Greater flexibility, core stability, improved balance, less fatigue and reduced stress can aid in the ability to prevent and deal with issues such as fibromyalgia, Parkinson's disease, arthritis, joint replacement, lowering blood pressure, depression, anxiety and breathing.

A signed liability waiver is required.

For information, all (813) 929-1214.

SERTOMA FAMILY SUPPORT

Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation of Florida will host a free February Family Support Group meeting Feb. 8 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the New Port Richey Public Library, 5939 Main St.

The meeting will have a Valentine's Day theme, and will include an informational speaker and fun activities for the kids.

Virtual attendance will also be available.

Attendees will be entered to win a four-pack movie ticket bundle. Go to Facebook.com/SertomaFL and like to page to be eligible.

To RSVP, call (727) 312-3881, or email info@familyhearinghelp.org.

The Laker/Lutz News likes to keep our readers informed about available classes, seminars, lectures and events regarding health and wellness issues. Hospitals, doctors, individual practitioners and anyone related to the health care industry can submit information, at least two weeks in advance, to be considered for publication. Photos of events, recognitions and so on, also are welcome. Submissions should include who, what, where, when, cost, contact information, identifications for individuals in a photo (unless it is a large group), and a photo credit. This information should be emailed to news@lakerlutznews.com.



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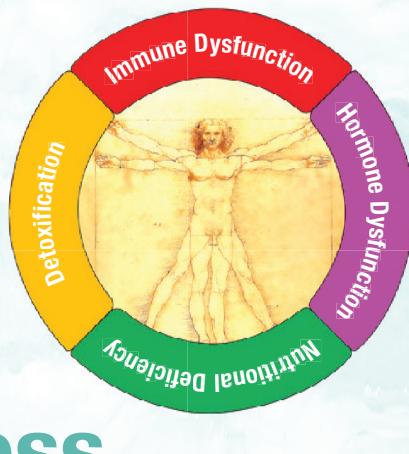
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30 winners will be randomly selected on February 14th. Each of the winners will receive 4 tickets to the Renaissance Festival. Tickets will be mailed to winners. Deadline for entry is February 13, 2018. Only one entry per household.

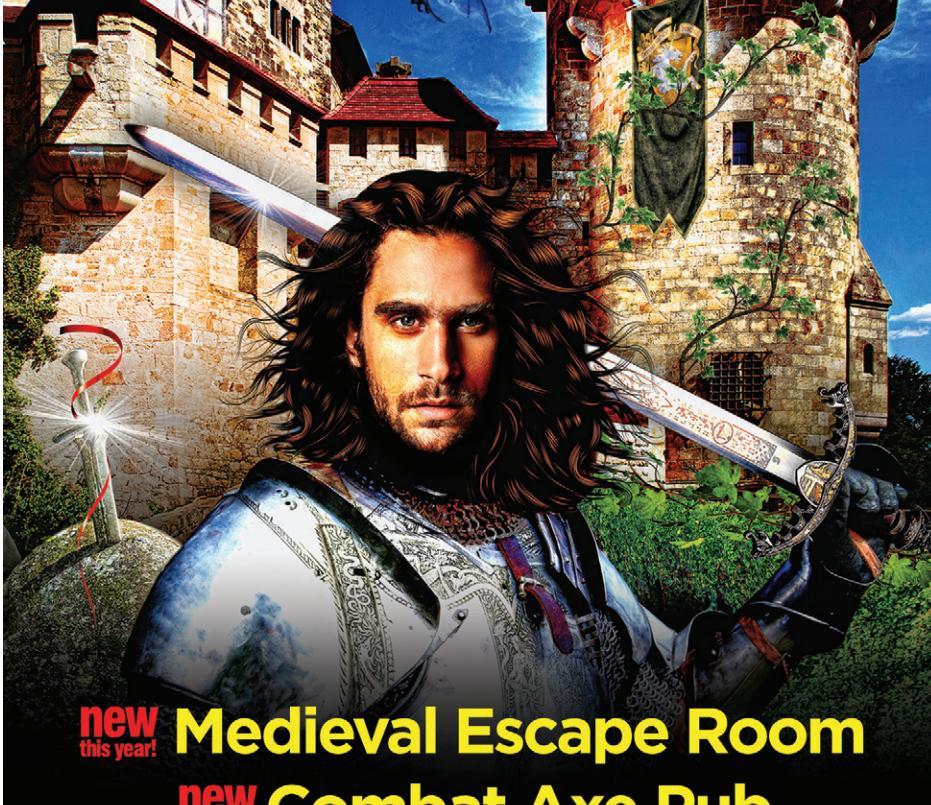
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news@lakerlutznews.com

SAINT ANTHONY OPEN HOUSE

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 information, call (352) 588-3041, visit StAnthonySchoolFl.org, or email sisteralice@stanthonyschoolfl.org.

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

Saint Leo University, 33701 State Road 52 in St. Leo, will host an undergraduate admissions open house Feb. 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students of all ages can attend with families and friends to learn about the school's academic offerings, student life, campus involvement, financial aid and more.

Current high school seniors or students who are looking to transfer can complete an application and meet with an admissions counselor during the open house.

Participants that bring official copies of transcripts and test scores can also be reviewed for instant on-site admission into the university.

For questions or special accommodations, please contact Saint Leo's Office of Admissions at (352) 588-8283 or admissions@saintleo.edu.

