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**INSIDE, PAGE 1B**

## Rays 2020 pitches new Ybor ballpark

By Kevin Weiss  
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Though recent on-field performances may suggest otherwise, the Tampa Bay Rays' long-term future in the region should generate excitement to the community and fans alike.

At least that was the pitch from Jason Woody to a room filled with business leaders and elected officials at the North Tampa Bay Chamber's breakfast meeting earlier this month, at Pasco-Hernando State College's Porter Campus in Wesley Chapel.

Woody, president and CEO of Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research, spoke on behalf of Tampa Bay Rays 2020. He's on



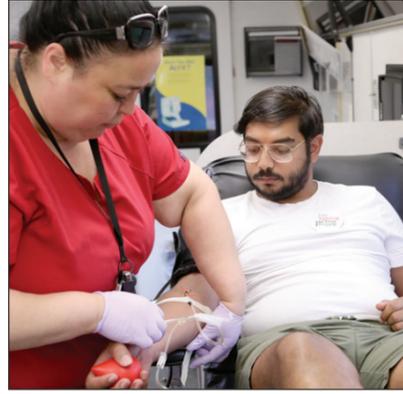
COURTESY OF TAMPA BAY RAYS 2020  
**Tampa Bay Rays 2020 is a privately funded nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing a new Rays ballpark to Tampa.**

the advisory board for the privately funded nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing a new Rays ballpark to Tampa.

Woody is making the rounds discussing the group's initiatives and the progress made since the Rays officially announced a new stadium site in Ybor City, in February.

While the total costs and funding sources have not been identified, the initiative calls for relocating the Rays from Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg to a 14-acre parcel along Adamo Drive, between Channelside Drive and 15th Street, and adjacent to the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway. An additional option to acquire

See RAYS, page 13A



Phlebotomist Dolly Torris, of Tampa, takes blood from donor Zakir Shareef, 25, from New Port Richey, in the Big Red Bus parked in the field during the festival.



Jim Mason, a singer and songwriter from Spring Hill, performs on the Heritage Park stage. He's been a musician for more than 40 years.



Roslyn Linnen, with the African-American Club of Pasco, makes a purchase from Kevin Bantum, left, of Land O Lakes, and manager Frank Madison, at Jon's Gourmet Nutrition tent.



Isabella Churilla, seated, of New Tampa, applies paint to her rock at the CPRock tent, as Tracy Teza-Kersey, middle, and owner Alison Foster observe at a festival aimed to express appreciation on April 15 at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park.

## Celebrating the value of good deeds

By Randy Underhill  
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

The threat of rain and severe weather cut short the festivities for the first annual Appreciate Pasco Festival at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, but that didn't detract from the purpose of the event — which was to call attention to the good people do.

The event was organized as a way to celebrate local Pasco County volunteers, as well as recognize International Good Deeds Day.

Good Deeds Day was established in 2007, and during the past decade it has swept across the globe, including people of all cultures and backgrounds. Last year, the international day was celebrated in 100

countries, making it the largest and most far-reaching global day of good.

The Pasco County event, held April 15, was the first of its kind in Tampa Bay and was planned by a group of Pasco County volunteer activists.

Despite the uncooperative weather, those attending were enthusiastic, and in a generally good mood.

There was plenty of music, provided by Florida Folk Show, WMNF radio station, food by Whaley's BBQ and Sno Shack, and local volunteer vendors.

Next year, Good Deeds Day will be held around the world on April 9, and that will also mark Pasco County's second annual Appreciate Pasco.



Pasco County Schools has equipped this bus with flight simulators, a 3D printer, virtual reality and drones, to give fifth-graders at the district's schools a chance to get acquainted with aeronautics and aviation. Starling wrote the curriculum used with the mobile lab.

## Local educator named a PBS 'Digital Innovator All-Star'

By B.C. Manion  
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

It's no secret that educator Bobbi Starling knows her way around technology.

When she was a classroom teacher at Woodland Elementary School in Zephyrhills and at Centennial Middle School in Dade City, she was constantly introducing students to technical tools which could enhance their education and broaden their view of the world.

Now, as the magnet schools program coordinator for the Pasco County school district, she has the potential to have a positive impact on a greater number of students — albeit indirectly, she said.

Starling's classroom teaching work was

recognized by PBS in 2015, when she was selected as one of 100 educators across the nation to be named a PBS Digital Innovator. She went on to become one of 30 nationwide to be named a lead Digital Innovator.

More recently, Starling was chosen to take part in a new program called the PBS Digital Innovator All-Star Program.

Thirty educators across the county were chosen for the program, including just Starling from Florida.

Gail Taylor, director of educational services for WEDU, nominated the Pasco County educator.

"She's just perfect for this award. She's just so innovative," said Taylor, noting she

See INNOVATOR, page 13A

## Seeking answers in opioid battle

By Kevin Weiss  
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis wants all voices to be heard in the quest to combat the nation's opioid crisis.

The congressman met with the Pasco County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) recently to discuss the issue and listen to reactions to proposed federal legislation related to the opioid crisis.

The public meeting, held at the community center at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, attracted dozens of people who are interested in the issue.

It piggybacked off a similar ASAP meeting in August, where Bilirakis provided an update on federal efforts to combat opioid abuse.

So far, the House Health Subcommittee has heard 26 bills as a starting point related to opioid legislation that will be rolled into one large bill to be passed out of the House by the end of May.

The bipartisan bill, CARA 2.0 Act, builds on the original Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act by providing \$4 billion in additional resources for opioid prevention and treatment.

The funding was earmarked as part of President Donald Trump's \$1.3 trillion long-term spending bill, passed in March.

Throughout the 90-minute session, ASAP members shared personal stories and presented ideas to help solve the opioid crisis.

Opioid overdoses accounted for more

See OPIOID, page 13A

# An 'unsung hero' seeks to help others to grow tasty food

By B.C. Manion

bcmajian@lakerlutznews.com

When a crowd gathered in January to celebrate the dedication of the Watson Park Community Garden in Dade City, there was a man standing quietly in the background — as the festivities progressed.

That man, Brightman Logan, played a vital role in providing the support to help make the garden happen, Whitney C. Elmore, who leads the Pasco County Extension Office, told the crowd — characterizing him as an “unsung hero.”

As it turns out, Logan helped financially, but he also has given his time to help the Pasco County Extension Office pursue its plans to nurture the growth of community gardening across the county.

Logan thinks it's important work, and he's glad to join the University of Florida, the city of Dade City, Pasco County Schools, master gardeners and other volunteers in a quest to make it easier for people across the county to grow their own food.

“It's really so easy, once you understand it,” said Logan, who has had affinity for the outdoors since he was a child.

Although he grew up in South Tampa, his family had a farm in Pasco County, and he always enjoyed being there.

“My family is from an agricultural background, forestry and things. My grandfather was in naval stores — (the) turpentine and pitch business.

“I grew up listening to his stories about the woods, that's really what got me to the feel of it,” he said.

He went on to get a degree in biology and then ended up creating his own native plant nursery, and then an organic vegetable farm.



B.C. MANION

Brightman Logan says 'it's so easy' to grow delicious food, once someone understands the basics. He's been instrumental in helping the Pasco County Extension Office in its quest to introduce more community gardens in Pasco County.

His native plant business flourished for years.

“We did all kinds of neat projects. We did work all over the state. We worked with Disney. We worked throughout the

Southeast,” he said.

“When the economy went down in 2008, it just took us out. It went from great to just nothing,” he said, noting he did what he could to hang on, but ultimately had to

cease operations.

Next, he branched into other things.

“We actually had an organic vegetable farm up here, called Magnolia Organics, and we ran that for about four years, 2008-2012,” he said. “We grew great food. It was so awesome.

“We would bring classes out. These kids were just blown away that you would actually just pull a carrot out of the ground. They just thought you went to Publix, where it was wrapped up, and you bought it there,” he said.

But, there just wasn't enough buy-in to keep the organic farm going, he said.

“We were kind of ahead of the curve,” he said.

So, even though he's shifted into different directions, he wants to share his knowledge with others.

“There are people starving out there. It's so easy to grow your own food. We need to start teaching people and reaching out to people, and show them what they can do,” Logan said.

He's been working with Elmore to see how he can help to create momentum for community gardens across Pasco County.

By supplying what's needed to establish a garden plot and by teaching people how to tend to their plots, the idea can catch on and take hold, Logan said.

“You want everybody involved,” he said. “When you have all of these people, you have this synergy.”

By getting youths involved, he said, “you can have a lifelong impact.”

“I've been so blessed in my life, I want to try to help other people,” said Logan, who is married to Nan, and they have two grown children, Brightman Logan Jr., and Martha Jean Logan. They also have two granddaughters.

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# The ultimate path of I-75 shaped Pasco's future

By Madonna Jervis Wise  
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

Robert Frost has a famous poem that talks about two roads diverging in the woods, and how taking the one less traveled by made all of the difference.

In Pasco County's case, the final alignment of Interstate 75 had similar, far-reaching implications.

Back in the 1960s, before I-75 began construction, locals debated with state officials about where the interstate highway should go.

The county's power base in Dade City argued for a path closer to that settlement, which at the time had a population of about 4,700.

After all, it was the largest town between Ocala and Tampa during the 1960s.

Several interstate routes already had been moved — in response to public outcry around the state — including in Ocala, Tampa and Wildwood.

Dade City leaders decided to push for an alignment closer to their community, which they believed would be an economic boost.

In 1961, the Dade City Chamber championed moving I-75's path closer to the city.

The Pasco County Commission passed a resolution favoring the shift.

Commissioners proposed that the route would leave Hernando County and continue south, passing west of Trilby, and continuing to a point about 1 1/2 miles northwest of Dade City, then turning southwest to pass 2 miles west of Dade City, and 1 mile east of St. Leo.

Sydney Houston, of the Dade City Chamber, led a public relations campaign that encouraged telegrams and letter-writing.

Those pushing for I-75 to be closer to Dade City lamented the damage that had been done to the city's economic prowess from the closing of Cummer & Sons Cypress in Lacochee and from the discontinuation of single-strength canning at Pasco Packing.

They predicted that I-75 circumventing the town would trigger additional economic stress.

They claimed the official plan to enter



This 1966 photo shows the completed Interstate 75, near the closest access to Dade City.



This 1956 photograph shows a dirt road, which would later be paved to become State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel.



This 1956 photograph shows a well-paved Highway 52 near Dade City, as compared to the dirt road near Wesley Chapel.

the state at the Georgia line and then move due south to the Sumter-Hernando County line, where it veered to the southwest toward Tampa, would hurt Pasco County whose population and power base was in the eastern portion of the county.

Popular sentiments claimed Pasco would benefit more, if the interstate sliced through an area closer to Dade City.

Initially, their efforts made little headway. Gov. Farris Bryant retorted that the present alignment of I-75 was justified, via John R. Phillips, chairman of the State Road Board.

However, in response to community outcry, a public hearing was set at the county courthouse on Aug. 8, 1961.

More than 200 people crowded into the circuit courtroom.

T. O. Perry, state road department engineer, listened intently.

Pasco Commissioner Robert K. Butler pleaded for the I-75 shift.

County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Stanley Burnside contended that I-75's bypassing Dade City would ignore an essential resource — the National Guard unit of the 51st Infantry stationed in Dade City.

Dade City Chamber Director Ed Carren proclaimed by realigning the route the greatest number of people would be served.

