



These children help break ground for a new school building to house Saint Anthony School. The new facility will be able to accommodate 270 students. (Photo courtesy of Saint Anthony School)

Saint Anthony School builds on optimism

By B.C. Manion

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There was a time, not many years ago, when the future appeared uncertain for Saint Anthony School in San Antonio.

Attendance had dwindled to 153, and there was talk of shutting down the elementary school.

“At that point, when the enrollment was really low, a group of parents rolled up their sleeves and went to work in every way they could (to) get the word out about the school,” said Will Plazewski, whose son represents the fourth generation of his family to attend Saint Anthony. “It was amazing that even though the school has been here for 129 years, how many people in East Pasco County had no idea that it existed.”

Parents spread the word, and a 15-second commercial at the Cobb Grove 16 in Wesley Chapel also helped attract students, he said.

Sister Alice Ottapurackal, the school’s



Sister Alice Ottapurackal is the principal of Saint Anthony School. She is optimistic about its future growth. (Photo by B.C. Manion)

principal, attributes the turnaround to a higher power.

“The enrollment went up — God’s special blessing,” she said. “Truly, I believe, it’s

the power of prayer.”

Now, enrollment stands at 213, and prospects for future growth are so bright that ground was broken on Nov. 17 for a new building. The new structure will accommodate 270 students.

Instead of lamenting the closure of a school that enjoys a rich heritage, Saint Anthony School is now celebrating a new chapter in its history. About 200 people turned out for the groundbreaking festivities, Plazewski said.

Construction on the new 17,905-square-foot building is expected to begin Dec. 1, and be ready for use by next fall. The new three-story brick structure will be situated on a space now occupied by five portable classrooms.

Even with the new building, the school will continue to emphasize academic excellence while teaching the Catholic faith, the principal said.

See SCHOOL, page 15

CES goes public, puts Pasco on map

Will take over former bank branch on Fifth Avenue

By Michael Hinman

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It’s not very often Pasco County can brag about being the home of a public company. But in less than a week, Zephyrhills will get that honor when CES Synergies begins trading over-the-counter under the symbol “CESX.”

It’s an effort that is expected to raise millions of dollars for the full-service environmental, demolition and mold remediation company, creating potentially thousands of jobs across the country. And even better for Zephyrhills, CES also plans to move the core of its operations from nearby Crystal Springs right into the city’s growing downtown district. The company plans to open offices in the upper floors of the former Wachovia Bank building on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Seventh Street, right in the heart of proposed road upgrades by the Florida Department of Transportation.

“This gives the chance for local people who know the company to actually enjoy the fruits of it going public,” said Jeff Chartier, president of Strategic Capital Markets of North Miami Beach, who is now

a member of the CES board of directors. “They have a chance to own part of the company, and join us as we’re poised to go on the bigger market,” like the Nasdaq exchange.

Chartier presented the new public company to an audience of potential investors last week at Manolo’s Ristorante Italiano in Zephyrhills. There, Chartier offered shares at \$1 each — as long as buyers were ready to gobble them up in blocks of 15,000.

Traditionally, companies would hit the stock market through an initial public offering, similar to what Twitter did earlier this month when it closed on its first day at \$44.90 a share, and raising \$31 billion.

Taking that approach is very expensive and time-consuming, and could take longer than the year CES needed to go public. Instead, CES took a different approach, called a reverse merger. It found a public shell company — basically a company with no remaining assets — and purchased it.

It’s similar to buying a house. The infrastructure is already there for electricity, water and cable, just as the shell company had everything in place to operate as a public company.

Chartier discovered CES nearly by accident. While he’s always looking for businesses that could potentially be good public company candidates, Chartier said he



CES has focused on environmental, demolition and mold since it was founded in 1988. Based on Crystal Springs, but soon moving some operations to Zephyrhills, CES goes public this week with shares starting at \$1. (Photo courtesy of CES Synergies)

didn’t even have CES on his radar until he met owner Al Biston. When he finally did, Chartier liked what he saw.

“There’s 140 years of experience with management alone,” Chartier said. “We feel that a lot of institutional funds will be very attracted to this company,” thus potentially boosting the stock price in the near future.

Becoming a public company is a completely new world for CES, which has operated 35 years doing business in private, starting originally as Cross Environmental Services. Now everything from its financial records to major personnel changes are part of the public record through the SEC, neces-

See CES, page 15

AROUND THE PARKS



STITCHED WITH LOVE

Becky Bishop, parental involvement coordinator at West Zephyrhills Elementary School, shows off just one of the more than 40 nap quilts handmade for the prekindergarten children. This is the fifth year the Sew and Sews club of Sundance Park has delivered the quilts to the children.

—More Sundance, page 12



I LIKE TURTLES

Oscar the tortoise is a new addition to Happy Days park.

—See Jake the alligator, page 12

Smaller gas tax hike could return next year

By Michael Hinman

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Without new funding sources, roads in Pasco County could be in trouble. And while county officials have brought several options to the table, commissioners chose to revive one debate that created quite a ruckus last fall: the gas tax.

“I’ve heard enough from the citizens before that I am not going to support a gas tax,” said Commissioner Henry Wilson, who joined fellow commissioner Jack Mariano to defeat an earlier proposed 5-cent gas tax hike in September.

Moments later, however, Wilson softened his stance, saying he might consider a compromise that would bring a proposed increase to just 3 cents.

That could make a big difference in what is now a \$5 million gap in the county’s capital transportation fund. A 3-cent increase could raise that much money, and cost drivers 6 cents a day, assuming gas stations passed that tax on to drivers.

See GAS TAX, page 15

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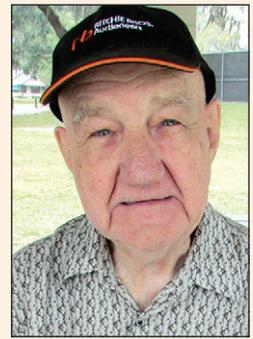
Zephyrhills shares some thoughts on Thanksgiving

By B.C. Manion

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Thanksgiving is typically a time when loved ones get together to share a feast and count their blessings.

Visitors at Zephyr Park recently shared their thoughts about their holiday traditions, favorite Thanksgiving foods and what the day means to them.



David Denny, 85, a winter resident in Zephyrhills, said getting his family together wasn't a simple thing when he was young, so it was always special.

He still enjoys Thanksgiving gatherings — including turkey, sweet potatoes, and mashed potatoes and gravy — but now those feasts are with friends he knows in Zephyrhills.

For the retired electronic engineer, Thanksgiving “means giving thanks for just being here on the planet, and being healthy and being able to have a good mind, being able to understand and converse with others.

“I'm 85 now. I'm very thankful for my health, mental and physical,” he said. “To me, that's worth more than all of the money they have in the banks.”



Tara Palumbo, 25, a stay-at-home mom in Zephyrhills, was at the park with her son, Corbyn Adams, 2.

“We always go to my aunt's house, every year. My aunt does all of the cooking,” Palumbo said.

Well, there is one thing that her aunt doesn't make and it happens to be the dish that Palumbo likes best.

“My favorite is green bean casserole,” she said. “I make it and bring it. I just love it.”



Megan Fromm-Sada, 37, a barber who lives in Zephyrhills, has a traditional view of Thanksgiving.

“It's a time to be thankful and a time for family,” she said.

Her idea of a good Thanksgiving dinner includes turkey, ham and mashed potatoes. She could care less if there is pumpkin or pecan pie, however.

“I'm not a big dessert eater,” said Fromm-Sada, who generally prepares the holiday meal. She was at the park with her niece, Kiara Graham.

The 4-year-old said if she were baking a turkey, she'd take it out of the oven and make it into a pie.

Good thing that Fromm-Sada is in charge of the kitchen on Thanksgiving.



Natalie Allison, 23, of Zephyrhills, thinks she has an unusual tradition.

“Usually you eat turkey on Thanksgiving,” Allison said. “I don't eat turkey. So, my grandma cooks me ham every year.”

Allison added that she likes Thanksgiving better than Christmas. And that's because it focuses on two things: Family and food.

First Christian Church welcomes new pastor

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Rev. Doug Richardson has been installed as the new minister of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Zephyrhills.

Richardson was most recently working at the First Christian Church in Cameron, W.Va., and before that, was a minister in Washington County, Pa.

He is a graduate of Liberty University and the Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va.

Richardson said he believes in “hands-on” ministry, making hospital visits, calls on those in need at their homes, and likes to hear “amens” during sermons.

Since joining the church in early August, Richardson has already welcomed 11 new members and conducted three baptisms.