DEALERSHIP DONATES TO CHEERLEADERS

The Zephyrhills High School Bulldog Cheerleaders qualified for the Florida National High School Cheerleading Championship that will take place at Disney's Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Feb. 9 to Feb. 11. It is the first time the squad has made it this far in the competition.

Wade Thomas and the Thomas and Son Inc., dealership have stepped in and donated \$2,000 to cover the cost of registration for all the cheerleaders.

Thomas has been a supporter of the ZHS students and athletics department for years.

Thomas and Son started the "Thomas and Son Touchdown" at home football games three years ago, donating \$100 to the Booster Club for every Bulldog touchdown made during seasonal play.

The company also provides shoes for the basketball team yearly.

Wade Thomas is also the founder of the Thomas Promise Foundation, a nonprofit that battles hunger by providing weekend lunches to all schools in east Pasco County, and some in central and west Pasco as well.

LOCAL EDUCATORS JOIN BOARD

United Way of Pasco County, committed to fighting for the health, education and financial stability of Pasco residents, welcomed seven new board members.

Joining the Board of Directors are: Commissioner Mike Wells, Pasco County District 4; Michael Aitken, Publix Supermarkets; Timothy Beard, president, Pasco-Hernando State College; Christina Mathis, Gulf Coast North Area Health Education Center Inc.; John Poliskowski, HCA Healthcare, Medical Center of Trinity; Kevin Shibley, Pasco County School District; and, Stephen Williams, Williams, Ristoff & Proper.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Two local Odessa students have graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University: Lea Mahoney with a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Education; and, Melissa Hussain with a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the Marieb College of Health & Human Services.

Kritt Batra, also of Odessa, graduated from Troy University in Alabama with a Master of Science in counseling and psychology.

DEAN'S LISTS AND HONOR ROLL

Payton Strawser, of Land O' Lakes, earned a spot on the fall Dean's List at Bethel University's College of Arts and Sciences; and, Riley Wood, also of Land O' Lakes, was named to the Honor Roll at Bethel's College of Health Sciences.

The following Lutz students have also been recognized on the fall Dean's List for their respective schools:

• Hunter Desena, Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee

• Mariela Deynes Tofani, Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts

• Lauren Dobles, Emerson College

• Taylor Trumbetti, University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware

• Julia Fresne, Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina

• Jessica Howell, Furman University

• Megan Rizzi, Furman University

• Ashlyn Stevens, Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas

• Calee Ash, Harding University

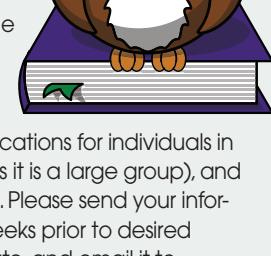
• Amanda Meisner, Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina

The Laker/Lutz News likes to keep our readers informed about news from our local schools, including

upcoming events, photos of events, recognitions and so on.

Submissions need to include who, what, where, when, contact information,

identifications for individuals in a photo (unless it is a large group), and a photo credit. Please send your information two weeks prior to desired publication date, and email it to news@lakerlutznews.com. If you would like The Laker/Lutz News to consider coverage of an event, send a request to the same email.



LOCAL EDUCATORS JOIN BOARD

United Way of Pasco County, committed to fighting for the health, education and financial stability of Pasco residents, welcomed seven new board members.



COURTESY OF JOAN MIDGETT

Pilot Club honors 'top dogs'

The Pilot Club of Zephyrhills recognized the second-quarter Top Dog winners from Stewart Middle School for academics and leadership roles in their schools. The students honored were: Jordan Acklin, Katelyn Merle-English, Xavier Salgado, Destini Harden, Noah Paul, Kamil Mehrab, Patricia Ramirez, Destiny Flummer and Jaylene Herrera.



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LAND, from page 1A

from the Penny for Pasco program.

The total value of land and buildings for the 17 parcels adds up to about \$14.3 million, according to the Pasco County Property Appraiser's valuations.

The county has more pressing needs than buying land of which only 20 percent is environmentally sensitive, said Pasco County Commissioner Ron Oakley.

"I would rather see that money go to properties in other parts of our county that actually helps flooded areas, and helps a lot of citizens," he said.

The late Dr. Crayton Pruitt, a noted heart surgeon from St. Petersburg bought the property in 1997 for about \$3.1 million.

Peter Wallace, registered agent for Secret Promise, made an offer to sell the land to the county.

The 11-member advisory committee took up the matter last summer and requested an evaluation of the property.

Committee members in November voted to recommend its placement on the ELAMP list, and for a negotiated deal to buy part or all of the property.

The county would be able to buy the land outright or buy only the development rights.

The site meets the definition of agricultural reserve land, and includes pastures, wetlands, pine flatwoods, freshwater marshes, and wildlife habitats.

On a graded scale, it earned 52 out of 80 points, according to the evaluation report.

Moore pressed for an opinion from Keith Wiley, the county's interim director for parks, recreation and natural resources department.

"I always maintain my neutrality," Wiley said. But, he added, "At the least, it's one of our lower priorities."

Years ago, the land was re-zoned for future development of single-family homes and retail, with about 2,000 acres left as open space.

Currently, there are three small houses on site, as well as a working cattle barn and two workshops.

Florida Estates Winery also is located on site.

Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey wondered if the winery owners would want to remain. She also had concerns about the county's future plans to build a road through the property.