George Sanford, a city planner from Lakeland, and representatives of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce endorsed the plan. They believed the thoroughfare would provide direct access to U.S. 98.

Attorney Bill Larkin, who had been instrumental in getting U.S. 301 positioned through Dade City, pointed to the scenic beauty that the altered route would allow motorists to view - the hills, groves and land of the area.

Undoubtedly, the Dade City contingent did not anticipate the opposition that would be wielded by the towns of San Antonio and Brooksville.

San Antonio Mayor Joe Herrmann was

worried that the new route would cut through the middle of several small citrus groves, whereas the current route passed through large acreages allowing resulting damages to be more easily absorbed.

Representatives from Brooksville, the county seat of neighboring Hernando County, had grown accustomed to the existing plan and stood firm in their defense of the governor's map.

Dade City's champions failed in their efforts to shift I-75's path.

If they had prevailed, Burnside, now 97, is confident the altered path would have made a real difference in Dade City's economic development.

Instead, it was Wesley Chapel's growth that was fueled by I-75's path.

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE AN INTERSTATE MAKES

Growth in the aftermath of I-75 literally put Wesley Chapel on the map.

The community had fewer than 100 residents before I-75 was built — about 2 1/2 times smaller than the population needed, to be recognized by a circle on the map by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Throughout most of its history, Wesley Chapel had been known for its open ranges, lumber and turpentine-making operations, and sparse population.

But since I-75 sliced through, the landscape in Wesley Chapel has changed from a place dominated by orange groves and cattle ranches to one which features scores of housing subdivisions, a hospital, a state college, numerous schools, two regional shopping malls, several churches and all sorts of businesses.

Wesley Chapel's population has grown. U.S. Census figures put the community's population at more than 44,000 in 2016. That compares to Dade City's population of 7,099, at the same time.

Still, both communities have their strengths.

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Dade City residents, though, can enjoy the quiet streets, historic buildings and ambience that combine to give the community its widely recognized Old Florida charm.

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## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

During National Volunteer Week (April 15 to April 21), Operation Christmas Child is looking for volunteers to join a local team or participate in a leadership opportunity. As part of the Samaritan's Purse, the project helps transform and pack empty shoeboxes with toys, school supplies and hygiene items for children suffering from poverty, natural disaster, war, terror, disease and famine. Anyone interested in helping can call (407) 273-6112, or visit [SamaritansPurse.org/volunteerwithOCC](http://SamaritansPurse.org/volunteerwithOCC).

## INTRO TO GOOGLE

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer an Introduction to Google Accounts April 19 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Topics will include apps and accounts such as Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Photos, and more. Participants must have an active gmail address, and know their own login and password. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will have a Teen Advisory Board meeting April 19 at 5 p.m., for grades six to 12. Participants can get volunteer hours for scholarships and school clubs by attending. The board members help to plan and to run the teen library programs. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## TEA(L) & CRUMPETS

The GFWC Dade City Woman's Club and the Angel Tea Room & Heavenly Treasures Gift Shop will host "Tea(L) & Crumpets" April 19 at noon, at the Dade City Woman's Club, 37922 Palm Ave., in Dade City. This will be a community discussion about sexual assault prevention. For information and to RSVP, call (352) 521-3358, or email [events@sunrisepasco.org](mailto:events@sunrisepasco.org).

## GARDEN GATE CLUB

The Zephyrhills Garden Gate Garden Club will meet April 19 at 10 a.m., at the Magnuson Hotel, 5734 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills. It will include the group's annual plant exchange. For information, call Vicky Keffer at (813) 782-3798.

## FLORIDA JAZZ EXPRESS

The Florida Jazz Express, an 18-piece band, will play classic and modern big band music from a variety of composers and arrangers, April 19 at 8 p.m., at Dockside Grille, 5015 U.S. 19 in New Port Richey. Admission is free. For information, call (516) 480-8587.

## PRINCESS BALL

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a "Happily Ever After Princess Ball" April 20 at 6 p.m. Come dressed as your favorite princess. There will be dancing, crafts, activities and light refreshments. Participants also can bring a favorite doll. Registration is required. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## SABBATH SERVICE, DINNER

Family Friendly Temple (Congregation Beth Chavanim) will host a Jewish Sabbath service and kosher dinner April 20 starting at 6:15 p.m., at a member's home. For information and to RSVP, email Alan Stern at [familyfriendlytemple@yahoo.com](mailto:familyfriendlytemple@yahoo.com).

## LIVE OAK THEATRE MUSICAL

Live Oak Theatre will present "ReUnKnighited" April 20, April 21, April 27 and April 29 at Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 200 Mt. Fair Ave., in Brooksville. Shows are at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 2:30 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday. The performance is a medieval comedy about classic fairy tales and Arthurian legend. Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$5 for students age 13 and younger. The cost includes coffee, tea and dessert. For information, call (352) 593-0027 or visit [LiveOakTheatre.org](http://LiveOakTheatre.org).

## Earth Day celebrations

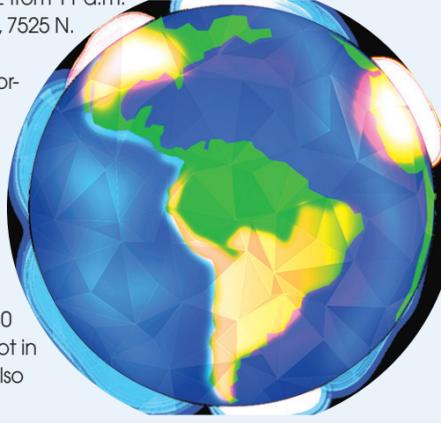
• **The New River Library**, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host a Community Garden Earth Day Celebration April 21 from 10 a.m. to noon, for all ages. This will be a hands-on program. Participants should wear comfortably clothing and garden gloves. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

• **EcoFest 2018** will take place April 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Lowry Park Riverfront, 7525 N. Boulevard in Tampa. There will be live music, workshops, demonstrations, information booths, green-living products and services, local artists, organic farms and gardens, and more. Admission is free. For information, visit [LearningGate.org/ecofest](http://LearningGate.org/ecofest).

• **The Tampa Audubon Society** will host "Earth Day with Lettuce Lake Park" April 22, with free bird walks at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Meet in the parking lot in front of the Visitor Center, which will also have a display for viewing.

• **The Lutz Senior Center**, 112 First Ave., N.W., will host Earth Day celebrations April 23. There will be a presentation called "Mother Earth, Healthy Herbs" at 11 a.m., and Fresh Air Yoga at 1 p.m. For information, call (813) 264-3804.

• **The Lutz Branch Library**, 101 Lutz-Lake Fern Road, will host "Earth Day at Your Library" April 25 at 11 a.m., for ages 3 to 5, and their caregivers. Guests can listen to green stories and make a craft. For information, call (813) 273-3652.



## RED BELLES

The Red Belles of Lutz will meet April 20 at 12:30 p.m., at Mellow Mushroom, 25662 Sierra Center Blvd., across from the Tampa Premium Outlets. For information, email [mgpeters@earthlink.net](mailto:mgpeters@earthlink.net).

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Life's Treasures Thrift Stores will have an Electronics Recycling Drive April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Acceptable items include old or broken computers, keyboards, monitors, servers, internal components, printers, fax machines, home audio equipment, VCRs, DVD players and cellphones. The stores will not accept TVs. Local thrift stores include 4910 S. Allen Road in Zephyrhills - (813) 355-4830; and 4802 Gunn Highway in Carrollwood - (813) 969-2049.

## SPRING CRAFT

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a kids' spring craft April 21 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., for kindergarten through fifth grade. The theme will be "Spring has Sprung!" For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Central Pasco Huddle, a local community group for the Women's March Central Gulf Coast Florida, will host "Embrace Your Voice," a violence prevention event, April 21 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway. The guest speakers will be from Sunrise of Pasco County, and Aubrey Hall, the Green Dot coordinator at Saint Leo University. There will be lively discussions and activities, including brainstorming and relay races. Topics will include bullying, bystander intervention, dating and domestic violence. For information or to reserve a spot, email [WCMCGCcharity@gmail.com](mailto:WCMCGCcharity@gmail.com).

## SONS OF AMERICA REVOLUTION

The Tampa Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will meet April 21 at Golden Corral Restaurant, 11801 N. 56th St., in Temple Terrace. A social half-hour will start at 11:30 a.m., followed by a business meeting at noon, lunch, and then another presentation. For information, email William Floyd at [bfloydpress@aol.com](mailto:bfloydpress@aol.com).

## BAY CITY FLYERS

The Bay City Flyers will host an "Electric Fly-In" April 21 at Area 52 Airfield in Land O' Lakes. Setup begins at 8 a.m. Pilots must be AMA members. Kitchen opens at 11 a.m., for lunch. Cost is \$3 per car at the gate. For information, call Bruce Horvath at (813) 495-9012.

information, call Bruce Horvath at (813) 495-9012.

## SPRING PLANT SALE

Kessler's "Cacti & Things" two-day plant sale will be April 21 and April 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Bearss Groves, 14316 Lake Magdalene Blvd., in Tampa, under the big tent, rain or shine. There will be varieties of cactus and succulents, desert roses, specimen collector plants, and soil, pots, fertilizer and decorative gravel. There also will be "Ask a Botanist," to answer questions. For information and directions, call (813) 751-9409.

## AUDUBON FIELD TRIP

The West Pasco Audubon Society will take a field trip to Fort De Soto Park April 21, to observe the spring migration of warblers, orioles and more. Participants should meet at 7 a.m., at the Panera Bread parking lot, at the corner of State Road 54 and Little Road. For information, email Mike Kell at [jmkell@verizon.net](mailto:jmkell@verizon.net).

## KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host a Kiddush luncheon April 21 after the 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services. The luncheon is free, but non-members must RSVP by calling (813) 962-6338.

## SHREDDING EVENT

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will host "Shred It & Forget It" April 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at First National Bank of Pasco, 23613 State Road 54 in Lutz. Participants can have sensitive documents shredded for free. For information, email [director@centralpascochamber.com](mailto:director@centralpascochamber.com).

## ROCK SCHOOL BLOWOUT

Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts will host "Rock School Blowout" April 22 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at Skipper's Smokehouse, 910 Skipper Road in Tampa. Rock School students with newly formed bands will jam out on classic and modern rock-n-roll tunes. For information, visit [PatelConservatory.org](http://PatelConservatory.org), or call (813) 222-1040.

## FLIPPER MOVIE

The Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., in downtown Tampa, will show the movie "Flipper" April 22 at 3 p.m., as part of its Family Favorites film series. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for ages 2 to 12, and \$7 for theater members. For information and tickets, visit [TampaTheatre.org](http://TampaTheatre.org).

## KINDNESS ROCKS!

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 Lutz-Lake Fern Road, will host a Kindness Rocks! rock-painting session April 23 at 6:30 p.m., for all ages. Participants can bring their own rocks, or use the ones provided. Paints and brushes also will be available, while supplies last. Create a rock to hide throughout the community. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

## LUTZ FOURTH PLANNING

A committee planning meeting for the Lutz 4th of July Parade & Celebration will take place April 23 at 7 p.m., for anyone interested in helping or volunteering. For information, email Jennifer Rankin at [jenn4parade@gmail.com](mailto:jenn4parade@gmail.com).

