

Hampton Inn tagged with national award

By Eugenio Torrens
The Laker/Park News

The Hampton Inn of Dade City/Zephyrhills was named a National Connie Award winner, recognizing it as one of the top hotels in the chain.

According to a press release from Hampton Inn, only ten Hampton Hotels receive the award each year from the nearly 1,900 Hampton Inn and Hampton Inn & Suites hotels there are to choose from.

"It takes a lot to be the best, because we have a 100 percent guarantee also, so we continuously strive to be the best, and not only the best, but the best of the best," said Piyush Mulji, general manager of the Hampton Inn Dade City/Zephyrhills.

Mulji said the staff is tirelessly trained to cater to the needs and expectations of guests.

"Our goal is to make every guest's experience an exceptional one," Mulji said. "We're a guest-focused hotel. We look at the small things, that's what sets us apart. We don't only look at the big picture, but we look at the small things—we look at what kind of soft drink maybe a guest may like; what kind of bedding he may like; what kind of pillow he may like. We look at every detail."

Mulji said winning the Connie Award is a team effort and added he was jubilated,

See HAMPTON, page 8



SO LONG SNOWBIRDS!

Clockwise from upper left: Al and Sandy Lindke celebrated their 25th anniversary with a party at Grand Horizons; George Ritchey, of Baker Acres, won the "Traveling Canister," a large tin canister that is filled by the winner of the previous year with gags, gifts and prizes; from left, Larry Pokoj, Bob Cimcotte, Joan Gofton, Lyle Kole and Harold McCall all participated in the last day of the Oaks Royal winter bowling season with an outing on March 27. Although some residents are heading to other homes outside of Florida, this paper is here for the long haul. **Read about it on page 2.**

Don't forget to vote!



The 2012 Zephyrhills Mayoral Election takes place on Tuesday, April 10. The reigning 10-year mayor Cliff McDuffie decided he would not be running this year.

That pits Steve Van Gorden against Michael Payne for the vacant mayoral seat. Van Gorden is a former Dade City

Commissioner who is now the principal of Zephyrhills High.

Payne is a former member of the Zephyrhills planning commission who now owns a pest management service.

The mayor is set to serve a two-year term

upon election.

According to the Pasco County Supervisor of Elections website, pascovotes.com, there are 18 polling places within the Zephyrhills city limits to vote at.

For a complete list of polling places, including precinct number and addresses, visit www.pascovotes.com/polplace.htm.

For general or more information on the election or any other Pasco County elections, visit pascovotes.com.

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The Laker/Park News is here to stay

By Eugenio Torrens

The Laker/Park News Editor

As the thermostat begins to inch higher and higher, it is apparent that spring is upon us. So what does that mean?

It means that some of the snowbirds that flock to Zephyrhills for the fall and winter seasons are getting ready to migrate back north.

However, we don't want that to interfere with the fabulous product we've been putting out.

Here at The Laker/Park News, we combine the best of interesting and informative community news as well as entertaining vignettes from the various residential parks dotted around Zephyrhills.

I want to dispel any notion that The Laker/Park News cares only about the snowbirds. We want to hear from EVERYBODY.

If you live in Zephyrhills or Dade City and have an interesting story idea, pass it along. We know Zephyrhills has so much to offer that it can't be contained in 20-plus pages. Which is why we want your help! If you have a problem, question or just a plain fun story you think would be worth a look, please feel free to contact us.

And for you snowbirds, just because you're heading back to your other home doesn't mean your friends in the parks



back in Zephyrhills aren't interested in keeping in touch.

I urge any Zephyrhills residents going up north, west, east or wherever in between to send pictures and write-ups of the visit to Mount Rushmore or that trek through Yosemite National Park. Even if you're writing

and taking pictures of the summer cruise you went on — we want to know!

And while we hope to stay in touch with the snowbirds, Zephyrhills can still expect the same accurate, reliable and informative articles from our reporters whose stories run the gamut, from community groups and government news to special events and features about people and businesses.

I would like to thank every single person who has contributed to The Laker/Park News, whether it's the reporters at the office, the residents at the parks, or any number of citizens in Zephyrhills and Dade City who have sent an email piquing our reporting interest.

The Laker/Park News is truly a fascinating product because we rely more heavily on you, the reader, for content! So let The Laker/Park News be the pulse of your city.

Always feel free to submit any news to The Laker/Park News editor Eugenio Torrens at etorrens@cnewspubs.com.

Grant aims to bring big brothers, sisters to East Pasco

By John Morton

The Laker/Park News Correspondent

Even when the New Port Richey office of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay was operating, getting resources out to eastern Pasco County was difficult. When that office closed two years ago due to budget cuts, all seemed lost for those in the area in need of mentors.

"We've been getting requests for years from Dade City," said Jan Roberts, the program's director of partnership development and recruitment. "Finally, we can provide them with our services."

That's the result of a \$250,000 federal grant the program has received from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Now, a large recruitment effort is under way for as many as 140 volunteers to work with young boys and girls.

"Not only will the kids get something out of this, but so will the adults," said Roberts, a former big sister of five years who still stays in touch with her little sister, now 31 and living in Ohio.

Danny Reich, of Zephyrhills, can relate. He has mentored his little brother, Eric, who has an out-of-state father, for eight years.

"I consider myself a big kid anyway, so this is just perfect," Reich said. "I love to go fishing, and I love all the superhero and sci-fi movies, with the aliens and stuff. My wife doesn't exactly like that stuff, so being a big brother lets me do that stuff."

The pair get together every other Saturday. First matched up with Eric when he was 9, Reich has enjoyed being there every step of the way through the challenging teen years.

"I've watched him grow into a young man of 17," Reich said. "That has been very satisfying."

Reich appreciates the importance of good role models.

"I was adopted and I was very lucky to be raised by a strong family with good morals and values," he said. "I could have been in a totally different situation. So I feel a strong desire to give something back."

According to Roberts, volunteers are being asked to commit to at least 18 months as a mentor.

"Our research shows that anything less than a year and the child feels a sense of abandonment," she said. "We don't want to do more harm than good. After a year, the results seem to completely change."

And many bonds last forever.

"It's the lifelong relationships that we encourage," Roberts said. "That's where you see



Danny Reich of Zephyrhills enjoys fishing and sharing movies with his little brother, Eric. (Photo courtesy of Danny Reich)

the changes and results you hoped you'd see."

Roughly half of the grant money has been earmarked for kids considered at risk in the Dade City and Winter Haven areas. The rest is focused on working with the unique situations that children in military families can face.

"We have situations where both parents have been deployed, and a child is living with a grandparent," said Jennifer Libby, the program's vice president of program services. "While a child may not have the need for a mentor for a long period of time, the need still exists."

She said military parents are notified that even upon their return from duty the short-term mentor still needs to stay in the picture.

"Even in cases like these, we encourage lifelong relationships," Libby said.

For those sitting on the fence regarding the decision to volunteer, Reich has this to say:

"Don't worry, you are not trying to replace someone's father or mother," he said. "All you need to be is a friend, a mentor, someone to offer some positive advice."

"And the time isn't that much - just 10 to 12 hours each month, divided up however you and your little brother or sister see fit. It also doesn't require you to spend a whole lot of money. In fact, it can be no money. I'm spending between \$50 and \$60 per month, and that's because I like to go to a movie and have lunch. It's not like I'm taking him to Disney World."

"What counts most is that you keep your word and show up when you say you will. That's not so hard."

To inquire about volunteering as a big brother or big sister, contact Roberts at (813) 997-6881.

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Woman's weight loss journey featured in TV ad

By Cindy Spence
cspence@cnewspubs.com

Jenny Hodges remembers a time when she walked with her head down.

Today, smiling out of television screens nationwide, her bright, blue eyes dare you to look away as she rocks an Yves St. Laurent dress and Prada shoes in a commercial for Weight Watchers. This, she says, is the Jenny she was meant to be.

"Your body changes, and your mindset changes along with it," said Jenny, a Land O' Lakes wife and mother, who works in a school library. "Weight Watchers has given me so much."

A couple hundred pounds ago, Jenny was busy raising three children, taking care of her husband and home — and eating. Meals weren't planned; food was a fix. She hit the fast-food drive-thru on before- and after-school carpool runs. Sometimes she added a fast-food lunch or snack and treats at home, and the calories added up.

One morning, huffing and puffing from a trip to the mailbox, she came to the realization that she might not live to see her children grow up. Suddenly, her weight terrified her.

"I knew I had to do something," Jenny said. "I wanted to experience the best life, and I knew I couldn't do that at more than 400 pounds."

Jenny's weight gain — and loss — was a journey. Growing up, Jenny said she struggled with her weight although in retrospect she likely was not overweight in comparison to friends and family.

"I really wasn't a big girl, but I thought I was," she said.

When she graduated from college she weighed 200 pounds, then 250 pounds when she married in 2000, adding more weight through the years and with each of her three babies.

"I was putting on the freshman 15, every year," Jenny said.

By 2008, she was 400 pounds. That spring, when Lifestyles Family Fitness opened on SR 54, she asked her husband for a membership, but he didn't take her seri-



Before her weight-loss journey began, Jenny Hodges began to fear for her health. She's pictured here with her husband, James and her infant son, Ronin. (Photos courtesy of Jenny Hodges)



Jenny credits Weight Watchers for teaching her new eating habits that helped her lose weight. Here's a look at the new Jenny, with her husband, James and 4 1/2-year-old Ronin.

ously, and she didn't push the issue. Like many moms, she said, she had been putting everyone else first and herself last. Doing something just for her didn't feel right.

That October, she began walking, adding steps as she built stamina. A few weeks later, her husband came home with a surprise for her: a membership to Lifestyles. She started the next day.

For three months, she exercised, losing about 20 pounds, but didn't change her diet. The fast-food habit was so ingrained, she said, "vegetables would go bad in the fridge."

With the new year in 2009, she decided to give Weight Watchers a try. The first meeting, the leader let her observe without paying, and Jenny found herself relating as members talked about their weight loss struggles. The success stories and the tips gave her hope, and she joined.

"I used to eat at McDonald's three times a day," Jenny said. "I was a lazy eater."