Richardson is active in the ministerial association, the Zephyrhills Airport Unit of the Civil Air Patrol, local hospitals, the church's Joshua Program, local school activities and



Rev. Doug Richardson, right, and his wife Andrea, are the new spiritual leaders at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Zephyrhills. (Photo courtesy of Tom Todd)

local nursing homes and hospice services.

First Christian Church is located at 6050 Eighth St., in Zephyrhills, with Sunday worship at 10:05 a.m.

For more information on the church, call (813) 782-1071.

Veterans group brings light to amputees nationwide

By Michael Hinman
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As a soldier returning from an unpopular war, Rudy Salas already faced rejection from the very people he had sworn to protect as a U.S. Marine.

And while those soldiers did not deserve the way they were treated coming back from Vietnam, Salas knew his life would be even more difficult because he lost his left leg, and society already wasn't very welcoming to anyone who was different from them.

"The only reference I ever had to limb loss was when you would see street people on the corner with tin cups selling pencils," Salas said. "I could never imagine myself doing that."

Salas, who now lives in Wesley Chapel, was forced to experience life as an amputee head-on following an explosion months into his first and only tour in Vietnam.

It was Jan. 26, 1967, and Salas had just jumped off a helicopter with his squad leader to secure an area. Although fighting could be heard in the distance, Salas wasn't expecting any problems. Until he stepped on a land mine.

"My leg was immediately gone," Salas said. "Everything had blown off of me, so I instinctively crawled to grab my gun. I didn't have time to think about it, and all of a sudden, I looked down and saw what happened."

As Salas and others with similar injuries returned to the United States, there was little available for support. In fact, up to that point, Salas had never even heard the word "prosthetic" before.

When soldiers from more recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan started returning home with similar injuries, Salas and other veterans like him knew they couldn't allow history to repeat itself. So they formed the Amputee Veterans of America Support Team, or AVAST. It's directly associated with the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa,



Rudy Salas, the president of the Amputee Veterans of America Support Team, shows off his pin-filled hat, including an American flag pin (top left corner) he received from the U.S. Secret Service. Salas, an amputee from the Vietnam War, works to help other amputees in the area. (Photo by Michael Hinman)

and with more than 140 members, works with amputees to bring their lives back to normalcy, no matter how impossible they think it might be.

"These soldiers are coming back, and they're thinking, 'I don't know if I'll ever be able to walk again,'" said Salas, who is president of the organization. "And then we walk in without limping, and if we had long pants on, you wouldn't even know we were amputees."

In fact, while Salas' military career essentially ended with his injury, there are soldiers who lose limbs and can now return to the field after they recover.

Yet, there was still little public attention surrounding amputees, and just a couple years ago, AVAST decided to do something about it. They formed the AVAST color guard, a group of six veterans who carry the American flag and the nation's colors to events not just in the Tampa Bay area, but all around the country.

"The hardest part for many of us wasn't so much as being amputees, it was more making people aware of amputees," said Doc Milligan, a former U.S. Navy engineer who lost his leg eight years ago following an accident more than 35 years before on a ship heading to Vietnam. "Back when many of us lost our legs, people looked at you funny, and wouldn't let their kids talk to you. But we want to show that amputees can do everything you can do, and we had to work hard over the years to get the public to understand that."

This past Veterans Day was busy for the color guard, working nearly nonstop from the beginning of November, and finally slowing down last week. It included a stint to Raymond James Stadium in Tampa for the "Monday Night Football" showdown between the Miami Dolphins and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

But while traveling and representing amputee veterans around the country can be

exciting, it also can be draining — both physically and financially. Right now, the color guard has just six members: Salas, Milligan of Spring Hill, U.S. Army veterans Jim Daniels and Dee Singleton of Lakeland and Sarasota, Marine veterans Bruce Bender of Apollo Beach, and Navy veteran Herb Wyman of Lakeland.

"The hardest thing for us is to stay healthy," Salas said. "At times, we've had to cut our unit of six members down to three to present the colors."

Daniels, for example, just recently returned after a seven-month break because he had developed an infection with his stump, and had surgery to repair it.

"We're always looking for alternative members, and it would be great if we could represent all branches of service," Salas said. Those who join the color guard will be trained, and also receive free uniforms — including the very uncommon short pants or short sleeves, to show prosthetics.

Milligan says his prosthetic leg is a badge of honor, on which he proudly displays his Navy background.

But AVAST just isn't for amputees. It can be for "normies" as well, as Salas calls those without amputations.

"You know, strength comes in numbers," he said. "The more people that are involved, and the more people are sympathetic to our cause, the more we will become a force to be reckoned with here in Tampa."

And it all comes back to helping those who are experiencing the same struggles, frustrations and fears they did so many years ago.

"You have to be there to handle the spiritual, the mental, the religious aspects of this," Salas said. "You have to touch on all of those things to bring a person everything they need. And it makes all the difference."

To learn more about AVAST, to volunteer or even to make a donation, visit the group's website at AVASTonline.org. Or email them at avastvetstampaf@yahoo.com.

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Happy Thanksgiving

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Crowds gather, ready to light the menorah for a recent Hanukkah celebration at The Shops at Wiregrass. Chabad at Wiregrass will do it all again Dec. 1 in front of Dillard's, which will include food, face painting, and games. (Photos courtesy of Rabbi Mendy Yarmush)

Local synagogue merges Thanksgiving with Hanukkah

By Michael Hinman
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The Jewish celebration of Hanukkah pre-dates Christmas by at least a couple centuries. But for the first time since 2002, the "festival of lights" is being mentioned in the same breath as a different holiday, Thanksgiving. And that likely won't happen again until people travel in flying cars and live on Mars.

The first night of Hanukkah begins at sunset Nov. 27. And because November started on a Friday, Thanksgiving doesn't take place until Nov. 28. And that's not very common.

"It's quite rare for Hanukkah and Thanksgiving to overlap, but it's not really rare for it to start in November," said Rabbi Mendy Yarmush, who leads Chabad at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel. Hanukkah "started on Nov. 28 in 1994, and it will again in 2032. The only thing different is that Thanksgiving is a lot later than it usually is."

The last time Hanukkah started on the Thanksgiving eve was in 1899, according to ReformJudaism.org. And it will only happen once more — in 2089.

That means Jews will celebrate

Hanukkah the same time they're sitting down to watch football. And it opens the door to merge some of the traditions of both holidays.

The rabbi's wife, Chanie Yarmush, recently shared some recipes with her women's group that provide the best of both worlds. For example, instead of the traditional potato latkes, Chanie Yarmush suggests sweet potato latkes. Instead of applesauce, families could try cranberry-applesauce.

"That's what Chabad is, a place to be traditional and still be contemporary with what's going on throughout the world," Mendy Yarmush said.

Chabad at Wiregrass, which started in 2008 and is part of the international Chabad movement, is staying out of the way of traditional Thanksgiving celebrations, but has still scheduled a pair of events to help celebrate the holiday.

The first is a Hanukkah party on Nov. 27 where teens will load a stretch limousine to first attend the grand menorah lighting in Tampa, and then continue their celebration at the Tampa Bay Lightning game at the Tampa Bay Times Forum.

Then, on Dec. 1, Chabad at Wiregrass will host its sixth annual Hanukkah celebration at The Shops at Wiregrass. That will include a menorah lighting in front of the Dillard's store, and a number of other activities including music, food, face painting, and even a giant Jenga game.

Both events start at 5:30 p.m.

"I didn't want to challenge people to choose between Thanksgiving and Hanukkah," Yarmush said. "This way, they have the first night to light their menorah, to heat their turkey, and maybe even play a little with the dreidel."

Chabad at Wiregrass is not affiliated with any particular Jewish movement, although the international group has roots in the Hasidic community. Its congregation, which pulls from North Tampa and central Pasco County, meets at 2124 Ashley Oaks Circle in Wesley Chapel.

For more information, visit them online at ChabadAtWiregrass.com.



Children do crafts at a recent Hanukkah party at The Shops at Wiregrass. They'll be invited back to do it again Dec. 1 after the Thanksgiving holiday.

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'Free Birds' coloring contest winners announced

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Prize packs featuring the new film "Free Birds" are on their way to talented artists in the community as the Cobb Theatres "Free Birds" Coloring Contest comes to a close.

The contest is sponsored by Cobb Theatres, with a Grove 16 & CineBistro location at 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, as well as The Laker/Lutz News.

The actual entries from the winners can be found by visiting Facebook.com/TheLakerLutzNews.

Winners were:

• **Reese Alanis, 11**, a sixth-grader at Pine View Middle School. Alanis, who enjoys

movies, basketball, soccer, video games and longboarding, colored his birds quite realistically.

