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Volunteers find clean city is happy city

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

M.J. Price has to deal with a lot of garbage.

That's not a problem for the longtime Zephyrhills resident. In fact, the more garbage she handles, the happier she is.

Her monthly I Heart Zephyrhills community cleanups are designed to clear out as much garbage as possible from a designated location on the last Saturday of every month between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. A group of approximately 15 to 25 volunteers joins Price each month to pick up around 15

kitchen-sized garbage bags' worth of wrappers, cans, fast-food containers and other trash.

In the past year, the group has visited places such as Krusen Field, Tangerine Drive and Veteran's Memorial Park.

Price decided to launch the monthly cleanup more than a year ago when she volunteered to clean up an area where she didn't even live.

"We did a community cleanup with some friends from Zephyrhills down in Tampa, and I thought, 'Well, this is so crazy



MICHAEL MURILLO/STAFF PHOTO

The I Heart Zephyrhills monthly community cleanup will set its sights on Zephyr Park on July 28. Volunteers always are welcome.

See CLEAN, page 9

Horse rescue inspires Bavota to write, act in film

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

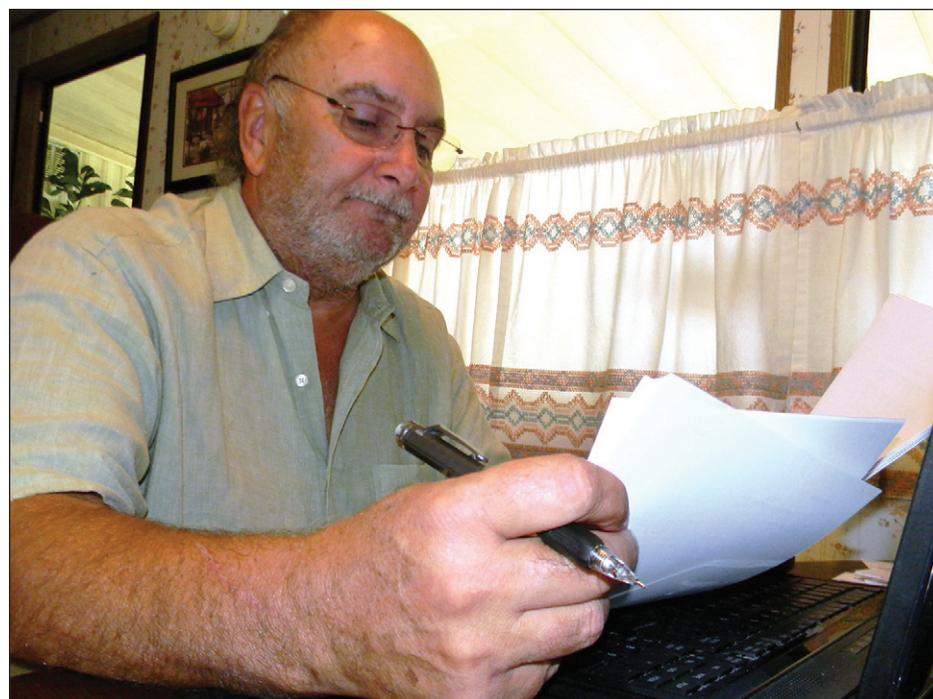
The fictionalized movie tale of a real dolphin helped make a Clearwater aquarium famous.

But can another animal-based film do the same for an actual horse rescue ranch near Orlando? Michael Bavota says yes, and he's not only the primary writer for the film "The DreamCatcher's Ranch," but he's one of the stars as well.

"We were completely inspired by the ranch," Bavota said of DreamCatcher Horse Ranch and Rescue, a large piece of property in Clermont that boards more than 60 rescued horses. "The director and executive producer, Ricky DiMaio, got this idea that he wanted to do a film about what life would be like on the ranch with fictional characters."

And DiMaio found Bavota, a retired seafood distributor now living in Zephyrhills, to craft that story. Bavota, in turn, drafted actress and writer Kaylea Grace, and the two spent more than 140 hours writing what would become the story of a family struggling to secure the future of their ranch that's directly in the way of a major highway project.

