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SEE PAGE 6A

Helping Hurricane Michael victims

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, some local efforts are underway to help the storm's victims.

Hurricane Michael was monstrous, clocking winds at 155 mph and becoming the first Category 4 storm to slam into Florida's Panhandle.

Its fierce winds and storm surge have reduced coastal communities to rubble, and

after wreaking its havoc on the Panhandle, the destructive storm made its way through Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

At least 18 deaths had been reported as of Monday, with eight in Florida, three in North Carolina, one in Georgia and six in Virginia, according to the website, Weather.com.

Authorities predict it will take some time, even years in some cases, for areas hit by Hurricane Michael's fury to recover.

While being spared the storm's wrath,

the Tampa Bay region is responding with ways to help.

A local donation drive is being coordinated by the Rotary Club of Wesley Chapel Noon, the North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce and Wesley Chapel Nissan.

Donations can be dropped off through Oct. 19 at Wesley Chapel Nissan, 28519 State Road 54, in Wesley Chapel. The dealership's hours are 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

See HURRICANE, page 11A



CHRISTINE HOLTZMAN

'Santa's workshop' at the library

Volunteers are painting handmade wooden toys at the Land O' Lakes Branch Library to be donated to the Toys for Tots program. The library's Foundry Makerspace woodworkers volunteered their time to create approximately 100 wooden toys. Now, the library is holding painting sessions to give the toys a bit more personality. The library, at 2818 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, could use some volunteers to get the work done. Anyone over 16 is invited to pitch in. Teens can earn volunteer hours and painting supplies are provided. To find out more, call (813) 929-1214. Above, volunteer Cherie Zellmer, of Land O'Lakes, begins to custom paint a toy truck. Toys that have already been painted, in the foreground, serve as an inspiration. Zellmer takes part in a regular drawing class at the library and was happy to pitch in when she heard help was needed to paint the toys.



Land O' Lakes Library assistant and resident artist Jayde Archbold laughs, while painting a toy that will be distributed by Toys for Tots. The Dade City resident came up with the idea for the painting program after seeing all of the unpainted toys in the Toys for Tots donation bin that were made in the library's Foundry Makerspace. Archbold thought: Why give children plain wooden toys when they can be colorfully painted?



Library Assistant Kerry Peters, of Lutz, paints a wooden car toy a bold color of blue during a recent Toys for Tots painting session.

Pasco commissioners seek way to stop area panhandlers

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

They already have an ordinance on the books that addresses panhandlers, and another one that addresses trespassing.

But, the Pasco County Commission still hasn't found an effective way to put a stop to panhandling.

"We have a panhandling ordinance in place. We write a lot of tickets to all of the people that are doing the panhandling. One gentleman has 240 tickets," Commissioner Jack Mariano said during the commission's Oct. 9 board meeting.

Pasco County sheriff's deputies don't know what else to do, he said.

"They don't want to take them to jail to fill up the jail. What do you do next?" the commissioner said.

Mariano has an idea. He wants to try to dissuade people from giving donations to panhandlers.

He wants the county to send a message that "we don't want you donating to the panhandlers."

He thinks that would help put a stop to the panhandling problem.

Commissioner Kathryn Starkey agrees

See PANHANDLERS, page 11A

Pasco-Hernando State College remembers Robert Judson, Jr.

By Brian Fernandes
bfernandes@lakerlutznews.com

A crowd poured into the Pasco-Hernando State College's Performing Arts Center in New Port Richey to honor Dr. Robert Judson Jr.

Judson, the college's former president, passed away on Sept. 17 at the age of 77.

He made history in 1994 when he became the first black president of a college within the Florida Community College system. At the time, PHSC was still known as a community college.

The memorial, held on the college's New Port Richey campus, came several weeks after Judson's funeral service on Sept. 29, at the Hopewell Baptist Church in Pompano Beach.

The tone of the memorial was reverent, as Pastor Mitchell Davis Jr., from the Church of God in Christ, offered an opening prayer.

But, the arts center came alive with singing and clapping when the crowd joined in with the John Missionary Baptist Church male choir, in a series of spiritual songs.

Between scripture readings, Imani Asukile, Judson's PHSC colleague, performed an African libation ceremony — watering a flower bush in remembrance of his friend.

As the service progressed, the audience,



COURTESY OF JOHN STALTER/PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE

Pasco-Hernando State College staff member Imani Asukile performed an African libation ceremony in honor of his friend, Dr. Robert Judson, Jr.

of approximately 200, came to know more about Judson's life story.

The memorial was marked by tears and

See JUDSON, page 11A

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Pasco County to hold first Alzheimer's walk

By Brian Fernandes
bfernandes@lakerlutznews.com

When Jennifer Graff realized her mother was losing her independence, little did she know that she would become a full-time caregiver.

Graff's mother, Rose, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2011, after a horrific car crash.

Since then, she has resided in several living facilities while gradually losing her memory.

Graff will walk on behalf of her mother on Oct. 20 during Pasco County's first Walk to End Alzheimer's program.

The event will be held at Starkey Ranch District Park in Odessa, open to both the public and their pets.

"We want it to be as accessible as possible for everybody," said Kaylie Male of the Alzheimer's Association's Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. "Whether or not you can afford to make a donation, you can still come out."

Participants can register either individually or as a team, beginning at 8 a.m. Donations are welcome, but not required.

Everyone who is registered will receive a Promise Garden flower. The flowers will come in four colors - purple, blue, yellow and orange - each representing the participant's relation to Alzheimer's disease.

The Promise Garden Ceremony will be at 9 a.m., where everyone will get to display their flowers.

"It's a really wonderful opportunity for people to bond," Male said, noting the ceremony serves to unite strangers.

After that, there's a 3-mile walk, which is expected to attract more than 300 walkers.

This will be Graff's fourth walk. She said she generally heads to the front of the line so she can turn around to marvel at the number of those present.

"I'm so proud of the people standing around me and everyone trying to help find a cure," she said.

Graff visits her mother on weekdays at a Tampa assisted living facility, helping to make sure her needs are adequately met.

If you go

Walk to End Alzheimer's
WHERE: Starkey Ranch District Park, 11880 Lake Blanche Drive, Odessa
WHEN: Oct. 20; registration at 8 a.m., and walk at 9 a.m.
COST: Free
DETAILS: The public is welcome to join Pasco County's first Alzheimer's walk to raise funds and awareness.
INFO: Contact Kaylie Male at (727) 578-2558 or kamale@alz.org. Preregistration and donations can be made online at Act.alz.org/pasco.

"My mom is almost a completely different person from who she was," Graff said reflecting on her mother's transition.

Although she has witnessed the slow regression, she said she takes solace in knowing her mother is content and at peace with the world.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. More than 14,000 of those are Pasco residents.

"We really knew there was a need in the area," said Male, on why the county was chosen for this year's walk.

The event will provide education on the disease, advocacy opportunities, clinical studies enrollment and support programs.

The Edward Jones corporation is the 2018 National Presenting Sponsor for the Alzheimer's Association. It has already pledged to raise \$4 million for this year.

The company's New Port Richey branch will accept 'early bird' donations on Oct. 18, as well as Wesley Chapel Nissan on Oct. 16.

Donations also can be made through the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter's Facebook page or by using the Walk to End Alzheimer's phone app.

To preregister before the event, visit Act.alz.org/pasco.

For additional information, contact Kaylie Male at (727) 578-2558 or kamale@alz.org.

Annual Autumn Day event set at Old Lutz School

By Brian Fernandes
bfernandes@lakerlutznews.com

If you want to learn about butterfly migration, visit an old-time school or purchase some items from vendors, you'll have your chance at Autumn Day on Oct. 20, at the Old Lutz School in Lutz.

The event will be held on the historic school's grounds, at 18819 U.S. 41, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lynn Barber of the UF/IFAS Hillsborough County Extension will offer a class at 10 a.m., to explain butterfly migration.

The course will also count toward community hours for parents with students attending Learning Gate Community School. A variety of vendors will be selling food, crafts, jewelry and other items.

Those attending the festival can also go inside the school where they can tour its museum, which displays items collected from the community over the years.

A scavenger hunt will be held, to move visitors around the school and help them learn about its history.

"A lot of people don't know that the

If you go

Autumn Day
WHERE: Old Lutz School, 18819 U.S. 41, in Lutz
WHEN: Oct. 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
COST: Free
DETAILS: Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the school museum, take part in a scavenger hunt and do a little shopping, too.
INFO: Contact Stephanie Ensor at (813) 244-2256 or market@oldlutzschool.com.

schoolhouse is a historical landmark and it's run by volunteers and donations," said Stephanie Ensor of the Citizens for the Old Lutz School. "This is a good opportunity to educate people on that."

Proceeds will go toward the Citizens for the Old Lutz School, which is hosting the event. The organization uses community funds to keep the two-story building intact as a local monument.

The event will have free parking and is pet-friendly.

Lutz girl to star in upcoming musical

By Brian Fernandes
bfernandes@lakerlutznews.com

Twelve-year old Olivia Carr says she loves the feeling of butterflies in her stomach when she's on stage - a feeling she may experience for her upcoming performance, "Violet - The Musical."

The musical, which includes a live orchestra, is a modern-day adaptation of the 1969 story, "The Ugliest Pilgrim," by Doris Betts.

Olivia, a Lutz resident, will play the younger version of the lead character, Violet - with Brianna Filippelli as the older version.

The story takes place in 1964 and shows Violet's journey through the U.S. South to meet an evangelist she believes will heal her of a face scar.

Olivia began acting three years ago, saying she was drawn to the stage after seeing a friend's performance.

"I saw it - and how production came to life," she said. "It really inspired me to go out and try it."

While she has a prominent role, Olivia said it takes all of the actors and singers to create the show.

Olivia has always loved singing, but her parents said they weren't aware of her desire to act and perform in public.

"We were really surprised," recalled her mother Tami. "We didn't know that she had this gift."

The New Tampa Players (NTP) production of "Violet - The Musical," will be held at the University Area Community Center in Tampa on Oct. 19 through Oct. 21 and Oct. 26 through Oct. 28.