• **Nicholas Luppino, 7**, a second-grader at Veterans Elementary School. Luppino, who enjoys karate, kickboxing, football, dancing, laser tag and military, used lots of bright colors on his birds.

• **Sam Bob Cunningham, 6**, is a first-grader at Maniscalco Elementary School. Cunningham, who enjoys BMX racing, Beyblades and Rainbow Loom bands, made his birds patriotic.

• **Jade McCarter, 4**, is a prekindergarten student at ZFN Kidcare. McCarter, who likes dancing, singing, princesses and Peter Rabbit, colored her birds in pastels.

Gall Boulevard reimagining is going to take community effort

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@cnewspubs.com

What makes a community a good community?

For decades, it's been the downtown that has served as a primary draw for Zephyrhills. And now, in just a few short years, that downtown will expand to include a large chunk of Gall Boulevard between North and South avenues.

But what will it take to transform Gall Boulevard from highway meant to take you to a destination, to actually become a destination itself.

"We are looking to you to help us identify what a great street is," said Tammy Vrana, a Safety Harbor consultant working with city officials on Gall Boulevard. "We have some plans and things to look at. Whatever you say won't hurt our feelings. We just want to make sure we get it right."

Todd Vande Berg, Zephyrhills' planning director, is spearheading the project for the city. The initiative began soon after the Florida Department of Transportation agreed to hand over control of the thoroughfare, and instead take on the one-way pair of Sixth and Seventh streets instead.

The switch has given the city a chance to turn Gall into a main street, and the city wants direct input from residents and business owners. Vande Berg has planned a series of meetings to help make that possible. The first session, at Alice Hall on Nov. 14, attracted more than 30 people. They came



What will the future of Gall Boulevard be like in Zephyrhills? It will not only take residents and business owners along the main corridor, but a team of people like Shilpa Mehta of Renaissance Planning to create a vision and make it happen. (Photos by Michael Hinman)

to find out what could come to Gall and suggest what they would like to see.

"We're starting off with the creation of a great street, and that is the goal," Vande Berg said. "Considering our design options, we are going to be looking at different ways that we can transform Gall Boulevard. And we're not just stopping with the street and the infrastructure related to the street, but future development as well."

One aspect of this first community workshop was the use of real-time audience polling to gauge opinions on what should be placed on the streets, what kind of sidewalks, what kind of businesses should be encouraged, and the like. People were guided through a series of questions by Shilpa Mehta, a consultant with Renaissance Planning that included what kind of businesses should front the street, what parking should be like, and types of pedestrian and transit options.

However, consideration has to be made for users of all ages, especially teenagers—a group often overlooked by a community dominated by retirees. That's where a new youth council led by Mayor Danny Burgess is going to become very helpful, Vande Berg said.

Councilwoman Jodi Wilkeson said the existing Main Street Zephyrhills organization could be a big help as well.

"We have all these events downtown, and what came to mind for me is the Main Street director, Gina Granger," Wilkeson said. "She recruits and attracts hordes of young people to come downtown. The more activ-



Tom Montgomery, center, a consultant with the Florida Department of Transportation handling the revamp of the one-way pair in Zephyrhills, shares some thoughts with Zephyrhills city planner Todd Vande Berg, right, during a recent meeting on Gall Boulevard.

ities here in our downtown the better with-in walking or bike-riding distance of these young people's homes."

These changes won't happen overnight, consultant Vrana said. But the project's success hinges on the participation of as many people as possible.

"We need to plan, and stick with all of it along the way," Vrana said. "It will be a long process. It will be a long journey. But where it ends up will make this a happy community."

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HELP BUILD A FAMILY TREE

The Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dade City is looking for families to attend the first Black African American Family Tree meeting on Nov. 30 at 10:30 a.m. at 14440 N. Seventh St. The church is looking to build a family tree with families living in Dade City from 1940 to 1975. It hopes to use history, photos, and even older members who might know people and facts about the community as part of the project. Attendees are encouraged to wear their family T-shirt and bring a lawn chair. For information, call Celestine Bush Stephens at (352) 583-0717.

TIMBER LAKE BINGO

Timber Lake Estates, 34301 Country Side Drive in Zephyrhills, hosts bingo every Thursday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and bingo starts at 6 p.m. Food will be served. For information, call (813) 788-6647.

WINE DOWN IN DADE CITY

The Garden Café, 14227 Seventh St., in Dade City, is hosting a Wine Down on Friday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with wine and beer specials, and live entertainment. The café will be closed for Thanksgiving on Nov. 28-29. Upcoming music on Dec. 6 is Thunderbolt Brown. For information or schedule of entertainment, visit DineInTheGarden.com.

ZEPHYRHILLS ELKS HOOP SHOOT

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge No. 2731 will host the Local Lodge National Elks Hoop Shoot free throw contest on Dec. 7 at East Pasco Family YMCA, 3701 Chapel Hill Loop in Zephyrhills. The contest is free. Contestants will be assigned an age group. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. Following the contest, there will be a luncheon and awards hosted by the lodge at 6851 Wire Road in Zephyrhills. For information, call Jay Klamer at (813) 782-2861.

EXTENSION OFFERS AMARYLLIS SEMINAR

Pasco County Extension will offer a free amaryllis seminar on Dec. 7 in Clayton Hall at the Pasco Fairgrounds, 36702 State Road 52 in Dade City. Guest speaker Bill Warren will give tips on renovating older amaryllis beds, creating striking landscape beds, and extending bloom periods. To register, call (352) 518-0156.

LACOOCHEE BARBECUE DINNER

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce is hosting a barbecue dinner on Dec. 7 from noon to 3 p.m. at 38724 Mudcat Grant Blvd., in Lacochee. The cost is \$8 and includes barbecue chicken, coleslaw, baked beans and a roll. For information, call Jo Uber at (352) 567-3769. For tickets, visit the chamber office at 11412 Eighth St., in Dade City.



Christmas Happenings

of \$10 or more, to be distributed to a Habitat family, will receive an entry into a raffle. Gift card is not required to attend. For information, call (352) 523-2020.

A PIONEER CHRISTMAS

The Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road in Dade City, will host its free Country Christmas Open House on Dec. 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There will be barrel rides, traditional crafters, holiday music, cookies and punch, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Guests are asked to bring a new unwrapped toy to be given to a local Dade City charity. For information, call (352) 567-0262.

GERMAN, POLISH CLUBS HOST BAZAAR

The German American and Polish American clubs will host a Christmas Bazaar, or Christkindel Market, on Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Road in Holiday. The event features ethnic food, arts and crafts, a variety of vendors, and Mr. and Mrs. Claus from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call (727) 857-3931, or visit GermanAmericanClub-NPR.org.

COUNTRY AIRE BAZAAR

Country Aire Village, 39333 Blue Skye

Drive in Zephyrhills, will have its annual holiday bazaar on Dec. 7 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be coffee and doughnuts at 7 a.m., and a luncheon from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is both indoor and outdoor with treasures, a bake sale, cookie walk, Chinese auction, crafters, linen and clothing boutique, and a TV raffle. There will be free shuttle service available.

HOSPITAL 'LIGHTING OF THE TREES'

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will host its annual "Lighting of the Trees" celebration on Dec. 8 from noon to 6:30 p.m. on the lawn of the hospital, 7050 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills. The lawn will feature 50 state trees, along with an international tree, Canadian tree, and a tree for "Support Our Troops." This is a free event. For information, call (813) 779-6256.

RADIO CITY ROCKETTES

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular is Dec. 12 through Dec. 29 at Carol Morsani Hall at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Tampa. The show features the Rockettes in an all-new holiday production. Tickets start at \$42.50. The center is at 1010 N. Macinnes Place. For information, call (813) 229-7827.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS STROLL

The Henry B. Plant Museum's annual Victorian Christmas Stroll runs Dec. 1-23 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. There will be 14 exhibit rooms, designed in 19th century themes and antique holiday accessories. Complimentary spiced cider and cookies will be served on the veranda. Evening carolers will perform. The museum is at 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., in Tampa. For admission prices and discount days, visit PlantMuseum.org.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MIXER

Habitat for Humanity's annual Holiday Open House and Christmas Mixer is Dec. 5 at 6 p.m., at the Habitat ReStore, 15029 U.S. 301 in Dade City. The event includes raffles, refreshments and holiday cheer. Guests donating a gift card

GIVE BACK AT CHILI'S

Chili's will host the East Pasco Meals on Wheels Give Back Event on Dec. 11 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Chili's, 7643 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills. For each flyer presented on that day, Chili's will donate 10 percent of the event-day sales back to Meals on Wheels. For information and a flyer, contact The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce at (352) 567-3769.