She realized, she said, that she needed to learn all over again how to eat. She took charge of her family's menu, filling the refrigerator with fruits and vegetables, and becoming an adventurous — but healthful — cook. She discovered Weight Watchers' eTools, an online program for planning meals and tracking food consumption, and

celebrated each passing pound.

"The weight loss was pretty steady. It might have only been 0.2 pounds, but a loss is a loss," Jenny said. In May 2011, she reached Weight Watchers "lifetime" status, meaning she had maintained her goal weight. She had no more weight left to lose.

"It's funny to think that I don't have to lose weight this year," Jenny said. "I'm learning to be OK with my weight because I am at the right weight."

Weight Watchers agreed. In the fall, Jenny saw a casting call on the Weight Watchers Facebook page for a new series of commercials for the new year. About 30,000 responded to the solicitation, and Weight Watchers immediately culled that to 3,000. Jenny was one of 300 people called for a video interview and 100 of those people were re-interviewed.

"I was told to scan my weight-loss log and send it, then told to come to downtown Tampa for an interview on webcam. They told me to wear a dress I would wear to lunch with a friend," Jenny said.

"I didn't own one. I had to buy a new outfit because most of my clothes were six sizes too big," Jenny said. "For the second interview, I had to wear the same dress."

Eight people were chosen, the Land O' Lakes mom among them, to fly to Hollywood

to film a national television commercial with pop star Jennifer Hudson. They dressed Jenny up in designer duds (she got to keep them) but the biggest surprise, she said, was when the wardrobe lady told her why she was chosen to wear the Yves St. Laurent dress: she was a size 6. Now, when she signs on to Facebook, Jenny says she finds comments from people asking, "was that you I just saw on TV?"

Her transformation is brought home to her, Jenny said, when she runs into people she has not seen in a while. When her daughter joined Girl Scouts, for instance, she attended the introductory meeting. An old friend walked up to her daughter to say hello and asked where her mother was. Jenny was standing right next to her.

Even her children, browsing through their old baby photos, have asked, "Who's that person holding me?"

The pounds are long gone, but Jenny kept one memento, an outfit that doesn't fit even when all three kids jump into the pants with her.

Is she the same person? Yes, and no. The old Jenny's warmth, humor and empathy remain, but a measure of joy has been added, she said.

"I lost 212 pounds but somehow there is more of me," Jenny says with a radiant smile. "So much more of me."

The LAKER/PARK NEWS

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County adds east-west bus route

Laying groundwork for more connected Pasco

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Pasco County Public Transportation (PCPT) opened a new way for increased east-west travel this week with the rolling out of its new Route 54.

Buses will make stops along SR 54/SR 56 from the Medical Center of Trinity to Zephyrhills City Hall weekday mornings and evenings to help move people across the county. Major stops include The Shops at Wiregrass, The Grove of Wesley Chapel and Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

It is the first time Pasco has had cross-county bus service. PCPT manager Mike Carroll said his department has been receiving requests for such a route for the last six to seven years.

"PCPT had only focused on major north-south roadways like US 19, US 41 and US 301 because that's how people traditionally moved in the county," Carroll said. "In recent years there have been an increased number

of people going across the county for their jobs or just for entertainment."

Carroll said the two major malls in Wesley Chapel have spurred increased travel from west and far east Pasco inward. In addition, the opening of the Medical Center of Trinity brought more jobs to the west end of SR 54.

"We want to move the most people with our buses," Carroll said. "Bringing people to the hospital and to the malls is a big reason for the new service."

County Administrator John Gallagher said the county plans to add additional stops, such as at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel once it opens late this year.

"We're trying to tie the whole county together as one community, and this will help us start to do that," Gallagher said.

The cost for a one-day pass for Route 54 is \$3.75.

"That's about what a gallon of gas costs," Carroll said.

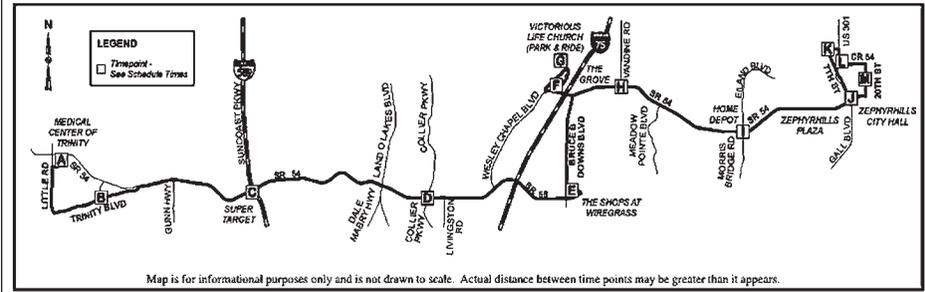
Carroll said the county intends to buy two new large buses and hire two new full-time bus drivers to run the route. Additional part-time employees will also be brought on board.

Buses will arrive at each stop along the route about every two hours. Carroll said

Service Schedule
Monday - Friday

Route 54

Times shown are scheduled but may vary due to traffic, weather or unforeseen events.



EASTBOUND													WESTBOUND												
Depart													Arrive												
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	J	I	H	F	G	E	F	G	D	C	B	A	
Medical Ctr. Of Trinity	Dark Slough & Trinity Blvd	Super Target (Crossing Blvd)	SR 54 & Collier Pkwy	The Shops at Wiregrass	The Grove	Victorious Life Church (P&R)	SR 54 & Vendone St	SR 54 & Eland Blvd	Zephyr City Hall (Transfer Center)	Fl. King Rd & Daugherty Rd.	C.R. 54 East & Stadium Rd.	20th St. North	Zephyr City Hall (Transfer Center)	Z.His City Hall (Transfer Center)	SR 54 & Eland Blvd	SR 54 & Vendone St	Victorious Life Church (Park & Ride)	The Shops at Wiregrass	The Grove	Victorious Life Church (Park & Ride)	SR 54 & Collier Pkwy	Super Target (Crossing Blvd)	Dark Slough & Trinity Blvd	Medical Ctr. Of Trinity	
5:25a	5:34	5:45	5:55	6:12	6:25	6:26	6:35	6:42	6:55	7:02	7:07	7:10	7:15	7:30	7:40	7:46	8:00	8:02	8:15	-	-	8:30	8:42	8:50	9:00
7:25	7:34	7:45	7:55	8:12	8:25	-	8:35	8:42	8:55	9:02	9:07	9:10	9:15	9:30	9:40	9:46	10:00	-	10:15	-	-	10:30	10:42	10:50	11:00
9:25	9:34	9:45	9:55	10:12	10:25	-	10:35	10:42	10:55	11:02	11:07	11:10	11:15	11:30	11:40	11:46	12:00	-	12:15	-	-	12:30	12:42	12:50	1:00
11:25	11:34	11:45	11:55	12:12	12:25	-	12:35	12:42	12:55	1:02	1:07	1:10	1:15	1:30	1:40	1:46	2:00	-	2:15	-	-	2:30	2:42	2:50	3:00
1:25	1:34	1:45	1:55	2:12	2:25	-	2:35	2:42	2:55	3:02	3:07	3:10	3:15	3:30	3:40	3:46	4:00	-	4:15	-	-	4:30	4:42	4:50	5:00
3:25	3:34	3:45	3:55	4:12	4:25	-	4:35	4:42	4:55	5:02	5:07	5:10	5:15	5:30	5:40	5:46	-	6:12	6:25	6:30	6:44	6:56	7:04	7:14p	
5:25	5:34	5:45	5:55	6:12	6:25	6:30	6:39	6:46	6:59	7:06	7:11	7:14	7:19p												

the frequency would increase as buses are added in the future.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) also sees the SR 54/SR 56 corridor as a critical route for moving people.

FDOT is spending \$225,000 each year until 2016 to help fund Route 54, said department spokeswoman Kris Carson. Carroll estimates the operating cost to be \$380,000

to \$420,000 annually.

FDOT is also conducting a study of the SR 54/SR 56 corridor between New Port Richey and Wesley Chapel to decide what other measures would help move traffic. Options include creating lanes devoted to express bus service or for carpoolers.

For more information on PCPT's bus routes, visit www.ridepcpt.com.

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Pasco schools construction needs top \$1 billion

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@cnewspubs.com

The Pasco County school district has identified more than \$1 billion in construction and maintenance needs over the next 12 years with anticipated revenues about \$200 million short of covering those costs.

Pasco County School Board members are not expected to take action on the list until this summer when they discuss their budget.

Unlike the years when the county's growth forced the district to devote most of its construction dollars to building new

schools, this plan calls primarily for upgrading and expanding existing sites.

The list includes redevelopment of school campuses, remodeling schools, adding technology for digital learning such as LED projectors and student computers, renovating cafeterias, traffic and safety improvements, improving facilities and making maintenance repairs, upgrading facilities for extracurricular activities, acquiring future school sites and three new elementary schools.

Here's a quick look at the major projects on the 12-year priority list for Central and East Pasco schools.