"We worked seven 20-hour days doing this," Bavota said. "We would stay at the di-



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Michael Bavota made his career in the seafood business, but has always nurtured a love for writing. The Zephyrhills retiree's words will finally come to life in a new independent film, 'The DreamCatcher's Ranch,' which he'll also star in as Grandpa Jim.

rector's house in Orlando, starting in the morning, and not finishing until the next morning at 5. We wrote day and night, and it just came out beautiful."

Bavota and Grace fell in love with two characters they created, Grandpa Jim and Kelly, and decided the film couldn't go forward unless they could play those roles — something DiMaio had no hesitation agreeing to. Yet, until a few years ago, Bavota never imagined himself ever working in front of a camera lens.

While he was living in Boston, Bavota learned through a member of his church that a local production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" was casting.

"I had no experience, but I was told I should audition anyway," he said. Bavota's work impressed the stage director, who cast him not only as Lt. Rooney, but Mr. Gibbs as well.

It was working in film, however, that real-

See FILM, page 9

Pasco's free lunches take to the road

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

It's hard to imagine getting through most days without that noon-time break for lunch. That packed sandwich, frozen entrée, or maybe even a quick trip to a local eatery, is something many people take for granted each day.

But for 36,000 students in the Pasco County school district, that trip to the cafeteria may be the only nutritious meal they have all day, paid for through federal tax dollars.

What happens, however, when school lets out? These students, who account for nearly 53 percent of the entire school population in the county, still need to eat. And they're not

being left behind.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services manages a federal program known as Summer BreakSpot. Last year alone, it provided more than 12 million meals to nearly 300,000 children statewide, setting up hundreds of locations where kids in need can be sure to have something good and nutritious to eat.

"We want kids across Florida to eat healthy, wholesome food throughout the school year, and all summer long," said agriculture commissioner Adam Putnam in a release. "This program helps ensure children have access to healthy meals during the summer, along with enrichment activities and time with their friends, so they are

ready to learn in the fall when school is back in session."

Locally, Summer BreakSpot is run by Pasco County Schools, operating more than 60 sites where kids can travel a short distance — typically to local schools — to get a bite to eat. But not everyone can make that trip on a daily basis, or at all. And the school district has done something about it.

"There are kids who can't get to those sites," said Cindy Norvell, a food and nutrition specialist for Pasco County Schools. "Many of them don't have transportation. So instead of expecting them to come to us, we took meals to them out into the communi-



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Kids gather to greet one of the mobile food units used by Pasco County Schools to bring free lunches to children from disadvantaged homes through the Summer BreakSpot program.

See LUNCHES, page 9

Don Porter's vision for Wiregrass Ranch area lives on

By B.C. Manion

bcmajian@lakelutznews.com

Don Porter, whose vision helped transform ranch land into an urban center in Wesley Chapel, has died. He was 73.

Porter's family, which owns the sprawling Wiregrass Ranch, sold the land that is now occupied by The Shops at Wiregrass and Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel. The family also donated 60 acres of land for Pasco-Hernando State College's Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, which now occupies about 6 acres of that land.

There's also a high school in the community named after the Porter's Wiregrass Ranch.

While Porter had a hand in projects of a regional scale, that is not what meant the most to him, said his son, J.D. Porter.

"Out of all of the accomplishments, I think the thing that he was most proud of was his family," he said. "He wanted to see everyone do well."

Pasco County commissioner Pat Mulieri recalls when her colleagues were considering approval of The Shops at Wiregrass. She and Commissioner Jack Mariano supported the request, but they needed a third vote, which came from Commission Ted Schrader.

"I believe that Don's generous spirit and clear vision made a difference in the Wesley Chapel area, and set the tone for all future development there," Mulieri said. "Don will be missed. He was a good steward of the land and a southern gentleman."

Greg Lenner, general manager of The Shops at Wiregrass, said it was easy to see that Porter was a highly respected man in the community.

"He will truly be missed," said Lenner, who oversees the main-street style shopping mall at the intersection of State Road 56 and Bruce B. Downs Boulevard.

The mall is a popular gathering spot and



FILE PHOTOS

Members of the Porter family joined Pasco-Hernando State College president Katherine Johnson at the open house and dedication of Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch. From left are J.D. Porter, Bill Porter, Johnson, Don Porter and Quinn Miller.

pulls shoppers and visitors from across the region, especially during the holidays and for special events.