BOOK BARGAINS

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a book bazaar on Dec. 13 and Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The sale will feature a diverse selection of slightly used books, audio and video media, magazines, and related materials, many available for less than \$3. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

CENTENNIAL EAGLES CLUB EVENTS

Centennial Eagles No. 4399 Fraternal Order of Eagles, 15924 U.S. 301 in Dade City, hosts steel-tipped darts at 7 p.m. on Monday,

euchre at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, nickel bingo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Texas Hold'em poker at 7 p.m. on Thursday, pool tournaments at 7 p.m. on Friday, and nickel bingo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The club serves dinner from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Fridays, open to the public. Club meetings are the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. The Ladies' Auxiliary meetings are the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m. For information, call (352) 567-9755.

KUMQUAT FESTIVAL NEEDS SPONSORS

The 17th annual Kumquat Festival in Dade City will be Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event includes arts and crafts, a car show, children's activities, farmer's market, health and wellness section, live entertainment, and kumquat pies and products. Anyone interested in sponsoring the event or becoming a vendor should call the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce at (352) 567-3769.

FOOD AND MUSIC AT LODGE

The Zephyrhills Elks Lodge, 6851 Wire Road, has lunch available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Also on Tuesday evenings, the lunch menu is available from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

p.m., and entertainment is Karaoke by Dudley from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dinner will be served for \$9 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., on Friday evenings. Events are open to Elks members and sponsored guests.

COLONY HILLS STARTS BINGO

The Colony Hills Community, 35144 Wagner Way in Zephyrhills, hosts weekly bingo on Wednesday nights. Early bird bingo is at 6 p.m., and regular bingo will start at 7 p.m. Bingo cards will go on sale at 4 p.m. Snack kitchen will feature homemade cakes, hot dogs, popcorn and drinks. For information, call Dot at (315) 271-1051.

LADIES AUXILIARY EVENTS

The Ladies Auxiliary of Zephyrhills Eagles 3752, 4149 New River Road, hosts Monday night line-dancing classes from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday bar bingo from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and euchre on Fridays at 1 p.m. For information, call (813) 780-1558, or email bikerbev2001@aol.com.

PASCO GENEALOGY

The Genies, a small informal genealogical group, meets every Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 9016 Fort King Road in Dade City. For information, call (813) 788-8894, or (813) 715-7133.

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Holiday grief support

Gulfside Regional Hospice is hosting a free support group to help the grieving this holiday season on Dec. 3 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., at West Winds Assisted Living Facility, 37411 Eiland Blvd., in Zephyrhills. Those in attendance will learn the four tasks of mourning and how they relate to the holiday season, as well as tips and techniques to help better handle holiday grief stresses. Light refreshments will be served. For information, call Cecilio De Leon at (727) 992-8034.

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills receives top honors

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills received the Get with the Guidelines-Heart Failure Gold Plus and Get with the Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement awards from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.

The quality improvement programs help ensure that the care the hospital provides to

heart failure and stroke patients is aligned with the latest scientific guidelines.

Hospital receives chest pain accreditation

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills received full accreditation with Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care.

The hospital's Accredited Chest Pain Center's protocol-driven and systematic approach to patient management allows physicians to reduce time to treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack when treatments are most effective, and to better monitor patients when it is not clear whether or not they are having a coronary event. Such observation helps ensure that patients are neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

The Accredited Chest Pain Center has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and

undergoing an onsite review by a team of the society's accreditation review specialists.

Volunteer at Pasco Regional

Pasco Regional Medical Center in Dade City is looking for energetic men and women to join its volunteer team, including junior volunteers between the ages of 14 and 18.

Opportunities are available in both clinical and nonclinical areas of the hospital.

To learn more about the program, call Amy Fort at (352) 521-1195.

CARES programs

CARES Enrichment Center, 13906 Fifth St., in Dade City, offer these activities:

- Adult Day Care: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants receive breakfast, lunch and a snack, along with organized activities. The program provides social and health services to adults who need supervision in a safe place outside the home. Reservations are required, and veter-

ans are accepted. For costs and available funding, call Melinda at (352) 519-9300.

- Senior Moments Early Memory Loss Program: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For reservations or information, call (727) 862-9291, ext. 2002.

Hospital needs volunteers

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills is looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks including transporting patients to and from tests, driving the shuttle, distributing mail, cafeteria, clerical/administrative, and more. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old.

There is a minimum requirement of four volunteer hours per week.

Volunteers receive a complimentary meal in the café on the days they work and recognition at the annual volunteer banquet. Orientation sessions are twice a month.

If interested, applications are available online at FloridaHospital.com/Zephyrhills, or by calling (813) 779-6256.

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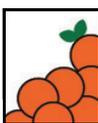


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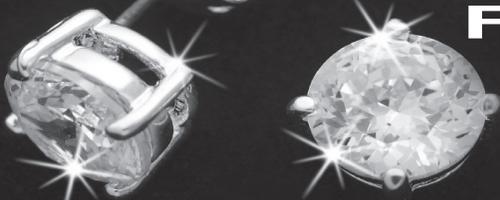
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BUSINESS DIGEST

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FILL THE FIAT FOR CHRISTMAS

Parks Fiat of Wesley Chapel has partnered with the Mason Dixon Christmas Wish Fund, encouraging people to help them 'fill the Fiat.'

Now through Dec. 31, people who visit guest services at The Shops at Wiregrass and make a small donation of cash, toys or gift items, can receive a coupon book of savings at The Shops. The fund helps local Tampa Bay families in need during the holiday.

Also, anyone who test drives a Fiat on Dec. 7, Parks Fiat will donate \$10 to the wish fund.

GRAND OPENING FOR SUNCOAST SCHOOLS

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union recently hosted its grand opening of what it's describing as an environmentally friendly branch at 32745 Eiland Blvd., in Zephyrhills.

It is the second branch to focus on being environmentally friendly, including light-emitting diode lighting throughout, high-efficiency windows and insulation, geothermal air-conditioning and heating, and 40-kilowatt solar power panels to offset electricity.

The Zephyrhills branch also is expected to use half the electricity of other branches, and the exterior is outfitted with drought-resistant landscaping with drip irrigation where possible.

This is the credit union's second branch in East Pasco County, joining the one at 12510 U.S. 301 in Dade City.

SMARTSTART GEARS UP FOR MONTHLY ROUNDTABLES

The SmartStart Dade City Incubator will soon have monthly small business roundtables to help small business owners talk about their opportunities and challenges in a closed-door environment.

"The roundtables will be beneficial to any small business owner wanting to vet ideas with other entrepreneurs, and talk about challenges they might be facing," said

Hobby Lobby moving into old Sweetbay location

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Hobby Lobby Stores, a privately held national retail chain of crafts and home décor stores, has started construction on its new location, the former Sweetbay Grocery Store at 7333 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills.

This would be the 24th store in Florida for the chain when it opens next spring, bringing between 35 to 50 jobs to the community, according to a release. Starting pay is expected to be \$14 for full-time, and \$9.50 for part-time.

"The Zephyrhills area has many vibrant

crafting communities that we look forward to serving," said John Schumacher, assistant vice president of advertising for the company, in a release. "We are very pleased to become an integral part of yet another community by providing new jobs, exceptional selection and value in the crafts and home décor market, and revitalizing an empty facility, all of which enables us to share in the economic growth of both the community and the state."

Hobby Lobby Stores is based in Oklahoma City, and began as a miniature picture frames store called Greco in 1970.

When founder David Green moved his business from his family's garage to a 300-square-foot retail pace in 1972, Hobby Lobby was created.

Now the company has nearly 600 stores across the country, averaging 55,000 square feet. There are 14 stores in Central Florida, with the closest location at 3615 S. Florida Ave., in Lakeland.

Store hours are expected to run Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and closed on Sundays.

For more information about the store, visit www.HobbyLobby.com.

John Moors, executive director of the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, in a release. "We are thrilled to be involved with SmartStart, and helping small businesses flourish here in Dade City."

A schedule has yet to be released for the sessions, but they will take place at the incubator, located at the Dade City Business Center, 15000 Citrus Country Drive, Suite 103, in Dade City.

Those interested in participating can contact Krista Covey at (352) 437-4861, or email her at kcovey@pascoedc.com.

NETWORKING GROUP SCHEDULES CHRISTMAS PARTY

The East Pasco Networking Group will have its annual Christmas mixer Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. at Village Inn, 5214 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills.

The event, which will feature family members speaking — not business owners — will be "Dutch treat," but does require an RSVP deposit of \$10 per person or family.

For more information, call Nils Lenz at (813) 782-9491 or email nilslenz@gmail.com.