Projects proposed between 2012 and 2014:

- West Zephyrhills Elementary, redevelopment, \$8.2 million
- Pasco Elementary, remodel, \$5.6 million
- R.B. Stewart Middle School, remodel, \$4.5 million
- Land O' Lakes High, redevelopment, \$20.6 million
- Moore Mickens Education Center, redevelopment, \$5 million

Projects proposed between 2014 and 2016:

- R.B. Cox Elementary, redevelopment, \$6.5 million
- Pasco Elementary, remodel, \$5.6 million
- San Antonio Elementary, remodel, \$4 million
- Sanders Memorial Elementary, redevelopment, \$18.2 million

Projects proposed between 2016 and 2018:

- Dr. John Long Middle School, classroom addition, \$4 million
- Wiregrass Ranch High, classroom addition, \$4 million

- Zephyrhills High, redevelopment, \$20.6 million

Projects proposed between 2018 and 2020:

No major projects at Central or East Pasco schools

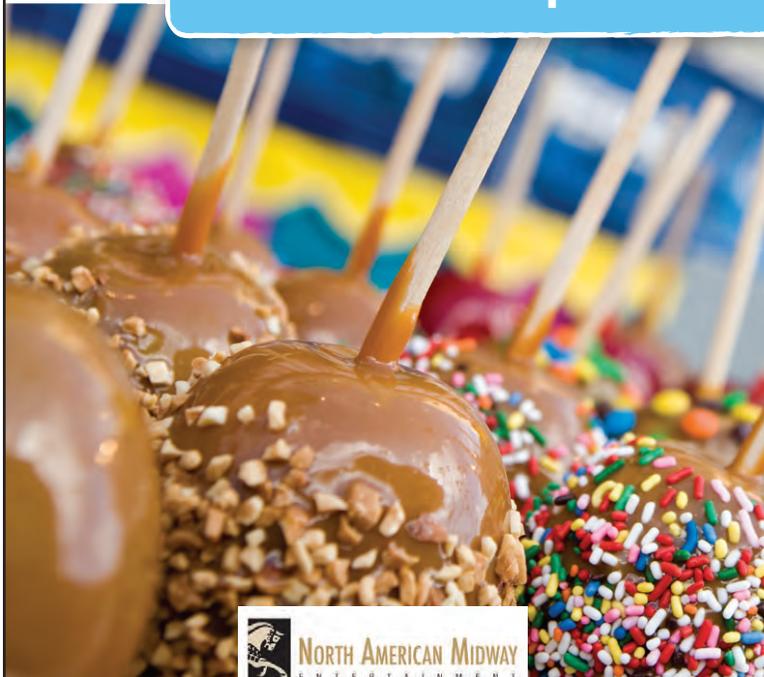
Projects proposed between 2020 and 2022:

- Quail Hollow Elementary, remodel, \$8.5 million
- Woodland Elementary, remodel, \$4.5 million
- Pine View Middle, remodel, \$15.9 million

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U.S. poet laureate to speak at Saint Leo

The Laker/Park News Staff Report

U.S. Poet Laureate Philip Levine will make his only Florida appearance during April - National Poetry Month - at Saint Leo University Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m.

Levine will deliver a reading in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardrooms of the Student Community Center, followed by a book signing.

This marks the first appearance by a current U.S. poet laureate at the university. The nation's poet laureate is appointed annually by the Library of Congress, with consulta-

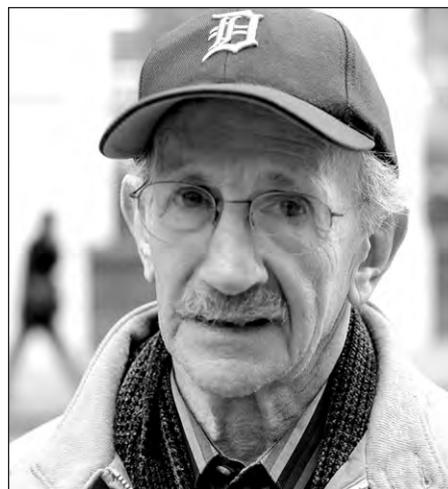
tion from previous laureates and distinguished literary critics. The laureate is expected to nurture, in his or her own way, a continued appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.

Levine, 84, grew up in industrial Detroit and began working in an auto plant at 14. He is known for bringing the experience of the American working class into modern American poetry, as well as for reflecting the experiences of Jewish immigrant families in America. He has produced 20 collections of poetry, including News of the World in 2009. Levine was awarded the

Pulitzer Prize for his 1994 work, The Simple Truth, and won the National Book Award for the 1991 collection, What Work Is.

The appearance is sponsored by the Department of English, Fine Arts, and Humanities (of the School of Arts and Sciences), by the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library, and by Saint Leo University Student Services.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public. For directions and parking information, as well as group seating of 10 or more, please call Tammy Hunt (352) 588-8294, or e-mail tamra.hunt@saintleo.edu.



Poet laureate Philip Levine

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Talent in many forms at Grand Horizons

By Helene Rubenstein
Grand Horizons

Our neighbors and friends who live at Grand Horizons continue to amaze me. We all knew that there was much talent but we didn't know to what extent. What I am talking about are the people who are in our needle workers group, who once again, participated at the Florida State Fair that ran from Feb. 9 to Feb. 20.

The group that consisted of Fay Charron, Anita Simpkins, Marilyn Stelick, Lynn Green, Donna Dawes, Yuko Ouelette and Denise Hauser volunteered their time to demonstrate and showcase to the many fairgoers their beautiful craft in tatting, knitting, x-stitch, crochet, etc. As in years before, the group also submitted their best pieces for show judging. They received many ribbons for first, second and third place plus honorable mention. What a fabulous and outstanding accomplishment considering the many items submitted by many crafters from the entire state of Florida. Congratulations to all ribbon winners.

In addition to our needle workers, we have Karen Thaler, a resident from our park that also submitted several pieces in the Florida State Fair and also the Pasco County Fair that ran from Feb. 20 to Feb. 26. At the Florida State Fair she won three ribbons while winning four ribbons at the county fair. Way to go Karen! Congratulations!

If you would like to see more of Karen's work, check out her website at www.nanaspineneedleart.etsy.com. Guaranteed you will be amazed!

As I said, there is much talent and the men proved this as they worked on repairs in the kitchen. I do not know exactly what they did but they improved the kitchen tremendously by adjusting and fixing many things. I found this out on March 1 when they completed the job that they were working several days on. There were several men who pitched in and helped out. This group consisted of Bob Blais, Dave Livingston, Jerry Buckley, Don Bond, Andy Castonguay, and Rich Fulton. Our thanks go out to these volunteers.

Sometime later we had our Wednesday coffee/doughnut hour. Once again an-



The Lindke's celebrated their quarter century anniversary by renewing their vows.

Announcements were made by several people such as upcoming events and also Ray Arias was there to give a small talk on low risk alternatives to bank CD's. It was an interesting talk and it gave people something to think about. We also had our blood pressure taken and this is always an important thing to keep track of. Several hours later we had three more fun and exciting games of shuffleboard. Friendly banter went on with all players. Several hours later billiards was played in the pool room. They enjoy that room to the fullest and, from what I understand, there are leagues and many games are played by men and women.

That night we played hand and foot. This is so much fun and I can't believe that I waited all these years to join in the fun. The women are on one side of the center while the guys are on the other side playing poker.

On March 1, we had our social club meeting. I usually like to attend these but a previous engagement held me back, but, from what I heard, an election was held for a new director. Chris Buckley won. She is our new director and congratulations go out to her. I do not know first hand what else went on at the meeting but, I am sure it was interesting as it always is.

Several days later, on March 5, fun with art was held in the center. This event was held a few months previously but because of the holidays approaching, attendance was low. So they cancelled it at that time and have started it up once again. I have spoken to Luella Wheeling who is teaching it, and she said that it is coming along nicely. Once again, this shows what talent we have in our

little community.

The following day the guys all went to Hooters that is located in Lakeland and, once again, came home in smiles and the women went to Macaroni Grill that is located in Tampa. I understand that the women had a good time and this event was hosted by Rosemary Semian.

Just discovered, and had to mention, that on March 10, a celebration party was held for Al and Sandy Lindke. They celebrated their 25th anniversary with a renewal of their vows. This was had at their house and 39 people attended this celebration. A minister was on hand to renew their vows and a ham and bean dinner was served to their guests. Congratulations to the Lindke's and may you have many more years of happy wedded bliss.



Karen Thaler, a resident at Grand Horizons, submitted several needle works to the Florida State Fair and Pasco County Fair. She came away with a total of seven ribbons, including four at the Pasco County Fair. (Photo by Karen Thaler)



Al and Sandy Lindke cut the cake at their 25th anniversary. Roughly 39 people showed up to rejoice with the couple. (Photos courtesy of Helene Rubenstein)

Ellie Schiller
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Park News

SPRING EVENTS

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SATURDAY, APRIL 21
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though this is the hotel's second time winning the award under Mulji.

He said the facility missed out on winning the award three years in a row by a few points, so he realizes the year-round work it goes into maintaining Connie Award status.

"The Connie Award marks the 'best of the best' for each brand within Hilton Worldwide," said Phil Cordell, global head, focused service and Hampton brand in a statement. "Hampton Inn Dade City/Zephyrhills team members continue to provide exceptional service while operating a high-quality hotel. This hotel truly embodies the spirit of Hampton."

The Connie Award, named after company founder Conrad N. Hilton, is bestowed annually upon the top hotels within each brand of the Hilton Family of Hotels and is based on high product and service scores, as judged by guests, as well as top ratings on Quality Assurance inspections conducted by the company.

Located at 13215 U.S. Highway 301, the 64-room Hampton Inn Dade City/Zephyrhills is just minutes from Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club, Wild Things; a sanctuary zoo, Withlacoochee River Park, The Pioneer Florida Museum and Skydive City.

The Hampton Inn of Dade City/Zephyrhills was recognized as one of the top hotels in the chain.

Dade City's downtown is known for its myriad antique shops. Standard hotel amenities include free hot breakfast, high speed Internet, complimentary morning newspaper, outdoor swimming pool, a business center, a meeting room with 60 person capacity, fitness center, 24-hour on-site Suite Shop and a guest laundry facility.

All guestrooms are equipped with a coffee maker, microwave, refrigerator, ironing board/iron, Internet, 32" LCD flat screen HD TVs, oversized workstations and fresh beds.

"We're just very proud of our team," Mulji said. "We're proud to be part of this community and we appreciate the community support that we get."

For further information, or to make reservations for the Hampton Inn Dade City/Zephyrhills, visit www.dadecityzephyrhills.hamptoninn.com or call (352) 567-5277 or 1-800-HAMPTON.

Thrips - chaos in the garden

By B.J. Jarvis
Pasco Extension Horticulturist
and Director

Thrips is a relatively new landscape pest and can be a little tough to identify from damage to the plants. It seems every plant displays different symptoms of thrips damage, making it hard to tell that this minute, slender critter is causing the damage to foliage and flowers.

In the spring, thrips scrape the leaves to extract plant juices. Their favorite foods are roses (yes, even the unstoppable Knock Out types), India-hawthorn, strawberry, amaryllis, gladiolus, begonia, tomato, chrysanthemums and geranium. These indiscriminate feeders infest the new succulent growth, including flower buds and tender shoots. Flower buds may fail to open or could be deformed, or have a streaking or discoloration.