If you go

Violet - The Musical
WHERE: University Area Community Center, 14013 N. 22nd St., in Tampa
WHEN: Oct. 19 through Oct. 21, Oct. 26 through Oct. 28; Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.
COST: \$25 per adult; \$23 for students, seniors or military; \$20 for group of 10 or more
DETAILS: The performance is about a young girl's interactions with people through the South, while on a quest to meet an evangelist.
INFO: Contact the New Tampa Players at (813) 644-8285 or NewTampaPlayers.org. Tickets can also be purchased online.

The cast is made up of mostly adults and they've been supportive of Olivia - something her mother appreciates.

Olivia had performed in shows such as "Alice in Wonderland" and "Peter Pan" before she made her NTP debut this summer in "Annie."

The production company was established in 2002 and holds open auditions for every show.

Nora Paine, NTP president, wants the power of human interaction to be the take-away from the upcoming show.

"Each person that we come in contact with, we affect their lives and they affect ours," she said.

Proceeds from the show will go toward the NTP and tickets can be purchased online at NewTampaPlayers.org.

Carballa appointed assistant county administrator in Pasco

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

and public utilities, according to county documents.

The Pasco County Commission has confirmed the appointment of Mike Carballa to serve as the assistant county administrator for public infrastructure.

Carballa's confirmation became effective on Oct. 14.

County Administrator Dan Biles recommended Carballa for the position after a nationwide search, which attracted more than 40 applicants.

Carballa joined the county's staff in April 2014 as director of utilities engineering.

He has been serving as the interim assistant county administrator for public utilities since June 2018.

Carballa has more than 12 years of directly related experience in the private sector working on projects for both private



Mike Carballa

He also served as a captain in the United States Air Force, where he oversaw various utility projects, in the design, construction and maintenance side of utilities engineering and operations.

Carballa holds a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering from the

University of South Florida, and a master's degree in business from the University of Florida.

He is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Florida.

Biles told commissioners that following the national search and a couple of rounds of interviews, "the whole team decided that the most appropriate person for the Public Infrastructure assistant county administrator position is Mike Carballa."



COURTESY OF THE GREATER TAMPA BAY AREA COUNCIL OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Boy Scouts plan 'eerie, elegant' benefit

The Greater Tampa Bay Area Council of Boy Scouts of America will host its annual Fleur de Lis Celebration fundraiser based on the book/movie, 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil,' Oct. 19 at 7 p.m., at Higgins Hall, 5225 N. Himes Ave., in Tampa. There will be a live auction, a silent auction, traditional Southern food, music and entertainment. The Boy Scouts council includes nine counties in west central Florida. Tickets are \$75 per person in advance (\$100 at the door). Tables for 10 guests are also available for purchase. For tickets, call (813) 872-2691, ext. 118, or visit TampaBayScouting.org/auction. Here, Boy Scout volunteer Marlo Woodward looks over some of the assorted decorations that will be used to help recreate the mood of the Mercer House and Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia.



COURTESY OF LILLIAN CUCUZZA

From left: Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey, Peter Castellani, Gary Ward, Don Hassee and Congressman Gus Bilirakis. Starkey was the honorary chairman of the tournament, Bilirakis was the event's grand marshal, and the golfers in-between them were the champions of the tournament.

Republican Women's Club golf tournament benefits charities

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The All-American Charity Golf Tournament, an event that's expected to take place annually, had its debut on Sept. 15 at The Groves Golf & Country Club, 7924 Melogold Circle in Land O' Lakes.

The Pasco Federated Republican Women's Club (PFRWC) and the Republican Club of Central Pasco (RCCP) co-sponsored the event.

Half of the tournament proceeds will be donated to the Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay and the "We Honor Veterans" Program at HPH Hospice.

Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey was honorary chairperson of the event and Congressman Gus Bilirakis was the grand marshal.

Nearly 100 golfers took part. The tournament champions were the team of Peter Castellani, Gary Ward and Don Hassee.

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BUTTON ART

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will offer a Spooky Button Art craft on Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants can create a button featuring jack-o-lanterns, candy corn and ghosts. The craft is limited to 12 participants. Registration is required. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

HALLOWEEN IN WONDERLAND

The Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex and Pasco County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources will host "Halloween in Wonderland" Oct. 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the rec complex, 3032 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes. The event theme will be "Alice in Wonderland," and will include games, candy, music and inflatables. Participants can wear costumes. The party will be geared toward children age 10 and younger, and their families. The cost is \$1 per person, exact change only. For information, call (813) 929-1220.

TOP OF THE BAY OKTOBERFEST

The 23rd annual Top of the Bay Oktoberfest is set for Oct. 19, Oct. 20 and Oct. 21 at Tampa Bay Downs in Oldsmar. The three-day event will feature German food, drink, authentic German music, dancing, contests and more. There will also be a carnival, arts and crafts, and food vendors under the Oktoberfest Big Top. Tickets are \$5 to \$30. Children younger than age 12 and anyone with a U.S. Armed Forces ID card (active, reserve, retired or dependent) are free. For information and tickets, visit EventBrite.com.

SIX-ROOM DRAMA

The First Baptist Church of Lutz, 18116 U.S. 41, will present Judgement House's "Payback," a six-room drama, Oct. 19, Oct. 20, Oct. 21, Oct. 26, Oct. 27 and Oct. 28. For showtimes and reservations, call (813) 949-7495. Walk-ins are welcome.

VICTORY SHIP HALLOWEEN

The American Victory Ship, at 705 Channelside Drive in Tampa, will present "UnDead in the Water," an interactive, disturbing attraction featuring brain and heart-eating zombies. Participants must escape the infestation by making their way through the ship. Dates are Oct. 19, Oct. 20, Oct. 25, Oct. 26, Oct. 27 and Oct. 31 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. General admission is \$13, and \$10 for active military, veterans and first responders. Tickets can be purchased by calling TicketWeb at (866) 468-7630, online at TicketWeb.com, or in person aboard the American Victory Ship.

SCRAPORIUM SHOW

The River of Life Church, 410 E. Chapman Road in Lutz, will host Scraporium's Holiday Craft and Vendor Show on Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be handmade fall and Christmas crafts from local crafters, and gifts from various vendors, at indoor and outdoor booths. There also will be food trucks. Admission and parking are free. For information, call Scraporium at (813) 269-7946.

SOIL PREPARATION

Volunteer at Dade City Watson Park Community Garden on Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon, to help amend the soil with treated cow manure, in preparation for the park's Fall Plant Out on Oct. 27. Participants can learn as they work about amending sandy Florida soil with organic matter, such as compost, manures and mulches. All volunteers that register will receive a free Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and closed-toe shoes. Bring a shovel or wheel barrow if you have one. No pets please. For information, contact Eden Santiago Gomez at (352) 518-0156 or esantiagogomez@pascocountyfl.net. To register, visit bit.ly/soilamend.



Halloween train

The Central Pasco & Gulf Railroad will offer Halloween train rides Oct. 19 through Oct. 27 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., through Crews Lake Park, 16739 Crews Lake Drive in Spring Hill. Ride the train early with younger riders, or after dark for adults. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Tickets sales are from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person. Kids age 1 year and younger are free. Expectant mothers will not be permitted to ride. For information, visit CP-GRR.com.

Pumpkin Patch Express

The Florida Railroad Museum will offer its Pumpkin Patch Express train rides Oct. 20, Oct. 21, Oct. 27 and Oct. 28, with departure times of 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m. Boarding begins 30 minutes prior to departure. Tickets start at \$18.50 for adults, \$14.50 for kids ages 1 to 11; and free for kids age 1 and younger. For information, visit FRRM.org.

Spooky Train

The Concourse, 11919 Alric Pottberg Road in Shady Hills, will run a Spooky Train every Friday and Saturday night in October from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Board the train and experience a scary miniature train ride around a pond, through the woods and past Pasco Safety Town. Cruise by the swamp shack and go through the spider tunnel. There also will be live actors and special effects. Participants can wear costumes. The sunset ride (for young and easily frightened children) runs from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., the fright ride runs from 7:15 p.m. to 10 p.m. Each ride is \$3. Children less than 1 year old are free. Food concessions will be available. For information, contact Bill Donati at (727) 639-7639 or info@theconcourse.org.

AUTUMN DAY

Autumn Day at the Old Lutz School, 18819 U.S. 41 in Lutz, will be Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event includes an outdoor vendor market, including plants and crafts, a flea market, and a hamburger and hot dog fundraiser. Sales of food will benefit the Old Lutz School. Admission is free. For information, email market@oldlutzschool.com.

FLUTE GATHERING

The 15th annual Silverhawk Native American Flute Gathering will take place Oct. 20 and Oct. 21 at Withlacoochee River Park, 12449 Withlacoochee Blvd., in Dade City. There will be flute players, singers, storytellers and the Sacred Thunder Drum. There also will be arts and crafts, vendors, food and camping. Bring a folding chair or blanket. Admission, parking and primitive camping are free. Pets are welcome on a leash and with baggies to clean up after them. For information, visit SilverHawkFluteGathering.com, or call Dock Green Silverhawk at (813) 763-2118.

RATTLESNAKE FESTIVAL

The Rattlesnake Festival will take place Oct. 20 and Oct. 21 at the Pasco County Fairgrounds. There will be more than 100 arts and crafts vendors, live music, fair rides, a petting zoo, more than 20 food vendors, wildlife shows, bounce houses, a Wild West show, a Subaru Off-road Rally and more. Parking is free. Admission is \$5. Kids age 2 and younger are free. For information, visit RattlesnakeFestival.com.

ALL-DAY NIGHTMARE

The Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., in downtown Tampa, will host an "All-Day Nightmare," Oct. 20, featuring all the Nightmare on Elm Street films, starting at 10 a.m. The last show will be at 10:30 p.m. Individual film tickets are \$10 for general admission; \$7 for theater members. A pass for all six movies is \$40 for general

admission; \$35 for members. For information, a list of all upcoming 'fright' movies, and tickets, visit TampaTheatre.org.

AUDUBON FIELD TRIP

The West Pasco Audubon Society will offer a field trip to John Chestnut Park on Oct. 20. Participants should meet at 7:30 a.m., at Panera Bread, at the corner of State Road 54 and Little Road. For information, email Mike Kell at jmike65@gmail.com.