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR BARBECUE EVENT

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce is still seeking sponsors for January's Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues event, which raises money for local youth leadership and education programs.

The event itself takes place at the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport, 39450 South Ave., in Zephyrhills, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It includes food, music, a car and motorcycle show, a business expo, and more.

For more information on how to sponsor by Dec. 5, call the chamber at (813) 782-1913.

LEARN ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA

The SmartStart business incubator in Dade City is offering "Social Media and Your Business" Dec. 3 at noon, at the Dade City incubator, 15000 Citrus Country Drive, Suite 103. Participants should bring their own lunch.

For more information, email Krista Covey at kcovey@pascoedc.com.

EAST PASCO NETWORKING GROUP

The East Pasco Networking Group has scheduled several speakers for the coming months. The group meets every other week at the Village Inn at 5214 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills. Networking begins at 8 a.m., with the meeting starting at 8:30 a.m.

Here's the group's slate of upcoming speakers:

- **Dec. 10:** Rev. Scott-Eric Lindner, pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church in Wesley Chapel
- **Jan. 14:** Christopher Payne, managing partner of Ryder Payne Capital Inc.
- **Jan. 28:** Carol Johns, president and chief executive of GIM Associates LLC
- **Feb. 11:** Cheryl Pollock, business development director for Premier Community HealthCare Group Inc.
- **Feb. 25:** Regina Etheridge, retired IRS revenue officer

SPONSORS SOUGHT FOR CHAMBER BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce is looking for sponsors for upcoming business breakfasts, which provide news regarding member businesses and happenings in the area.

Sponsorships allow the business to "have the floor" in front of 70 to 90 business and community leaders.

Upcoming breakfasts still looking for sponsors include Jan. 21 and May 20.

For more information, email Jo Uber at juber@dadecitychamber.org.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT EAST-WEST ANIMAL HOSPITAL

East-West Animal Hospital, 1524 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Lutz, will host its Christmas celebration Dec. 14 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The hospital's mascot, Barley the Opossum, will pose for photos as "Barley Claus."

A calendar and T-shirts featuring Barley will be sold to help local animal rescue organizations. There will also be food and giveaways.

Barley was the only survivor of a car accident when he was just two weeks old. A former employee of the animal hospital rescued him, and tube-fed him until he could eat on his own.

For more information on the event, visit EastWestAnimalHospital.com, or call (813) 948-6534.

DEALERSHIP HELPS SOLDIERS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

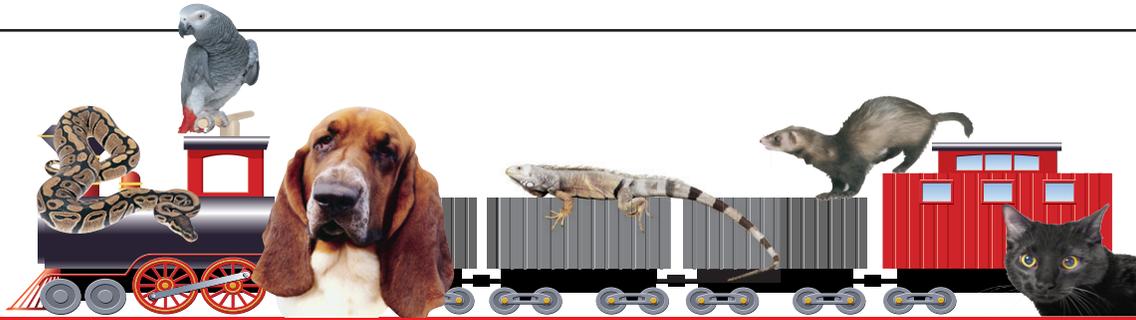
Parks Ford, 28739 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel, recently wrapped up its Support the Troops drive, which collected items for the military between October and November at the dealership.

Once the drive was over, a Parks Ford team delivered all the items collected, volunteered to help pack boxes, and donated \$2,500. The funds help the group with its biggest challenge — paying for shipment of donated items overseas. This particular donation will allow Support the Troops to send up to 70 boxes to military personnel this holiday season.

For more information on how to support the troops, visit OurTroopsOnline.com.

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Wiregrass Wobble is drawing young and old

By B.C. Manion

bcmalion@cnewsbooks.com

It's an inaugural race, but already the Wiregrass Wobble Turkey Trot at The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel is expected to draw as many as 1,300 runners.

The race already had registered 991 runners by Nov. 21, said race director Brian Brink. He expects as many as 20 percent of the race's participants to register on race day, which is on Thanksgiving.

The 5-kilometer event, which is a walk or run event, begins at 7:30 a.m., and the one-mile fun run and walk begins at 8:15 a.m.

So far, runners from 30 states have signed up, said Brink, who is general manager for Fitniche at The Shops at Wiregrass. The oldest runner registered so far is 83. He thinks the youngest in the one-mile fun run and walk will be about 3.

Fitniche is putting on the race, in conjunction with the New Tampa Rotary and the New Tampa YMCA. Besides giving runners a new race, the event is raising money for Feeding America Tampa Bay and the New Tampa YMCA.

The inspiration for the Wiregrass Wobble came from a running group established by Brink that regularly runs on Thursday nights at The Shops, located at 28211 Paseo Drive.

Last year, members from the group decided to run on Thanksgiving morning and Brink put out the word about a week before the holiday. Much to his surprise, about 150 people showed up.

Brink figured if that many people turned out with just a week's notice, the event could draw substantially more runners with more lead time. When planning began, Brink predicted there would be at least 1,000 runners. Now, he's upped that projection to 1,300.

The route of the Wiregrass Wobble's 5k will go around the mall and Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, ending at the top of the mall's parking garage.

Runners can register on race day. It costs \$25 for the 5k and \$20 for the one-miler.

Parking will be available in mall parking lots near State Road 56 and lots off of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard. The parking garage and areas nearby, however, will be closed off for the race, Brink said.

Gift cards sought for Sunrise families

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center is once again collecting gift cards to help those in need.

Last year, gift and food cards were distributed to 68 families, which included 12 single women, 57 mothers, and one father, as well as 125 children who received a holiday dinner and gifts they may not have had otherwise.

The program not only empowers those in need to purchase their own gifts and food, but also helps many of them with budgeting money.

Sunrise is looking for gift cards in de-

nominations of \$5, \$10 and \$25 from a group of retailers that include Target, Walmart, Kmart, Sears, Dollar Tree, CVS, Walgreens, Publix, Winn-Dixie, Big Lots, Dollar General, Payless Shoes, and others. Donations of gas cards and Visa gift cards are also encouraged.

Sunrise is also putting together food baskets for families participating in the outreach program, and can use donations for that as well. Deadline for donations are Dec. 9.

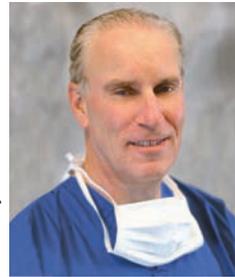
Donations can be sent to Sunrise of Pasco County Inc., P.O. Box 928, Dade City, 33526. For more information, call (352) 521-3358, or visit www.SunrisePasco.org.

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PASCO EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCORES AT GOLF CLASSIC

The Pasco Education Foundation had its 14th annual Chuck Rushe Fall Golf Classic "Swing for the Kids" at Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club on Oct. 25. More than \$70,000 was raised to support the Foundation's mission to advance student achievement in Pasco County's public schools. Sponsors for the event were Cutler Associates and Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union Foundation.

OUTREACH AT NEW RIVER ELEMENTARY

First Congregational Church of Zephyrhills conducts an ongoing outreach at New River Elementary School in its Good News Club. Every Thursday, after school, a group of church members volunteer to bring the love of Christ to the children.

The church has also introduced a youth church, Growing With Christ Church, for ages 5 through those in sixth grade. Its inaugural service is Dec. 1 at 10 a.m., at the new education center, located at 7900 Fort King Road in Zephyrhills.

For more information on the outreach, email atnvickie@aol.com.

MOORE MICKENS CELEBRATES TOP STUDENTS

Moore Mickens Education Center in Dade City has named the following Students of the Month for October: Jesse Viens, Beverly Ridgewell, Ashley Franco, Karina Guzman and Chandra Teter. Franco was also chosen as the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Month.

The center also honored the Principal's Honor Roll Straight-A students for the first quarter at an assembly on Nov. 6. Those students were Chris Allen, Adam Balaban, Gilberto Bonew, Sarah Crumbliss, Eddie Lombardi, Abigail Mitchell, Ambar Moreno, Stephanie Swartz and Christina Totten.

NEW CHRISTIAN SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL TO OPEN

Esther's School — a special needs school specializing in autism, Down syndrome, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and learning differences — is slated to open Jan. 6.