"I want to be real cognizant of the road system," she said.

If the property were put on the county's waiting list, Starkey said that didn't mean the county had to purchase it.

"The devil is in the details of the deal," she said.

After the vote to keep Secret Promise off the list, Oakley left the door open for reconsideration.

He asked Wiley to come back with new information, if it puts the land higher on the ranking scale.

The lawsuits also allege that distributors failed to report suspicious orders to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, as required by law.

Any settlement would seek to establish abatement funds that would be used to recoup public dollars spent battling the opioid crisis.

kick, Snorkel the pig.

He offered these tips for enjoying the experience. Buy tickets for rides early, wear hiking boots, and bring lawn chairs and blankets, to relax on while you listen to the music.

"The rides were booked solid last year," he said. "People just loved going across the ranch," he said.

The amphibious vehicle goes across the ranch and into the lake.

There are plenty of choices for food, and there's beer, soda and water.

Admission is free, but parking is \$10 for cars, and \$25 for buses and RVs.

Campbell thinks it's an event that families will enjoy.

"You pay for rides, and you pay for food and you pay to park," Campbell said, but everything else is free, he said.

No coolers or pets are allowed. The event will be held, rain or shine.

For more information, visit RanchDays.com.



KATHY STEELE

Sienna Village Office Park was built in 2008. Developers are planning a new office park, off State Road 54 and Sofia Drive.

New Sienna Village office park approved

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Sienna Village, a small office park off State Road 54, is about to get a companion - Sienna Village II.

Pasco County commissioners approved a rezoning for the new office park, which will be on the southwest corner of State Road 54 and Sofia Drive. It is east of the existing Sienna Village, and about one-third mile from the intersection of State Road 54 and U.S. 41.

The rezoning allows up to 150,000 square feet of professional office, and up to 30,000 square feet of commercial. The property, including the existing Sienna Village, covers about 15 acres. The undeveloped portion includes several dilapidated residences.

"Sienna Village I is just a lovely project," said Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey. "I'm glad to see it (Sienna Village II) coming here today."

Businesses in the existing office park include the Merricks Law Group, Suncoast Skin Solutions, Lumina Dental, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, and Caribbean Mystique-Massage & Wellness Spa.

Developers want to use Sofia Drive as access into the new office park. The roadway is privately owned, and unpaved, except where it intersects with State Road 54.

Issues related to Sofia Drive's ownership must be worked out, but developers propose to pave and bring the roadway up to county standards.

Bus stops also would be accommodated, if the county makes public transit available there.

The office park's proximity to the busy intersection of State Road 54 and U.S. 41 also could have future impacts on the site, according to county records regarding the rezoning application.

Pasco currently is reviewing recommended solutions to resolve traffic gridlock at the intersection, which has about 100,000 vehicles a day passing through it.

A volunteer task force, working on the county's Vision 54/56 project, recommended a variety of options, including elevated lanes, and a system of at-grade frontage roads.

The county also has requested a study to determine if an underpass is a practical and financially viable option.

OPIOID, from page 1A

The lawsuits are filed against drug distributors and manufacturers. They allege that false claims were made about the safety of opioids, and excessive pill distribution that amounted to a "public nuisance."

RANCH, from page 1A

"She's been playing since she was a 4- or 5-year-old child. She plays fiddle and banjo. "She's really, really talented," Campbell said.

The Junior Savage Race is back, too, complete with medals for the kids who complete the course.

This year's guided tours include a bus tour, swamp buggy rides, a ride on a Vietnam-era amphibious supply vehicle, and camel rides. The bus tour is new.

The event also offers a petting farm, pony rides, face painting, and entertainment by Mr. Tommy.

Other acts will include high-wire shows by Tino Wallenda, of the Flying Wallenda Family, and a snake show and exhibit by Jim Mendenhall, a snake handler and expert.

Lady Kitty will be there, with her birds of prey; and, Rick and Jan Stratton will provide a juggling and variety show, with their side-

kick, Snorkel the pig.

He offered these tips for enjoying the experience. Buy tickets for rides early, wear hiking boots, and bring lawn chairs and blankets, to relax on while you listen to the music.

"The rides were booked solid last year," he said. "People just loved going across the ranch," he said.

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For more information, visit RanchDays.com.



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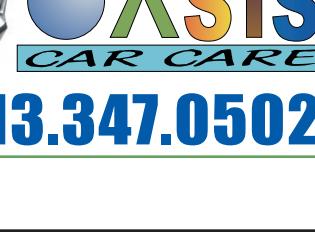
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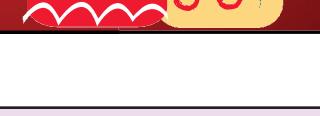
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Community Sports

Your Neighborhood Sports Source

Special Olympics program rewards athletes, volunteers

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Vicky King is perhaps best known as the longtime head coach of the powerhouse Land O' Lakes High girls soccer team.

After all, the Gators did just secure its fourth-straight district championship and fifth-straight 20-plus win season, with sights now set on another regional title and state finals appearance.

However, that's not the only team she coaches.

King also oversees the high school's Unified Special Olympics sports program, which pairs special needs athletes with nondisabled peers, or 'partners.' Together, these Land O' Lakes athletes and partners compete year-round against other unified programs across Pasco County and Florida — in everything from basketball and soccer, to flag football, bowling, golf and more.