## TAMPA ORCHID CLUB

The Tampa Orchid Club will meet April 24 at 10 a.m., at the Northdale Recreation Center, 15550 Spring Pine Drive in Tampa. The guest speaker will be Laura Newton on the topic of basic orchid culture. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. There will be a potluck lunch after the meeting. There also will be a bloom table, plants for sale and a silent auction. For information, call Sharon Hartley at (727) 202-8505.

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay will have an orientation and training session April 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Wesley Chapel Honda, 27750 Wesley Chapel Blvd. For information, contact Deb Kristol-Irwin at (813) 997-6881 or [DebK@bbbstampa.org](mailto:DebK@bbbstampa.org).

## SENIOR FRAUD SEMINAR

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host the Florida Department of Financial Services' Operation S.A.F.E. (Stop Adult Financial Exploitation) program April 24 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The seminar is open to seniors, their families and caregivers. Topics will include how to spot fraudulent behavior, common scams that target seniors, how to fight identity theft, and resources for safety. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## FIBER ART

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will offer a Fiber Art class April 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## SAFE DRIVER CLASS

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer the AARP Safe Driver Course April 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information and to register, call Eugene Pool at (813) 949-8585.

## FINANCIAL FITNESS

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will offer "10 Steps to Becoming Financially Fit" April 25 at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be a representative from GTE Financial on tips to improve personal finance habits. Admission is free. For information, call Chris Sturgeon at (813) 204-2612.

## GUV'NA RACE

The Lutz Civic Association is looking for GUV'na Race candidates. Those interested must live or work in Lutz, and have a desire to help community charitable organizations. The race has been part of the Lutz community for almost three decades. The winner is announced at the Lutz Independence Day Parade on July 4. Email [jenn4parade@gmail.com](mailto:jenn4parade@gmail.com).

## WATER SURVEY

Tampa Bay Water needs input and feedback for the 2018 Long-Term Master Water Plan, in reference to the region's water supply and the next source of drinking water. To take the survey, visit [FutureWater.org](http://FutureWater.org). Participants also can watch a 5-minute presentation on projects under consideration.

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# Citizens can help shape Pasco's future

By Mary Rathman  
mrathman@lakerlutznews.com

The Pasco County Commission's decisions are partly guided by resident responses to the annual Pasco County Citizen Survey, which officially opened April 2.

The Citizen Survey, which was first launched in 2009, is conducted every year to collect feedback on numerous topics related to Pasco County's future. These topics include transportation, parks and libraries, emergency services, safety, growth, and the importance and quality of services.

Thousands respond to the online survey each year, which is intended to help commissioners with planning discussions and decision-making.

"We invite everyone in Pasco to partici-

pate in the Online Citizen Survey," said Marc Bellas, organizational performance management director.

"The survey allows you to be part of the decision-making process and helps the board understand what issues are important to our citizens," he said.

The survey will be available until May 18, and can be accessed a few ways:

- Go to Pasco County's homepage at PascoCountyFL.net.
- Use the MyPasco app, by clicking on the 2018 Citizen Survey button.
- Use the Pasco County Facebook or Twitter pages.
- Click directly on the survey link at bit.ly/2pGs3Z6.

Results from previous Citizen Surveys are available at bit.ly/2G1DReq.



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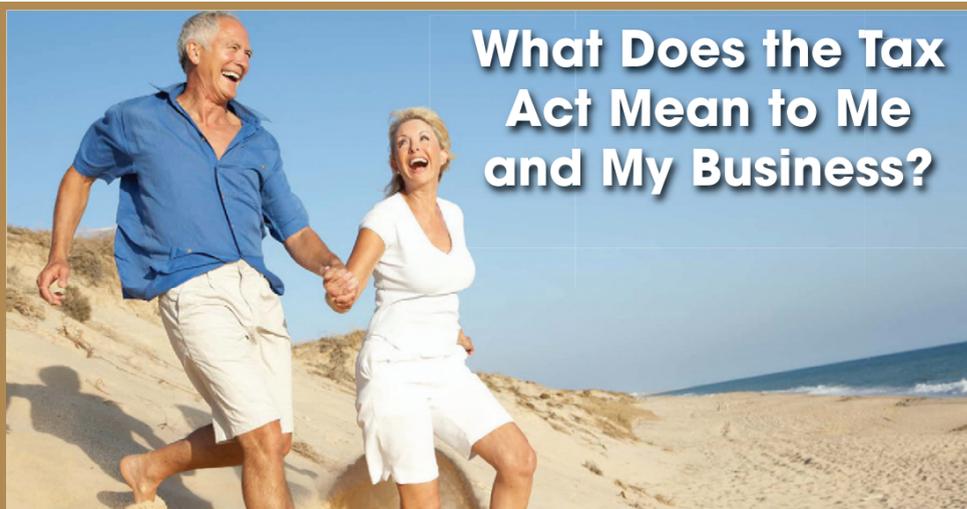
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## Caladiums offer a kaleidoscope of color

By Whitney C. Elmore  
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

If you're looking for a plant that brings color and interest to the landscape, consider adding some caladiums to your yard.

Caladiums produce vibrant colors and stunning patterns on their leaves, which attract attention.

They are tropical foliage plants that thrive in shady nooks and crannies making them easy to grow in Florida's hot, humid weather.

Caladiums look great as landscape plants, but also stand out in pots and containers.

Perhaps best of all: Caladiums offer beautiful color displays from summer to fall and again in the spring.

There are dozens of cultivars to choose from. Some have large, heart-shaped leaves, while others have long, narrow leaves reminiscent of an arrow.

The color kaleidoscope ranges from shades of green to red, purple, pinks, white,

and variegated mixes of multiple colors.

Leaves average from 6 inches to 12 inches in height, and they grow fast, reaching mature size in just one season.

Selecting a color may be the most difficult thing about growing caladiums — since planting is simple and maintenance is minimal.

Caladiums grow from underground tubers, and you can purchase them already having stems or without.

The tubers are "knobby" with "eyes" much like a potato.

When planting, place that knobby side up, with at least 2 inches between each tuber. Plant them no more than 2 inches deep.

Plant the tubers when the soil temperature is at least 70 degrees Fahrenheit, as tubers will not do well in cooler soils.

Caladiums like a lot of moisture; they do not like saturated or dry soil.

Remember, these are tropical plants, so they'll need to be watered frequently to keep them moist.

Mulching around the plant helps lock in moisture and makes the area more appealing as well, but it's not required.

When they die back in the winter, simply cut away the stems and wait for their return in spring.

Some caladiums have been bred to tolerate direct sun, but morning sun is best with shade for the rest of the day. This makes them a perfect addition under the beautiful oaks where sunlight is limited.

Growing caladiums in shade helps the leaves to be more vibrant in color when compared to full sun, too.

Fertilize caladiums with a soluble fertilizer, based on label directions, but be sure you fertilize the soil and avoid the leaves, as the fertilizer can burn the delicate leaves.

Shade gardening with caladiums is a simple and fun way to add color with a dramatic impact to your landscape.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Selecting a color may be the most difficult thing about growing caladiums — since planting is simple and maintenance minimal.

Dr. Whitney C. Elmore is the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension director and an Urban Horticulture Agent III.

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## POLITICAL AGENDA

### ZEPHYRHILLS CITY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The results are in from the April 10 election for seats on the Zephyrhills City Council.

Jodi Wilkeson has been elected to the District 3 seat, and Charles E. Proctor has been re-elected to the District 5 seat.

Wilkeson received 553 votes, which represented 45.89 percent of the vote in the District 3 election. Cory Paul Sommers came in second, with 376 votes or 31.20 percent of the vote, and Devin J. Alexander placed third, with 276 votes, representing 22.90 percent of the vote.

Proctor was re-elected with 751 votes, representing 63.54 percent of the vote. His opponent, William David Seville received 431 votes, representing 36.46 percent of the vote.

### MEETINGS

• The Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Pasco County will meet on April 24 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Brick City Eatery, 16540 Pointe Village Drive in Lutz.

• The Republican Club of Central Pasco will meet April 23 at the Copperstone Executive Suites, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd.,

Land O' Lakes. Pasco County Supervisor of Elections Brian Corley will be the speaker. The social starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

### ENDORSEMENTS

• Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco has endorsed Mike Moore for re-election to the District 2 seat of the Pasco County Commission, according to Moore's campaign.

*Political Agenda is a column that runs only during election years.*

*It gives candidates a place to announce they are seeking political office. It lets voters know of upcoming Meet the Candidate nights or political forums.*

*It is a place where political clubs can announce upcoming meetings, and it will include news that is pertinent to voters for upcoming elections. It will not include political fundraising events.*

*There is never a guarantee of publication, but we do consider each item we receive. Please submit items for consideration at least two weeks prior to the desired publication date. Send submissions to news@lakerlutznews.com.*



COURTESY OF SANDRA GRAVES

## Rotary helps youth fund

The Wesley Chapel Noon Rotary Land O' Lakes Satellite presented James Mitchell, sales and marketing director of Florida Hospital Center Ice, with a check for \$350 to benefit the Center's Youth Development Fund, in honor of the U.S. Olympic Women's Hockey Team and its historic gold medal win. The fund provides assistance to children in need that want to participate in the sports of hockey and ice skating. From left, Rich Barnes, Jim Englemann, Elayne Bassinger, Lynn Van Meter, Lauren Hensley, Sandy Graves, Kathy Balthazard, James Mitchell, Rick Buzzee, Justin Levitt, Chris Poole, Larry Giannone, Terri Dusek, Annie Treanor and Barb Goiran.



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# Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

## Transforming Homes and Offices

Special to The Laker / Lutz News

Robin Winter of Let's Bee Organized remains true to her lifelong mission of helping others, by transforming homes and workspaces to achieve greater balance in one's personal and professional lives.

Her 16 years experience in human resources draws many parallels to her work as a professional organizer at Let's Bee Organized, a company she recently founded.

"Helping companies define and execute their best practices consistently enables them to become more efficient, which results in positive employee morale and increased profits. In the same manner, having a well-organized home that runs efficiently results in many positive benefits for the entire family," said Robin.

One of Robin's primary goals for her clients is to move them in a positive direction by turning their chaos into order.

"As a busy working mother of four, and a professional in business development and human capital management, I fully understand how challenging it is to keep everything and everyone moving in the right direction," said Robin. "Getting organized and staying that way allows more time to do the things you enjoy, so you can live life to the fullest."

Robin has the unique ability to find solutions that inspire and motivate individuals— at home and in the work-

place — through the development of successful plans and processes.

"I find it very rewarding to help families become better organized, to give them more time to do things they love best, and more time for each other," said Robin. "I approach every situation with enthusiasm, a positive outlook and a sense of humor."

Robin has been a successful entrepreneur for more than 10 years. A Tampa Bay area native, she owned and operated a highly popular coffee shop in the Lutz area, and later founded a high-end furniture consignment boutique in Wesley Chapel.

These experiences gave Robin an in-depth understanding of strategic space planning and relocation tactics, as well as interior design and contract management.

Robin's passion for helping others restore order to their homes and offices led her to establish Let's Bee Organized, which primarily works with families and businesses in Hillsborough and Pasco counties.

"Let's Bee Organized will transform your space for the better," said Robin. "We help people understand that there are simply better ways to manage their stuff, as well as their time, in general. That way, the clutter won't creep back into their life — after all, the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."

To learn how Let's Bee Organized can make a difference in your life, call Robin today to schedule a consultation.



Robin Winter



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## HEALTH & WELLNESS

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

### LUNCH AND LEARN

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host "Lunch and Learn with Moffitt" April 19 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on the topic of lung cancer.