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Rosebud Continuum, 22843 Hale Road in Land O' Lakes, will host a Fall Open House on Oct. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature free sustainability workshops, solar smoothies, a plant sale (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), goats to pet, and music by The Biogas Band. For information, call (813) 331-7170.

CHURCH LECTURE

The John F. Germany Library, 900 N. Ashley St., in downtown Tampa, will host author John Cinchett to discuss his book, "Historic Tampa Churches," Oct. 20 at 2:30 p.m. There also will be a special presentation entitled, "The Evolution of Tampa's Church Community 1846-1926." Admission is free. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

Newland Communities will host Concerts for a Cause at Bexley, 16950 Vibrant Way in Land O' Lakes, to benefit Feeding Tampa Bay. All concerts are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The upcoming lineup is:
• Oct. 20: Frequency (cover tunes)
• Oct. 27: Fall Festival featuring Raydio (songs from the '70s). The festival also will have a pumpkin patch, costume contest, face painting and food trucks. Guests are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items or cash donations, as well as lawn chairs or blankets. For information, visit Concerts4Cause.com.

FALL FESTIVAL

The Lifestyle Church of God, 21345 Sanderson Road in Lacombe, will host a Fall Festival on Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be an open-air service at 11 a.m., followed by a barbecue chicken lunch. Eight bikes will be given out at 2 p.m., and there will be games for adults and youth. The musical group "Psalms 101" will perform, and the church group, Firefall Youth, will perform a drama. Kidslife will sing two songs. Events and meals are free, except for the cake and gift basket auctions. For information, visit Lifestyle Church of God on Facebook, or call Pastor Paul Kilcrease at (352) 583-3354.

BIG BAND MUSIC

The Tampa Bay Big Band will present a free concert Oct. 21 at 5 p.m., at the Community of Christ church, 17112 Livingston Road in Lutz. Music will include Harry James, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Count Basie and more. Hot dogs, chips, drinks and desserts will be available. For information, call (813) 748-5400.

VINTAGE MARKET

The Shabby Chic Vintage Market & Artisan Day will return Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at The Grove in Wesley Chapel. There will be interactive seminars by vendors, local artisans, upcycled and original art, live music, home décor and antiques. For information, call Simply Events at (727) 674-1464.

POPS IN THE PARK

The Florida Orchestra (TFO) will host its free "Pops in the Park" Oct. 21 at 7 p.m., at River Tower Park, 401 E. Bird St., in Tampa. The concert will feature music from Bernstein, Mendelssohn and Gershwin, as well as music from "Frozen" and "Star Wars." As is tradition, TFO will collect nonperishable goods for Tampa Bay Harvest's annual food drive. For information, visit FloridaOrchestra.org.

FUN ON THE FARM

Jimmy Mc's Farm, 17430 Coon Hide Road in Spring Hill, will offer "Family Fun on the Farm" Oct. 27, Oct. 28, Nov. 10 and Nov. 11, weather permitting. There will be Yard Yahtzee, a crop maze, pick-up-sticks, a tree house, life-size dominoes, tire swings, chicken-drop bingo, kids' crafts, pick-and-boil peanuts, and farm animals. Close-toed shoes are recommended. The cost is \$10, cash only, per person age 5 and older. For information, visit Facebook.com/JimmyMcsFarm, or email Jimmymcs2017@gmail.com.

DONATION DRIVE

The Stano Foundation, dedicated to supporting all military troops, is having a Donation Drive through Oct. 27. The organization is expecting to send 750 care packages for Christmas. The cost to ship a care package is \$18; to fill a package, \$27; and to fill and ship a package, \$45. To donate, visit Stano.org/donate. To shop the Amazon wish list, visit Stano.org/getinvolved.

TAMPA ORCHID CLUB

The Tampa Orchid Club will meet Oct. 23 at the Northdale Recreation Center, 15550 Spring Pine Drive in Tampa. The guest speaker will be Steve Balderson, owner of Shady Tree Nursery. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., followed by a meeting at 10 a.m. There will be a bloom table, plants for sale and a silent auction. For information, call Barbara Barkhurst at (813) 949-7467.

RED RIDING HOOD

Creative Arts Theatre Company will present "Red Riding Hood" Oct. 24 at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., at the Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz-Lake Fern Road, for ages 4 and older. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

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Pasco County Fairgrounds gears up for Rattlesnake Festival

By Brian Fernandes
bfernandes@lakerlutznews.com

The Rattlesnake Festival, a community tradition for more than a half-century, has moved to a new locale — the Pasco County Fairgrounds.

The move from San Antonio City Park — its venue for 51 years — comes as the event's host, The Thomas Promise Foundation, decided it was time for a roomier setting.

While shifting to the fairgrounds, many of the event's traditions will continue.

For instance, Tony and Carol Noble, are set to open their kettle corn stand; the popular gopher tortoise races will be offered; Cowboy Tom will be there; and there'll be a snake show, too.

The two-day event is set for Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The admission charge is \$5, with free entry for those age 2 and younger.

Tony Noble, who was raised in San Antonio, reflected on what made the festival special to him as a kid, such as the races and the grilled barbecue chicken dinners.

The festival has evolved over time, but many of activities he grew up with will be offered this year, he said.

Jim Mendenhall's snake show is one of those longstanding festival features. The Squamata Reptile show provides a chance for people to learn about snakes and other reptiles, and to see them in action, too.

The Croc Encounters crocodile show, will be there, too, and so will Florida Fish and Wildlife's demonstration. There will be a petting zoo and pony rides for the kids.

Cowboy Tom will saddle up on his horse for his Wild West Show, and children will have the opportunity to compete their wooden turtles in the Gopher Race.

A \$15 wristband will allow visitors unlimited fair rides, and individual tickets can be purchased for one-time rides.

Vendors will offer food, crafts and other items for purchase.

Miss Pasco County Courtney Graham will open the festival with the national anthem Saturday at 9:45 a.m.

Other live performances will include Jesse and Noah Bellamy, Johnny Shelton and the Showstoppers.

The 40th Rattlesnake Run will remain at San Antonio Park and take place on Oct. 20 at 8 a.m.

Participants can choose the 1-mile or 5-mile run and are welcome to bring their dogs.

Proceeds from the festival and run will



FILE

The Crabgrass Cowboys perform at the San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival & Run, celebrating the festival's 50th anniversary. The festival is now called The Rattlesnake Festival.

If you go

Rattlesnake Festival

WHERE: Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 State Road 52 in Dade City

WHEN: Oct. 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Oct 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

COST: \$5 admission; free for those age 2 and younger

DETAILS: Vendors, live performances, animals and food

INFO: Contact Joe Simmons at (813) 782-0000 or rattlesnakefest@gmail.com, or visit RattlesnakeFestival.com.

go toward The Thomas Promise Foundation, which distributes more than 1,200 food bags to Pasco County students on Friday, so children don't go hungry over the weekend.

The organization decided to take over the annual festival after the San Antonio Rotary Club celebrated the festival's 50th anniversary in 2016.

"We were very successful last year," said Joe Simmons, executive director of the foundation. "We raised enough funds to be able to provide over 40,000 meals to kids within our program."

The Thomas Promise Foundation will co-host this year's run with the Zephyrhills High School cross-country team and the I Play Track Foundation.

A portion of the funds collected from the run will go toward a member of the school's cross-country team who is suffering from bone cancer.

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Emerging commercial markets in Pasco County

By B.C. Manion

bcmation@lakerlutznews.com

It doesn't take a master's degree in economics to see that Pasco County's commercial real estate market is going strong.

Take a drive down the State Road 54/State Road 56 corridor, and you'll see new developments popping up, and for sale property signs planted everywhere.

As spaces along that corridor become too expensive or less available, more activity is expected along U.S. 41 and Wesley Chapel Boulevard, and U.S. 301 in Zephyrhills near the end-point of the State Road 56 extension, predicts Jim Engelmann, a broker with Commercial Partners Realty Inc., who will be moderating a fall forum on commercial real estate in Wesley Chapel on Oct. 18.

"It's a really good time to lock in in Zephyrhills right now," Engelmann said, because the prices will increase once the State Road 56 extension is done.

"It's a fantastic time to buy right now.

"There's not a lot of high-quality office space available in Zephyrhills right now. There is some, but there's not a lot.

"What's going to happen is that slowly, people are going to buy and either remodel, or they're going to buy, demolish and rebuild.

"They'll start to put up better quality over there, but that's 10 years down the road.

"The challenge we're starting to see along (U.S.) 41 now is that the property that's available doesn't match up with what the users can pay, in a lot of cases," he said.

"What you see right now is a lot of owners who are not willing to develop the

If you go

Commercial Fall Forum

WHERE: Hilton Garden Inn in Wesley Chapel, 26640 Silver Maple Parkway

WHEN: Oct. 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

COST: \$20 for members of Central Pasco Association of Realtors; \$25 for others (fee includes lunch)

DETAILS: This forum features a variety of topics related to commercial real estate and will include several speakers.

INFO: (813) 948-6966

property. It's just a piece of bumpy, flat land," he added.

Engelmann also noted that Pasco County has been taking steps to attract more commercial development.

"Pasco is doing some really good things to bring business into the county. They're doing incentives," said Engelmann, who is president-elect of the Rotary Club of Land O' Lakes and a board member on the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce.

Pasco County waives mobility fees for some target industries and offers loan forgiveness for projects meeting specific criteria, he said.

Engelmann also noted that Wesley Chapel continues to be a hot market.

Wiregrass Ranch continues to attract interest, Engelmann said, praising the approach the Porter family has used to promote quality growth.

"It's incredible what they're doing out there," he said. "They're being smart about what they're doing."

POLITICAL AGENDA

TRINITY DEMOCRATS

The Trinity Democratic Club's Oct. 24 meeting will feature Jeremy Ring, the Democratic candidate running for Florida's Chief Financial Officer. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m., at Fox Hollow Golf Club, at 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway in Trinity. Doors open at 5 p.m., for dinner and happy hour (self-pay) with food and beverages available for purchase throughout the meeting. For more information, call (415) 609-3633 or email trinitydems@gmail.com.