King has done it for more than 30 years, ever since she took a coaching job at the high school in the mid-1980s, which came with the duty of working with athletes with special needs.

"Every (special needs) athlete appreciates everything," explained King, the longest-tenured and winningest coach in Pasco County.

"Whether they win or not, they'll play as hard as they can. They don't argue about the calls. They just take it for what it is, whereas the people that are more gifted or more talented or have everything sometimes take it for granted."

"It's just small things, like cheering for the other team, or sometimes giving up another basket to someone who's never scored," she said.

Besides coaching the Gators varsity girls soccer team, King is helping unified athletes at Land O' Lakes gear up for the upcoming Pasco County Summer Games.

Scheduled for Feb. 22 and Feb. 23, at River Ridge and Wesley Chapel high schools, the summer games are expected to feature many of the county's Special Olympic athletes competing in bocce, cycling, tennis, soccer and volleyball.

That's followed by the Area Summer Games in March and April. First-place finishes at area meets provides athletes the opportunity to advance to state championships — something Land O' Lakes has accomplished frequently under King's tutelage.

"We've been to state soccer — I can't remember the last time we didn't go — and



COURTESY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS-PASCO COUNTY

Andrew Ahearn, wearing No. 10, is a standout on the Land O' Lakes High School unified soccer team. Soccer is his favorite sport because he likes to run and score goals.

then they've been to state basketball the past two years. A couple of them have gone to state swimming," King said.

In Pasco County, there are more than 1,500 Special Olympics athletes and more than 200 volunteers across 17 offered sports.

The Land O' Lakes unified program, meanwhile, features 24 coed athletes and nearly 40 partners.

It's a solid participation rate based on the school's ESE (Exceptional Student Education) population, King said.

Andrew Ahearn has been one of King's standout unified athletes for several years, participating in soccer, basketball, flag football, bowling, and swimming, among others.

Ahearn has high-functioning autism and competes as a 21-year-old senior.

"Soccer is my favorite sport," Ahearn said, noting he likes to run and score goals.

He's never concerned himself with medals, or wins and losses.

Instead, Ahearn prides himself on teamwork and enjoying himself through physical activity.

"It's not about winning or losing — it's about having fun," he said. "It ain't about gold or medals or anything, it's about...doing what's best for the team."

"I've always been a team player and forever will be a team player," he added.

Involvement in unified sports helped Ahearn cultivate countless long-lasting friendships over the years.

"I've got a lot of best friends and buddies in Special Olympics," Ahearn said, as he rattled off the names of his Land O' Lakes teammates. "Every athlete that's a part of (the team) is my favorite."

Some of the best memories came in 2015, when the Land O' Lakes High School Unified Special Olympics Soccer journeyed to Los Angeles for the Special Olympics World Games. The Land O' Lakes squad was the lone representative from the United States in unified soccer. They earned a bronze medal after defeating a team from China.

"It was fun," Ahearn said, enthusiastically.

"We went to the Olympics Village, doing all kinds of stuff. ... We went to dance, too. That was my favorite part," he said.

Basketball is the last sport Ahearn competes in as a member of the Land O' Lakes unified team. He'll advance to the Masters division of Special Olympics after he turns 22 next month.

"He's really good. I'm sure people will want him," King said. "He's very focused, hard-working, wants to do well. He'll do any sport."

According to Special Olympics Florida's website, unified programs enable Special

Olympics athletes to not only learn and play new sports, but also experience meaningful inclusion. Each athlete is ensured of playing a valued role on the team. The teams also provide a forum for positive social interaction.

All participants are of similar age and ability, and unified teams are constructed to provide training and competition opportunities that meaningfully challenge and involve all athletes.

Special Olympics sports rules, moreover, ensure everyone has "a fair and enjoyable competitive experience."

Unified sports can also prove to be a rewarding experience for its volunteer partners, such as Land O' Lakes High senior Kim Guglielmello.

Guglielmello has served as a unified partner for five years, dating back to when she was a student at Pine View Middle School.

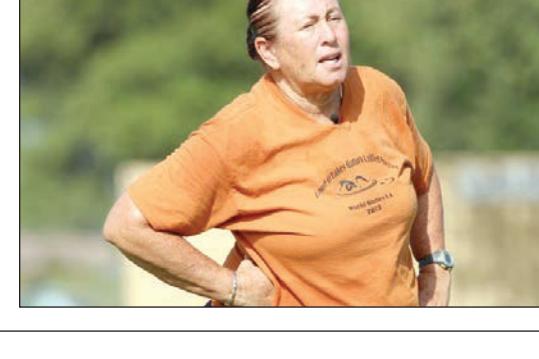
"Oh, they're the best," said Guglielmello, who assists with basketball. "Just seeing the joy and excitement they get out of scoring a point...it's probably the best experience you could possibly get."

January marked the start of a fundraising campaign called "Light The Torch," where Publix and other businesses support local Special Olympics programs.

For more information, visit SpecialOlympicsPasco.org.



Inclusion and acceptance are major tenets of the Unified Special Olympics Program. Here, the River Ridge and Land O' Lakes unified basketball teams share a picture after a recent competitive game.



Land O' Lakes High School varsity girls soccer coach Vicky King also runs the school's Unified Special Olympics Program, which pairs special needs athletes with nondisabled partners to compete across a number of different sports.