Participants can learn about food choices, exercise and simple ways to make lifestyle changes, to reduce the risk of cancer and other diseases.

To register, call (813) 780-0064.

### MEDICARE HELP

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host "Medicare: 101" April 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to answer Medicare enrollment questions. Call (813) 788-6375.

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer "Turning 65: Medicare Assistance" April 21 from 10 a.m. to noon, to educate elders about the insurance. Call (813) 929-1214.

### BRAIN SEMINAR

Access Health Care Physicians, 5350 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill, will have a lecture called "Protect Your Brain: It's the Only One You Have" April 19 from 5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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

### AUTISM FUNDRAISER

Fiesta by the Bay for Autism will take place April 20 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Glazer Children's Museum, 110 W. Gasparilla Plaza in Tampa.

The event is family friendly and will include dinner by Salt Block Catering, dancing, a silent auction, and access to the museum.

Tickets are \$28 in advance, and \$10 for ages 3 to 18, and are available online at [USEdu/ua/rsvp](http://USEdu/ua/rsvp).

For information, contact Christine Rover at [crover@usf.edu](mailto:crover@usf.edu) or (813) 974-9264.

### CANCER SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

Oak Hill Hospital will host a Bowl-A-Thon April 21 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Spring Hill Lanes, 3447 Commercial Way in Spring Hill.

All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

The cost is \$15 per bowler, which includes three games and shoe rental. All tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Katie Stacy at (352) 597-6317.

There also will be a 50/50 drawing and a basket drawing.

### MYELOMA SUPPORT

The North Tampa Multiple Myeloma Educational Support Group will meet April 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Floortime Studio, 6520 Yellowhammer Ave., in Tampa.

Patients, caregivers and families can attend. There will be a complimentary lunch.

For information, email Camille Wilson at [northtampa@imfsupport.org](mailto:northtampa@imfsupport.org).

### SELF-CARE SATURDAY

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills, will host "Self-Care Saturday" April 21 at noon, for anyone who wants to learn new ways to relax and take care of their mental health.

For information, call (813) 788-6375.

### HEALTHY KIDS DAY

Area Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCAs will host a Healthy Kids Day April 21, to inspire kids to keep their minds and bodies active, as part of the Y's initiative to improve health and well-being for kids and families.

Each participating YMCA will offer free activities, and food, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, visit [TampaYMCA.org](http://TampaYMCA.org).



Bernadette Melendez

### LUTZ ER GETS NEW MANAGER

The Medical Center of Trinity has appointed Bernadette Melendez as manager of its new ER 24/7 in Lutz.

Melendez began her career in corporate accounting and human resources until 2006 when she began her nursing career.

She received an Associate of Science in Nursing in 2006 and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2012, from Ohio University; and went on to get a Master of Business Administration in 2017.

Melendez comes from Mease Countryside Hospital in Safety Harbor, where she served as CN II in the emergency room and assistant nurse manager of PCU.

She has extensive experience in emergency management having served as preceptor, charge nurse and magnet champion for a 42-bed Level II trauma center, and charge nurse and preceptor for a free-standing emergency room.

### NUTRITION SEMINAR

Samantha Taylor Seminars will offer a free nutrition seminar April 21 at 12:30 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes studio.

Light snacks and coffee will be provided.

Admission is free, but guests are asked to reserve a spot at [SamanthaTaylorSeminars.com](http://SamanthaTaylorSeminars.com).

### CHILDBIRTH CLASSES

Oasis Pregnancy Care Center will host a three-week Empowered Moms Childbirth Class for moms, dads and birth partners, April 23, April 30 and May 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Suite 108, in Land O' Lakes.

The classes will be taught by Nichole Joy of Empowered Moms.

There also will be an Expectant Moms Meet & Greet on May 10.

The childbirth classes are free. To register, call Oasis at (813) 406-4965.

### HEALTHY OILS CLASS

Deanna Jacobs will host a Free Healthy Home Using Essential Oils class April 24 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave., in Zephyrhills.

Participants can learn what it takes to have a healthy home and build up your own health. There also will be a free raffle.

For information, call (813) 479-7724.

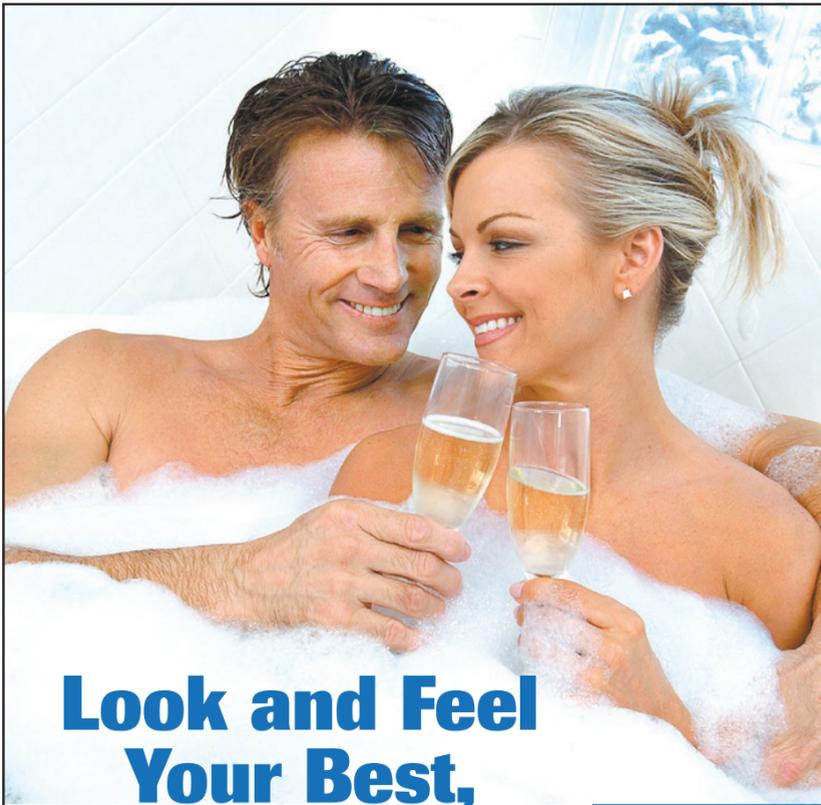
### 3-D MAMMOGRAPHY

Oak Hill Hospital, 11307 Cortez Blvd., in Brooksville, will offer a seminar on "Advances in Breast Health: 3-D Mammography" April 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The guest speakers will be Dr. Alene Wright, board certified in general surgery, specializing in breast surgery; Cheryl Whitman, board certified breast cancer nurse and a patient navigator for the imaging department; and Michele Ryder, a radiologic technologist and radiologic mammographer.

There also will be a question-and-answer session. A complimentary hot meal will be served.

Reservations are required by calling (352) 597-6333, or by visiting [OakHillHospital.com/ForYourHealth](http://OakHillHospital.com/ForYourHealth).



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# Chalk Talk

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

### TOP DOGS RECOGNIZED

The Pilot Club of Zephyrhills honored Top Dog students from Stewart Middle School. Through the program, students are recognized for academics and their leadership roles in the school.

The third quarter recipients were Cassidy Thompson, Jacob Smith, Natalie O'Donovan, Dayanora Ortega, Nic Batto, Lillian Rapp, Jacob Cruz, Ariana Stone and Chiara Antonucci.

Each student received a certificate and a gold dog tag at a Hungry Howie's luncheon.

### STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

Pasco-Hernando State College's Rao Musunuru, M.D. Art Gallery will exhibit "A Student Showcase" April 18 to May 16, at its West Campus in New Port Richey.

The annual event highlights diverse talent achieved without influence from staff or faculty. Visitors can experience completed works of photography, drawing and mixed media, from past and present art students.

For information, call (727) 816-3231, or visit PHSC.edu.

### FRIENDSHIP WALK

The Best Buddies Club of Dr. John Long Middle School in Wesley Chapel will participate in the Friendship Walk on April 21 along the Tampa Riverwalk.

For information and to register, visit

[tinyurl.com/yabt7qhv](http://tinyurl.com/yabt7qhv).

The event is free, but donations can be made when registering.

### SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

The Amelia Foundation Benefit Concert will take place April 21 at 6 p.m., at Blanton Baptist Church, 17351 Hyland Lane in Dade City.

The cost is \$10. All proceeds will go toward scholarships for graduating Pasco High School seniors.

Tickets will be available at the door.

For information, call The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce at (352) 567-3769.

### PANCAKE FUNDRAISER

The Land O' Lakes High School FFA will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser April 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Wilderness Lakes Beef O' Brady's, 7040 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Suite 108.

The cost is \$7 per person, and includes pancakes, scrambled eggs and bacon served by the school's FFA members.

Tickets can be purchased at Beef O' Brady's or through the LOLHS FFA.

For information or to make a donation, call (813) 230-2254.

### COLLEGE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Thrivent Financial will offer a College Planning Strategies Workshop April 24 at 6:30 p.m., at the Oakstead Clubhouse, 3038 Oakstead Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

This is a 90-minute presentation designed for parents and students in seventh grade and higher, to learn about academics, admissions and financial strategies to help save money on college.

There will be tips on the FAFSA; what COA, OOP and EFC are; timelines for taking

the SAT/ACT; and, strategies for selecting a college.

Admission is free. Space is limited.

To RSVP, call (813) 626-5489, or email [kacy.oleson@thrivent.com](mailto:kacy.oleson@thrivent.com).

### ESSAY CONTEST

Gary Joiner, Pasco County property appraiser's office, will accept entries, as part of the Clerk & Comptroller Paula O'Neil's Constitutional Officers Essay Contest, through April 27.

The contest is for Pasco County eighth-grade students of public/charter, private, parochial, nonpublic and home-schools.

Students must answer the question, "What are the effects property taxes can have on schools?" and submit essays to their principals.

Students in private, parochial, nonpublic or home-schools can email submissions to [sgolberg@pascopa.com](mailto:sgolberg@pascopa.com).

Essays must be 500 words or less, and should include the student's name, school, grade and contact information.

The winner will be notified by phone on May 18.

### TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis is accepting nominations for his annual Teacher of the Year awards, to honor the outstanding educators of Florida's 12th District.

Teachers and educators from all schools, and all grades, in District 12, are eligible.

Nominations should be emailed to [tucker.obrien@mail.house.gov](mailto:tucker.obrien@mail.house.gov), and include the name, school and contact information of the nominee.

The deadline is April 27.

An awards ceremony will take place in May.



Robert W. Judson Jr.

### PRESIDENT EMERITUS HONORED

Pasco-Hernando State College honored Robert W. Judson Jr., Ed.D., PHSC president emeritus, with a Pasco Proud award during the Black History Month celebration at its East Campus in Dade City.

The award recognizes an African-American citizen of Pasco County who has made an impact in the community.

Judson holds the distinction of being named the first African-American president of a Florida community college in 1994 and served in that role for 11 years.

Under his leadership, the expansion of the West Campus in New Port Richey was completed, which included the opening of a child care center.

Judson also launched new programs, including radiography, drafting and design, and the first four-year degree program through a partnership with the University of South Florida and Hodges University.

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## RAYS, from page 1A

27 acres is also available, if expansion is needed for parking and so on.

Woody branded the Ybor stadium site as "a perfect anchor, a perfect bookend" to the \$3 billion Water Street development in downtown Tampa orchestrated by Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik.