REPUBLIC CLUB OF CENTRAL PASCO

The Oct. 29 meeting of the Republican Club of Central Pasco will feature Congressman Gus Bilirakis, who is running for re-election in the U.S. House of Representatives, Florida's 12th congression-

al district. The meeting is open to the public. The club meets at Copperstone Executive Suites, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd, in Land O' Lakes. The social begins at 6:30 p.m., with the business meeting beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, call (813) 996-3011.

ENDORSEMENT

Pasco Schools Superintendent Kurt Browning has endorsed Gus Bilirakis, who is seeking re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives, in Florida's 12th congressional district, according to a news release from Bilirakis' campaign.

Please submit items for consideration at least two weeks prior to the desired publication date. Send submissions to news@lakerlutznews.com.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS



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SLEEP SEMINAR

Morton Plant North Bay Hospital, 6600 Madison St., in New Port Richey, will present "Sleep Well, Wake Well" Oct. 18 at noon, in the Bekesh Education & Conference Center, Rooms 1-3.

Dr. Zahid Mohammad Akram will discuss the value of good sleep in achieving goals, how sleep affects health and safety, the benefits of good sleep, and tools to improve sleep quality.

To preregister, call (727) 953-6877, or visit BayCareEvents.org.

WORLD POLIO DAY

The Rotary Clubs of Dade City Sunrise, Dade City Noon and San Antonio will recognize World Polio Day on Oct. 20 and Oct. 21 at the Rattlesnake Festival, at the Pasco County Fairgrounds.

Rotary members are reaching out to raise awareness, funds and support to end polio, a vaccine-preventable disease that still threatens children in parts of the world.

Come by and get your pinkie painted purple and watch the virtual reality polio story.

Visit EndPolio.org for more about Rotary and its efforts to eradicate polio.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

NOPE (Narcotics Overdose Prevention & Education) of Hillsborough will host its eighth annual candlelight vigil Oct. 18, at Hillsborough High School, auditorium and front lawn, 5000 N. Central Ave., in Tampa.

The event is in memory of those who have lost their lives due to drug and alcohol-related incidents, to honor those who have lost a loved one to accidental overdose death, and to help those suffering from the disease of addiction.

There will be a Memorial Wall viewing at



COURTESY OF PATRICIA SERIO

A movement of color for battered women

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club hosted a fundraiser and luncheon to benefit the Sunrise Domestic Violence Shelter of Pasco County. The venue was awash in a sea of purple as members wore the color to bring attention to the topics of domestic and sexual violence. The luncheon raised more than \$1,100, which was presented to the shelter, along with a truckload of donated items to assist the shelter's residents. For information about the club, visit GFWCLutzLandOLakesWomansClub.org.

6 p.m., followed by a ceremony at 7 p.m.

To add your loved one's story and photo to the wall, please email it to NOPEHillsborough@gmail.com, or bring it to the vigil at 6 p.m.

To learn more about the organization, visit NOPEHillsborough.org.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

The Alzheimer's Association will host the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Oct. 20 at Starkey Ranch District Park, 11880 Lake Blanche Drive in Odessa. This is the first time the (pet-friendly) walk will take place in Pasco County.

Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Participants can take the 3-mile walk and learn about the disease, advocacy opportunities, clinical studies enrollment, and support programs and services.

There also will be a chance to honor those affected by Alzheimer's with a Promise Garden ceremony.

Anyone interested can sign up as a team captain, join a team, or register to walk as an individual.

For information and registration, visit ALZ.org/walk.

BIRTH CENTER TOURS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer birth center tours at 1 p.m., on Oct. 21 and Oct. 28, in its Labor & Delivery Unit.

The tour is designed to introduce the services available to the entire family.

To register, call (813) 443-2046.

ESSENTIAL OILS CLASS

Deanna Jacobs will host a free class on how to use essential oils for energy and support Oct. 23 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave., in Zephyrhills.

For information, call (813) 479-7724.

MEDICARE INFORMATION

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 2348 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, will host several Medicare seminars.

Seminars in Spanish will be Oct. 17 and Nov. 14. Seminars in English will be Oct. 24, Nov. 7 and Nov. 28. All educational sessions will be at 7:15 p.m., in Immaculata Hall.

Tools and resources will be available and discussed.

If you turned 65 years old, are a veteran, moved to a new zip code, have been diagnosed with a chronic condition, or received a plan change notification, please attend.

Light food and drinks will be provided.

For information, email Don Leshar at don@insurhub.biz.

INFERTILITY CHALLENGES

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will offer an educational presentation on infertility challenges and possible options on Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m., at Inspiration Place, Wellness Plaza, third floor.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Anthony Imudia, obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive endocrinology, infertility.

Preregistration is required by calling (813) 929-5432, or by visiting FHWesleyChapel.org/events.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) will host a volunteer orientation Oct. 24 at 10 a.m., at The Area Agency on Aging office, 4111 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. The office is in the tax collector building, third floor, conference room.

Volunteers for SHINE assist seniors in making informed health care decisions.

There will be coffee and breakfast bars.

For information, contact Sue Samson at (727) 570-9696, ext. 234.

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

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The Laker/Lutz News claims 18 awards in state contest

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Laker/Lutz News brought home 18 awards from the Community Papers of Florida 2018 Awards for Excellence competition.

The annual statewide contest recognizes outstanding work in advertising, writing and photography.

On the advertising side, The Laker/Lutz News design staff garnered 11 awards in these categories:

- **Advertising campaign:** First place, Stefanie Burlingame and Matthew Mistretta, The Lakes Floral & Gifts; and Second place, Stefanie Burlingame, New Age Medical Center

- **Professional Services Advertising - less than half page:** First place, Stefanie Burlingame, Evolution; and Second place, Stefanie Burlingame, Pet Point Animal Hospital
- **Self-promotion:** Stefanie Burlingame, First place

- **Theme promotion:** First place, Matthew Mistretta, Faith and Worship; and Second place, Matthew Mistretta, Home Section

- **Automotive advertising:** Third place, Matthew Mistretta, Bay Breeze Car Wash & Lube

- **Real estate advertising - half page or more:** Third place, Stefanie Burlingame, Advantage Real Estate Services
- **Real estate advertising - less than half page:** Third place, Stefanie Burlingame, Allen Collins Realty

- **Spot color:** Third place, Stefanie Burlingame, Treasured Pets Resort & Spa

The judges provided comments only for entries receiving a first place honor.

For the Evolution ad, one judge wrote, "this ad looks three-dimensional. The blurry Christmas tree in the background makes everything in the foreground stand out. The use of space and offer is perfect."

For the Faith and Worship Theme Page, a judge noted "the overall layout and presentation of this page gives the reader several easy-to-find church services in the community. Each ad is clean and easy to read."

In the Advertising Campaign category for The Lakes Floral & Gifts, one judge commented, "These ads are in full bloom! The use of

color and composition make the ad series consistent and appealing to the reader. Well done." Another judge pointed out "the color really makes this campaign POP!" Another judge noted, "A consistent look with strong, dominant artwork and vibrant colors makes for an effective campaign."

Diane Kortus, the newspaper's publisher, received third place recognition for a personal column she wrote about Valentine's Day. The column observed that Valentine's Day is not just an opportunity to celebrate romantic love, but also love for family, friends and colleagues.

The editorial team of Fred Bellet, Christine Holtzman, B.C. Manion, Kevin Weiss and Randy Underhill received honors in four categories.

- **News Story:** First place
- **Best Original Writing:** Third place
- **Best Original Photographic Spread:** Second place and Third place
- **Best Independent Photo Feature:** Two second-place honors

Manion won first place for her news story about local students at Wiregrass Ranch High School, in Wesley Chapel, joining a national walkout in the wake of the Valentine's Day shooting spree that left 17 dead and 17 injured at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida.

One judge said the piece was "well-sourced" and called it "a descriptive narrative of this event."

Weiss won third place for his profile about a reality show featuring the Bellamy Brothers, their music and their life on a 200-acre ranch in Darby.

Holtzman took home two second-place photography honors in the best independent photo feature category. One was for her photograph of a small child blowing a bubble and the other for an appearance that Mr. Tommy made at a local library.

Bellet received second place in the Best Original Photographic Spread Category for his collection of photos of a softball team for players with special needs. Underhill captured third place in the same category for his photos of a father-daughter dance at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex.

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MOCK ELECTIONS

Pasco County Supervisor of Elections Brian E. Corley, in conjunction with Pasco County Schools Social Studies Department, will sponsor a districtwide student mock election.

The ballot with both the presidential candidate race and the U.S. Senate race will be available to more than 68,000 students countywide.

Students will cast a ballot using a web-based voting platform known as DoubleClick Democracy, which is supported by KidsVoting USA.

Participating students will receive an "I Voted" sticker, and can view the results on the Supervisor of Elections' website, PascoVotes.com, after 7 p.m., on Election Day, Nov. 6.

VIDEO CONTEST WINNERS

The IPO Education Foundation has selected its 2018 IPO Video Contest winners.

The contest, in its eighth year, encouraged contestants to visually illustrate how inventors play a critical role in growing the economy, and improving the general well-being of individuals and societies.

One winner in each category received a cash prize or scholarship and a trip to Washington D.C., for IPO's annual awards dinner.

This year, a new category, Enter for Charity, was added, with the cash prize going to the charity of the winner's choice.

Catherine Tomasello, of Land O' Lakes, won a \$3,000 cash prize for ages 13 to 15.

A total of more than \$20,000 was awarded by the IPO Education Foundation.

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS GETS \$25,000

Liberty National Life Insurance Company, a provider of life and supplemental health insurance, made a \$25,000 contribution to Step Up For Students, funding three K-12 scholarships during the 2018-2019 school year.

The scholarships will allow lower-income children the opportunity to attend the school that best meets their learning needs.

For the 2018-2019 school year, Step Up For Students is serving more than 98,500 students throughout Florida with tuition scholarships valued at up to \$6,519 per student for kindergarten through fifth grade, \$6,815 for sixth through eighth grade, and \$7,111 for ninth through 12th grade.

More than 1,750 private schools participate in the scholarship program statewide.

For information, visit StepUpForStudents.org.

STUDENTS MEET WITH RUBIO STAFF

Saint Leo University hosted office hours for U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL).

Jonathan Torres, Gulf Coast regional director for Rubio's office, met with students, faculty, staff and members of the surrounding Pasco County community.