To truly identify thrips, shake or tap foliage over a white dish or sheet of paper for high contrast. On a leaf, the pale slender pest can be very difficult to see but on something white, it is much easier to spot the 1/25-inch to 1/8-inch critter. In essence, watch for the moving specks.

Once this spring invader has been identified, treat with an insecticidal soap or horticultural oil, soaking the undersides of the leaves as this is the favorite hiding spot for thrips. Bio-rational products are consid-



Thrips scrape the leaves to extract plant juices. (Photo provided)

ered safe for people and pets, while managing the thrips population. Repeat according to label directions, generally at 7- to 10-day intervals, for good control.

Continue to monitor for these pests throughout the growing season and try to get a jump on controls early by reapplying.

For more information about thrips and controlling their damage, visit the University of Florida's website at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/ed/MG/MG32700.pdf>.

Pasco Extension is a partnership between Pasco County government, the University of Florida/IFAS and the USDA. BJ Jarvis can be reached at 352-518-0474 or by emailing bjjarvis@ifas.ufl.edu.

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What's HAPPENING

Your Community Calendar • Submit to: etorrens@cnewspubs.com • All listings free of charge

HEART TO HELP

HPH Hospice will host a two-day volunteer orientation on Tuesday, April 17 and Thursday, April 19 for adults and teens 14 and older. Class hours are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and attendance on both days is required. Lunch will be provided. Classes will be held at the HPH Hospice East Pasco team office, 37445 Clinton Ave. in Dade City. Volunteer opportunities include visiting patients at their homes or HPH Hospice facilities, working on office projects, answering phones or helping out at an event or health fair. Registration is required. Call Diana Unger, volunteer coordinator, at (352) 518-1400. Information is available online at hph-hospice.org.

ADDICTIONS EXPERT TO SPEAK

The Saint Leo University Speaker Series concludes the 2011-12 year with a presentation on April 4 at 7 p.m. by Sherry Gaba on "Addiction and Sobriety." Gaba is a licensed, professional counselor in private practice in California, specializing in addictions of all types and a sought-after guest on programs such as VH1's Celebrity Rehab, Dr. Drew Live, and Sober House. She is the author of *The Law of Sobriety: Attracting Positive Energy for a Powerful Recovery*. The presentation will be in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardrooms of the Student Community Center at University Campus. For more information, contact Allyson Marino at (352) 588-8662 or allyson.marino@saintleo.edu.

CORN TOSS FOR A CAUSE

Big Brothers Big Sisters Pasco Corn Toss for a Cause is on Saturday, April 21. The event is set to go from 2 to 6 p.m. at Beef 'O' Brady's, 14136 Seventh St. in Dade City. Proceeds from the toss will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters. Register your team of two for \$25 at <http://dadecitycornross.kintera.org>. For more information, call Jan Roberts at (813) 769-3614.

ZEPHYRHILLS SCRAMBLE

The seventh annual Zephyrhills Scramble

will take place on Friday, May 4 at 1 p.m. at the Silverado Golf and Country Club. Proceeds from the event will benefit local youth and education programs. A \$100 entry fee per individual golfer includes 18 holes of golf, a catered dinner, goody bag and door prizes. For individual contest sponsorship pricing or to register call the Zephyrhills Chamber office at (813) 782-1913 or visit zephyrhillschamber.org for registration forms.

FAREWELL FISH FRY

Bentley Commons at Zephyrhills will host its annual Farewell Fish Fry on Friday, April 6 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The Farewell Fish Fry will be honoring Bentley Commons' snowbirds in the area. Your lunch is FREE with proof of out-of-state residency or \$2 per person. Lunch includes: fish, chips, coleslaw and a drink. Call (813) 779-4501 by Wednesday, April 4 to make your reservation. For more information about the Farewell Fish Fry or about all-inclusive retirement living, call Bentley Commons at (813) 779-4501 or visit www.bentleycommons.com/zephyrhills.

SAFE DRIVING

Pasco Regional Medical Center will host an AARP Driver Safety Program on Monday, April 16 and Tuesday, April 17. Cost is \$12 for members, \$14 for nonmembers, and participants should bring lunch or lunch money. The course is designed for drivers 50 and older. AARP instructor Dennis Smith will teach the class at the medical center, Plaza 1, suite 108, classroom A, in Dade City. For more information, call (813) 994-9832. A class is also scheduled at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills on Monday, April 16. For information, call Ramona Erwin at (813) 780-9168.

WHEELS UP

The Bay City Flyers will host the 16th

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

SING FOR WELLNESS

Charlotte Richie will perform in the Gospel Sings 4 Wellness 2012 Series Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m. The concert will benefit the Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Wellness Center and will be held at East Pasco Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7330 Dairy Road. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased online at www.itickets.com/events/282868.html. For more information, call (813) 788-0411, ext. 1421.



annual spring classic of the International Miniature Aerobatic Club on Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15. Gates will open at 8 a.m. for pilot setup for the scale aerobatic competition and wheels up is at 8:30 a.m.

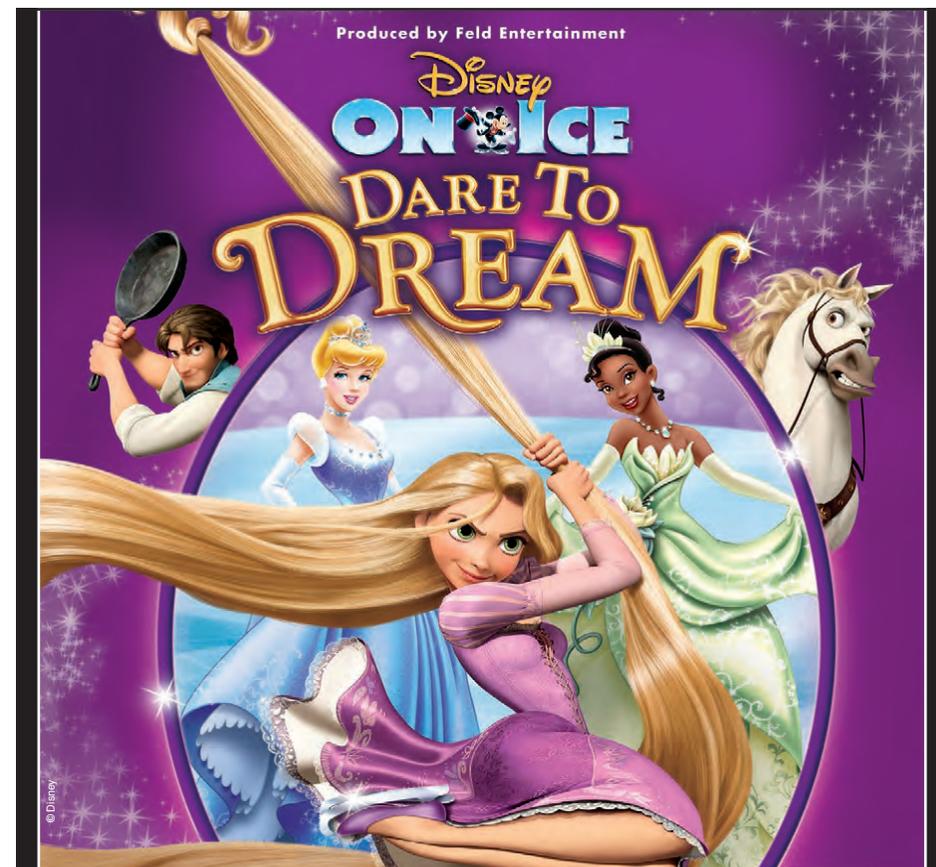
Coffee and doughnuts will be served, and the kitchen opens at 11 a.m. The event is at Conner Preserve on SR 52, and a \$3 donation is requested at the gate. For more information, visit www.baycityflyers.org.

YARD SALE CORNER

FLEA MARKET

The Zephyrhills Lion Club, 5827 Dean Dairy Road, is sponsoring a flea market on Saturday, April 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendor space is available in 8-foot tables inside for \$5 and 10-by-15-foot tables outside for \$10. Call Ken to reserve a spot at (813) 488-1441.

****Send your yard sale info to etorrens@cnewspubs.com****



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FIRST CHRISTIAN

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 6040 Eighth St. in Zephyrhills.
 Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m. April 5
 Pastor Paul will bring the message "He's Alive" on Easter Sunday April 8
 Bible study at 9 a.m.
 Worship service 10:05 a.m.
 Prayer group meets Monday at 10 a.m.
 For more information, call (813) 782-1071 or visit us at www.zhillsfirstchristian.org.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills, 38635 Fifth Ave.
 Traditional services at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
 Contemporary service at 9:30 a.m.
 For more information: on Facebook "First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills," online www.fumczhills.org, or via phone (813) 782-5645.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

First Baptist Church of Zephyrhills, 38231 Fifth Ave.
 Worship service at 10:45 a.m.
 Evening service at 6 p.m.
 Children's choir at 6:30 p.m. Sunday

Mid-week service Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
 "Sunrise Prayer Warriors" meet every weekday morning from 6 to 7 a.m.
 Church visitation every Monday at 5 p.m.
 For more information call (813) 782-5574.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian Church of Zephyrhills, 5510 19th St.
 Sunday school for adults at 8:30 a.m.
 Services Sunday 10 a.m. Children dismissed for classes. Coffee fellowship follows worship.
 Choir practice 7 p.m. Wednesday
 Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesday
 The FRESH Youth Group meets at 5 p.m. Wednesdays
 Single seniors meeting the second and fourth Sunday following worship
 For more information, visit www.firstpcz.org.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

First Congregational Church of Zephyrhills, 7900 Fort King Road.
 Worship service Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
 Bible study Tuesday 10 a.m. and Wednesday 7 p.m.
 Choir practice Wednesday at 4 p.m.
 For more information, visit fcczhills.org

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Proper tire pressure : Check your owners manual or local tire shop and find out the proper tire pressure that goes with your RV. The tire-inflation pressure needs to be matched to the load on each corner. You need to first have your wheel weights measured on a scale. Then refer to the tire maker's website regarding the proper inflation.