The school will combine a Christian education with individualized learning and character building. Each child will work at his or her own pace. Diagnostic testing and individualized curriculum will be offered.

It will be located at St. James Methodist Church, 16202 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in New Tampa.

For information, call Marilyn Davis at (813) 454-8377 or (727) 544-4700.

ZHS MUSICIAN TO MARCH IN MACY'S PARADE

Kaitlin Greenough, a senior at Zephyrhills High School and a member of the Bulldog Band, has been chosen to represent Florida in the 2013 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Greenough auditioned and submitted a resume and was selected as a clarinet player in the Macy's Great American Marching Band, composed of 252 high school musicians and flag and dance performers representing all 50 states.

Greenough is an honor student planning to major in music performance after graduation.



September Citizens named by chamber

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce honored its student citizens for September, recognizing their exemplary effort, achievement and contribution to their school, family and community. This month's honorees include, in front from left, Hiree Felema from East Pasco Adventist School, Hannah Wyatt from West Zephyrhills Elementary School, Annica Morgan from Stewart Middle School, Ashley Morris from Zephyrhills High School, Tahteona Gordon from The Broach School, Kiara Douglas from Taylor Elementary School, and Ashanti Brockington from Woodland Elementary School. In back, from left, chamber president John Scott, and Zephyrhills mayor Danny Burgess. (Photo provided)



Pasco High seniors receive honors

Four Pasco High School students were inducted into the 2013 Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society on Oct. 3 with a ceremony at Pasco-Hernando Community College West Campus. The seniors were invited to join based on GPAs of 3.2 or higher for the 2012-13 college year. Those honored, from left, are Matthew Paige, Emily Nathe, Julia Jordan and Trevor Storch. (Photo courtesy of Jean Nathe)



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Just the beginning at Rainbow Village

By Sandra Gilbert-Abel
Rainbow Village

Wow, the day finally arrived when we packed up our much-needed items and headed south to our winter residence in Rainbow Village Carefree Resort! As we got closer, we remembered all the fun times we had last season and look forward to great new memories.

We were welcomed by friends we haven't seen since we left in the spring. The resort looks great, and we are anxious to check out all the new additions that were added to the resort. There is a new roof on the mini hall, Arch Lane was repaved, new sod was installed in front of the office, there is new air-conditioner in the main hall, a new stage platform in front of park that will be used for jam sessions, gatherings, a fruit and vegetable stand, and will be used for a big welcome back party.

New this year is a dog wash area with hot and cold water. A big thanks to Dave Arndt, who designed and built it. It even has a ramp that the dogs can walk up to the bath.

The first dance of the season was a big success. The band Double Density with Ralph and Sandy played and sang great music for us to dance to.

Louann Lang won the card game and received two free tickets to another dance. This was another great event to start our season.

We, the park residents, owe a big thank you to the summer residents who did security in our park while we were at our summer homes. Job well done.

On Nov. 10, at our Sunday night ice cream social, our manager Sue Flynn honored all the veterans by having them each share which branch of the service they served. They were honored with free ice cream. Thank you for your service.

Our entertainment was K'lyn and the Bluegrass Band, featuring the 12-year-old mandolin player and singer. She has such a sweet voice and the music was really good. The group is from Zephyrhills.

On Nov. 17, for another ice cream social, we enjoyed Tweety Knauer, Jan Peyton (residents of Rainbow), and their friends playing country and gospel songs. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Carefree Parks had a pet Halloween contest, and Linda Letourneau dressed up her pet bird Miko and won first place.

This summer Rainbow Village won first and third place in a vacation contest. We took our little Carefree persons along on vacation and took pictures of them with us on vacation. Lauren Hutt won first place, and I won third place. The contests were for all of the Carefree parks. Congratulations, Rainbow Village!

Our annual Rainbow Village Christmas Bazaar will be on Dec. 14 from 8 a.m. to 1



Veterans were honored with free ice cream at the Nov. 10 ice cream social at Rainbow Village.

p.m. Lorna Grassley is chairwoman, and Sue Larkin is in charge of the vendors. This year we will have many vendors selling their wares. Lunch, coffee, and donuts will be available. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will make an appearance at the bazaar. Come and find some last minute Christmas presents.

Sue Flynn has announced the upcoming shows at Rainbow Village. On Jan. 8, it will be Rich Wilson Musical Memories Show, a one-man performance filled with marvelous music of yesteryear, including the songs so many of us grew up with and fondly remember by such artists Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Johnny Ray, Bobby Darin, and so many more. Rich brings the '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s back to life.

On Jan. 22, Joe Wright will play the steel guitar and there will be a funny comedy show.

Steve Jeffris' one-man band will perform Feb. 5 with a variety show with guitar and vocals.

There will be a repeat performance by Sarah Getto on Feb. 19. She is a singer, musician and songwriter.

On March 5, The Jimmy Smith Remembering the Legends and Gospel Show will perform.

The shows start at 7 p.m. and the cost is \$8 per ticket. Call Sue Flynn at (813) 782-5075 for good seats.

This is just the start of a new season for Rainbow Village.



Dave Arndt designed and built a dog wash for pet owners in Rainbow Village to use.



Tweety Knauer, Jan Peyton and friends perform at the Rainbow Village ice cream night on Nov. 17. (Photos by Sandra Gilbert-Abel)

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Jake the alligator once again takes his place at the pond bridge in Happy Days for a new season. (Photos courtesy of Judy Olson)

Happy Days starts a new season

By Ian Marwick
Happy Days

Happy Days is again buzzing with excitement as each day brings another group of residents home. News of summer excursions, picnics, and holidays is exchanged as they again unpack.

The season for winter sports, crafts, exercise, and just good old socializing is upon us. Already the golfers and pool players have their first games in.

Our first coffee hour to start the season was on Nov. 11. The traditional Hole in One donuts were washed down with pots of heavy or decaf java, and enjoyed more than usual because they were free.

Park management, under Dan and Judy Olson, has been busy over the hot season. The two-year total exterior and interior upgrade to our recreation hall has been completed by installing a new ceiling, lights and fans. Other facilities have been freshened up, and the washrooms and showers have a new facelift, continuing the dedication of management to maintain and encourage growth.

Park owners and management welcomed the residents back. The full schedule



Park manager Dan Olson and maintenance worker Jeremy Young are prepared for anything in their 'summer, rain or shine' gear.

of activities is now posted with start dates.

Every day more old familiar faces are popping up at the gate. Speaking of which, we also have our pet alligator Jake returned at the pond bridge. This year he brought along a new friend, Oscar the tortoise. Remember, look but don't touch!

It looks like it might be an exciting year everywhere in the park.

Welcome back residents, welcome back again our old friends, and of course, welcome to all newcomers.

A hello from Sunnyside Park

By Jane Thertell
Sunnyside Park

Our president, Carol Green, had to resign for personal reasons, and we will miss her. She was a wonderful president. Thanks, Carol, for all you did for our park.

Tannis, our first vice president, will step up and be our new president, and Fred Sunkell will be the new first vice president. We wish Tannis all the best as president. We know you will do a great job.

We have several activities in our park.

Monday at 1 p.m., we play bridge. Also on Monday, we have bingo in the clubhouse. A light meal is available before the early bird game, which starts at 6 p.m. Fred Sunkell and his wife Pat call the bingo games.

On Tuesday night, at 6:30 p.m., we play euchre.

Wednesday night is set aside for cribbage, but it hasn't started yet for this year.

Line dancing is at our clubhouse on Thursdays.

On Friday nights several people in our park get together for a potluck supper.

Every Sunday night at 6:30 p.m., bingo is played at the clubhouse.

Our Monday bingo is open to the public, and everyone in our park is welcome to all the other activities.

Bill Wright is in charge of shuffleboard at our courts on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 1 p.m.

Golf is at Lake Bernadette on Monday and Wednesday at noon. On Saturday, golf is at the Abbey Course in Saint Leo at 11 a.m. Wayne Thertell is in charge of golf.

As you can see, we are a very active park. Our aim is to have fun!

Back in the swing of things at Valleydale

By Alice Copeland
Valleydale RO Park

Welcome back greetings to all the Valleydale residents that have returned!

Eighty residents attended the first coffee hour and recreation business meeting at Valleydale Resident-Owned Park. Katherine Huffman, who had just arrived back in the park with her husband Don a couple days earlier, chaired the meeting.

Bingo, potluck, and the Saturday dance were well attended, so the season is off to a

great start. There will be an ice cream social on the last Sunday of the month.

It is sure nice to have so many returning to share our Thanksgiving dinner at the clubhouse. Thanks to Sonja Faulkingham for hosting the dinner. This is Sonja's last year hosting and we are searching for a volunteer for 2014.