Several of Saint Leo's social work students met with Torres to discuss issues such as immigration and human trafficking.

Freshman Amanda Baxter, a criminal justice major who is interested in political science, met with Torres to talk about careers in politics and government.

BERKELEY PREP OPEN HOUSE

Berkeley Preparatory School, an independent Episcopal day school for boys and



COURTESY OF CONNORS STATE COLLEGE

Tierani Johnson

STUDENT ADDED TO LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

Tierani Johnson, of Land O' Lakes, will serve as a member of the Connors State College Livestock Judging Team in Warner, Oklahoma. Connors State is a two-year agriculture college.

Johnson is a sophomore at Connors State and is pursuing an Associate of Science degree in animal science.

Judging team members evaluate both breeding and market animals for beef cattle, sheep, goats, swine and horses, to determine their value relative to current industry trends.

The team travels all over the state of Oklahoma and throughout the Midwest to practice and compete. Members visit ranches, university farms, and regional and national fairs and livestock shows. These visits allow members to meet and work with many elite animal operations and meet some of the top producers in the nation.

Johnson is the daughter of Danielle Lapsley, of Land O' Lakes.

girls, will host two open houses, at 4811 Kelly Road in Tampa.

- Oct. 28 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., for grades six to 12. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m., followed by a program at 2 p.m., in the Lykes Center for the Performing Arts.

- Oct. 30 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., for prekindergarten through fifth grade. Registrations begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by a program at 9 a.m., in the Seivold Center for Early Childhood Education, Casper Family Piazza.

For information, visit BerkeleyPrep.org/openhouse.

POSTER AND POEM CONTEST

Paralyzed Veterans of America has launched its 15th annual Veterans Day National Poster and Poem Contest, to showcase the artistic talents and patriotic pride of young students for disabled veterans in their communities.

The theme for this year's contest is "Help Our Veterans Be Unstoppable in Your Community."

Participants are asked to draw a poster or write a poem showing or telling how they can help make their community more accessible for veterans who use wheelchairs.

The poster contest is open to students in first grade to fourth grade. The poem contest is open to students in grades five to eight.

Entries must be received by 5 p.m., on Oct. 29.

For information, including guidelines and how to enter, visit PVA.org/posterpoem.

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HURRICANE, from page 1A

"We're going to pack trucks on Saturday, and if we can get in, we'll leave on Sunday," said Chris Casella, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Wesley Chapel Noon.

"We're going to be delivering it to St. James Episcopal Church," he said.

Thomas Dwyer, the pastor of the church, also serves as the president of the Rotary Club of Port St. Joe.

The Wesley Chapel club wanted to be sure it had a focused effort, with a local contact to make sure the supplies could be distributed there.

"Rotary District 6950 — which is Citrus County, Pinellas County, Hernando and Pasco — they sent out 1,900 emails to our members," Casella said. "A lot of people are sending us checks, and we're just going to go shop on Saturday."

The effort is focused on providing practical items that people need that the Federal Emergency Management Agency doesn't provide, such as cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items.

"Insect repellent is going to be huge. These people are going to be outside all day long," Casella said. Plus, there's no electricity, so the windows are open.

"The focus on television has been Mexico Beach and Panama City. You don't hear about Port St. Joe, at all," Casella said. "A small town like Port St. Joe will get neglected."

Two of the Rotary Club's Interact Clubs are also doing supply collection drives, Casella said. One of those clubs is at Wesley Chapel High School and the other one is at Cypress Creek Middle High School.

"The chamber (North Tampa Bay Chamber) has been incredible with this. They're mobilizing local businesses," Casella said.

Other Rotary Clubs are pitching in.

And, Wesley Chapel Nissan's ownership and management has played a vital role by allowing the dealership's staff to help and making room for the supplies in the dealership's showroom, Casella said.

Troy Stevenson, of Wesley Chapel Nissan, said "we're convoying up Sunday. We've got Wesley Chapel Nissan employees, Wesley Chapel Rotary and North Tampa Bay Chamber."

"By the end of the week, we'll probably be sending up two truckloads."

In addition to those efforts, Pasco County government is lending its assistance to hurricane victims, as well.

One team from Pasco Emergency Services (911) was deployed to Bay County. The six dispatchers on the team are relieving and supporting the 911 center there, according to Brendan Fitterer, public information officer for Pasco County.



COURTESY OF CHRIS CASELLA

Mady Miller, a student from Sanders Elementary School, organizes a water collection drive at her school, which results in a truck full of water collected in a single day.

Items needed:

- Portable generators
- Insect repellent
- Bottled water
- Bleach
- Disinfectant wipes
- Latex gloves
- Large garbage bags
- Brooms
- Mops
- Sponges
- Laundry detergent
- Hand sanitizer
- Soap
- Feminine products
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- First aid kits/supplies
- Tarps

Pasco Emergency Management also has deployed the State of Florida Region 4/6 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) to Gulf County.

This group is made up of personnel from Pasco County Fire Rescue and Emergency Management, as well as personnel from Hernando, Sumter, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sanford counties, the University of South Florida and the Lakeland Police Department.

The all-hazards team is being deployed for both Emergency Operations Center support and field operations, as needed, Fitterer said, via email.

PANHANDLERS, from page 1A

that there's a problem. She told her colleagues that she was aware of a panhandler working on one side of a turn-lane on Starkey Boulevard who was cited, so he simply moved to the other side of the road.

"Apparently, it's site specific when you cite them. I think we have to address that ordinance," Starkey said. She thinks the ordinance should address panhandling that happens anywhere in the county.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Kristi Sims explained the actions the board has taken to date.

"So, when the board enacted its ordinance concerning road solicitation, or panhandling — that is a civil violation and yes, tickets were written," Sims said. "People would turn the tickets over and use them as another sign, on the backs of their tickets. It was not being paid. It wasn't particularly effective with some of the panhandlers in the county."

"If you'll recall, when it started, it (panhandling) was ubiquitous — on almost every corner and growing."

"There was certainly a hard-core population of people who are violating the road solicitation ordinance, so this board went further and implemented a trespass ordinance that allows the sheriff to trespass them off of public property, intersections and yes, that is site specific," the attorney said.

If that's not working, Sims suggested two options. One would be to work harder on the trespass option, or two, violation of the ordinance is theoretically punishable by up to 60 days in jail.

"However, we would need to fund and pay for representation for indigent defendants to do that," she said.

"The only thing left is jail," Sims said. "I



FILE

Pasco County Commissioner Jack Mariano

can't make a certain segment of panhandlers care that they've received a citation."

Mariano thinks the county should warn people who are giving to panhandlers that they should stop doing so.

"I think when someone gets a couple of warnings, they're going to stop. When the panhandlers see that these people are being warned not to donate, I think we can deter it that way."

"Because obviously, what we're doing is not working. We need some type of change. I think this is something, that this would be a very positive move to try to diminish what's happening out there," Mariano said.

Commission Chairman Mike Wells Jr., said he favors taking action to reduce panhandling because he worries about the safety of people who are seeking donations.

Mariano suggested having a workshop to discuss updating the ordinance, and commissioners asked County Administrator Dan Biles to put together a list of the county's priorities so they can discuss during their next meeting when they might want to set up that workshop.

Biles agreed to bring back that list.



COURTESY OF JOHN STALTER/PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE

The John Missionary Baptist Church male choir performed several spiritual songs at the Pasco-Hernando State College memorial service for Dr. Robert Judson on Oct. 9.

JUDSON, from page 1A

laughter, as former colleagues, fellow church-goers, friends and family shared stories of the man — with a deep, commanding voice — that they respected and loved.

Judson's academic life began at Southern University in Louisiana.

In 1962, he married his high school sweetheart, Ellen Atkins, and served in the Army.

He graduated from Florida A & M University in 1969 with a degree in European history, and then earned a master's degree in counseling from the same university in 1972.

Later that year, he joined what was then known as Pasco-Hernando Community College, as one of the college's first instructors. He was hired by Milton Jones, the school's founding president.

Judson served as a recruiter and a counselor while pursuing a doctorate degree in education.

During his tenure he was instrumental in buying the land for the Spring Hill campus, as well as erecting buildings for health programs, childcare and technology at several PHSC branches.

Judson's graduation regalia — cap, gown, shawls and medallions — were neatly displayed on the stage next to the podium where speakers offered words of reflection.

Katherine Johnson, a former president at PHSC, said, "Bob approached me with a statement that proved both flattering and eventually career-altering for me."

She succeeded Judson in 2005, after he

encouraged her to apply for his job.

Timothy Beard, the college's current president, told the audience: "He was a man with a great soul. He has certainly made a difference at PHSC."

Beyond his contributions to academia, Judson took an active role in community outreach, helping to rebuild the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Pasco County.

He was an active member of several Baptist churches, received recognition from the African-American Heritage Society and won the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Award.

Before his passing, Judson and his wife, Ellen, had the opportunity to start a scholarship program for PHSC students.

Sarah Majka, a recipient of the Dr. Robert and Ellen Judson Scholarship, shared her gratitude for the financial support.

"I'll forever be thankful for being one of the many students who have benefited from Dr. and Mrs. Judson's generosity," Majka said.

While the president was known for his various academic accomplishments and community outreach, there were those who saw him in a more personal light.

There was no doubt about Judson's top priority, said Maurice Jones, a longtime friend, who spoke at the service. "Bob was truly a family-first man."

His wife of 56 years, their three daughters and grandchildren shared final thoughts with the audience before the reception.

"His best achievement was loving his family," said granddaughter, Chanelle Thomas. "Thoughts of my granddad inspire me every day."

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Records broken at conference swim meet

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

A swimming and diving team — that is not named Land O' Lakes High School — can finally lay claim as tops in Pasco County.

The Land O' Lakes High School's boys squad had won every conference meet dating back to 2001, while the girls squad had won the conference meet since 2009.

But, this time around, the Gators boys finished behind Mitchell High, and the girls squad was unseated by Sunlake High, at the 2018 Pasco County Sunshine Athletic Conference Meet, held Oct. 13 at the New Port Richey Recreation & Aquatic Center.