Inspect your wheels : Inspect tires



monthly, knowing what to look for is only useful if you take the time to look. Get in the habit of frequently inspecting tires for proper inflation, damage, or wear. If something doesn't look right, take your car to a

tire dealer for closer inspection. Whenever tires and wheels are changed or rotated on a motorhome, make sure the lug nuts are torqued properly and rechecked every 100-500 miles of driving.

Tire Tread : A tire tread depth gauge is a simple, inexpensive and useful tool for monitoring the tires on your motorhome. It can be purchased for a few dollars at most tire and auto parts stores. Measure the tread depth near each edge and in the middle of the tread. Regular inspections can detect front tires that are wearing crooked from misalignment, even before the problem would be noticed by visual checks.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your RV's tires, please contact us at JLP Motorsports, and we will be glad to assist you.



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SHEN YUN RETURNS TO TAMPA BAY ON MAY 5 DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND!

Shen Yun Performing Arts is returning to St. Petersburg after three sold-out shows on March 3-4 at the Straz Center. The performance was so popular that additional seats were brought in to accommodate the audience overflow. One staff member at the Straz Center commented that she hadn't seen such a packed house at the Straz in a long time.

Based in New York, Shen Yun's mission is to revive 5,000 years of China's rich traditional heritage—a cultural heritage that has been largely destroyed by the communist regime over the past 60 years.

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This is the fifth consecutive year Shen Yun has toured in Florida, with previous performances in Orlando, Jacksonville, St. Petersburg, Sarasota, and Fort Lauderdale. In honor of Shen Yun's arrival in Tampa Bay, Florida officials including Gov. Rick Scott, Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn and St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster, issued welcome letters for Shen Yun. "It is sure to be a performance long-remembered by all those in attendance," Mayor Buckhorn wrote.

Audience members in attendance at the Tampa performances in March expressed their delight, giving Shen Yun high praise. Museum manager Tom Kaltenbaugh and Betsy Lester, an artist and art teacher, were thrilled with the performance. "It's a great presentation. We're thrilled," Mr. Kaltenbaugh said.

"The tradition is beautiful," Ms. Lester said. "We are missing some of that here in this country, so it's beautiful to see. We honor that."

Adam Becker, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. military, said, "I had heard a lot about the show before it came here. ... The dancing is excellent, superb. And in its uniquely Chinese and ethnic balance, it is absolutely wonderful." Referring to China's current history, he said, "I'd like to think that, little by little—for Americans who don't have my background—this is a tactful way to slowly introduce them, in a pretty way, to exactly how [Chinese history] unfolds."

Tampa realtor Tom Zuidema was thrilled to be a part of the excitement: "I thought the show was wonderful. I thought the costumes were remarkable. The music was so good—very good orchestra. A delightful show!"

Clothing manufacturer Kenneth Jennings attended the sold-out performance in Tampa with his wife, Linda. Mr. Jennings described Shen Yun's gorgeous, handmade costumes, which depict China's dynasties, regions, and ethnic groups, as "absolutely magnificent."

Mrs. Jennings, a librarian, added, "It's not just the costumes, it's the way they move. ... The dancing is just unbelievable. They're so talented."

Mr. Jennings commented on how Shen Yun is able to convey life in modern China under communist rule because the company is based in New York. He said artistic expression of such truths would be suppressed in China. "It's all very spectacular—beautiful, lovely," he said. "We loved it."

Iuri Herzfeld, an oceanographer and professor at the University of South Florida, said, "It was beautiful, very enlightening—knowing that the truth will always prevail." Dr. Herzfeld was deeply impressed with the performers' expression of the profound themes of traditional Chinese culture, saying the show displayed an honesty and sincerity in its themes and stories: "It's the truth. When the truth is shown, I think you have to bow to the truth and say 'thank you.'"

Mary Louise Travis, a former ballerina with the New York City Ballet, attended the show with her husband, David, an officer with the U.S. Navy. Mrs. Travis was touched by the discipline and talent of the performers: "The beautiful strength and discipline that is shown is very nice. It was pretty to see—delightful."

Mr. Travis said, "Absolutely, unbelievably beautiful—breathtakingly beautiful. I've never quite seen anything like it before. ... 'Superb! Magnificent! Loved it!'"

If you missed out on the Tampa performances, there is another opportunity to catch a performance in neighboring St. Petersburg. Shen Yun is returning by popular demand for two shows at the Mahaffey Theater on May 5. Visit Shenyun2012.com or call 888.974.3698. Don't miss your chance to see Shen Yun 2012!

The Shops AT WIREGRASS

April Happenings

3rd **YouNite**
Christian music series
April 3: 6 - 8:30pm

4th **11th** **Wiregrass Wednesdays**
Free for kids 0 - 12 yrs. old
Wednesdays at 10am

18th **25th**

5th **to 15th** **Spring Fair**
April 5 - 15
Rides, food, games & fun for the entire family!

5th **12th** **Swing into Spring**
Live music, food & beer tastings
Thursdays, 6 - 8:30pm

19th **26th**

7th **21st** **Fresh Market**
April 7 & 21: 10am - 3pm
Local food, crafts & live music

14th **15th** **Wesley Chapel Chamber
Celebration of The Arts**
April 14: 10am - 6pm & April 15: 11am - 6pm
Fine Arts & Crafts Show

22nd **Stepping up for LLS**
April 22: 8am Registration
5K Walk to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

28th **Cruisin at Wiregrass**
April 28: 9am - 4pm
Car & Truck Show

The Shops at Wiregrass

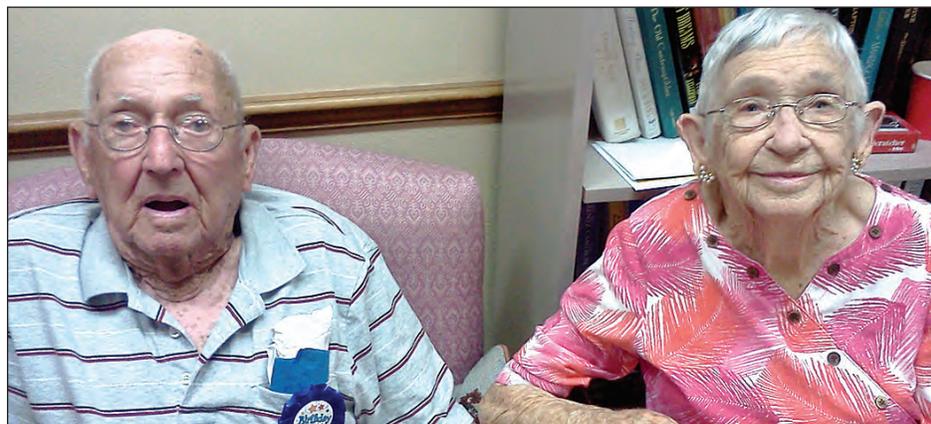
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Double dose of bliss

Jimmy and Emma Kirkpatrick, residents of Westbrooke Manor, have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary and his 95th birthday. They were married on Jimmy's birthday. The Kirkpatricks have lived in Dade City for 70 years. Jimmy is a native of Clearwater, one of the original pioneers, part of the McMullen-Booth family. He worked for Pasco Packing and was an electrician for 35 years. Emma is originally from Levy County, Fla. Congratulations to the Kirkpatricks. (Photo courtesy of Alyson Stanina)



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Still caring for women

The Laker/Park News Staff Report

Bringing babies into this world is what Dr. John A. Ferlita, a board certified obstetrician and gynecologist, has done for more than 31 years. Now, after delivering thousands of babies, Dr. Ferlita has decided to focus exclusively on female medicine including gynecology, urogynecology and reproductive medicine.

"The demand for urogynecology has increased significantly in my practice along with cutting edge technology to treat urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, genital prolapse and interstitial cystitis," said Dr. Ferlita in a statement. "I've always been on the cutting edge of technology with these things; with everything that is new in the way of best treatments for my patients."

Dr. Ferlita is no stranger to technological advances in medicine. As a pioneer in minimally invasive surgery more than 22 years ago, he was one of the first surgeons in the bay area to perform laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy (LAVH).

Today, he's embraced the da Vinci robotic surgical system and has earned his certification as a da Vinci trained robotic surgeon. Dr. Ferlita serves as the Medical Director for Pasco Regional Medical Center's da Vinci Robotic Surgery Program. As a certified da Vinci robotics surgeon, he provides the most advanced surgical techniques for hysterectomy, uterine prolapse, fibroid tumors, ovary removal and other gynecological procedures.

In addition, Dr. Ferlita is one of a few select physicians in the State of Florida trained to use Renessa, a non-surgical procedure to

treat Stress Urinary Incontinence (SUI) in female patients. SUI is the involuntary leakage of urine during routine activities such as laughing, coughing, sneezing and exercise. This treatment is performed in the comfort of Dr. Ferlita's office and requires only a local anesthetic during a one-hour visit.

"We've seen excellent results with this procedure," said Dr. Ferlita. "Clinical studies have shown that 75 percent of the women treated with Renessa experience significant improvement, while 60 percent are completely cured. It's cutting edge technology with virtually no pain and results that almost mirror surgery. As a physician and surgeon, I'm moving forward and not looking back."

While Dr. Ferlita no longer provides obstetrical services, he still cares for women. His office is located in the Sun Professional Center at 6719 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other services and treatments provided in his Zephyrhills clinic include annual exams,



Dr. John A. Ferlita has delivered thousands of babies over the decades. Now, he has decided to focus exclusively on female medicine. (Photo courtesy of www.ferlitaobgyn.com)

endometriosis, pelvic pain, hormone replacement therapy, osteoporosis prevention, postmenopausal bleeding, pelvic ultrasounds, colposcopy, endometrial biopsy, cryotherapy, urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, genital prolapse and interstitial cystitis.

For more information, please contact his office at (813) 782-7318 or visit www.ferlitaobgyn.com.

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Health and wellness fair presents educational opportunity

The Laker/Park News Staff Report

On Tuesday, March 13, the Grand Reserve at Zephyrhills had a free Senior Health & Wellness Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It was a huge success with 25 vendors in attendance and more than 100 guests.

"We were so pleased to have these vendors join us for this free educational event," said Kristin Pelletier, Grand Reserve activities director. "The public was invited along with our residents who boasted about how much they love where they live."