CHECK THIS OUT

SEND SPORTS NEWS TO kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

LOCAL YOUTH EARNS RUNNER-UP AT USTA TOURNAMENT

Lutz resident Samuel Frizelle placed second at the USTA (United States Tennis Association) Florida Level 3 Boy's 14 Singles Championships on Jan. 16, at the Hunter's Green Sports Center in Tampa. Frizelle advanced to the finals, before falling in three sets to Solomon Giles, of Pembroke Pines. The tournament featured more than 60 players from across the state.

Frizelle, an eighth-grade home-school student, trains at Eric Dobsha Tennis

Academy at Van Dyke Farms. Tennis Recruiting Network lists Frizelle as a four-star prospect, ranking him as the No. 15 player in Florida and No. 119 nationally for the 2022 recruiting class.

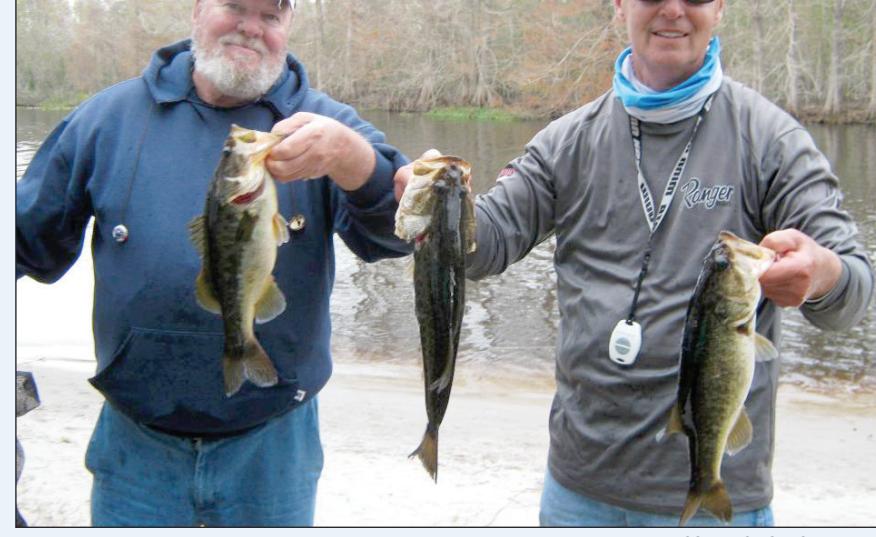
Sam Frizelle

Registration is open for the NewAPSL (Adult Premier Soccer League) 2018 Winter Ladies Soccer League. The season begins Feb. 11 and runs for eight weeks. Games are played between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., at Benito Middle School, 10101 Cross Creek Blvd., in New Tampa.

Costs are \$450 per team (of up to 12 players), or \$45 for free agents. For more information, call (813) 610 2278, or email soccer@newapsl.com.

WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY 5K SET

The Watergrass Elementary 5K for K5 is



COURTESY OF JOHN MEDVID

Heavy hauls!

Ken Willis, left, and Dave Panno teamed up to win first place after reeling in five bass, totaling 9.78 pounds during the South Pasco Bassmasters Jan. 20 tournament, at the Lake Kissimmee Chain of Lakes in Lake Wales. The duo used white chatter baits and plastic worms to catch their haul. The next tournament is Feb. 17 in Winter Haven. For information on joining the fishing club, visit SouthPascoBassmasters.com.

set for Feb. 17 at 7 a.m., at Watergrass Elementary School, 32750 Overpass Road in Wesley Chapel.

The 3.1-mile course starts at the elementary school and winds through the Watergrass community.

Awards will be given to overall top male and female finishers, and the overall winners of each age group.

Following the 5K is a one-mile fun run at 8 a.m.

Cost for the 5K is \$25; the fun run is \$15.

Event registration closes on Feb. 9. To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/yc4njvn7.

For information, email wges5k@gmail.com.

LOCAL SOCCER PLAYER SETS GOAL-SCORING RECORD

Carrollwood Day School's Rachel Stevenson recently scored her 33rd goal of the season, setting a new school record across the girls and boys soccer programs.

Stevenson, a senior midfielder, has scored more than 90 goals across her four-year varsity career.



Rachel Stevenson



COURTESY OF EARL BALL
Glenna Earle, left, and Linda Marshman were inducted into the Florida Shuffleboard Association Hall of Fame on Jan. 15. They are members of the Zephyrhills Shuffleboard Club.

NEW MEMBERS NAMED TO HALL OF FAME

Glenna Earle and Linda Marshman, of the Zephyrhills Shuffleboard Club, have been inducted into the Florida Shuffleboard Association Hall of Fame for their career feats. Both were recognized during an induction ceremony on Jan. 15 in Sebring.

Earle has 13 first-place wins at Florida Shuffleboard Association-sanctioned pro tournaments and has placed in 75 tournaments, amassing more than 200 points. She started shuffling in 2003 and earned pro status in 2008.

Marshman won the Florida State Amateur Singles in 2008 and the Florida National Singles in 2009. She also won first place in the Tournament of Champions in 2014. More recently, she teamed with Joan Cook to win the 2017 Florida National Doubles. Marshman turned pro in 2008. She teaches shuffleboard to beginners at the Zephyrhills Shuffleboard Club.

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SUSAN GREEN

Gabriella 'Gabby' Herrmann, who learned to train Lipizzan horses from her father and grandfather, silently commands her stallion, Argentos, to perform the courtbette, a traditional Lipizzan show movement in which the horse jumps with his hind feet while holding his forelegs tucked in.