Though no longer county champions, the Gators proved they're still a force to be reckoned with, as both squads combined to sweep 10 out of 24 events — more than any other program. That mark was narrowly followed by Sunlake, whose boys and girls squads combined to win nine events.

Meantime, several individual event conference records were set by individuals and relay teams.

The county's 13 high schools will square off again at district meets, which begin the week of Oct. 22 for 3A and 4A schools, and the week of Oct. 29 for 1A and 2A schools.



FRED BELLET

Sunlake girls show off their Sunshine Athletic Conference trophy from inside the pool at the New Port Richey Aquatics and Recreation Center.



Sunlake High School's senior Hannah Barton gets a few strokes ahead of Land O' Lakes' Romina McCloskey in the final girls 100-yard freestyle.



Mitchell High School boys swim team proudly hoist the trophy they won at the 2018 Pasco County Sunshine Athletic Conference Meet held at the New Port Richey Aquatics Center. Coach Lorin MacDonald is at bottom right.

Girls

- **200-Yard Medley Relay** (Sunlake, 1:53.05)
- **200-Yard Freestyle Relay** (Land O' Lakes, 1:41.55)
- **100-Yard Breaststroke** (Elise Ballash, Sunlake, 1:07.60)

Boys

- **200-Yard Medley Relay** (Land O' Lakes, 1:42.24)
- **50-Yard Freestyle** (Patrik Pilkowski, Land O' Lakes, 21.23)
- **500-Yard Freestyle** (Clyde Crouse, Cypress Creek, 4:47.52)
- **100-Yard Backstroke** (Patrik Pilkowski, Land O' Lakes, 51.98)
- **400-Yard Freestyle Relay** (Land O' Lakes, 3:18.63)

2018 Pasco County Sunshine Athletic Conference Meet

GIRLS-TEAM SCORES

- Sunlake (508 points)
- Land O' Lakes (463)
- Mitchell (314)
- Wiregrass Ranch (227)
- River Ridge (171)
- Hudson (122)
- Fivay (87)
- Cypress Creek (83)
- Wesley Chapel (72)
- Pasco (69)
- Gulf (30)
- Zephyrhills (23)

BOYS-TEAM SCORES

- Mitchell (430)
- Land O' Lakes (381)
- Sunlake (281)
- River Ridge (223)
- Wiregrass Ranch (207)
- Cypress Creek (155)
- Wesley Chapel (134)
- Fivay (108)
- Zephyrhills (92)
- Pasco (68)
- Hudson (51)
- Anclote (26)
- Gulf (12)

Girls Event Winners

- 200-Yard Medley Relay:** Sunlake — Amber Ewald, Hanna Barton, Elise Ballash, Tori Eurell (1:53.05)
- 200-Yard Free:** Taylor Ward Land O' Lakes, sophomore (1:55.76)
- 200-Yard Individual Medley:** Audrey Ballash, Sunlake, junior (2:18.23)
- 50-Yard Free:** Chloe Grimme, Sunlake, junior (24:10)
- 1-Meter Diving:** Katelyn Kirves, River Ridge, senior (391.25 score)
- 100-Yard Fly:** Hanna Barton, Sunlake, senior (1:01.46)

- 100-Yard Free:** Chloe Grimme, Sunlake, junior (53.52)
- 500-Yard Free:** Taylor Ward, Land O' Lakes, senior (5:02.60)
- 200-Yard Free Relay:** Land O' Lakes — Taylor Ward, Amaya Henry, Margarita Czupryn, Romina McCloskey (1:41.55)
- 100-Yard Back:** Amber Ewald, Sunlake, freshman (1:03.57)
- 100-Yard Breast:** Elise Ballash, Sunlake, senior (1:07.60)
- 400-Yard Free Relay:** Land O' Lakes — Taylor Ward, Amaya Henry, Margarita Czupryn, Romina McCloskey (3:40.70)

Boys Event Winners

- 200-Yard Medley Relay:** Land O' Lakes — Patrik Pilkowski, Zachary Smith, Griffin Sutek, Zuri Ramsey (1:42.24)
- 200-Yard Free:** Clyde Crouse, Cypress Creek, sophomore (1:47.45)
- 200-Yard Individual Medley:** Colin Wilkins, Sunlake, junior (2:06.84)
- 50-Yard Free:** Patrik Pilkowski, Land O' Lakes, senior (21.23)
- 1-Meter Diving:** Colin Dempsey, Mitchell, senior (382.45 score)
- 100-Yard Fly:** Jay Jay Fonnotto, Sunlake, junior (53.71)

- 100-Yard Free:** Zuri Ramsey, Land O' Lakes, sophomore (48.75)
- 500-Yard Free:** Clyde Crouse, Cypress Creek, sophomore (4:47.52)
- 200-Yard Free Relay:** Land O' Lakes — Jack Kaatze, Zachary Smith, Griffin Sutek, Ravidu Idipilli (1:37.06)
- 100-Yard Back:** Patrik Pilkowski, Land O' Lakes, senior (51.98)
- 100-Yard Breast:** Austin Erickson, Mitchell, junior (1:04.28)
- 400-Yard Free Relay:** Land O' Lakes — Zuri Ramsey, Jack Kaatze, Ravidu Idipilli, Patrik Pilkowski (3:18.63)



Hopeful for a teammate to win the heat, Isaiah Lawrence, of Zephyrhills, watches the action at the New Port Richey Aquatic Center. Lawrence swam in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle. He said the water was a cool 65 degrees to 68 degrees.



Winning a freestyle event, Land O' Lakes sophomore Luan Mantilla made a splash at the Pasco County Sunshine Athletic Conference Swim Meet.

CHECK THIS OUT

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FORMER GAITHER FOOTBALL COACH SETS ALL-TIME COUNTY WINS MARK

Former Gaither High/Boca Ciega High and current Hillsborough High head coach Earl Garcia recently won his 255th game to become the all-time winningest coach in Tampa Bay history.

The previous record of 254 career victories was held by former Chamberlain High coach Billy Turner, who retired in 2009 after 39 years as a head coach.

Garcia's milestone was achieved Oct. 5, in a 7-6 home victory over Jefferson High.

The 66-year-old Garcia, who coached at Gaither from 1987 to 1991, now has a career record of 255-104, which includes nine 10-win seasons. He's been at Hillsborough since 1993.

Garcia was recently inducted into Gaither's inaugural football Hall of Fame, joining Greg Callahan, Denny Haywood, Kenny Huebner, Terry Jordan, Chad Muilenberg, Cesar Paz, James Puckett and Lydell Ross.



GARCIA AT GAITHER

- 1987 — Gaither (7-4)
- 1988 — Gaither (6-4)
- 1989 — Gaither (4-6)
- 1990 — Gaither (3-7)
- 1991 — Gaither (5-5)



COURTESY OF ROD MERRITT

The Wiregrass Ranch High girls golf team won the Pasco County Girls' High School Golf Conference tournament on Oct. 8. From left: assistant coach Tyler Finn, Norah Catlin, Morgan Sustachek, Mya Simard, Amelia Galiber, Loryn Finn, Karlye Norah and head coach Jeremy Calzone.

Wiregrass girls win conference tourney

For the third straight year, the Wiregrass Ranch High School varsity girls golf team won the Pasco County Girls' High School Golf Conference tournament, held Oct. 8 at The Groves Golf and Country Club in Land O' Lakes.

Wiregrass Ranch bested 11 other

Pasco schools, which included Cypress Creek, Fivay, Gulf, Hudson School, Land O' Lakes, Mitchell, Pasco, River Ridge, Sunlake, Wesley Chapel and Zephyrhills.

Bulls sophomore Norah Catlin fired an even-par 65 to earn individual medalist honors among a field of 64 golfers.

SOFTBALL TRIO ANNOUNCES COLLEGE CHOICES

A trio of Wiregrass Ranch High softball standouts recently announced their college commitments:

• **Miranda Perez, senior, shortstop (University of Tampa)** — Perez last sea-

son posted a .333 batting average and was second on the team in runs scored (13).

• **Kimberly Cheung, senior, outfielder/second baseman (St. John's River State College)** — Utility player known for her speed and defensive prowess registered a .379 on-base percentage last season.



COURTESY OF KYLE LOJACONO

County champ

Wharton High senior Tre Rivers posted a 5K time of 16:07 to win the Hillsborough County Cross-Country Championship meet on Oct. 5 at Al Lopez Park in Tampa, becoming the first boy in school history to win an individual county championship in cross-country. Rivers placed second at last year's meet (16:10). The accomplished distance runner also holds the school's 5K record (15:53) and 2-mile track record (9:25).

• **Hailey Vazquez, sophomore, pitcher (Ave Maria University)** — Coming off a freshman campaign where she recorded a 3.30 earned run average and 61 strikeouts in 87 innings pitched.

The Bulls, coming off a 9-16 season, are expected to return all but two players from its 2017 varsity squad.

Scream-A-Geddon brings horrors to Dade City

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Scream-A-Geddon puts a scare into any outsider who dares to enter. Scattered across acres upon acres in the middle of the woods off Saint Joe Road in Dade City, the independent horror park gives its visitors an interactive experience through six distinct attractions.

At one end of the park, in an attraction called "Deadwoods," visitors navigate through dark, winding trails, where they encounter the cannibalistic Tate family.

At another side of the park, parkgoers wreak havoc on flesh-eating zombies from a militarized school bus mounted with 18 paintball guns in the attraction "Zombie Paintball Assault."

In another unique area, called "Rage 3-D," visitors wear 3-D glasses, and get up close and personal with crazed clowns and other abnormal creatures, testing their senses, as they make their way through creepy rooms that twist, turn and rotate in the midst of roaring music.

Meanwhile, "Demon's Revenge," "Blackpool Prison" and "Infected: Ground Zero" provide their own sets of horrors — all aiming to live up to their frightening names.

Geof Kledzic, the Scream-A-Geddon general manager, is hard-pressed to pick a favorite.

"There's great scares all over the place, so I love 'em all," Kledzic said. "They each have certain things that make them unique."

Scream-A-Geddon attracted more than 40,000 visitors last year.

Open every night through Nov. 3, Kledzic expects an even bigger turnout this Halloween season.

"Every year it continues to grow," he said, noting word-of-mouth about the park has drawn people all throughout Tampa Bay and central Florida.