For more information, contact The Grand Reserve at Zephyrhills at (813) 377-3000 or stop by for a tour at 7177 Wire Road.



Kathy Welch, of Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, gave free blood pressure screenings to guests attending the health and wellness fair at Grand Reserve. (Photos courtesy of Kristin Pelletier)



Guests and residents gather to enjoy the weather outside on the veranda with a lunch courtesy of the Grand Reserve.

Imagination and collaboration are creating a new approach to neurological care.



Today, the future looks a little brighter for Tampa Bay. That's because two of the area's most respected names in medicine, Florida Hospital and USF Health, have joined forces to take health care to a higher degree.

As a result, the new Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Neuroscience Institute will bring USF neurosurgeons to Zephyrhills who are trained in the treatment of brain, spine and acute stroke procedures. It will also be home to a 24/7 board-certified stroke team that includes neurosurgeons, neuro-interventional radiologists, neurologists, emergency physicians and registered nurses who coordinate care from triage to diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

With all of these services offered in one location, patients will no longer need to travel outside Pasco County for time-sensitive neurological procedures. Visit www.HigherDegree.org to learn more.



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PICNICPALOOZA!



The New England Picnic (Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont) took place at Baker Acres on March 15. Front: Pat Carr, Joe Lazarczyk, Leo Lamontagne, Edgar LaBlanc, Dawn Lessor, Linda Beisaw, Sylvia Nichols, Les Nichols. Second: Kathy Lazarczyk, Rita Lamontagne, Lorraine LaBlanc. Third: Jean Golden, Ray Cote, Charlotte Cote, Joanne Libby, Bev Cammett, Bob Crowell, Bob Lessor, Dave Beisaw, Joan Zanello. Back: Sandra Morse, Ray Libby, Larry Cammett, Paul Zanello, Hank Zanello.



The Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia picnic was on March 16 at the Baker Acres clubhouse. Front: Ginny Zuck, Dottie Perkins, Don Johnson, Oney Law, Linda Moran. Second: Ray Zuck, Jean Poe, Elizabeth Cain, Norma Mumua, Marian Mahoney, Marion Pierce, Marie Stineman, Laura Ritchey, April Hudak. Third: (not seen) Bruce Poe, Verilin Randolph, Bud Randolph, Lloyd Cain, Carmen Christian, Dean Christian, Bob Kunkle, Milt Stineman, George Ritchey, Judy Beck, Larry Britton, Donetta Forgeione. Fourth: Neal Isenberg, Marla Johnson, Flora Isenberg, Howard Mumua, Pat Kunkle, Mary Leland, Nancy Weber, Kelly Beck, Ned Moran (Photos courtesy of Kathy Adams)



Lloyd Cain and Carmen Christian tried their hand, or hats, at this game where you try to lift a toothbrush on the bill of your hat, carry it over to a can with holes punched in the top and deposit it in a hole without dropping it.

Goodbyes and farewells

By Kathy Adams
Baker Acres

The season is coming to a close and our park is starting to dwindle as we say goodbye to our friends. Many are final farewells, health and age determines our length of time here.

It's always very sad but as the saying goes, "Life goes on!" But the memories of the good times will remain!

Baker Acres put together a "Memory Year Book" this year to keep the memories of the great peo-

ple and events at our fingertips!

My husband and I will be heading west soon. We are often asked why we come so far for the winter when Arizona is so close!

Nothing against Arizona, it's got it's great qualities too! But, when we decided to fulfill our "Bucket List" and see the USA, we ended up in Zephyrhills and at Baker Acres for the winter last year and we are hooked!!

This will be our winter home as long as we are able to make the trek from Utah!

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'Happy' back in Happy Days

Happy Days

By The Happy News Crew

Thanks to all of our Happy Days friends for a great season!

The happy is back in "Happy Days" thanks to our many volunteers that keep our activities going are and our dedicated park committee members who support activities and many special events.

Toni Fischer and Linda Jenkins, the seemingly tireless volunteers and their avid helpers, are the front and center for anything that moves; our dances, entertainment, decorating and of course our famous musical dinners, bean soup and chili dinner nights and to all the others who are always there, never enough said!

Then we have Ken Knight and Dick Johnson with the rest of the set up crew to run our weekly shuffleboard competitions and of course the monthly turkey shoots featuring a hot dog lunch afterwards for a buck - the best price in town!

Thanks to all of the game makers who are always looking to fill more chairs for Euchre, Chase the Ace, Bing, Cribbage and more! We can't forget our horse shoe players, golfers, bowlers, billiard players, pool aerobics, walk away the pounds, crafts, ice

cream social hosts and the Sunday morning church service.

Thanks to Jim Howe for organizing the Friday afternoon jam sessions with fiddlers and other instrumentalists, which has been a great success for the park and players, and brought in new seasonal residents who enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of the park.

If you don't find any activities that tickle your fancy, our park manager, Dan Olson, can always find a paint brush or something to entertain you!

You are welcome to drive down Allen Road visit with Judy in the office, pick up an activity sheet and tour the park and meet us at the new "Happy Days" where friendly people reside!

GAME PAGE ANSWERS

S	K	S	P	T	H	R	E	A	D	H	C	O	E	B
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Marg Jay and Ian Marwick pose during the Happy Days St. Patrick's Day Dance. (Photo courtesy of Ron Graham and Dan Olson)

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Let your hair hang down

Sunnyside Park King Paul McFarland proclaimed Saturday, March 24, 2012 to be Fay and Junior Jordan Day in honor of their many years in the park. Fay and Junior were honored at a reception in the clubhouse on the March 24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fay and Junior entertained everyone with their rendition of "Baby Let Your Hair Hang Down" dressed in their hippie garb. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful fellowship, great food and good music. The Jordans will be returning to Indiana and hope to be back to visit sometime. (Photo courtesy of Marilyn Mullins)



From left: Bev Fick, Elmina Hull, Phil English, Deb Cross, Helen Swackhammer, Sharon Olson, Elsa Fasley and Kathy Fountain. (Photo by Barbara White)

Fashion show Sundance style

By Barbara White
Sundance Park

On Saturday, March 24, Sundance Mobile Home Park Women's Club presented a Style Show by Bon Worth. Helen Swackhammer was the commentator representing Bon Worth, Zephyrhills. Helen did a great job describing the beautiful outfits that the models exhibited. We want to thank Deb Cross, Elsa Fasley, Bev Fick, Kathy Fountain, Elmina Hull and Sharon Olson for doing a terrific job of modeling the clothing. They sure put us in a mood for getting some spring outfits, possibly our Easter outfit!

Thanks also goes to Phil English for ushering the models, Pat Wilson and her

committee for organizing this event, along with Jerry Mertz making the tickets.

We wish to thank these local businesses for donating items, free dinners, etc., that were given as door prizes. These donors were Blackstone's Reef and Grill, Blockbuster Movie Rental, Bon Worth, Chili's Restaurant, Comfort Cover Systems, Country Kitchen, E-Z Car Wash (Dade City), Five Guys Hamburgers, Johnson Tires, Lee Reed Insurance, Nextran Corporation, Papa John's Pizza, Pasco Regional Hospital, Rivard Buick/GMC, Ruby Tuesday, Sundance HOA, Sunrise Eatery and Village Inn.

Before the actual style show, everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch. We wish to thank the preparers and servers.

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Red hats, Steve Jeffris, talent show mark end of season

By Sandra Abel
Rainbow Village

The men at Rainbow prepared a wonderful lunch for the ladies of Rainbow. Chef Cory and his crew prepared chicken, rice and carrots with a delicious dessert. We were met at the door by the chickettes of Rainbow. Our men dressed up as ladies and they were quite pretty. Robert Kreiger was our entertainment. He played lots of love songs for us ladies. A big thanks to Reggie Short and his great crew for a wonderful day of great food, great entertainment and lots of laughs!!!

The Red Hat Ladies at Rainbow Village had their annual Steve Jeffris Benefit Show for his storehouse, starring Steve Jeffris. Steve entertained us with his great show of a variety of songs, jokes and audience participation. We all had an enjoyable night helping to collect food items for his storehouse. We collected more than \$1,000 in cash and a van full of food items. The Red Hat Ladies thank you all for supporting their cause.

The Rainbow church board and choir had their appreciation lunch at the main hall. We want to thank all those who served by being a member of the church board. After four years as chairman of the church board, Sandy Abel turned over her duties to Dick Rose. We also honored the members of the church choir, choir director Bev Were, organist Joanne Peet and piano player Barb Yoman. A big thank you to our pastor, Don Wright.

We are all blessed with his sermons, hospital visits and just being a great blessing to Rainbow Village Church!!!

What a show!!!!!! Scott Woods is the Canadian fiddle champion and he surely proved it to Rainbow Village with what he can do with that fiddle!!! He also had his mother on piano, his sister played the accordion and fiddle, a married couple who played bass and guitar and sang. Great show to end our season!!!!!!!

The Wearing of the Green Dance on St. Patrick's Day with Travest Golden was a big hit with our residents. It was fun to see the residents dressed in their green get ups!!!!!!



Bob and Edie Dayton are decked out in green for Rainbow Village's The Wearing of the Green Dance on St. Patrick's Day.

It was a great dance to end our season at Rainbow. Looking forward to a new season come fall!!!! Thanks to the dance committee chairpersons, Dave and Carol Halliday.

Jimmy Frable was our entertainment at ice cream and he was amazing with his music. He is so talented playing nine different instruments and all different types of music. Great night!!!

Rainbow Village carefree park had its first Carefree Has Talent contest. We had eight contestants from our park that showed their talent. Patti Cyr and her puppet, Tweety, yodeling, Ethyle Hanson and Joanne Peet sang a duet, Ilya McClintic sang a solo, Bev Were played the piano, Pat Thorton sang a solo, Delmar Baker sang a solo and Doug Sawyer played the steel guitar.

The winner was Doug Sawyer on the steel guitar. He will compete at Bushnell in April with winners from other Carefree parks. Lots of talent in our park. Good luck at Bushnell, Doug!!!!!! Pat Thorton was runner up in case Doug can't make it to Bushnell.