Dancing for sugar cubes



Worth the Trip

Susan Green
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

It may sound like the stuff of dreams, but there's a place in Florida where horses with sunlit manes dance for sugar cubes, and tourists seeking a break from glitzier and expensive attractions are welcome to watch.

Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan stallions have settled back into their winter home, a 25-acre ranch in rural Manatee County, following nearly six months of performances at fairs and special events throughout the Northeast.

Now, as they have for more than 50 years, the stallions will rehearse three days a week for upcoming shows, until it's time to go back on the road in the spring.

A spacious arena at the ranch in Myakka City is flanked by rows of bleachers to mimic the venues the horses typically encounter on tour.

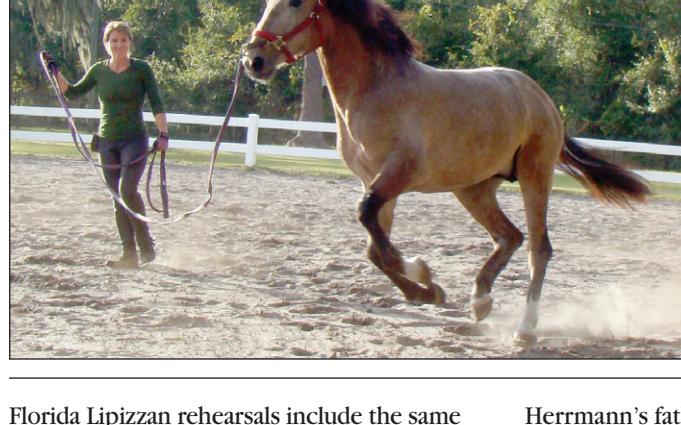
Ranch owner and horse trainer Gabriella "Gabby" Herrmann hopes that Florida visitors will fill those bleachers and help keep the equine entertainers accustomed to performing in front of an audience.

"The audience is a very important part of the training here," she said. Not only do the stallions perform better when they hear an audience applaud, but they also break bad habits that they pick up on the road.

During formal shows, Herrmann explained, the trainers don't correct mistakes. In the tradition of showmanship, the performance continues, even when a horse fails to perform the proper maneuver, and some of the horses learn to take advantage of that.

During the rehearsals in Myakka City, however, the show stops and trainers repeat their commands until each horse performs properly, even though there's an audience watching.

With the exception of costuming, the



Jagger, a 22-month-old Lipizzan colt born at Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Ranch, is introduced to the audience at opening rehearsals for the stallions' 2018 show tours. Lipizzans become white as they mature, and Jagger is beginning to show signs of whitening on his face.

Florida Lipizzan rehearsals include the same performance elements of the touring show, said Herrmann, who serves as emcee. Individually and in groups, the stallions demonstrate the dance-like movements that have made them famous, accompanied by a mix of popular tunes and traditional drill team music.

The show is choreographed anew with fresh music each year, Herrmann said. But, it always includes a review of the Lipizzans' noble origins in Austria; how they were brought to the United States after a daring rescue during World War II; some information about the care and training they receive; and, an explanation of their "airs above the ground" and other maneuvers.

THE LIPIZZAN LEGACY

Lipizzan horses were bred for war during the 16th century, and many of the kicks and rearing movements that audiences today perceive as ballet-like were originally designed to frighten the enemy or even deal a fatal blow.

"The stallions themselves were the weapons," Herrmann said.

After gunpowder was invented, the battle role of the Lipizzans diminished, but the royal Hapsburg family of Austria continued to favor the breed for its grace, beauty and athletic ability.

Later, the performing Lipizzans so captured the imagination of Gen. George Patton that he helped rescue the animals from danger in the final days of World War II, a drama re-enacted in the 1963 Walt Disney film, "Miracle of the White Stallions."

Herrmann's father and grandfather, both now deceased, were part of that effort and were among others who brought the horses to America and began featuring them in shows.

Herrmann said after the rehearsal that her family bought land in Myakka City in 1962 for the Lipizzan breeding and training program because of the area's reputation as the winter home of circus performers.

"The weather is really ideal for us," she said. "That's why we settled here."

Gabby Herrmann grew up riding the horses and learning showmanship from her father. She took the helm of the operation when her father, Col. Ottmar Herrmann Jr., died in 2004. The stables now hold 29 horses, including mares and foals.

"These horses, they're like our children," Herrmann said, adding that each of the horses has its individual personality. "We're allowed to take our time with our horses because this is not a competition or show barn."

During the rehearsal, Herrmann explained to the audience that training at the ranch depends on a three-pronged reward system for the animals - carrots, apples or sugar cubes for a job well done, along with praise from the trainer and applause from spectators.

As the winter season progresses, there may be hundreds of people in the stands, Herrmann said.

About 30 people - some from as far away as Wisconsin, Ohio and Missouri - found their way to the ranch for the opening day of winter rehearsals on Dec. 14.

Cathy Widen, who splits her time be-

Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Stallions

WHAT: Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Stallions off-season rehearsals

WHERE: Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Ranch, 32755 Singletary Road, Myakka City

WHEN: Thursdays and Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 10 a.m., through April

COST: \$5 donation requested for admission, optional costs for concession stand and photos with the stallions

INFO: (914) 322-1501, hlpizzans@aol.com or Hlpizzans.com

tween Waukesha, Wisconsin, and Orlando, was there with her friend, Linda Schmit, also of Waukesha.