His main selling point of the horror park is that "you can do things (at Scream-A-Geddon) that you can't get anywhere else."

"Where do you get to take a walk in the woods?"

"Where do you get to ride a militarized school bus and mow down zombies?"

"You don't do that at Busch Gardens or Universal (Studios)."

"So, people start sharing that news, and people drive a great distance to come here," the general manager explained.

Scream-A-Geddon launched in 2015 after its parent company, Indiana-based Point Summit Inc., expanded operations to Florida.

The company also operates Indy Scream Park in Indianapolis, and other adventure parks, including TreeHoppers Aerial Adventure Park, located on the same property as Scream-A-Geddon.

Unlike other horror parks, Kledzic said Scream-A-Geddon prides itself on a format of sending small groups of visitors into an attraction at a time.

That's different from what Kledzic describes as "conga lines" of people, which, he said, too often gives away "the scare."

Upping the scary meter even more, some Scream-A-Geddon attractions give visitors the option to be touched or grabbed by the frightening characters.

"People love that," Kledzic said of the interactive offerings. "You cannot get that anywhere else."

For 26-year-old Lakeland resident Kyndil Rogers, the horror park fares favorably to others she's visited.

"It's a lot more interactive," she said. "Really scary."

Her friend, 29-year-old Brandon Gonzalez, also of Lakeland, was likewise impressed at how Scream-A-Geddon's attractions and characters were brought to life.

"Here, it's more realistic," he said. "It makes the experience a lot better."

New Port Richey resident Kirsty Roach expressed similar sentiments during her first-time visit.

"The haunted houses are amazing — like a lot better than (Howl-O-Scream) Busch Gardens. I'd go that far. I think it's that good," Roach said.

"I like that not everybody's piled on top of each other," she added.

Haunted House enthusiast Eva Dunn and her group of friends made the drive from Apopka to see what Scream-A-Geddon was



FRED BELLET

Under a starry twilight sky, a crowd begins to gather as they wait in line to go through the unorthodox entrance of a scary feature called 'Demon's Revenge,' at Scream-a-Geddon on St. Joe Road.



A crazed prisoner, played by 20-year-old Levi Caruthers, of Zephyrhills, waits for another victim to cross his path.



Scream-a-Geddon is on acres and acres of haunted land at 27839 Saint Joe Road, in Dade City.



She said 'hello' to guests as they arrived. When guests departed, Mia Hernandez, 21, of Wesley Chapel was on hand to say 'good bye' from Scream-a-Geddon. A former high school drama student, Hernandez answered an online advertisement for the Scream-a-Geddon job. She portrayed the character 'Half-Face.'

Scream-A-Geddon

WHAT: Tampa Bay's haunt experience features six terrifying attractions in one location.

WHERE: 27839 Saint Joe Road, Dade City

WHEN: Every night through Nov. 3. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

WHO: Recommended for adults and teens, but younger children may attend with parent or guardian.

COST: Prices start at \$28.95. Fast pass and group packages also offered.

INFO: Visit ScreamAGeddon.com, or call (813) 452-5412.

all about.

She left happily frightened.

Among her favorite stops was "Blackpool Prison." The attraction is controlled by "the worst of the worst" criminals where the only way to get out alive is through them.

It also offers visitors the option to be grabbed, held back, sent into hidden cells, removed from their group or even forced to remain.

"They grabbed a lot more than I thought," Dunn said, with glee. "They said, 'grab,' and you know we've heard that before at other places, but here they actually grab you and it was like, 'Wow!' (because) they spin you around and shove you."

"Demon's Revenge" was the scariest part of the attraction for Dunn's friend, Richard Doran, also of Apopka.

He said that's because it is set up like a maze inside a mental ward with walls that gradually close in.

"It's really nice. I like how it made you feel like it got smaller and smaller as you went through," Doran said.

Dunn quickly pointed out her friend screamed the whole way through. "Right in



Playing the part of a crazed clown called 'Boogie-Woogie,' 18-year old Dakota Loomis, of Zephyrhills, frightened visitors crossing his path in a featured area called 'Rage 3-D.'



In the Rage 3-D room, Laura McCudden of St. Petersburg looks for her husband, Lenny McCudden, during their first Scream-a-Geddon experience.

front of my ear!" she said, with a boisterous laugh.

Meanwhile, those seeking a break from loud shrieks and bursts of adrenaline can head to the center of the park, called the "Monster Midway."

It features carnival games, food and drink

trucks, and picnic tables set near a bonfire.

Visitors, however, shouldn't let their guard down too much.

Roaming throughout the park on any given night are hordes of ghoulish creatures, clowns and zombies, keeping visitors on high alert.

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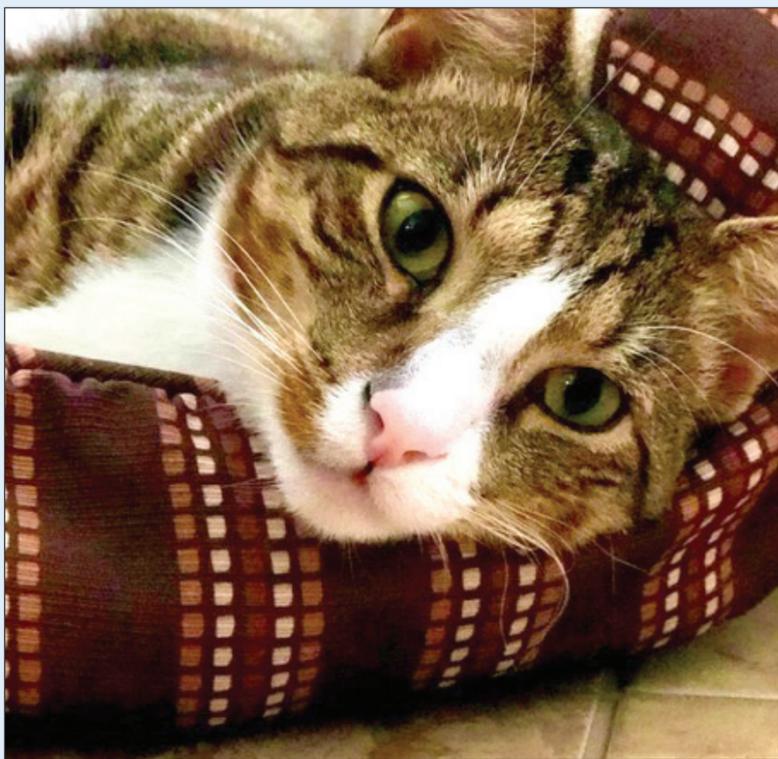
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PET of the WEEK



Prince loves his sister

Prince is about a year old and loves water, going outside, playing with his sister, and playing with cat toys. He was found on the side of the road and given to his owner. Prince was very little, but healthy. He has a sister named Duchess, a Maltese-Pomeranian, who is his best friend. Prince's proud owner is Abigail Wicker and her family, of Lutz.

Send us a picture and information on your favorite pet!

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

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

PUT YOUR PET IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

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Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



Selena is on the mend

Selena initially came to the shelter with an old fracture that was not allowing her to be her little kitten self. Due to the age of the fracture and the size/location, Selena had a hind leg amputation performed by Dr. Josepha Supow, DVM, at Pet First Veterinary Hospital. Selena is doing great, and potential adopters are encouraged to arrange a meet-and-greet by emailing adoptionpartner@pascocountyfl.net.



Sissy has a nurturing soul

When you first meet Sissy, she will fall into your lap and into your heart. She loves to cuddle and simply just be near you. Sissy is so quiet in her kennel that you might even pass her by, when you walk through the shelter. She doesn't bark or beg for attention. Sissy is calm and easy walking on a leash. She enjoys a little back scratching in the grass. If you pay attention, one can even witness her sweet smile, when you give her a belly a little rub... she is saying thank you for showing her kindness and affection. Sissy would be a friendly companion to almost anyone.

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

PET cetera

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SPOOKY TAILS PARTY

The 12th annual Spooky Tails Halloween Party & Pet Costume Contest will take place Oct. 20 from noon to 4 p.m., at Parwick Kennels, 22129 Carson Drive in Land O' Lakes.

The event will benefit Pasco County Law Enforcement retired K-9s, and Pasco Sheriff K-9 officers will share a demonstration of the K-9 unit abilities.

There also will be food, music and games. The pet costume contest will be at 1:30 p.m. The event is rain or shine.

To register for costume contest and for information, visit Pasco-K9-Fundraiser.com.

BARKTOBERFEST

The 10th annual Barktoberfest will take place Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park, 8737 U.S. 19 in Port Richey.

The event will feature vendors, demonstrators, education, entertainment, dog rescue groups, a super adopt-a-thon, and a pet costume contest.

Admission is \$5 per person. Children age 12 and younger are free.

There also will be a Barking Bash 5K and Fun Run. This is not a chip-timed event.

All runners will receive entry into the state park, entry to Barktoberfest, a race bib, a raffle ticket, a soft cooler/goodie bag, and a finisher medal.

There also will be prizes for the most festive, fastest male and female, and the fastest male and female with a dog.

The cost is \$35 until Oct. 19 and \$40 the day of the event.

For information, visit MayorAndPrincess.com.

REDUCED ADOPTION FEES

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, will offer re-

duced adoption fees during the month of October. Dog adoptions are \$25, and cat adoptions are \$10.

All fees include spay/neuter, microchip and vaccinations.

Pasco County residents are required to purchase a county license for the new pet.

For information, call (813) 929-1212.

ADOPTION FEES WAIVED

The Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center will waive adoption fees for the month of October for all dogs that have been at the shelter for more than 30 days.

The offer is part of the center's "Get 'em Home Challenge," which focuses on finding loving homes for dogs that have been at the shelter for an extended period.

Even though adoption fees will be waived, all of the long-term dogs have been microchipped, vaccinated, registered, and spayed or neutered.