Have you ever heard about the "Living a Better Story" project? This is a welcome to a life changing experience! My pastor in York, Penn. wanted to try this project and someone donated money so he could start this



Steve Jeffris stands with the Red Hat Ladies at Rainbow Village. Jeffris and the Red Hat Ladies were part of the annual Steve Jeffris Benefit Show for his storehouse. (Photos courtesy of Sandra Abel)

project. He put a \$20 bill, a \$10 bill and a \$5 bill each in an envelope and the persons in our church that wanted to take part pulled an envelope. You were to come up with an idea on how to make the money grow with God's help and guidance to write a better story for my life. You couldn't give the money back to the church. I came up with the idea of quilting a lap quilt with the \$20 I pulled in my envelope.

I chanced it off for about three weeks and to my surprise, I raised \$255 from the \$20. I donated it to Meals on Wheels and they were so happy to receive God's gift. This was a wonderful life changing experience for me. Thank you to all my Rainbow Village family for supporting my project — Sandy.

This reporter is heading home to Pennsylvania and wishing you all a great summer and Lord willing to see you all next fall!



The chickettes at Rainbow Village greeted residents who went to a lunch prepared by Chef Cory and his crew.



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Gem Estates elects new board of officers

By Lee Heffelfinger
Gem Estates

Our brand new telephone directory for the park has been delivered, and many thanks to John Mauk and Gary Gibson for doing a superb job of collecting, updating, promoting advertisers and reviewing all the names and numbers. A hard job to do, but we certainly appreciate the effort.

Our new slate of officers were elected at our March general meeting with Al Bennett as our new president, Jim Nagle first vice president and Deann Harrington as second vice president. Ross LeComb is our treasurer and Joan Newland, secretary. Bruce Hudson, Mike Mitchell, Richard Burgess, Tom Greenwood, Mabel Budzinski, John Raab and outgoing President Joe Casey comprised our Board Of Directors. Thanks to the retiring officers for a job well done.

Ginnie Zepp, our craft class chairlady is

also a winning Zephyrhills Art Club winner with honorable mention at the monthly show as well as the yearly show. We have lost a good friend and neighbor, Norman Selfe, this month of March. Just weeks ago I wrote an article about Norman and his wife, Janette, celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. Norm was taken back to Michigan for burial and the daughters, Peggy Olinger and Marilyn Zimmerman, will be taking Janette back to Michigan with them.

Had a lot of folks on the sick list: Walter Thurston is in the hospital and prayers were said for Polly Cross, Pat Clark, Gloria Haynes, Sylvia Held, Nora Brown, and Les Ott. John Mauk told us about his mother, Norma Mauk, falling and breaking a wrist and pelvis. Norma is a former resident, living where son, John, now lives but now resides with a daughter in Jacksonville.

The "Jolly Gems" of the Red Hat Society sponsored a tea and fashion show entitled

"Second Hand Rose" with great success and hilarity. A large number of guests in attendance and 16 models demonstrating good buys and combinations from shopping secondhand stores or remodeling and utilizing what you already have. Helen

Springer, former queen mother was emcee.

Agnes Ewald was the eldest at 97 years old. Bessie Palmer modeled the dress she wore 22 years ago when she married her husband, Harold Palmer. Looked good too! There was a "special" guest, Alaina Bennetta, who shops at all the "Hollywood Hospice" thrift stores. Alaina was a treat for sore eyes!!! The tea was a great success and a good time was had by all according to Queen Mother, Loretta Green.

Our Easter Dinner will take place on Sunday, April 15, giving those people with family here to enjoy the Easter Day with them. Jim Nagle and his "crew" will do a fantastic job. Just like the pancake breakfast we had on St. Patrick's Day. He invited all the people going on the bus to the Early Bird Dinner Theater to come in early for breakfast. Thanks Jim—we hate missing your breakfasts.

Nine people were honored at the 90th birthday party held under the trees in Gem

Estates Park. Agnes Ewald, Betty Wilson, Priscilla Slipp, Nelson Green, Frank Kooima, Carolyn Brink, Frances Coon, Clayton Martinson and Vi Straka were celebrated. Ninety people enjoyed the camaraderie and had reports the food was excellent and Loretta Green was praised as a great organizer.

The Red Hatters will enjoy a pizza party at their April meeting with a possible trip to an assisted living facility for a visit with some of our past residents.

Several birthdays coming up in April are: Bev Becker on Thursday, April 12, John Brown, April 14, Deanie Bennett, April 15, Joan Martinson and Nelda

Fetting share April 23. Happy Birthday to all!

Since this is the last issue for this season—we want to thank Joe Casey and his officers and board of directors for the good job they did for the past two years. Also a big thank you to Jim Nagle and his crew for the wonderful meals— to Tom Greenwood for his fantastic beautification efforts to our clubhouse and to all that chaired a committee or helped on one. It was a terrific team effort and that's what it takes to make Gem Estates a great place to live.

Have a good summer and ya'll come back safely in the fall—ya hear.

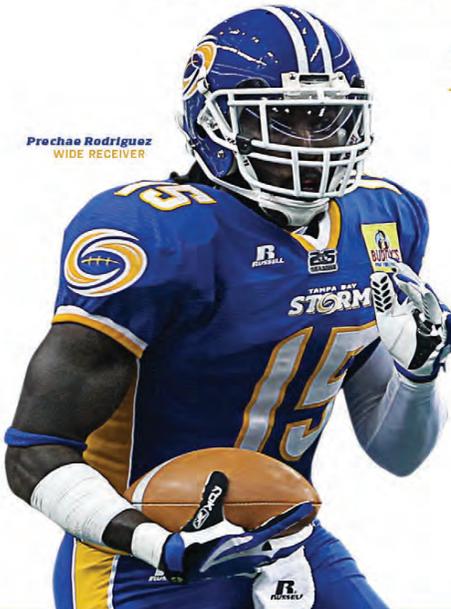
If you have stories and/or photos from the Zephyrhills and Dade City community, we want to hear about it!

Always feel free to submit any news to The Laker/Park News editor Eugenio Torrens at etorrens@cnewspubs.com.



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'Tropical' St. Patrick's Day

By Lynda Warner

Tropical Acre Estates

If it is one thing that Tropical Acre Estates knows how to do, it is to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with many fun events.

The St. Patrick's Day Dance was had the Saturday prior to the holiday but the Irish in all of us was happy to celebrate. The hall was decorated nicely and George Raab presented music. It is nice to know that several of our residents have a real talent for doing the Irish Jig. A good time was had by all.

To begin the weekend, on Friday night we were able to enjoy an Irish music digital concert at the clubhouse. Guests were treated to videos of Ireland with varied musical melodies.

A highlight was a video of the "Riverdance" group. That group is amazing, and if you ever get a chance to see them in person, they are very entertaining and talented. Ed O'Sullivan was our host and major leprechaun.

Saturday began a very busy day for sure. Beginning at 9 a.m. a fun program called the "Poker Run" began. Residents signed up ahead of time and went to several houses to collect a playing card from a number of residences. At the end of the "run," the resident



Even Teddy the dog was not exempt from partaking in going green for St. Patrick's Day. (Photos by Lynda Warner)



This inflatable leprechaun graced one of the golf carts for Tropical Acre Estates St. Patrick's Day festivities.

with the winning hands were awarded prizes that were announced at a later dinner. Kind of a crazy game, but a fun one.

Next came the Tropical Acre Estates Irish parade. Residents could "dress up" themselves, golf carts, or pets or spouses, in typical Irish green. All in all, there were 13 vehicles or whatever in our parade. Five judges then selected winners in a number of different categories with prizes awarded for the best-dressed man/woman; most decorated vehicle; and even the dressed up doggies. Dogs each got a box of puppy biscuits.

Residents grouped around the clubhouse to watch the parade and cheered for their favorites.

To complete a fun-filled day, residents enjoyed a corn beef and cabbage dinner for those of us who signed up. John Florida and his crew did a fantastic job preparing the meal and serving it up. It was surely a great way to end a very busy day.

Many thanks and kudos goes to all of the chairpersons and volunteers who helped



Eddie Winstead was the winner of the "bike" class for decoration.

make this celebration a very happy and successful one. Their numbers are too many to list but their work is well appreciated by all.

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Bowling for memories

By Rosalie Doughty
Oaks Royal

Bowling buddies said a fond farewell to each other at a barbecued hot dog, casserole and salad meal at the rec hall of Oaks Royal 1 and 2 park in Zephyrhills. On March 27 they celebrated the last day of the winter bowling season. Trophies that were made over after previous years of use were awarded by the unofficial captain, Lyle Kole.

Joan Gofton had the high game for the season and MaDonna Wheeler had the high series for the ladies.

Ralph Gould landed the high game and Larry Pokoj held onto the high series for the men. The most consistent bowler was Gary Wheeler. The most gutter balls were thrown by Harold McCall and Lyle Kole. The most improved bowler was Bob Cimcotte (his trophy ALMOST asked him to start playing golf). He managed to keep the low string for the season thus earning him the golf ball trophy.



Lyle Kole, left, receives a gift of appreciation from the team from Bob Cimcotta.

Other members of this team included Frank Livingston, Fred Conklin, Ken Ball, Bob Doughty and Dave Brown.

All scores were kept and recorded by Lyle Kole.



Betty Armstead, left, and Lois Beattie have been instrumental in keeping up the Oaks Royal library. By donating at least 2 hours a day, every day, the library has a slew of books, DVDs and video cassettes. (Photos by Pauline Bergeron)

'Capable' hands stocking movies and books

By Rosalie Doughty
Oaks Royal

No senior park would be complete nor make its residents happy without a library full of books, movies, DVDs and VHS's. Oaks Royal 1 and 2, on Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills, is doing its best to do just that.

Under the capable hands of Betty Armstead and Lois Beattie — each donating at least 2 hours a day, 7 days a week — they

maintain a substantial library of fiction, non-fiction, religious, series of books, large print and talking books on request.

The books are donated by park members and other lover of books.

We are very grateful that a good friend of our librarian, Richard Hartsell, along with Betty, gathered 700 books (free of charge to us) during the past summer and donated them for our enjoyment.

Many thanks to our residents and their friends. We do appreciate the hard work.