Rays 2020 was co-founded by Sykes Enterprises CEO Chuck Sykes and Ron Christaldi, partner at Shumaker, Loop and Kendrick. It now features several Tampa business leaders and volunteers ensuring the baseball franchise remains in Tampa Bay.

The leadership team helped secure the land from Darryl Shaw, the CEO of BluePearl Veterinary Partners and a major developer in Ybor City.

Said Woody, "Most of the...problems coming up with the ability to build a new ballpark is the location and the land. They got the landowners together to say, 'Hey, if it was to come here...would you be on board?' and that's what they did."

He jokingly added, "The last thing you want is find out you're going to build a great ballpark and somebody's home is where the pitcher's mound is."

Conversations of a new Rays ballpark have been ongoing for over a decade, since Stuart Sternberg took controlling ownership

of the team.

Those talks were heightened from perennially poor attendance and low revenues — even in times of winning seasons and playoff berths.

Ample blame has been placed at the current stadium location, frequently an inconvenience for Tampa residents forced to fight rush-hour traffic and cross the congested Howard Franklin Bridge.

The more centralized Ybor City site, however, promises to deliver convenient access for a much higher yield of people living and working nearby. About 300,000 people live or work within 5 miles of the proposed stadium site. Moreover, about 1.6 million people live or work within 35 miles of the location.

Woody said those numbers "are almost triple" in comparison to Tropicana Field, while noting about 50 percent to 70 percent of the Rays current attendance is from people living in Hillsborough County.

"Every county in proximity had more attendees show up to a game than in (St Petersburg's) backyard," he said.

"People don't realize this, but I'm not sure that even if we wanted to keep the Rays in St. Pete that Major League Baseball would allow it to happen. We don't have the attendance. We don't have the numbers," he added.

The Rays contract with St. Pete runs through 2027, but the city has agreed to let

the team pay to leave early. Some leaders, including Hillsborough County Commissioner Ken Hagan, say the first Rays game in Ybor City could happen by 2022.

Woody also shared some details about what the new ballpark may look like, and what it may cost.

Early sketches show an indoor ballpark without an upper deck, seating about 30,000 — considerably smaller than the Tropicana Field's capacity of 47,000.

Woody portrayed it as "a unique ballpark" that delivers the intimacy of a spring training game, close enough "to hear the crack of the bat."

While renderings show an option for a retractable roof, Woody pointed out the added maintenance and expense costs — upward of \$100 million. He also cited the unreliability of retractable roofs, based on experiences of other MLB clubs.

"If you have looked, they have not been that successful. Some stadiums have had to manually close the roofs, which takes almost two days to manually retract it," Woody explained.

The ballpark is still in design, so an exact figure hasn't been determined, but Woody said its construction cost is "probably in the neighborhood" of \$600 million to \$800 million.

As for financing the stadium project, Woody suggested tourist development taxes

could be utilized, along with contributions from Rays ownership, private funding and stadium naming rights.

"The very first thing is, we have to figure what this is going to cost and how much (the Rays) are going to come in, and then we'll work from there," he said.

Woody mentioned each of the Rays' corporate sponsors have agreed to support the team's move to Ybor City. There's also the 'Rays 100,' a collection of 100 executives and civic leaders willing to serve as ambassadors for the effort to move the Rays across Tampa Bay.

The Rays 100 group, unveiled earlier this month, is expected to enlist local businesses and corporations to pledge financial support for a new stadium, through corporate boxes and season tickets.

Said Woody, "Two things make a baseball team successful — corporate sponsorships and butts in the seats. That's the cheat code. Revenue goes up, you have a budget, and you can get better players on the field."

Toward the end of the meeting, a Rays 2020 representative extended an invitation to the North Tampa Bay Chamber to sign a letter of support for a new stadium.

In response, chamber members belted out a resounding "Yes!" — accompanied by a loud burst of applause.

For more information on Rays 2020, visit TampaBayRays2020.com.

## OPIOID, from page 1A

than 42,000 deaths in 2016, more than any previous year on record, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. An estimated 40 percent of those deaths involved a prescription opioid, the agency says.

Members of ASAP, including Beth Picora, advocated for additional peer support specialist programs. In this type of program, people who have significant personal experience with struggles pertaining to mental health, psychological trauma or substance abuse provide support to people who are currently struggling with those types of issues.

Picora, a representative for Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, said federal dollars are needed to train and employ an increased number of those peer specialists.

Peers often can be instrumental in leading someone to pursue treatment, Picora said.

She also suggested background check screenings be eased when hiring such specialists. "Some folks that have that lived experience sometimes have those certain things on their record," she explained.

Others mentioned Narcan — a life-saving emergency opioid treatment — should become more readily available for addicts and their families.

The medication is the first and only FDA-approved nasal form of naloxone, which helps blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing.

Besides enhancing distribution efforts, ASAP members said Narcan should be subsidized for consumers, particularly those uninsured. Without a prescription, the medication can cost more than \$130.

One speaker even suggested requiring doctors to provide Narcan as part of prescribed pain medications.

While grant programs are available to receive free Narcan through nonprofits, barriers still remain in getting quick, easy access, ASAP coordinator Monica Rousseau said.

"You can access Narcan for free, but it usually involves a lot of paperwork...and it's kind of obscure. It's also very difficult to get it in a moment when you have people struggling," she said.

### CRISIS NEEDS TO BE ATTACKED ON MANY FRONTS

Meanwhile, Pasco Sheriff's Office Sgt. Art Rowand inquired about creating a poli-



U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis

cy to allow law enforcement to place addicts into treatment, without arrests.

The law enforcement officer said such a measure could help eliminate the cycle of drug abuse, and cut down on overdoses and deaths.

"Basically, the only thing we have to take care of the situation...is to arrest them," Rowand said.

Some ASAP members stressed that Bilirakis and other policymakers continue to address comprehensive addiction issues, including alcoholism.

"Opioid is now the new kind of thing, and everybody's aware of it, but I don't want to leave out treatment for alcoholism," said Dena Lynch, who spoke on behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"It goes hand in hand, and there's a lot of people using drugs that also drink, so I think you can't disregard that as far as treatments. A lot of people in all walks of life have alcohol problems, and it's really easy to focus on opioids."

Other suggestions included:

- Additional measures to help juveniles with addiction treatment
- More impactful opioid and drug education in schools for younger-aged children
- New educational opportunities for parents of drug addicts
- Additional 'sober living' houses that also are affordable
- An increased number of child and adolescent psychiatrists
- Improved access for psychological services and treatment for the LGBTQ community
- Mandatory needle exchanges
- Additional faith community nursing programs

Bilirakis said he wants to schedule a discussion next month with a handful of stakeholders, to continue to brainstorm about possible legislation related to fighting addiction.

Addressing the audience, the congressman said, "We can get your voice heard up there and really get these things into law, but we've got to find out what works."

He continued: "You can throw all the money in the world at something, but if you don't do it right and it's not effective, then it doesn't do anybody any good."

## INNOVATOR, from page 1A

wasn't surprised Starling was selected.

"We thought she was a shoo-in. She's amazing," Taylor added.

"We've done a lot of work with her over the past few years.

"We did a great STEM fair when she was teaching at a middle school, before she became the magnet school coordinator.

"The kids were actually programming their own iPads to make robotic balls move around a paint tray, and they painted coasters and T-shirts, using those little robotic balls.

"They were playing games, using Gummy Worms as conductors and game pieces," Taylor said.

As part of the All-Star program, Starling will have access to virtual and in-person events, including the PBS Digital Innovator All-Star Summit, and the International Society for Technology and Education Conference in Chicago, Illinois, in June.

She can't wait. "At that summit, we're going to be put on teams with people from other states, and we're going to be developing some new curriculum — a three-part virtual learning series.

"There will be different focus areas for STEAM, social studies, language arts, digital arts, all sorts of different things. We'll be developing some new content that will be offered.

"It will be housed on the PBS Learning Media.org website and that's free for everybody in the state of Florida, including the premium resources," Starling said.

The educator believes that technology is the great equalizer, when it comes to learning opportunities.

Technology helps children who come from impoverished families to have the same kind of experiences as those who come from affluent households, Starling said, noting that virtual reality and other technological tools can level the playing field.

Starling said she was delighted when she learned of her nomination, and "ecstatic and thrilled" when she found out she'd

been selected.

"Reading the biographies of my peers that were also nominated, I was actually blown away by the people that are there," Starling said. "I cannot wait to make some neat connections and share some interesting ideas, and I'm sure that I will be learning a lot, hearing a lot, and hopefully, I'll be able to contribute, too."

In her current district position, she works will all of Pasco schools, but more heavily with the Sanders Memorial Elementary STEAM Magnet School in Land O' Lakes; the Centennial Middle School STEM Magnet School in Dade City; and, the Bayonet Point Middle STEM Magnet School in New Port Richey.

Starling also noted that the district has nine elementary schools that have aviation equipment. They are the elementary schools in the feeder patterns for Zephyrhills, Sunlake and Hudson high schools, which each have aviation and aeronautics academies.

But Terry Anchman, the director of career and technical education, came up with the idea of converting a school bus into a mobile Aviation STEM Lab, Starling said.

That way, fifth-graders from other district schools can get their hands on equipment such as flight simulators, 3D printing, virtual reality and drones, the educator said.

"I developed a curriculum for that. So, all of those students get a little bit of a taste for aviation and aeronautics," Starling said.

She hopes that exposure will spark an interest in students, who can then consider attending one of the district's magnet middle schools, which offers the curriculum.

She also hopes that parents will become more aware of the district's educational options.

Taylor, herself a former classroom teacher, is confident that Starling will make a difference in the PBS program, just as she has as a classroom teacher.

"She's just one of the best teachers I've ever been associated with," Taylor said.

"She's just what education ought to be," Taylor added. "If all of our teachers could be Bobbi Starling, it would be a whole new world."

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## Wiregrass Ranch thrives in first FHSAA campaign

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

As several Pasco County schools this year fielded inaugural FHSAA (Florida High School Athletic Association) varsity lacrosse programs, one newcomer stands above the rest.

The Wiregrass Ranch High School boys lacrosse team recently clinched the No. 2 seed in District 15 — best among all Pasco County schools.

And, a win in the district playoffs this week guarantees a spot in the regional tournament on April 27.

As of April 15, the team stands with a 12-2 record and 7-1 district mark.

A club team last year competing in the Florida Gulf Coast Lacrosse League, the Bulls have had little trouble transitioning to FHSAA play under second-year head coach T.J. Fitzsimons.

Its success is evident by the Bulls' current nine-game win streak and its ease in dismantling other Pasco schools, including Sunlake (14-2 win on Feb. 28; 15-5 win on March 16); Wesley Chapel (11-4 win on March 29); and Mitchell (14-6 win on April 4).

Meanwhile, its lone defeats have been at the hands of well-established Hillsborough County programs at Sickles and Newsome, who stand 15-2 and 13-2, respectively.

"We had some thoughts from people that we'd be good, but nobody expected us to be where we're at," said Fitzsimons, a former NCAA Division III lacrosse player at State University of New York Maritime College in the Bronx.

"We've turned a lot of heads this year," he said.

The coach credits a large, skilled group of upperclassman—nine seniors and eight juniors—many who have played for years through the Wesley Chapel Athletic Association youth lacrosse program.

Fitzsimons explained: "Most of the guys that are seniors this year have been playing together for almost eight years now... since they started at like 10 years old. We've got a solid group of about 16 solid players—and you only need 10 to play the game."