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel also issued a statement paying tribute to Porter's contributions.

"Don Porter's vision was to transform the Porter Ranch into a Wesley Chapel community centered around family ... a community with quality health care, education, and recreation services for its residents," hospital officials said. "It was wonderful to work with Don and his family to bring that vision to life. The entire Porter family has been very supportive of the hospital and our programs to improve the health and wellness of the entire community."

Katherine Johnson, president of Pasco-Hernando State College, recalled the first time she met Porter. It was her first day as the college's president, and she was being

introduced around the community. Those introductions included a lunch with Porter at Saddlebrook Resort.

Porter was approachable and she immediately felt at ease, Johnson recalled.

"We clicked. We just clicked," she said.

At that very first lunch, Porter told Johnson about his vision for higher educational opportunities for students living in the community. The family's later contribution of 60 acres for the campus played an instrumental role in making that vision come true, Johnson said.

"Clearly, we would not have been able to have a campus in Wesley Chapel without that family," she said. Beyond helping to bring that vision to life, Porter became a friend and mentor.

When Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch opened in January, it signaled the first time in Wesley Chapel history that a student could attend preschool through college



Don Porter, whose vision helped create the building blocks for community life in Wesley Chapel, died July 1.

Don Porter memorial service

A memorial service for Don Porter has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on July 12 at the conference center at Pasco-Hernando State College's Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, 2727 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

without leaving the Wesley Chapel community.

When the Porters moved to Wesley Chapel during the 1940s, there wasn't much development in the area. Over the years, the community has evolved, and Porter had a clear vision for the future, Johnson said.

When plans were being discussed for the Porter Campus, he envisioned a campus with multi-story buildings.

"He wanted an urban, corporate look," Johnson said.

Porter is survived by son, J.D., daughter, Quinn Miller and her husband, Matthew, as well as three grandchildren, Johannah, Cooper, and Lillian Jane, of Odessa; and his brother, William H. and his wife, Debby, of Dade City.

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The Laker/Lutz News becomes a bigger paper on Aug. 6

By Diane Kortus
Publisher

This month marks the fifth year since I've become publisher of The Laker/Lutz News, having assumed this role in 2009 when the recession was at its peak.

Like most small business owners back then, I was faced with cutting staff and expenses as we adjusted to the dramatic downturn in the economy. Business analysts called this "right sizing," but I mostly remember it as a very difficult, even painful, time to be managing a business.

Over the past five years my employees and I worked hard to rebuild our business, steadily making improvements to our content and distribution. Our perseverance has paid off, and today The Laker/Lutz News has more readers than anytime in our history.

Our papers are read by more than 64,000 residents in Lutz, Land O' Lakes, Wesley Chapel, Zephyrhills and Dade City. This readership represents an incredible 79 percent household penetration — three times more than any other newspaper or magazine in our community.

We could not have rebounded from the economic collapse of the recession to the promising outlook of today without the support and commitment of our readers and advertisers. There was never a doubt that you wanted a strong community newspaper, and for that we will be forever thankful.



The Laker/Lutz News publisher Diane Kortus shows off the new size of your local newspaper beginning next month, adding six inches of length and bringing it in-line with the size of daily newspapers locally.

daily newspapers communicates even more that The Laker/Lutz News are credible newspapers committed to reporting serious local news.

2. More and bigger photos

A larger size allows for more and bigger photos. And photos help us tell you stories about special events and things to do, people and organizations that do good and interesting things. It also enables expanded coverage for youth sports and adult recreation.

3. More advertising circulars

The larger format means we can accept more advertising circulars from major accounts like Publix, Michaels, JCPenney and Ulta. Beginning in August, inserts from Beall's Outlet will be in the paper, and we expect other national retailers to follow.

4. Bigger ads

Ad sizes in the larger format are 25 percent bigger than current sizes. A bigger ad allows advertisers to include more offers and create more effective ads. This summer we are resizing ads of all current customers to their equivalent larger size in the new format.

And it's because of your continued belief and support that we're able to announce today a milestone that is one of the most significant improvements ever to our papers.

Beginning Aug. 6, we are increasing our size to that of a daily newspaper. We will be six inches longer, or 25 percent bigger, than the paper you are holding in your hands today. Here's why this change should matter to you.