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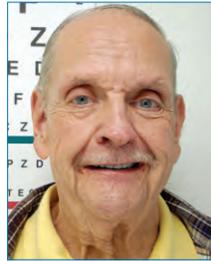
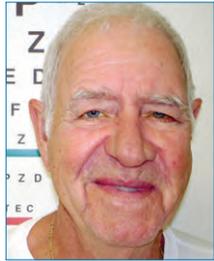
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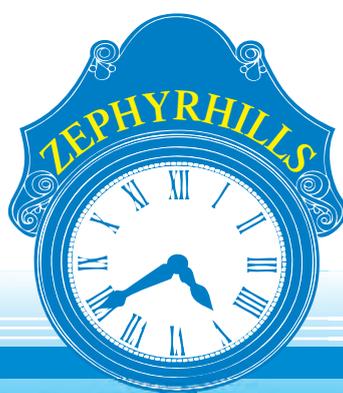
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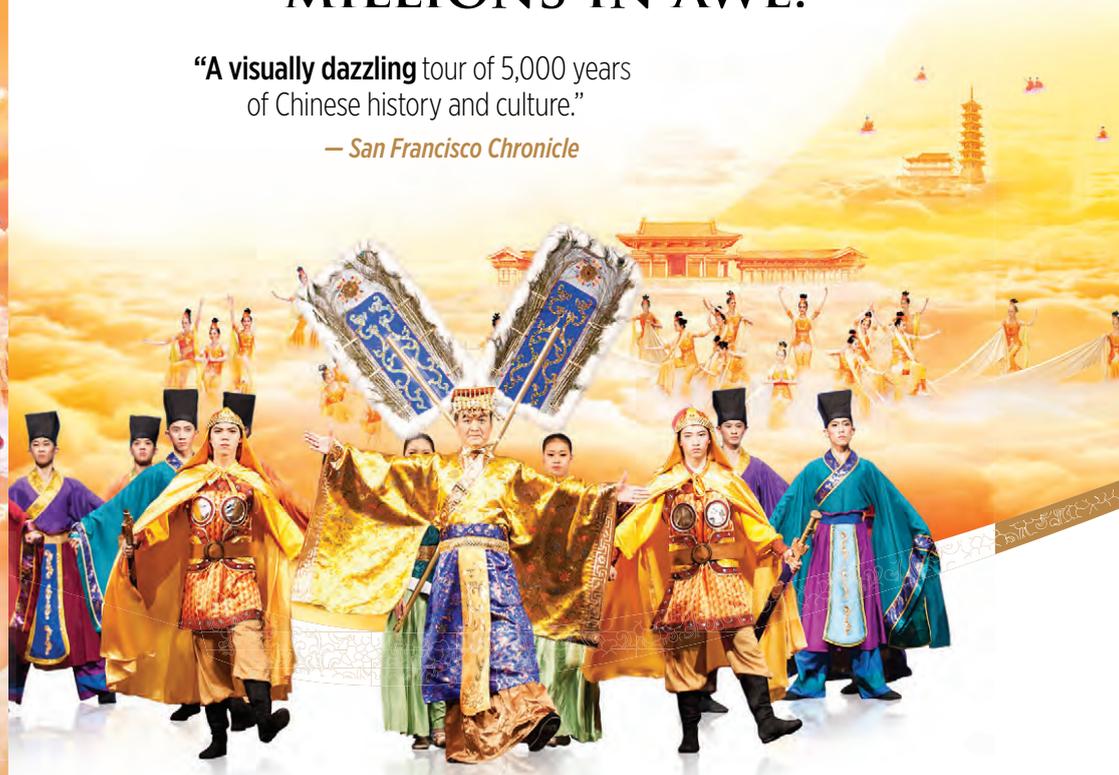
In 2011, Shen Yun enchanted royals in London, performed for packed houses across Asia, and received standing ovations at Lincoln Center in New York. Now, in 2012, Shen Yun will embark on yet another world tour with its all-new show.

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— *Stephen L. Norris, co-founder of The Carlyle Group*

SHEN YUN PERFORMERS are selected from among the top classical artists in the world. Every year, they come from all corners of the globe to an idyllic campus in upstate New York. This is where their mastery of their craft takes shape into a new production. And this is where a most magical revival of true Chinese culture begins...

The people of China have long held that their magnificent culture was a gift from the heavens. Art was primarily a means to explore the connection between humankind and the higher universe.

Artists cultivated virtue because they felt that to create art worthy of the divine, there must first be inner beauty and purity.

Shen Yun follows in these ancient traditions.

Shen Yun artists believe that just mastering the surface of the art is not enough, as it is the heart of the artist that the audience feels. So they take the wisdom and values of traditional Chinese culture as part of their lives. These inspire them to nurture goodness in themselves on their path to artistic perfection. That is the culture of Shen Yun.



“A beautiful show... fantastic!”

— *Joy Behar, Co-host of ABC's The View*

“It is really out of this world!”

If I had to describe it, the words might be ‘divine,’ ‘reborn,’ and ‘hope.’”

— *Christine Walevska, master cellist*

NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE...

SHEN YUN—it’s a grand production. Every year we start fresh. Every detail matters. Our goal? Not just another show. We take our craft beyond the boundaries of performing arts as you know it.

A Shen Yun show is a fusion of classical arts with modern appeal. As one audience member put it, “It’s like a fashion show, opera, concert, and dance performance all rolled into one.” Difficult? Yes. Impossible? No. Our passion motivates us to bring all these elements together into one extraordinary experience.

Classical Chinese dance lies at the heart of our per-

formances. The dancers—with what some have called “limitless bodies”—turn an intensely difficult art form into something beautiful and effortless. China’s 5,000 years of civilization provide an endless source of inspiration. The choreographers work closely with the composers to recreate ancient stories and legends, or convey an aspect of the culture, through short pieces that last no more than a few minutes. Our graphic artists, meanwhile, use advanced digital technology to produce stunning animated backdrops that correspond precisely to each dance.

After seeing the show, one audience member marveled, “This production... is nothing short of a miracle.”



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“It’s a new realm of dance—

it’s not just pretty, it’s serious pretty. There’s a lot of depth to it, and a lot of meaning.”

— *Vanessa Harwood, former Principal Dancer of National Ballet of Canada*

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CLASSICAL CHINESE DANCE is one way in which 5,000 years of Chinese culture have been passed down and retained. It is a dance form built on profound traditional aesthetics. In its early days, it was conveyed primarily among the people, in the imperial courts, and through ancient plays. Over thousands of years, this art was continually organized and refined, with it eventually developing into the vast, systematic, and distinctly Chinese dance form that we know today.

Classical Chinese dance has its own set of training methods in basic skills

and has strict training in both physical expression and specific postures. It also involves combinations of leaps, turns, flips, spins, and other aerial and tumbling techniques. It is an extensive and independent system of dance.

Within classical Chinese dance lie China’s deep cultural traditions, allowing its movements to be richly expressive, such that the personalities and feelings of characters can be portrayed with unparalleled clarity. It is therefore capable of depicting scenes from any time period, whether ancient or modern, Eastern or Western, in a strikingly vivid way.

FOLK, ETHNIC, AND STORY-BASED DANCE

IN ADDITION TO the classical forms, Shen Yun features the distinctive colors and styles of ethnic and folk dance. Choreographers draw upon over 20 dynasties and 50 ethnic groups to create pieces whose settings range from the northern steppes of Mongolia to the lush forests of Yunnan. Among the most impressive elements of any Shen Yun performance are the large-scale ensemble pieces in which dozens of dancers appear to move as one across the stage.

Shen Yun has also created its very own brand of story-based dance, which often deals with universal, thought-provoking themes.

神韻

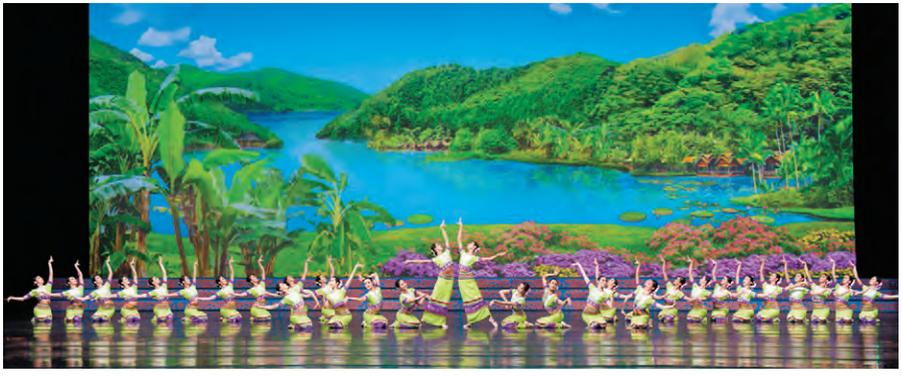
WHAT DOES “SHEN YUN” MEAN?

CHINESE IS AN IMMENSELY rich language. Many characters contain deep inner meanings and nuances that are difficult to translate into English, such as those in our very name: Shen Yun.

The character Shen (神) is a general term for “divine” or “divine being.” Chinese cosmology, in fact, is replete with hundreds of deities, Buddhas, and Taoist immortals who play different roles and color the canon of Chinese history with thousands of rich stories.

This feeling of the divine plays into the second character of our name: Yun (韻). Its meaning is far greater than what literal translation can capture. “Yun” refers to the overall manner of a dancer, a dancer’s style, and the meaning behind his or her movements.

So, when we put “Shen” and “Yun” together: it’s about the grace, compassion, and sublime beauty of heavenly realms that are shown through the subtlest expressions and gestures of our dancers. That is the essence of the name “Shen Yun.”



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The Kennedy Center, Washington DC

“I just feel blessed having been exposed to this level, this caliber of performance. It speaks not only to my intellect, but speaks to my heart. It's a complete edifying experience of the human spirit.”

— *Omega Medina, former senior manager of classical music for the GRAMMY Awards
Los Angeles, 2010*



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“Their passion is really touching.”

— *Chi Cao, Principal Dancer of Birmingham Royal Ballet and lead actor in Mao's Last Dancer
London, 2009*

“I am completely enchanted...
a marvelous evening.”

— *Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent
London, 2011*



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WATCH VIDEO

Audience members rave about Shen Yun—the show not to be missed.

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