Our new fence and gate enclosure looks impressive. If anyone has any questions, you can contact Rich Rendall.

We also welcome all our new mobile homeowners, and hope they enjoy their retirement as much as we do.

Check the calendar for all activities, and join in the fun. If you never played some of the ones on the list, try it out. You may be surprised to see how easy it is to learn.

Until next time ...

Residents returning home to Winters Park

By Sally Ward
Winters Park

Welcome back, winter residents, to Winters Mobile Home Park! It seems residents are arriving daily from the north.

We started our winter season with an informal coffee hour on Nov. 6 with a lot of chatter. Everyone was trying to say hello to as many friends and neighbors as possible.

We had an excellent potluck on Nov. 12 with 25 residents attending. We had so much food, and it provided us again with a

great evening of chitchat with our friends.

It seems the first two weeks of November was the time for a lot of firsts: first coffee hour, first potluck supper, first exercise class, and the list goes on.

Winters Park will host the Golden Corral District Shuffleboard Tournament on Nov. 21 and Nov. 22. We are looking forward to seeing all our shuffleboard friends from the surrounding area.

Game night also will start, along with lots of shuffleboard activities.

We will keep you informed of our ongoing activities.

ATTENTION:

East Pasco Park Residents
We know you're back in town, and we're sure you have stories to share.

Spread the good news about your community, neighbors and friends.

News from around the senior parks in East Pasco is accepted YEAR-ROUND for The Laker-East Pasco edition, published every other week.

Upcoming publication dates and deadlines are as follows:

Publication Date	Deadline Date
Dec. 11	Dec. 3
Dec. 25	Dec. 16
Jan. 8, 2014	Dec. 30, 2013
Jan. 22	Jan. 14
Feb. 5	Jan. 28
Feb. 19	Feb. 11
March 5	Feb. 25
March 19	March 11
April 2	March 25
April 16	April 8

Send your photos and submissions to Mary Rathman at mrathman@cnewspubs.com or P.O. Box 479, Lutz, FL 33548. Submissions can also be dropped off at our office, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Suite 102, in the Copperstone Executive Suites, Land O' Lakes.



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'Stuff the Cruiser'

Happy staff members of West Zephyrhills Elementary School receive much-needed school supplies from the ladies of Sundance Park through the park's 'Stuff the Cruiser' fundraiser. Due to budget cuts, the school no longer has a warehouse that teachers can go to for the students' necessary supplies. (Photo by Sara Lawson)

Great times roll on at Grand Horizons

By Helene Rubenstein

Grand Horizons

We just returned to Grand Horizons several weeks ago and already we have had so much fun.

In the last newspaper article, I told you about the Halloween party in the community center on Oct. 31 hosted by Robbie Lockard. All who attended had a terrific time. Costumes, food and great company made the afternoon a success. Everything was done first-class.

On Nov. 2, a fashion show by Bon Worth was also in the community center and was hosted by Kathy Cribbs. The show was really good, and the models were superb and modeled the different outfits to perfection. Before the show, cookies, iced tea and coffee were served.

Then, on Nov. 6, there was a social club meeting. All who attended learned of the different activities that were to be offered in the future months. They talked about a golf cart parade in December, the Thanksgiving dinner and the menu, and they also discussed the Christmas show for John



Bahama Breeze was the place to be for residents of Grand Horizons on Nov. 8 as they enjoyed an afternoon out. Donna Quinn, left, Karen and Bill Donlon, and Jerry Buckley, patiently wait for their meals. (Photo by Lynne-Rae Dyson)

Timpanelli on Dec. 13.

On Nov. 8, more than 30 Grand Horizons residents enjoyed an afternoon out at

Bahama Breeze. The luncheon was hosted by Bill and Pidge Elliott. We all had a lovely time, and the food was delicious. All who at-

tended had no complaints and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. So, our thanks go to Pidge and Bill.

As per usual, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we will find several people at the shuffleboard courts. We have the regulars and new people constantly joining in for the fun and companionship of their neighbors. This is for men and women, so if you live in Grand Horizons, come and join the fun.

On Nov. 11, many people were at the community center for a fun night playing Mexican Train. Since we were not here for several months, it felt really good to be back with our friends, and we had the opportunity to meet new neighbors who moved in during the last few months, and believe me, there were quite a few.

Mexican Train is a fun and lively game where people have a great time playing and they also try to get the low score. You can hear remarks going around the table such as, "My train hasn't left the station," or "It's frozen and you must satisfy it before you can move elsewhere." This is all done in a friendly manner and conversation flows easily.

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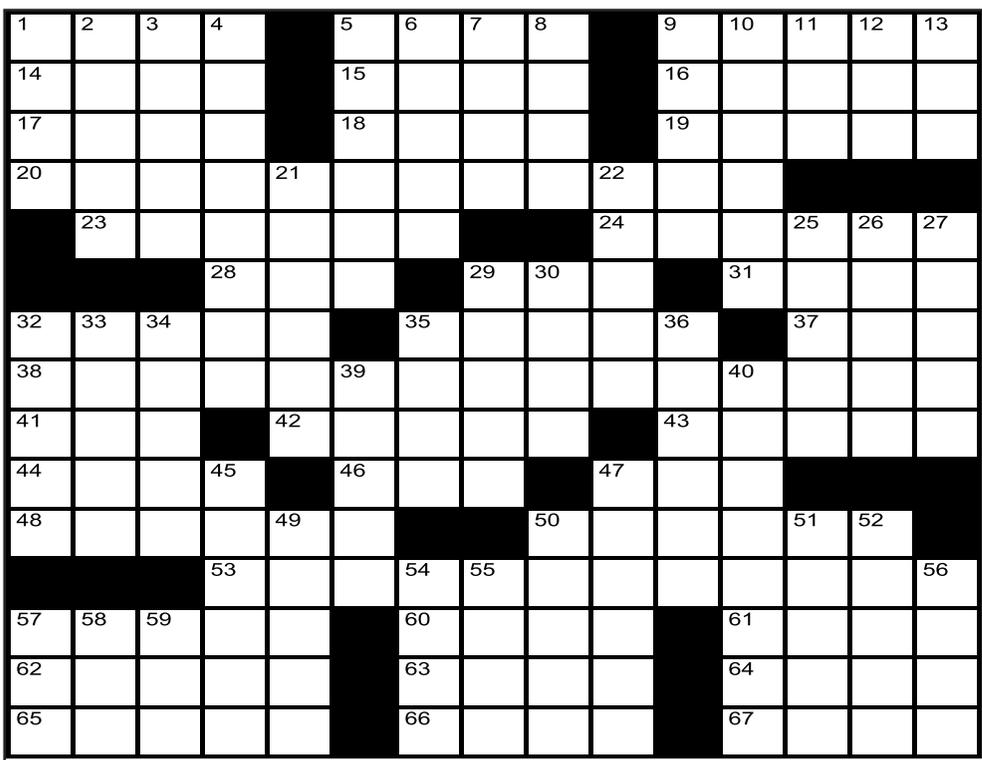
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ACROSS

- 1. "Check this out!"
- 5. Hair groomer
- 9. Ill-gotten gains
- 14. Type of palm with healthy berries
- 15. ___ Minor
- 16. A deadly sin
- 17. Take up and hold
- 18. "Schindler's ___"
- 19. Choice
- 20. Horserace with obstacles
- 23. Brat
- 24. Inadequate
- 28. Carbonium, e.g.
- 29. Bean counter, for short
- 31. Lover of Aeneas
- 32. Play, in a way
- 35. Chip dip

- 37. Calendar abbr.
- 38. Glow-in-the-dark
- 41. Basic monetary unit of Romania
- 42. Broken
- 43. Handle the food for a party
- 44. Song and dance, e.g.
- 46. Cabernet, e.g.
- 47. Comedian Bill, informally
- 48. Cut baby incisors
- 50. Immensely
- 53. Unruly
- 57. Eiffel ___
- 60. Length x width, for a rectangle
- 61. Big name in sneakers
- 62. Contemptuous look
- 63. ___ Bell
- 64. Small cave

- 65. Minor
 - 66. The "E" of B.P.O.E.
 - 67. Cast
- DOWN**
- 1. Hail Mary, e.g.
 - 2. George C. ____, actor
 - 3. Eastern wrap
 - 4. Roman emperor, 14-37 A.D.
 - 5. Visit (2 wds)
 - 6. Basket material
 - 7. Catchall abbr.
 - 8. Shellacking
 - 9. Run out, as a subscription
 - 10. Not versed in a specified subject
 - 11. Computer-generated image (acronym)
 - 12. "Losing My Religion" rock group

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in each word to spell something pertaining to National Day of the Horse.