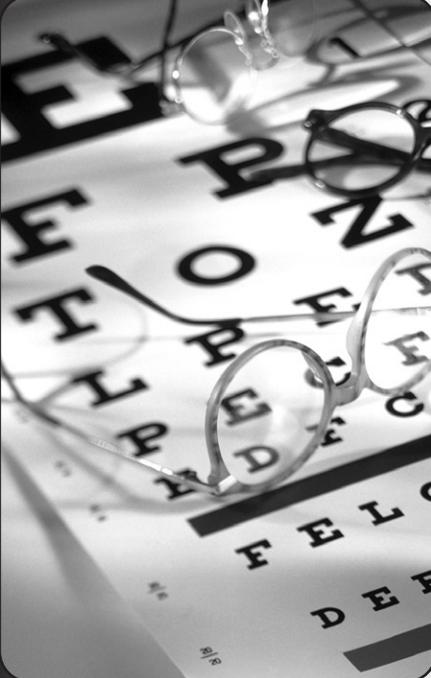
1. Credible newspaper; serious local news

In the past few years, we've begun writing more stories about growth and development, new and expanding businesses, public and private education, and city and county government. This complements what we've always done, writing stories about our communities and the great people who live and work here.

Changing our format to the same size as

My staff and I are proud to have accomplished so much in the past five years. We greatly look forward to the new opportunities we'll have with a larger format newspaper.

As always, I welcome your ideas and comments. If you want to talk, please call me at a time best for you — after hours is perfectly fine — at (813) 909-2800 in the office, (813) 503-5213 on my cell, or send me an email at dkortus@lakerlutznews.com.



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COURTESY OF M.J. PRICE

Bodhi Price: Mascot, wingman

Bodhi Price, 6, a student at Woodland Elementary School and member of Cub Scout Pack 77, was recently named mascot of the Zephyr Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. He also will serve as wingman to Cadet Michael Rowe. Prior to the induction, 1st Lt. Sybrian Castleman and Rowe presented Price with a U.S. Air Force-issued battle dress uniform, provided by Maj. Larry Lynch.



Send business news to mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

SCHOOL DISTRICT HOSTS JOB FAIR

The Pasco County school district is partnering with county agencies and local chambers of commerce to host a job fair July 9 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Land O' Lakes High School.

The event will include representatives from the school district, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Pasco County government, the clerk of court, tax collector, United Way, the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce.

Some of the positions being sought include clerical and administrative support, accounting and finance, bus drivers and assistants, information services, food services, law enforcement and corrections, maintenance and skilled trades, and instructional and childcare.

The high school is located at 20325 Gator Lane, Land O' Lakes.

For information, visit PascoSchools.org.

NEW BUILDER AT SILVERADO RANCH

Highland Homes has started to offer homes in the Zephyrhills community of Silverado Ranch off Eiland Boulevard.

The homes, which start at \$170,000, range in size from 1,508 to 3,315 square feet, between three to five bedrooms, and two to three bathrooms.

For information, visit online at HighlandHomes.org.

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.

Upcoming speakers include:

- Leja Apple, Miss Suncoast, on July 22.
 - Lt. Sybrian Castleman, commander of the local Civil Air Patrol, on Aug. 12.
 - Joe Castellanos, speaking on the Seven Laws of Success, on Aug. 26.
 - Retired pastor Fred Agnir, who also is an aspiring musician and author, Sept. 9.
- Also, the group will have its early fall mixer Sept. 16.

CUBAN INVESTS IN EXTREME EVENT COMPANY

Rugged Events LLC, the parent company of The Great Bull Run held earlier this year in Dade City, has sold 25 percent of its company to Dallas Mavericks basketball team

owner Mark Cuban. His \$1.75 million investment was announced during the ABC network television series "Shark Tank," which Cuban serves as one of the stars.

The investment came just ahead of Rugged's next local event, a Rugged Maniac 5K Obstacle Race, which took place at Little Everglades Ranch in Dade City on June 4.

Tickets for that event are available at RuggedManiac.com.

PINCHERS CRAB SHACK OPENS AT THE SHOPS

Pinchers Crab Shack, a seafood restaurant chain based out of Bonita Springs, has opened its 10th location at The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel.