Senior defender Patrick Sullivan noted the group's leadership, too, has proved critical to its winning ways.

"We...keep people going. We've got some really good guys who get people excited," Sullivan said.

One of those seniors leading the charge is attacker Jeremy Handman, also a team captain.



COURTESY OF DANIELLE LEGGETT

The Wiregrass Ranch High boys lacrosse program has experienced immediate success in its transition to Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) competition. The team is 12-2 and 7-1 in district play, as of April 15. A win this week in the district playoffs qualifies them for regional play, which begins April 27.

Handman, who leads the team with 41 goals, has signed to play NCAA Division II lacrosse at South New Hampshire University — the Bulls only committed college player.

He follows in the footsteps of his older brother, Jeffrey, who's a senior lacrosse player at NCAA Division II Lincoln-Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee.

Handman, a lacrosse player for about seven years, said his game "skyrocketed" into a bona-fide college prospect.

"I'm a much better player," Handman said, comparing his game to his freshman year. "My passing has been a lot better, and my shooting accuracy has been a lot better."

Though his contributions on offense don't go unnoticed, Handman is quick to credit the team's defensive prowess.

The Bulls average about 11.4 points, while allowing just 6.4 points per game.

"Defense has been huge," Handman said, applauding the team's new defensive coach Seth Kanowitz for improvements and adjustments. "He put in the defense, and it's just gotten so much better since."

Handman also lauds Fitzsimons for implementing varied offensive combinations and formations, based upon each opponent. "He knows how to change up the offense depending on the defense, so he does a pretty good job with that," Handman said.

Sanctioning lacrosse at Wiregrass Ranch and other Pasco schools has been in the works the past few years.

In 2016, the Pasco County Lacrosse Alliance (PCLA), a nonprofit organization, announced an agreement with Pasco County Schools to manage the transition of

### Florida District 15 boys lacrosse standings, as of April 15

- Sickles (5-0; 15-2 overall)
- Wiregrass Ranch (7-1; 12-2 overall)
- Steinbrenner (4-2; 9-8 overall)
- Tampa Catholic (0-2; 8-7 overall)
- Mitchell (2-3; 5-7 overall)
- Sunlake (1-5; 1-7 overall)
- Wesley Chapel (0-6; 0-14 overall)

a select number of high school boys and girls lacrosse from a club sport to a FHSAA-sanctioned sport, beginning with the 2018 spring season.

In addition to Wiregrass Ranch, other FHSAA varsity programs in Pasco include Land O' Lakes (girls team only), Mitchell, Sunlake and Wesley Chapel. Cypress Creek will have an FHSAA-sanctioned girls team in 2019.

The agreement was similar to a three-year pilot program approved for 10 schools in Hillsborough County in 2014.

"It's one of the fastest growing games in the country," Fitzsimons said. "Because of the way football is declining, basketball and lacrosse are taking off. The fact that there's girls and boys on both sides of it is a very good Title IX adjuster."

Known primarily in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, lacrosse has recently made waves in the Sunshine State.

According to the National Federation of High Schools, Florida saw a 70 percent increase in participation to about 8,600 players from 2008 to 2013.

Moreover, more than 150 Florida schools are currently sanctioned to play for state ti-

ties in both girls and boys lacrosse. In 2005, there were 52 schools playing boys lacrosse in the FHSAA and 42 schools playing girls lacrosse.

"What used to be a very Northern sport is getting a lot popular down here," Sullivan said.

"I think it helps that people come down here a lot from the north, and people pick it up. I know my neighbors started playing. I see young players playing all the time."

Growing up playing baseball, soccer and football, Sullivan found his true calling with lacrosse and its nonstop action.

"Lacrosse is great because it mixes everything I like about sports," Sullivan explained. "It's fast. You get to run. You get into (contact with) people. It doesn't stop all the time. It's very fluid. It's just on the fly."

"It helps to just have a good strategic understanding of how to play the game. It's critical thinking. You have to be able to think on the fly, because you're adapting to situations. You're always adapting to something new," he said.

The Wiregrass Ranch boys team actually has three players on the roster who never played sanctioned lacrosse and another two who picked up the stick again after not playing for several years.

Fitzsimons said mastering the sport takes ample practice and determination.

"It's a pretty tough game," Fitzsimons said.

"Lacrosse is not one of those (easy) games because in order to be out on a field, you have to learn how to throw and catch, you have to learn how to cradle, and how to move the stick; and all that stuff takes time," the coach explained.



### PASCO ALL-STAR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ROSTERS ANNOUNCED

Baseball and softball rosters have been announced for the 2018 Pasco County East-West Classic.

The second annual all-star showcase, organized by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, features some of the top high school seniors in Pasco County.

Players on the East team will represent Land O' Lakes, Pasco, Sunlake, Wesley Chapel, Wiregrass Ranch and Zephyrhills high schools.

Players on the West team will represent Bishop McLaughlin, Fivay, Gulf, Hudson, Mitchell, Ridgewood and River Ridge high schools.

The softball and baseball games are each scheduled for May 12 at 7 p.m., at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School.

Tickets are \$10; parking is \$5.

For information, contact Bob Durham at (813) 784-4410 or bdurham@fca.org.

### ALL-STAR ROSTERS: BASEBALL

#### EAST TEAM

Head Coach: Rick Giles, Pasco High School

#### LAND O' LAKES HIGH

Ryan Ricardo, pitcher  
Edgar Vasquez, outfielder  
Remington Walls, outfielder

#### PASCO HIGH

Luby Fields, first baseman  
Zach Murphy, outfielder  
Liam Wynne, catcher

#### SUNLAKE HIGH

Michael Bean, pitcher  
Josh Denig, outfielder  
Austin Wu, pitcher

#### WESLEY CHAPEL HIGH

Colton Bierly, first baseman/outfielder  
Malik Melvin, second baseman/shortstop

#### WIREGRASS RANCH HIGH

Cameron Douglas, catcher  
Jacob Hill, outfielder  
Michael Joyce, pitcher  
Enrique Trevino, first baseman

#### ZEPHYRHILLS HIGH

Drew Brown, pitcher  
Cherokee Hagans, outfielder  
Kolbe Lupinek, catcher  
Trey Owens, second baseman

#### WEST TEAM

Head coach: Jeff Swymer, Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School

#### BISHOP MCLAUGHLIN

Cam Diaz, outfielder/pitcher  
Carter Garlitz, catcher/first baseman/designated hitter  
Preston Perez, pitcher  
Jared Rodriguez, infielder

#### FIVAY HIGH

Gunner Hoglund, pitcher/first baseman/third baseman  
Thomas Delfel, outfielder  
Tyler Devner, outfielder  
Trey Doran, pitcher/outfielder  
Sal Zito, infielder

#### GULF HIGH

Jakob Warren, outfielder

#### HUDSON HIGH

Scott Meitzler, catcher/first baseman  
Daniel Williams, pitcher

Levi Wohfiel, outfielder

#### MITCHELL HIGH

Carrington Adler, catcher  
Johnny Arcaro, infielder  
Jordan Garcia, outfielder  
Zach Henderson, pitcher/infielder  
Jakob Mattos, pitcher/infielder  
Mike Risener, outfielder

#### RIDGEWOOD HIGH

Jorge Febus, pitcher/infielder

#### RIVER RIDGE HIGH

Kyle Chigar, outfielder/pitcher  
Ben Martin, infielder  
Hunter Watson, infielder

### SOFTBALL

#### EAST TEAM

Head coach: Nelson Garcia, Sunlake High School

#### LAND O' LAKES HIGH

Brianna Lindner, catcher  
Ashley Smith, pitcher/third baseman  
Tia Williams, shortstop/second baseman/outfielder

#### PASCO HIGH

Kaci Huber, outfielder  
Brianna Hicks, first baseman/designated player

#### SUNLAKE HIGH

Riley Baxter, first baseman  
Isabella Huff, third baseman  
Mariah Melendez, pitcher/shortstop  
Emma Sica, catcher

#### WIREGRASS RANCH HIGH

Faith Sebilo, outfielder

#### ZEPHYRHILLS HIGH

Chase Booker, shortstop/second baseman  
Halee Karppe, outfielder  
Kaleigh Rhoden, outfielder/pitcher



COURTESY OF NELSON GARCIA

Four Sunlake High School seniors were selected to play in the 2018 Pasco County all-star softball game. From left: Emma Sica, Mariah Melendez, Bella Huff and Riley Baxter.

#### WEST TEAM

Head coach: Scott Bisbe, Mitchell High School

#### BISHOP MCLAUGHLIN

Madison Janning, catcher/infielder  
Dani Jones, third baseman/outfielder  
Kaylee Woods, first baseman

#### GULF HIGH

Hayley Zackeru, third baseman  
Marde Collins, first baseman

#### MITCHELL HIGH

Ashley Auturi, pitcher  
Lexi Clark, first baseman  
Anna Dumovich, third baseman  
Keegan Phillips, catcher  
Taylor Platt, lefffielder  
Rachel Ryel, pitcher  
Bayley Williams, centerfielder

#### RIDGEWOOD HIGH

Ashlee Clark, catcher

#### RIVER RIDGE HIGH

Emily Barrington, third baseman  
Bre Blankenship, catcher/lefffielder  
Lauren Jarnagin, rightfielder  
Teah Steel, catcher/lefffielder  
Sarah Wilson, first baseman



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## Helping a community to lift itself up

By B.C. Manion

bcmalion@lakerlutznews.com

**D**rive up to Life Community Center and you'll find a crowded parking lot.

That's because there's a lot going on in the modular building, at 6542 Applewood Drive in Wesley Chapel, which is affiliated with Life Community Church, formerly known as Victorious Life Church.

For instance, there's a weekly community luncheon on Tuesdays in the modular building, and anyone is welcome to drop in for a hot meal and some fellowship.

During one of those recent luncheons, Riley Brannon greeted people as they entered the building. Later, as they prepared to eat, he offered a blessing.

Carol Smith, a regular at these gatherings, said she enjoys the food.

Carmen Robles, a volunteer, helped Smith settle in for a pasta lunch, prepared by Nancy Frankulin, of Bosco's Italian-To-Go. On alternate weeks, the meals are prepared by Taco Sun.

The center also has a food pantry that operates on Friday afternoons, routinely providing food for 300 to 375 families.

The groceries are donated to the church by Costco and Feeding Tampa Bay, said Terence Gaston, the food ministry coordinator. "Our motto is nobody goes hungry," he said.

Brannon said Life Community Center is doing important work.

"People are getting food that wouldn't otherwise," Brannon said, plus it helps in other ways.

One program, called "Raptime," is aimed at keeping kids in school.

Fourteen children have been with the program since elementary school, and now they're in middle school, said Robin Granger, director of Life Community Center.

The goal is to help them to graduate from high school.

Angus Valley, where Life Community Center is located, has a high dropout rate, Granger explained. "It's generational. Their parents didn't graduate from high school. Their grandparents didn't graduate from high school," she said.

Because of that, when a problem arises at school, parents often feel intimidated when they are trying to stand up for their children, Granger said.

That's where Life Community Center comes in. It provides guidance for parents to help them take the needed steps to support their children, Granger said.

"We're not going to do the work for you, but we'll walk beside you," she said.

"When you're not sure what to say to the social worker, or your kid is suspended, or your kid has to be transferred

— what can we do to advocate for you? We coach parents. We don't do it for them," Granger said.