Widen said she recently saw an exhibition of Lipizzan horses in Vienna, Austria, and she was eager to see an American version.

"They're just so majestic," she said. "And, it's amazing how well-trained they are."

Elizabeth Dodge, 15, who lives in southern Missouri, was visiting her grandmother, Susan Ludwig, a Manatee County resident. She said she saw the show a few years ago and described it as "horse ballet."

"I just love horses," the teen said. "I think it's neat that they've been able to keep this line pure."

Herrmann's daughter, Rebecca McCullough, has joined her mother in the family business and is a featured performer in the show. Herrmann's granddaughter, Sydney McCullough, 8, is taking her turn in the show ring this season, putting a rescue pony, Willie, through his paces.

Herrmann said she is gratified that, after so many years of opening the rehearsals to the public, people who visited the ranch as children often return with their own children or grandchildren in tow, wanting to share a special experience with the next generation.

In addition to the show, she noted, visitors are welcome to stroll through the barn, see the stallions in their stalls and enjoy the beauty of the ranch, where wild turkeys and deer sometimes make an appearance.

"What brings people out? They know the history behind these horses," Herrmann said. "And, in these times that we live in, it's a place where you can still bring a family and wander around and take your mind off of what's going on in the world. To me, it's just serenity out here."



Riders, from left to right, Gabriella 'Gabby' Herrmann, Brandy Crispin, Kendal Morris and Rebecca McCullough perform equestrian drill maneuvers astride some of the beautiful stallions at Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Ranch.

LOCAL WILDLIFE



A mammal like no 'otter'

Anne Lessi, of Land O' Lakes, came across this otter while walking her dog.

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/humanesocietyofpascocounty.

CINDY'S PETS STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Cindy's Pets, a volunteer-run nonprofit that provides pet food to senior citizens in the Pasco County Meals on Wheels program, will host a Strawberry Festival Feb. 17 in downtown New Port Richey, at the Community Congregational Church. The festival will celebrate pets in the community.

PUT YOUR PET IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

We are looking for photos and information on your favorite pet.

Include in your short story your pet's name, age, and breed.

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

Send photo and information to:

The LAKER/Lutz News

Email to: mrathman@lakerlutznews.com, SUBJECT: Pet of the Week

Mail to: Pet of the Week, c/o The Laker, P.O. Box 479, Lutz, FL 33548

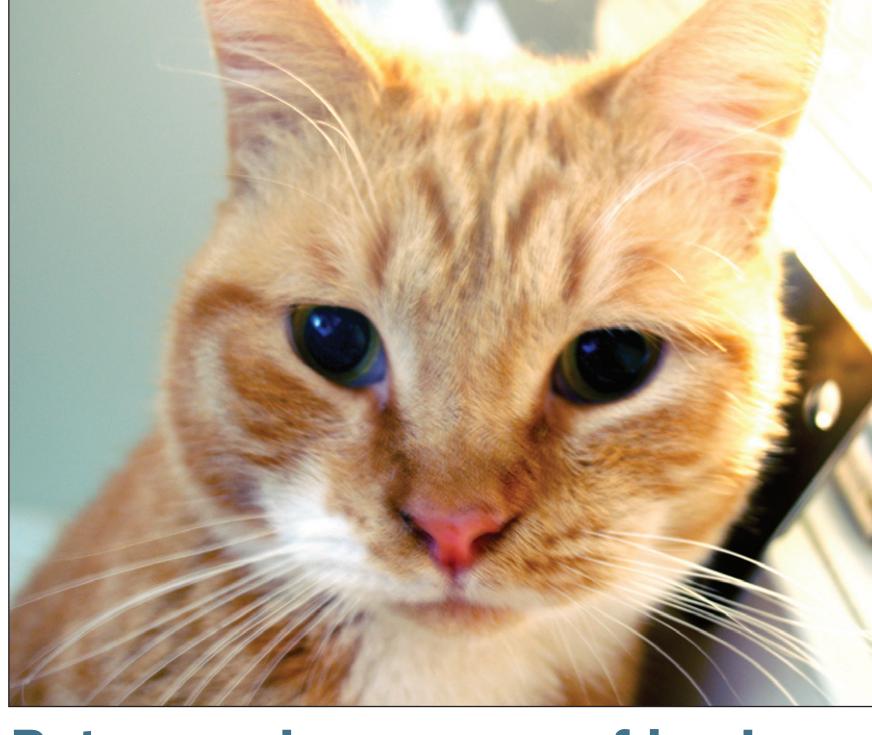
Adopt A Friend

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Ace likes the young and the old

Ace is a 7-year-old man that came to the shelter last October. He is heartworm negative, neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and ready to go home. Ace would love to have your pet do a meet-and-greet. He seems to be OK with cats, but slow introductions are always recommended. Ace does amazingly well in the community, and is the perfect mix of an active family member and a family member who knows when to take it slow, too. Ace has been working on his basic obedience skills.



Peter can be your new friend

Peter is an orange domestic shorthair that recently came to the shelter. He likes to greet people at the door of his cage and loves to have his face scratched.

If you would like to adopt Ace or Peter, 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.