Dacie Broshears will manage the restaurant, located at 28330 Paseo Drive, Suite 185. Broshears also managed what had been the closest Pinchers location before in Lakewood Ranch near Bradenton.

Pinchers started in 1997 at a six-table restaurant in 1,500 square feet of space in Bonita Springs. It has grown to 10 locations and more than 500 employees, stretching from Wesley Chapel in the north to Key West.

For information, visit online at PinchersCrabShack.com.

LAKE FRANCISCO PLAZA SOLD

A 1980s-era shopping center along Land O' Lakes Boulevard has a new owner.

Robert and Elizabeth Ferrer purchased Lake Francisco Plaza at 1900 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Lutz, early last month for \$1.3 million. That was nearly \$200,000 less than what Lake Francisco Plaza LLC out of Georgia paid for the same 121,000-square-foot strip mall in 2005.

The center, near where U.S. 41 and Dale Mabry Highway split just north of the Hillsborough County line, has spaces for retail and office, according to Pasco County property records. The largest is 54,000 square feet.

Lake Francisco Plaza has been part of the Yount family since the beginning in 1984, with even the company that purchased it in 2005 listing Thomas C. Yount as one of its managers.

Pasco had a strong quarter in property sales of transactions more than \$1 million. The period between March and June, not including any late filers, saw \$72.8 million change hands, compared to \$37.2 million sold during the same quarter in 2013, according to county property records.

MARKET STRUGGLING TO GRAB FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS STILL

Condominium sales in the Tampa Bay region are down, but prices are on the rise as home sales continue their long recovery in the state.

The median sales price of a condominium in the region, which includes both Pasco and Hillsborough counties, was \$110,000 in May, up nearly 13 percent from the year before, according to a new report from Florida Realtors. The number of closed sales dropped nearly 10 percent, however, to 1,256 units.

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Pay college athletes? Saint Leo poll says no

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

The topic of paying college athletes is a controversial one.

Yet a new poll by the Saint Leo Polling Institute suggests most people have already picked a side, and the answer is no.

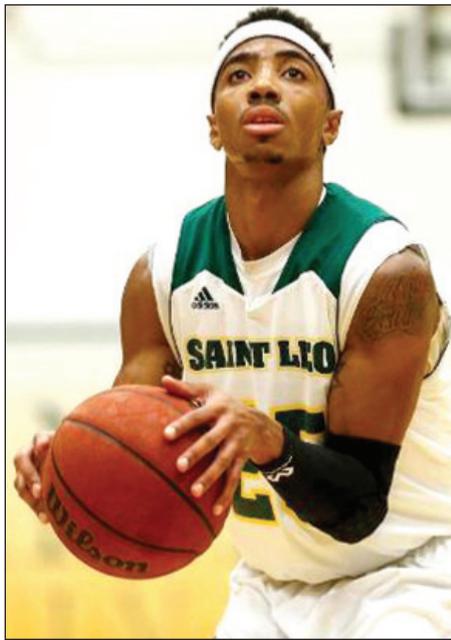
The national poll, conducted between May 28 and June 4, asked 1,016 people — including 802 likely voters — about the subject of paying athletes, specifically football and basketball players at high-profile schools, an undetermined amount of money above and beyond traditional athletic scholarships. A strong majority, 66 percent, agreed with the statement “Giving athletic scholarships and the chance to earn a college degree for free is fair compensation for college athletes, and they should not be paid.”

Just 21 percent of respondents agreed with the statement “College athletes deserve to be paid for the time they spend practicing, traveling, and playing, above and beyond the value of any scholarships they might receive.” The remaining respondents, representing 13 percent, said they didn’t know or weren’t sure.

The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent along with a 95 percent confidence level, which represents the degree of likelihood that the results truly fall within the stated margin of error.

While the pollsters at Saint Leo are mainly concerned with creating a scientific poll, collecting the data and reporting their findings, even they weren’t expecting such a lopsided result.

“It was definitely surprising,” said Drew



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Jerrel Harris, a guard with the Saint Leo University basketball team, attempts a free throw during a game last season. Like typical college athletes, Harris is not paid for his work, and a new survey says most people believe it should stay that way.

Gold, executive director of the Saint Leo Polling Institute. “I don’t think anybody expected it to be that overwhelmingly against paying the athletes.”