### HELPING PEOPLE FIND GAINFUL WORK

The center also has a program aimed at helping people to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Its Work Ready program helps people to put together their resumes, brush up on interview skills and to even learn skills that can help them land a job.

For instance, it provided scholarships for students to be trained to become certified nursing assistants. Seven of those people now have full-time jobs, Granger said.

The idea is to provide a hand up, not a handout, she said.

The center aims to help equip people who haven't had the opportunity to be employed, or haven't had the chance to understand what it takes to get a job, Granger said.

There's another program, called "Celebrate Recovery," which focuses on assisting people who are in recovery.

"People are more willing to walk in a community center than they are a church," Granger said.

At the church, about 10 people showed up to a recovery meeting; at the life center, about 30 did, Granger said.

The center helps in other, practical ways, too.

"We have a Back to School, where we help do socks, shoes and underwear," she said, noting that those items are provided for families who need the help. And, there's a program that supplies food for children who would otherwise go hungry over the weekend.

On top of all that, every fourth Friday of the month, Florida Hospital and Pioneer Medical Services bring a mobile unit to the center to see people who do not have insurance, Granger said.

The center aims to provide the kinds of



Carol Smith, left, enjoys coming to the weekly luncheons. Carmen Robles, a volunteer at the center, helps Smith get settled.

B.C. MANION



A big crowd gathered this spring for the ribbon cutting at the new modular building for Life Community Center. The center has been serving the community for years, but previously was operating out of a doublewide trailer.

COURTESY OF LIFE COMMUNITY CENTER



B.C. MANION

Riley Brannon offers a blessing during a Tuesday afternoon lunch at Life Community Center, in the Angus Valley community of Wesley Chapel. The gathering, held each week, offers fellowship and a free hot meal to those who choose to attend.



B.C. MANION

Nancy Frankulin shows off a big pot of pasta sauce served during a recent Tuesday afternoon lunch at Life Community Center, 6542 Applewood Drive in Wesley Chapel.

It works like this: "If they need an electricity bill paid, or a water bill paid, we'll partner with them to do it, but in return, they have to give us Time Exchange," Granger said, meaning a number of service hours in exchange for the help.

"If they have \$100 electric bill, we'll work with them, but then I expect to see them here, whether it's at the community lunches or at food ministry," she said.

And, at Christmas, they'll help a family give their children nice presents, but they expect some hours of service at the center.

Again, the goal is to give a hand up, not a handout.

Time Exchange helps people see how they can contribute, and it fosters a way to connect to others, she said.

"Poverty isn't about the lack of material things. Poverty is about broken relationships," Granger said.

The lack of resources can be demoralizing.

### Ways that Life Community Center helps:

- **Celebrate Recovery:** A 12-step program celebrating God's healing power for any hurts, hang-ups and habits
- **Raptime:** A stay in school program serving youths who live in Angus Valley
- **Community lunches:** A free hot lunch on Tuesday for anyone who wishes to come
- **Food ministry:** Families are welcome to pick up a fresh box of fresh produce, meat, bread and groceries on Fridays between 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- **Little meals:** A partnership with Quail Hollow Elementary School to provide nutritious supplements on the weekend for chronically hungry children in the community
- **Community Service House:** Those needing to earn volunteer hours can do so at the Life Community Center.
- **Work Ready Services:** Help is provided with resumes, interview skills and classes to help members in the community to obtain jobs
- **Grants:** Help can be provided when someone encounters an unexpected hardship, but that help must be repaid through volunteer hours at the center.
- **Thanksgiving in a box:** Life Church provides 500 families with the ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal, including a turkey.
- **Imagine Christmas:** Parents complete 10 hours to 18 hours of community service in exchange for quality Christmas gifts for their children.

### Want to help?

These are some items on Life Community Center's wish list:

- 10 Chrome Books/Laptops: to help job seekers and Stay in School programs
- 1 printer
- Books for teens
- Do-it-yourself ideas/projects for children and teenagers
- Board games for kids

For more information, call (813) 994-0685.

services that people want and need, Granger said.

It also wants to be a source of information regarding programs it doesn't directly provide, but that can be useful for community residents.

### CREATING A PARADIGM SHIFT FOR HELPING OTHERS

At Community Life Center, people get help — but it's not just a one-way street, Granger said.

The center has a program called Time Exchange.

"When we think about people who are living paycheck to paycheck, or they get behind in bills, they feel like there's no light at the end of their tunnel.

"They're just depressed. They're feeling hopeless," she said.

What the center has discovered is that people who began helping as part of Time Exchange often continue helping.

That's because they feel welcome and appreciated, Granger said.

Besides, she added, "there's a lot of laughter, and there's a lot of fun."

**DOG TRAINER REGISTRATION**

Registration has begun for dog trainers and dog-training businesses covered by Hillsborough County's Truth-in-Training ordinance.

The new regulations provide specific rules for dog trainers, and help define the relationship between trainer and customer.

All dog trainers that provide services in Hillsborough County must register with Pet Resources, and all businesses that offer dog training within the county must be licensed and pay a \$50 application fee.

Under the terms of the ordinance, all dog trainers and dog-training business owners must provide all customers with a written dog-training plan, which must be signed by

both the dog trainer and the customer prior to the start of training. A completed copy of the training plan must be provided to the customer.

Registration forms and license registration must be completed, signed and notarized by July 1.

Information on the process is available at [tinyurl.com/y7y3g8gg](http://tinyurl.com/y7y3g8gg).

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2600 Bruce B Downs Blvd Wesley Chapel

Tuesday May 15, 2018 / 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Premier Community Healthcare  
37944 Pasco Avenue, Dade City

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 / 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Good Samaritan Clinic  
5334 Aspen Street, New Port Richey

Thursday, May 17, 2018 / 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills  
38233 Daughtery Road, Zephyrhills

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 / 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point  
14000 Fivay Road, Hudson

Friday, May 25, 2018 / 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Pasco County Health Department  
10841 Little Road, New Port Richey

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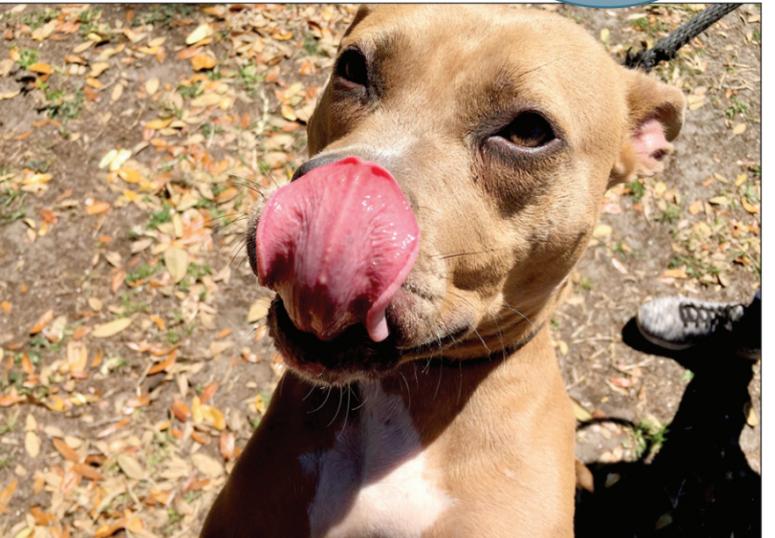
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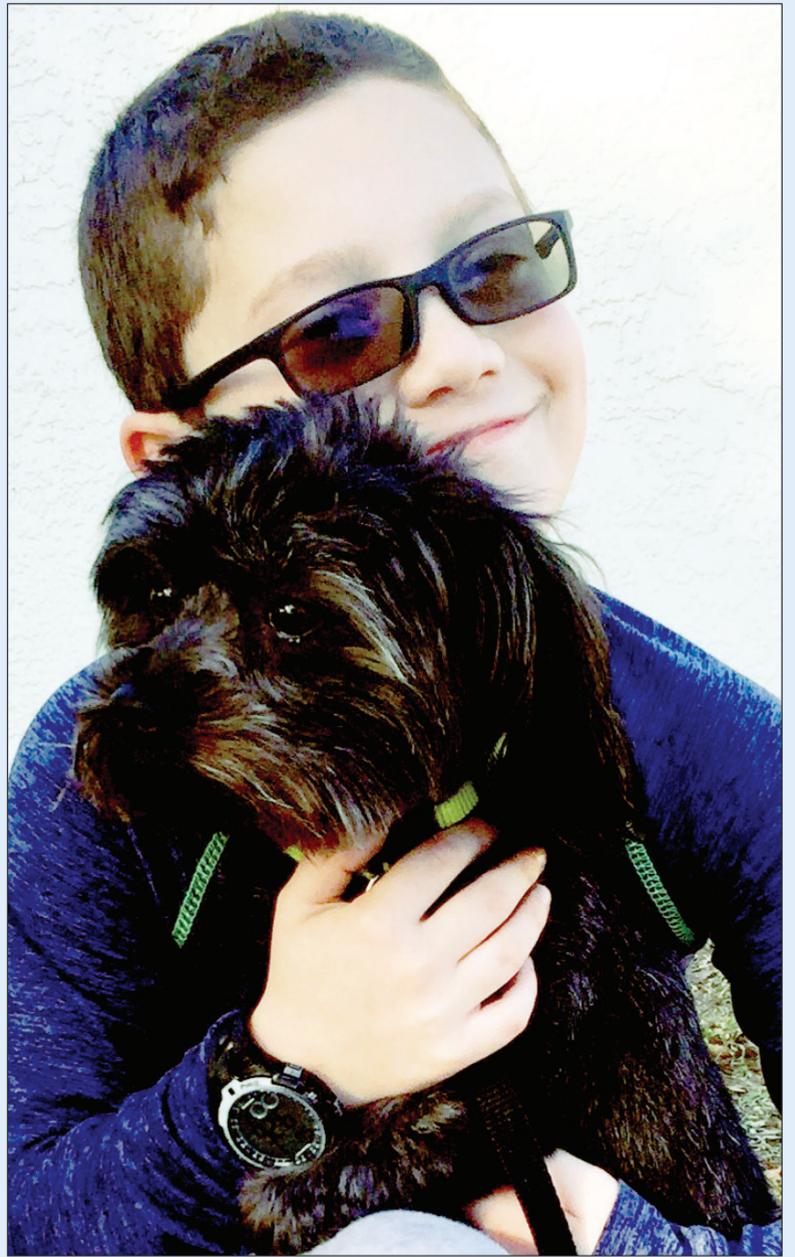
# LOCAL WILDLIFE



## Who's watching whom?

Dave Pagni, of Seven Oaks in Wesley Chapel, was lucky enough to catch a glimpse of this barred owl, a 'resident' at Lettuce Lake Park, off Fletcher Avenue in Tampa. The owl, also known as the hoot owl, roosts quietly in forest trees during the day. It seeks prey by watching from a perch, and also by flying low through forests.

# PET of the WEEK



## Hero is the best dog ever

Hero is a 5-year-old Shih Tzu/Havanese terrier mix, adopted from the Hillsborough County shelter. He is named after Big Hero 6, a Disney animated film. Upon adoption, Hero was very sick with a case of pneumonia, and it was thought he would not survive. But, with time, love and medication, he pulled through and has been such a joy. Hero is very smart and house-trained (a bonus), great with children and genuinely loves everyone. Hero lives with his family, Jennifer Cazares and her son, Greyland (in photo), in Carrollwood.