PETcetera

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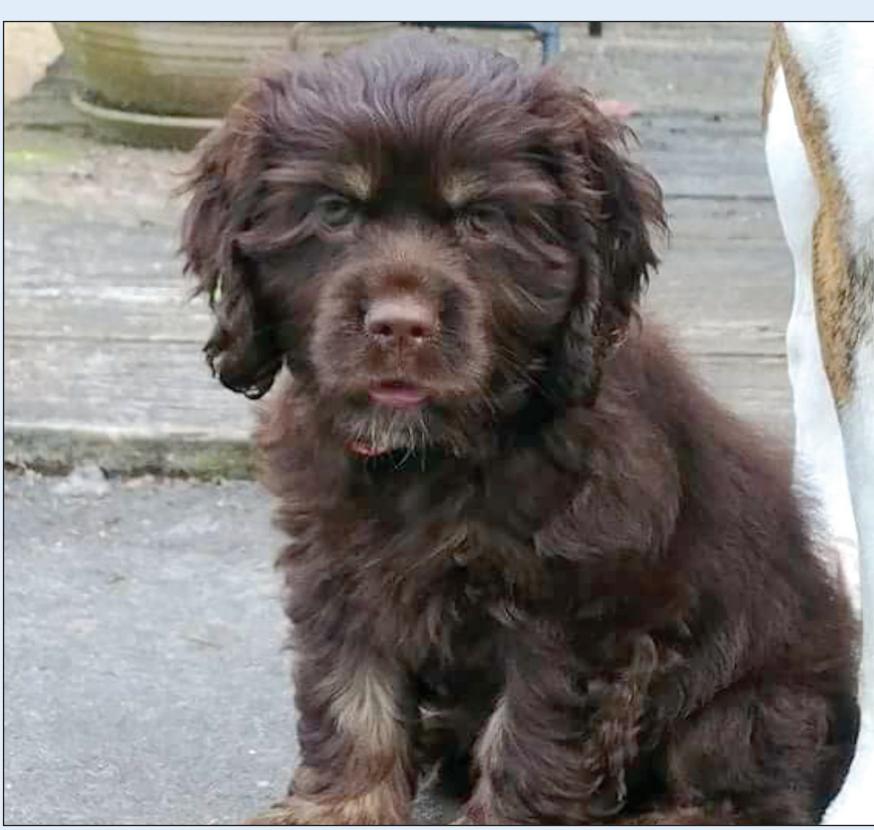
Feline Distemper Combi 3 yr \$30.00

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PET of the WEEK



Sampson is a bundle of joy

Sampson is an 11-week-old chocolate cocker spaniel with green eyes. He loves to run, play and cuddle. Sampson's proud mama is Melanie Zonfrillo, of Lutz.

Send us a picture and information on your favorite pet!

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

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to
news@lakerlutznews.com

VISTRA ACQUIRES MARKETING ASSOCIATES

Vistra Communications LLC, with two offices in Lutz, acquired Tampa-based Marketing Associates USA, according to a news release from Vistra.

Marketing Associates is an award-winning marketing, promotional and branding agency specializing in strategies and services for major corporations and federal agencies.

Vistra, with headquarters in Tampa, serves corporate, government and non-profit clients. Two of its offices are in Lutz, at 15961 N. Florida Ave., Suite C, and 18315 U.S. 41.

"This acquisition is part of our long-term strategy of growing our large corporate client portfolio, while extending our government services," Brian Butler, Vistra president and chief operating officer, said in the release.

The merger became effective Jan. 2 on the 40th anniversary of the founding of Marketing Associates by Jeff Darrey, the company's president.

Marketing Associates USA has been renamed Marketing Associates - A Division of Vistra. Marketing Associates staff members now are Vistra team members.

Butler and Darrey met while discussing their shared interest in Trinity Cafe, a non-profit restaurant in Tampa that has served more than 1.3 million meals to the homeless.

Darrey is chairman of Trinity Café's board, and its founding director.

Butler founded Vistra in 2007 after serving in the United States Army. His agency has about 70 employees.

Vistra was the 2016 Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's Small Business of the Year in the 21-50 employee category.

OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE

Optimal Performance & Physical Therapies is a new clinic in Wesley Chapel, at 26830 Ridgebrook Drive, Unit 102.

Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The clinic's services include injury rehabilitation, sports medicine/sports injury rehabilitation, joint replacement rehabilitation, pre/post operative physical therapy, and sports specific strength and conditioning programs.

Staff members are Clinic Manager Paul Frizelle and physical therapist Julie Tellefsen.

Optimal Performance is a private physical and occupational therapist-owned group of outpatient rehabilitation clinics.

The company operates 13 facilities in the Tampa Bay area, with patients from Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

For information, call (813) 345-4915, or visit TheOPPT.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/.

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

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.

For more information, please call the

chamber at (813) 909-2722, or email office@centralpascochamber.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.

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 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.



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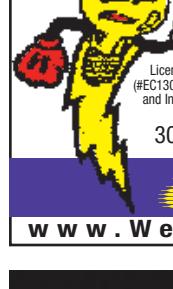
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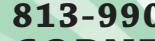


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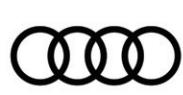


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*Please present coupon at time of write-up. One coupon per customer per visit. May not be combined with other offers. Discount is off dealer price. Excludes taxes. Not redeemable for advertised specials, previous purchases or cash. Valid at referenced dealer(s) only.

Offer expires: 01/31/2018