With the Olympics now utilizing professional athletes, college sports is one of the last true high-profile amateur competitions, and people seem to want to keep it that way, he said.

While it was a local school, Saint Leo, that created the poll, the results have had global appeal. In addition to being discussed in the United States, the findings have been reported in countries such as France, Germany and India.

And even as the findings might surprise some people, Gold said the methodology is sound, and the institute stands behind the results.

Pasco-Hernando State College athletic director Steve Winterling wasn’t one of the people surveyed for the poll. But if he had been, he’d be part of the 66 percent against paying athletes.

“I’m definitely with the majority there. I just think you’re opening up a can of worms,” said Winterling, who also serves as the school’s baseball coach. “I’m in favor of them not getting paid.”

Getting a free education in exchange for athletic play is a good deal for students, he said.

And his philosophy doesn’t change when taking into account that some athletes generate a lot of revenue for their schools by playing popular sports in a big spotlight. In fact, he believes athletes seek out those opportunities knowing that an education and a big stage is their compensation.

“They know what they’re getting into with that,” Winterling said. “Athletes know going in they’re just getting the scholarship.”

Students often choose those schools so they can showcase skills at a program that gets wide media exposure and the possibility of playing for a championship, he said.

While PHSC is primarily a two-year college whose athletes play at the Division II

level for the National Junior College Athletic Association, Winterling spent several years as an assistant baseball coach for Florida State University, and is familiar with its successful baseball and football programs.

Florida State’s athletes train in world class facilities, have access to top-rate medical staff, and travel in above-average accommodations, he said. In fact, baseball players from the school who went on to play professionally for Class A or Class AA Minor League Baseball teams told him how much better the school’s conditions were compared to their professional teams, from uniforms to locker rooms to equipment.

“One thing they always said when they came back was they didn’t realize they had it so good at Florida State,” Winterling said.

He believes paying players would create more disparity between bigger schools with popular programs and wealthy boosters. At the same time, however, Winterling said he understands smaller schools don’t generate as much revenue and that some athletes have trouble making ends meet while in college. He supports loosening college rules to allow students more freedom to hold jobs while they go to school and play sports.

The poll might not be used to actually affect policy, the National Collegiate Athletic Association could consider it strong evidence that most people don’t support paying players, Gold said.

In any case, the results show that while the topic generates interest and discussion, it’s not an evenly divided issue at this time.

“The public feels overwhelmingly that they should not be paid. That’s what the numbers tell you,” Gold said.

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Chalk Talk

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news@lakerlutznews.com

TEACHERS GET IN FREE AT ZOO

Through Aug. 14, Florida certified teachers for kindergarten through 12th grade can receive a free ticket to Lowry Park Zoo, 1101 W. Sligh Ave., in Tampa.

It is open to teachers in Pasco and Hillsborough counties, as well as Pinellas, Polk, Hernando, Manatee and Sarasota.

Teachers must present valid professional or temporary teaching certification, pay stub and Florida ID to receive the offer. Eligible teachers can purchase up to two additional

one-day companion tickets at a discounted rate.

For information, call (813) 935-8552.

PHSC OPEN HOUSE

Pasco-Hernando State College is hosting an open house at its East Campus, 36727 Blanton Road in Dade City, July 9 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., in Building B, Rooms 104 and 105.

Guests can learn about the certificate and associate’s degree programs, as well as the new bachelor’s degree programs. There also will be campus tours and information offered on admissions, financial aid, scholarships, and the clubs and organizations available.

To RSVP, visit PHSC.edu/rsvp.

COOKING WORKSHOPS

The Encore Academy at Pasco-Hernando

State College will offer a cooking camp workshop July 14-17 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., on the East Campus in Dade City, 36727 Blanton Road.

Topics include seasonal desserts, Asian cookery, and edible holiday gifts.

The workshop is for adults older than 50, and costs \$12. Additional lab fees may apply for cooking supplies.

Registration deadline is three days before the workshop start date.

For information, call (352) 797-5167, or visit PHSC.edu/encore.

MOSI SCIENCE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Museum of Science & Industry still has scholarships available for students in need of financial assistance to attend MOSI Summer Science Camps.

Eligible students need to submit an appli-

cation along with proof of financial need.