**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.**

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# BUSINESS DIGEST

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

## CHAMBER SCHOLARSHIPS

The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce is expanding its high school scholarship fund to include recipients from Wesley Chapel High School, Wiregrass High School, Freedom High School and Wharton High School.

The chamber's goal is to award 14 scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. To fund the scholarships, sponsorships of \$650 each are needed.

The chamber has partnered with career counselors at each campus. Students who apply will complete an application that includes a short essay.

Sponsors will have the opportunity to present ceremonial checks to each recipient. Each school organizes the events.

Event dates are:

- Wiregrass Ranch, May 17 at 6:45 p.m.
- Wesley Chapel High, April 25 at 7:30 a.m.
- Freedom High, April 24 at 6 p.m.
- Wharton High, to be announced

To become a sponsor, email Grace Martin at [gmartin@northtampabay.com](mailto:gmartin@northtampabay.com).



COURTESY OF MERITAGE HOMES

## NEW LUTZ DEVELOPMENT

A ground-breaking ceremony recently was held for Lake Hanna Preserve, a single-family home community in the heart of Lutz, and just 10 miles from downtown Tampa and 12 miles from Tampa's International Airport.

The gated community has 48 lots of 1-acre-plus homesites, with 18 lots featuring serene lake views.

Those purchasing lakefront lots have the opportunity to install docks for direct water access, and all homeowners in the development will be able enter Lake Stemper via a community dock. That amenity will feature a kayak launch and an elevated boardwalk leading to the lake.

Lake Hanna Preserve is scheduled to grand open the Kerrville III model this

summer. There are seven home designs, ranging from 2,516 square feet to 5,170 square feet.

Every home also will be equipped with energy efficiency, which will help buyers to save up to 50 percent on their utility bills.

For more information, contact Marcelle Sebaali at (813) 386-8747, or visit [MeritageHomes.com/tampa](http://MeritageHomes.com/tampa).

## JERSEY MIKE'S DONATIONS

Jersey Mike's Subs raised more than \$6 million for local charities nationwide in a single month, including more than \$104,000 for High Risk Hope in the Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota area, according to a news release from Splash Communications.

There were 35 restaurants participating

in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota.

High Risk Hope is a nonprofit that helps women and families struggling with high-risk pregnancies resulting in bed rest, potential premature births, and neonatal care after delivery.

Nearly \$560,000 in total was raised in Florida.

The month-long campaign ended on March 28, the Day of Giving, when 1,360 Jersey Mike's restaurants donated 100 percent of sales - not just profits - to more than 170 different charities across the country.

For more information, please visit [JerseyMikes.com/mog](http://JerseyMikes.com/mog).

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# BUSINESS DIGEST

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## MARKETING SEMINAR

SCORE will host a free seminar, "Results-Based Marketing for Small Business," April 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Hugh Embry Branch Library, at 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City.

Learn how to cut through information overload to get the word out about your business.

For information, call Sheila Neisler, of CatalystGetsResults.com, at (727) 842-4638, or email [score439@verizon.net](mailto:score439@verizon.net).

## CHAMBER HOSTS UNCLE MADDIO'S HAPPY HOUR

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will host Uncle Maddio's April 2018 Happy Hour on April 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Uncle Maddio's, at 3949 Van Dyke Road in Lutz.

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

The event is free.

For information, call the chamber at

(813) 563-0180, or email [Contact@north-tampachamber.com](mailto:Contact@north-tampachamber.com).

## ANNIVERSARY/RIBBON CUTTING

DQ Grill & Chill will host a Dairy Queen anniversary and ribbon cutting April 24 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Shoppes at Ballantrae, at 17826 Aprile Drive in Land O' Lakes.

Come enjoy tasty treats at this free event. For information, call the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce at (813) 909-2722.

## EAST PASCO NETWORKING

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

The guest speaker is Melonie Monson, executive director of the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce.

For information, contact Nils Lenz at (813) 782-9491 or [nilslenz@gmail.com](mailto:nilslenz@gmail.com), or Vicky Jones at (813) 431-1149 or [donvicl@yahoo.com](mailto:donvicl@yahoo.com).

## ECONOMIC BRIEFING

The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly economic briefing lunch April 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Hunter's Green Country Club, 18101 Longwater Run Drive in Tampa.

Guest speaker will be J.D. Porter, who will give an update on Wiregrass Ranch.

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

For more information, please call the chamber at (813) 994-8534, or email [office@wesleychapelchamber.com](mailto:office@wesleychapelchamber.com).

## ASHTON WOODS AT ASTURIA

Ashton Woods announced the availability of move-in ready homes at the master-planned community of Asturia, off State Road 54.

They are the Monroe, Lincoln, Truman and Arlington homes.

The Monroe is about 2,500 square feet, with four bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms. A laundry room is on the second floor and office space is on the first floor. It sells for about \$387,000.

The Lincoln is a two-story home, with about 2,400 square feet, four bedrooms, and a laundry room on the second floor. Sales price is about \$375,000.

The Truman is about 2,000 square feet with three bedrooms and an outdoor area that features a fire pit. It sells for about

\$350,000.

The Arlington is a 2,000-square-foot home with three bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms and an open family room. It sells for about \$280,000.

Asturia is on State Road 54, near the Suncoast Parkway and U.S. 41.

For more information, please visit [AshtonWoods.com/tampa/asturia-heritage-series](http://AshtonWoods.com/tampa/asturia-heritage-series).



COURTESY ASHTON WOODS

## JOINT MIXER

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce and the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce will host a joint mixer April 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Residence Inn Tampa Suncoast Parkway, in the Northpointe Village, at 2101 Northpointe Parkway.

For information, call the Central Pasco chamber at (813) 909-2722 or the West Pasco chamber at (727) 842-7651.

## PRINTING & DESIGN MOVES

SONG Printing & Design will have a "new location" celebration and ribbon cutting April 26 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at 38514 Fifth Ave., in Zephyrhills.

Celebrate with a glass of beer or wine at this free event.

For information, call owners Mike and Sue Prenderville at (813) 715-2212, or visit [SongPrinting.com](http://SongPrinting.com).

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off Collier Parkway in LOL.  
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, from  
8AM-2PM. Huge, with lots of items!

HUGE SALE! SATURDAY  
4/21, 8am-2pm, in LOL.  
The Lakes at Sable Ridge, off Collier.  
22917 Colridge Drive.  
Something for everyone!!! Lots of stuff!

### OAKSTEAD COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Land O' Lakes  
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 8AM-4PM.  
2 miles west of 41, off SR 54

### REFLECTIONS ANNUAL COMMUNITY SALE!

SATURDAY, 4/21, 8-12.  
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# Selena Schulz is Everyday Hero protecting Pasco animals

By Kathy Steele  
ksteel@lakerlutznews.com

Selena Schulz is growing up in a family that includes two dogs, and a guinea pig named Desmond.

Once in a while, there also are the stray dogs, cats and unexpected critters that her father brings home.

One time it was a chicken. But, more likely, it's a friendless dog or cat that Kurt Schulz found on the side of the road. They are all in need of tender loving care.

"He's a plumber, so he's out and about," said Selena's mother, Jomary Schulz. "He brings them home and rehabilitates them. He and Selena give them baths. We call whatever rescue groups that can help."

Loving animals is an embedded value for this Hudson family.

Selena, age 12, takes that to heart. She devotes hours of volunteer service to collect donations of supplies and money for animal shelters and animal welfare groups. She is also the author of three books. Donations for the books are split between various animal charities and the costs of printing more books to get more donations.

She will be at the Fourth Annual Oxford Exchange Book Fair in Tampa on April 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Rotary Club of Wesley Chapel Noon recognized Selena in March as an "Everyday Hero" for her efforts on behalf of animal welfare.

"I've always been around animals," Selena said. "There was never a time I didn't have a



COURTESY WESLEY CHAPEL NOON ROTARY CLUB  
Selena Schulz, center, received the Everyday Hero Award from the Rotary Club of Wesley Chapel Noon for her volunteer service for animal welfare. Rotary club president Kent Ross and club member Shari Mokhtari presented the award.

dog. I've bonded with them. They're my friends."

There is Snowy, a Labrador/German shepherd; Cici, a Shar-Pei/boxer; and Desmond.

The sixth grader is a student at Countryside Montessori Charter School in Land O' Lakes.

"My future goal is to be a CEO (chief executive officer)," said Selena.

And, to continue helping animals who need a friend and a home, she added.

It was on her eighth birthday that Selena found a way to combine her passion with volunteer service.

She celebrated with a party at Pasco County Animal Services. Instead of gifts, she asked for donations for the animal shelter.

People delivered. The shelter received more than 120 pounds of dry dog food, 62 pounds of dry cat food, lots of toys and treats, towels, bedding, blankets and one leash.

Selena got the idea during a shelter visit. "I saw that they weren't having beds to sleep in," she said. "They had newspaper piles."

Birthday presents can be nice, but helping a dog or cat in need seemed more important, Selena said.

Selena has kept up with her volunteer efforts and found new ways to help out.

She has a website, named for her first book, "A Bed A Buck A Buddy: Cici's Amazing Birthday." Cats got equal time in her next book, "Purr-fect Friends Forever."

Selena also wrote a song and created a music video.

All of the nonprofits that receive donations are listed on the website, ABedABuckABuddy.com.

For her 10th birthday, Selena hosted a community pet adoption event, again at Pasco County Animal Services.

Local businesses donated balloons and refreshments, including cupcakes. Her goal was for 20 dogs and cats (10 of each) to be adopted that day. She got her wish.

At the book fair, Selena will have her

## Fourth Annual Oxford Exchange Book Fair

WHEN: April 29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: 420 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

COST: Free

DETAILS: More than 40 local authors will participate

INFO: info@oxfordexchange.com; OxfordExchange.com or (813) 253-0222

newest book, "The Squeaky Surprise," on display. Desmond gets credit for this one.

She wanted to increase awareness that cats and dogs aren't the only ones needing adoption from shelters.

One of her favorite charities is Cindy's Pets. The nonprofit provides pet food to seniors who get meals delivered through Meals on Wheels.

Selena gives donations to the charity. She also helps package and deliver food for the seniors, and their pets.

Some seniors don't have the means to buy or travel to get pet supplies, so Selena said, "some of the food for the seniors went to their animals."

Since her eighth birthday, Selena has visited animal shelters across the country and in Canada. She also has been guest speaker at several schools.

"We've gone from looking for events to people asking her to be part of their events," said Jomary Schulz.

## The LAKER / Lutz News WORD SEARCH & SUDOKU

- |             |           |           |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| BEACH       | DUNE      | SAND      |
| BIRDS       | EXPLORE   | SCUBA     |
| BLUE        | FISH      | SEASHELLS |
| BOARDWALK   | FOLIAGE   | SHORELINE |
| BOATING     | GULL      | SNORKEL   |
| CONCH       | HUMIDITY  | SUNSHINE  |
| CORAL       | ISLAND    | SWIMSUIT  |
| COVE        | LUSH      | TIDE      |
| CRUISE      | OCEAN     | TROPICS   |
| CULTURE     | PALM      | VACATION  |
| DESTINATION | PEBBLES   | WARMTH    |
| DOCK        | PENINSULA | WAVES     |

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

	2		1				8	
5			3	6		9		1
	1		8		4			7
2	5				6			
	6					4		
			5	8				3
		5		7	8	1		6
1	7			4	3	2	9	
6	4			1		8	7	

## ISLAND VACATION WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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