The shelter is at 440 N. Falkenburg Road in Tampa and is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

SHARE YOUR PET NEWS

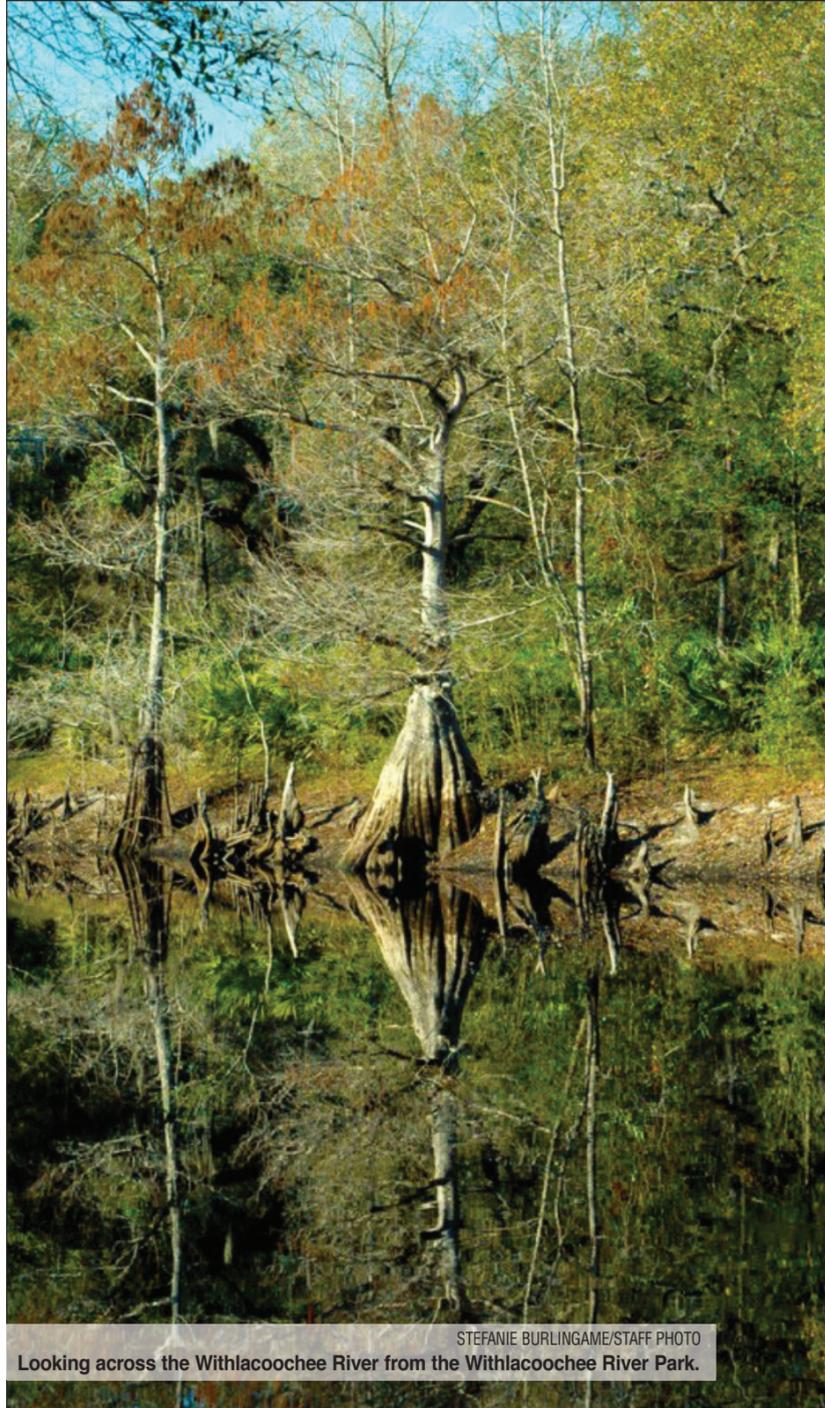
If you have pet news about adoptions, walks or other events for pet owners and their pets, you can let us know by sending us an email. We just need the basics: who, what, when, where and why.

The information should be submitted two weeks prior to the desired publication date. We also need a contact name and number, in case we have questions.

There is no guarantee of publication, but we consider each item we receive.

If you'd like to make a submission, send it to news@lakerlutznews.com.

Readers can now find Pets of the Week and Local Wildlife photos on our website at LakerLutznews.com, under the Pets/Wildlife link.



STEFANIE BURLINGAME/STAFF PHOTO
Looking across the Withlacoochee River from the Withlacoochee River Park.

Pasco County rewrites Parks and Recreation ordinance

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Pasco County Commission has adopted the rewrite of the county's ordinance relating to its parks, recreation and natural resources.

The new ordinance eliminates the Parks Advisory Committee and streamlines the process for seeking permission to serve alcohol at events at county parks.

Instead of having a permanent advisory committee, the new ordinance calls for the use of advisory committees to address particular issues as they arise.

The ordinance also makes it less cumbersome to seek permission for serving alcohol in public parks.

Previously, the request had to make it through a resolution presented to the County Commission, a process that could take up to six weeks.

Now, the request goes to the county administrator's office and is handled by the county administrator or his designee.

The ordinance relating to the county's parks, recreation and natural resources was originally written in 1970 and had not undergone significant change since then, according to county documents contained in the County Commission's agenda packet.

LOCAL WILDLIFE



Special deliveries from Skeeter

Randall Grantham, of Lutz, has a cat named Skeeter that has a habit of bringing him captured or deceased 'prizes.' If it is a rat, it is usually dead. However, with other species, Skeeter somehow gets them to the doorstep fairly unharmed. He has delivered live lizards, swamp rabbits, flying squirrels, and even the fuzzy critter known as a round-tailed muskrat, a species common to the wetlands in the area.

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to news@lakerlutznews.com

COMMERCIAL FALL FORUM

This forum features a variety of topics related to commercial real estate and will include several speakers. The event is on Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wesley Chapel, 26640 Silver Maple Parkway. The cost is \$20 for members of the Central Pasco Association of Realtors and \$25 for others. The event fee includes lunch. For information, call (813) 948-6966.

TWO-PART FINANCIAL SERIES

Learn simple monthly budgeting, how to reduce debt and increase saving in this two-part financial series on Oct. 19 and Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The courses will be at CREATION Health & Wellness, 38233 Daughtery Road in Zephyrhills. Reservations are required by calling (813) 779-6476.

PASCO EDC CEO ROUNDTABLE

The Pasco Economic Development Council is presenting a CEO Roundtable event on Oct. 23 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Big Storm Brewing Company, 2330 Success Drive in Odessa. Cost is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. For more information, call (888) 607-2726. Go to the events calendar on PascoEDC.com, and click on this event, to register.

NETWORKING GROUP

Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield will be the featured speaker at the East Pasco Networking Group breakfast meeting Oct. 23, starting at 7:30 p.m. The group meets at

MOD PIZZA OPENS

BBX Capital, the exclusive MOD Pizza franchisee in Florida, opened on Oct. 9 at 2277 Sun Vista Drive, in the Cypress Creek Town Center. The 2,800-square-foot restaurant is in front of Tampa Premium Outlets, in Lutz. The restaurant defines itself as "a leader in the fast, casual pizza category," according to a news release.

Customers create their own pizzas and salads, using a combination of more than 30 featured toppings, the release says. The price is the same, regardless of the number of toppings, and salads are individually hand-tossed for each customer. The restaurant expects to have about 30 employees.



COURTESY OF KIP HUNTER MARKETING

The first MOD Pizza franchise in Florida opened on Oct. 9 in the Cypress Creek Town Center.

During the grand opening, the first 52 guests to arrive were treated to a free pizza. They also had a chance to meet pro football player Mike Evans and his wife Ashli. All of the proceeds from pizza sales on opening day were donated to The Mike Evans Family Foundation.

IHOP Dade City, at 13100 U.S. 301 in Dade City. For more information, please contact

Nils Lenz at (813) 782-9491 or email him at nilslenz@gmail.com.

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The LAKER / Lutz NEWS

FEATURED BUSINESS of the week

Here's what some of my advertisers are saying:

"I have been advertising with The Laker & Lutz News for over 10 years. Rachel is loyal, and I have a lot of trust in her when it comes to advertising for my company. She takes pride in her job and I'm glad she's my Rep!"

Linda Carosella
Owner of Lady L. Cleaning

"I'm so glad I started advertising in The Best in Small Business. Rachel is always very helpful and friendly when I need anything...and the best part is: My ad works great! I'm gotten tons of work from it since I started advertising in 2016!"

Steve Lewka
Owner of Steve's Aluminum & Screening, LLC

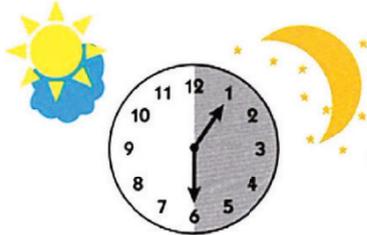
"Working with Rachel has been awesome! She's a professional without being a "stiff", and she goes out of her way to make sure I'm happy. The Laker's Design Team created an amazing ad for me, and it's brought in lots of new business for my company. I couldn't be more pleased. Thanks for all you guys continue to do!"

Pete Benetatos
Owner of Json's Painting

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| DEATH | IMAGINATION | TRAPPED |
| DEFORMED | MISERY | TROUBLESOME |
| DEMON | MONSTROSITY | UNUSUAL |
| DREAD | PANIC | VENERATE |

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!

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

BONE-CHILLING WORD SEARCH

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 7B

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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October 19 & 20, 8 am start!
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PHSC
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Classifieds WORK!
 "I wanted to reach out and thank you for placing my ad for the three kittens in last week's Classified Section, Rachel. I received good feedback, and was in fact able to place all the kittens in good homes - so mission accomplished! Probably could not have done it without your help - so recognition is warranted."
 John Parachini
 Tampa, FL
 The LAKER / Lutz News
 813.909.2800
classifieds@lakerlutznews.com

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Enjoy a Free Musical Morning



**Thursday, October 25
10–11am**

St. Joseph's Hospital-North
Garden Lobby Atrium
4211 Van Dyke Road, Lutz

Free Valet Parking
Refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres

Registration is not required.

St. Joseph's Hospital-North invites you to a free concert. Discover the power and majesty of The Florida Orchestra's brass and percussion sections as they team up for a unique concert of fanfares and favorites. Under the baton of The Florida Orchestra assistant conductor Daniel Black.



St. Joseph's Hospital-North