The application and eligibility requirements can be found on CampFun.org.

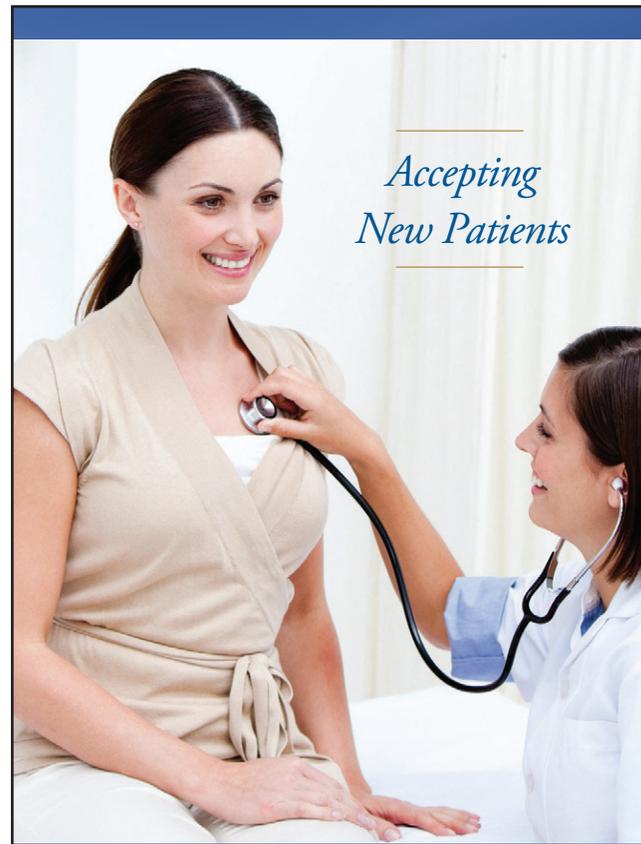
For information on how to apply for a camp scholarship, call (813) 987-6000.

FUND DONATES \$40,000 TO PHSC FOUNDATION

The Pasco-Hernando State College Foundation recently received a \$40,000 grant from the Edward K. Roberts Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

The donation will provide scholarships to PHSC students in the summer and fall semesters of 2014. Preference will be given to part-time students who may not qualify for other financial aid.

For more information about the PHSC Foundation, call (727) 816-3410, or visit PHSC.edu/foundation.



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What's Happening

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

ZEPHYR SQUADRON MEETINGS

The Zephyr Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m., at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History, 39444 South Ave., in Zephyrhills. Cadets have a chance to learn to lead, volunteer within the community, camp, exercise, practice public speaking, and learn to fly. The squadron will host free aviation workshops for children ages 7-11. For information, call Sybrian Castleman at (813) 434-3112, or email sybrian.zephyrcap@gmail.com.

COBB'S FREE KIDS SHOWS

Grove 16 Cobb Theatres, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel is hosting its free summer kids shows at 10 a.m., every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Upcoming shows are "The Smurfs 2" and "The SpongeBob Square Pants Movie" through July 10, and "The Lego Movie" and "The Nut Job" July 15-17. All movies are rated PG. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Schools, groups and camps are welcome. Same-day ticketing only. For information, call (813) 948-5444.

LIBRARY BOOK BAZAAR

Friends of Hugh Embry Library will host a book bazaar July 11-12 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City. There will be slightly used books, audio and video media, magazines, and related materials, many priced at less than \$3. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The Pasco County Historical Society will meet July 18 at 7 p.m., at American Legion Hall Post 15, 37745 Church Ave., in Dade City. Guest speaker will be Jeff Miller, creator of the society's website. Guests should bring a covered dish to share and their own cutlery. For information, call Glen Thompson at (352) 567-7449, or email bookbollard@yahoo.com.

TAMPAPALOOZA COMING IN AUGUST

Tampapalooza will be at the Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. 301 in Tampa, Aug. 2-3 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event will include local food, local craft beer, kids activities, farmer's market, music, raffles, stilt walkers, and an aerial yoga show. Admission is free. For information, call (800) 345-3247, or visit Tampapalooza.com.