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ANSWER: Living Link to History

CRYPTOQUIZ

Each of the following cryptograms is a clue to the identity of a Nobel Peace Prize winner. Using the hints O=A and H=C, decipher the clues to name the winner.

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- 2 TOHG _____
- 3 HKORR _____
- 4 GSYOKABL _____
- 5 HAWAK JARIPGJAGZHG _____

I was the youngest American man to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964:

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SCHOOL, from page 1

"All day long, we are teaching them about Jesus," Ottapurackal said. "It is so important, especially nowadays, when you don't see a lot of support in society about faith."

Helping children form their faith is fundamental, the principal said.

"Once you have God in you, the other things will come," Ottapurackal said. "Our focus is on whole child education, not only intellectual, but spiritual, moral, social, (and) emotional aspects of the children."

Teachers know their students well, the principal added.

"Our teachers are well-connected with them because of the family atmosphere we have here," she said.

Saint Anthony School serves kindergarten through eighth grade. Tuition is \$4,375 for practicing Catholics and \$5,075 for others. Since 2000, the school has produced 14 valedictorians and salutatorians at area high schools, Plazewski said.

Parents who are interested in pursuing a Catholic education for their children should not be discouraged by the tuition, Ottapurackal said. Assistance is available in various forms.

"Catholic education should be for any group of people, whether they are rich or poor, regardless of race," the principal added.

Unlike previous buildings that were con-

structed on the school campus, this one will be an additional building, not a replacement. The existing brick structure, built in 1922, will remain and will be used for some school functions.

The new building will be the fourth in the school's history. The current building replaced a two-story structure built in 1899. The original building was a 12-by-24-foot structure constructed in November 1884.

Not only is Saint Anthony School the oldest parochial school in the diocese, it's also one of the oldest Catholic schools in Florida, Plazewski said.

"It is by far the oldest school in Pasco County of any kind," he said. "The only thing that's close to it is Saint Leo University."

San Antonio was founded in 1882 as a Catholic colony. The following year, a widowed woman named Cecilia Morse moved into the community with her six children.

When she inquired about the school, she was told it could wait until there were more settlers, Plazewski said. Morse reportedly responded that the "minds of the children now here, can't wait."

With that, the widow began teaching 14 children, including six of her own, in her kitchen.

Today, Saint Anthony School draws students from San Antonio, Dade City, Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Land O' Lakes, New Tampa and other communities.

And, its new building sends a clear signal that the school intends to be there for many years to come.

CES, from page 1

sary so investors have a complete picture before buying in.

According to its initial filings, CES has a little more than 140 employees, had revenue of \$6.8 million over the last six months — generating a loss of a little more than \$363,000 — but the company also has a backlog of projects worth more than \$9 million. Its clients include federal agencies like NASA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Air Force, as well as industrial and commercial companies like Publix, Cemex, and Jones Lang LaSalle.

Local governments that work with CES include the University of South Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation.

This same time last year, CES turned a profit of \$1.3 million on revenue of \$9.7 million.

Money raised through this stock offering will fuel expansion for CES, primarily in the acquisition of other smaller companies like it around the country, to help broaden its client base. Although the jobs created through that growth will be outside Pasco

and Hillsborough counties, the success will filter its way back into the area — especially for local investors if the stock value rises, as Chartier expects.

Biston and two other business partners purchased the former Wachovia Bank building on Fifth Avenue in 2009 for \$550,000. They later offered the building to the city for \$855,000 as a possible new library before council members decided to expand the library at its current site.

Biston told The Laker/Lutz News that he had bought out his other partners on the building recently, and is now the sole owner. He plans to use the upper floors, and lease out the bottom floor for a storefront business, possibly an eatery.

"He's a one-man show. He is economic development, and obviously a very successful man," City Councilman Kenneth Compton said of Biston. Compton was at the presentation Thursday night with fellow councilman Charlie Proctor.

"I think we all have a mutually beneficial relationship," he said. "Zephyrhills has benefited from a competitive businessman. It's a very big day for Zephyrhills, and it's a big day for Pasco County."

GAS TAX, from page 1

However, to fund all of the county's transportation needs beginning next year, Pasco would need to raise \$8.5 million. And that's where a new option can come into play — raising property taxes.

That option, mixed with a gas tax, had the commission buzzing last week. With a 3-cent gas tax increase, the county would only have to raise taxes 0.1905 mills, equal to an annual increase of less than \$10 for a \$100,000 home that claims \$50,000 in exemptions.

Raising property taxes for road and bridge projects would affect homes in all parts of the county, including incorporated areas. But the county would not be required to share those revenues with the individual cities, like it would for other options.

Commissioners won't have to decide on a new plan until next year, but giving county administrator Michele Baker and her staff some direction in which way they're leaning could help with the planning process, Baker said.

"We have years of decisions to deal with, but going forward, we have very limited revenue, and we have to come up with a plan on moving forward," she said.

By moving money intended to build new

roads into accounts that would maintain existing roads, more than a dozen projects as part of an overall 15-year plan would be affected, officials said, totaling \$151 million, with \$55 million earmarked from gas tax revenue.

Projects like Bell Lake Road from U.S. 41 to Alpine Road would be pushed from 2015 to 2017. It also delays other projects like County Road 54 from State Road 54/56 to Progress Parkway, as well as Starkey Boulevard from River Crossing Boulevard to DeCubellis Road to the next decade.

Other projects would be moved off the schedule completely, like the third phase of Collier Parkway to Ehren Cutoff, as well as Twenty Mile Level Road from State Road 54 to Collier Parkway.

Commissioners did indicate they would likely reject other options brought to the table, including creating a new municipal service taxing unit and tolling options.

Another funding possibility could come in the form of a real estate transfer tax, a documentary stamp tax that could raise 45 cents for every \$100 value when real estate is sold. The county would only have to tax 28 cents for every \$100 value for the full \$8.5 million. Such a move there, however, would require approval by the state legislature.

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CITATIONS:

¹From the second installment of the Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and American Express (November 26, 2012). Redshift Research asked 800 people: "How much did you spend at small independently owned retailers, including restaurants on Nov. 24?" A sample size of 671 responding between Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 self reported a median spend of \$75 which was extrapolated to the US population aged 18 and older who would have been aware of (67%) and shopped (47%) on Small Business Saturday.

²<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/sres589/text>

³Qualifying merchants are those located within the 50 U.S. States or D.C. that have 25 or fewer locations and a sum total 2012 American Express charge volume not to exceed \$5 million. (Businesses located in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands must have 10 or fewer locations and a sum total 2012 American Express charge volume not to exceed \$500,000 and additionally must not have headquarters in the 50 states or D.C.) Businesses in the following industries are excluded: government agencies, public administration, charities, non-profits, trade associations, shopping property management companies, direct sellers, and political organizations. Small businesses that are part of a franchise brand with more than 100 stores are excluded. Additionally, if a franchise brand has more than 20 corporate-owned units, then the entire brand is excluded. Businesses that accept the Card through Square are not eligible. Merchants that do not have a physical storefront or location are not eligible.

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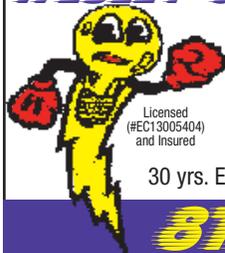
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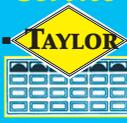
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ACTION BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

IN RE: The Teacher's Certificate of:
Randall Owen Johnson
7611 Notre Dame Drive, Apt. B
New Port Richey, Florida 34653

Notice is hereby given to Randall Owen Johnson, Respondent, of the prosecution of an Administrative Complaint seeking the revocation or suspension of his teacher's certificate.

If Respondent, Randall Owen Johnson, wishes to schedule an informal conference under the provisions of Section 120.60(6), Florida Statutes, with all requirements for the retention of the certificate, he should contact Marian Lambeth, Office of Professional Practices Services, Florida Education Center, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 224-E, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0438.

If such a conference is not requested, this notice shall constitute service of the Administrative Complaint, which shall be filed with the Education Practices Commission.

Failure to file a response to the complaint with the Education Practices Commission, Florida Education Center, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 by January 28, 2014 shall constitute holding the Respondent in default. The Complaint will then be considered by the Education Practices Commission for final action to impose disciplinary sanctions, including revocation or suspension, under the terms of Section 120.57, 120.60, 1012.79, 1012.795, and 1012.796, Florida Statutes.

PLEASE BE GOVERNED ACCORDINGLY.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2013

Pam Stewart
Pam Stewart
Commissioner of Education

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