LEARN TO GROW MORINGA



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

FREE TACOS AT POST 118

American Legion Post 118, 5340 Eighth St., in Zephyrhills, meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. The lounge is open seven days a week at 3 p.m. Free tacos are available from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., every day. Veterans and guests are welcome. For information, call (813) 782-0481.

Morning Star Fishermen, 33336 Old Saint Joe Road in Dade City, is offering a seminar on "Moringa, the Miracle Tree" Aug. 4 at 7 p.m. Moringa is native to Africa and Asia, and its leaves provide protein, vitamins A, B and C, and minerals. Participants can learn to incorporate the plant into their everyday foods. Guest speaker is Ken Black. Cost is \$25. For information, call Ara McLeod at (352) 523-2722.

TROPICAL PLANT FAIR

The Botanical Gardens at the University of South Florida, 12210 USF Pine Drive in Tampa, will host a tropical plant fair July 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and July 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be an orchid lecture and tropical plants for sale. Admission is \$5, and parking is free. For information, visit Gardens.USF.edu.

LEARN TO TANGO

The Tampa Bay Tango Club and Tampa Downtown Partnership are offering a free weekly tango class at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N. Ashley Drive, in Tampa, on Thursdays at 6 p.m. The dance class will run until March 12. All skill levels are invited. For information, call (813) 221-3686.

AMVETS EVENTS

AMVETS Post 550, 4645 Airport Road in Zephyrhills, offers bingo on Mondays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. On Fridays and Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., visitors can buy

meals ranging in price from \$7 to \$10. The entertainment schedule is available on Facebook at AMVETS Post 550. For information, call (813) 780-8180.

BINGO AT TIMBER LAKES

Timber Lake Estates, 30301 Countryside Drive in Wesley Chapel, continues to offer Thursday bingo throughout the summer. Doors open at 4 p.m. A full kitchen menu will be available starting at 4:40 p.m.

PASCO GENEALOGY

The Genies, a small informal genealogical group, meets every Friday at 1 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.

ZEPHYRHILLS EAGLES CLUB

Zephyrhills Eagles 3752, 4149 New River Road, is seeking new members. The club hosts steel darts on Tuesdays at 2 p.m., bar bingo on Wednesdays at 1 p.m., ladies night on Thursdays at 6 p.m., euchre on Fridays at 1 p.m., karaoke on Fridays at 7 p.m., a coin show the first Saturday of every month, and Sunday breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

CARES SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Common on Pretty Pond, 38130 Pretty Pond Road in Zephyrhills, will host the following CARES Crescent Enrichment Center senior activities:

- Multimedia Art Instruction by Don Heinke: Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Bring own supplies. Cost is \$15. For information, call (813) 748-5364.
- Watercolor Classes with Sandi Lallemand: Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Bring own supplies. Cost is \$10. To register, call (352) 523-1213.

NEW RESTORE SALE DATES

Habitat ReStore's discounts on items that have been in inventory for a while is now on Mondays. Senior Day has moved to Tuesdays, when a senior citizen discount is 20 percent. Dade City ReStore also will host monthly silent auctions. Habitat ReStores are located at 15029 U.S. 301 in Dade City, and 4700 S. Allen Road in Zephyrhills. For information, visit Habitat.org/restores.

COLONY HILLS BINGO

The Colony Hills Community, 35144 Wagner Way in Zephyrhills, hosts weekly bingo Wednesday nights. Early bird bingo is at 6 p.m., and regular bingo starts at 7 p.m. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Snack kitchen features hot dogs, popcorn, cake and drinks. For information, call (813) 788-4121.

CENTENNIAL EAGLES EVENTS

Centennial Eagles Dade City, 15924 U.S. 301, hosts nickel bingo on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., bar bingo on Thursdays at 7 p.m., Friday dinners from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and a pool tournament on Fridays at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to all events. For information, call (352) 567-9755.

DONATE TO PET PANTRY

Dogs Day Pet Pantry, 14012 Seventh St., in Dade City, is looking for donations of pet food and supplies to help pet owners facing economic hardship in the Dade City area. Items needed are dry or canned dog and cat food, cat litter, and collars and leashes. The pantry accepts donations from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

AMERICAN LEGION KARAOKE NIGHT

American Legion Post 15, 37745 Church St., in Dade City, hosts indoor corn toss tournaments the third Saturday of every month. Registration is at noon, and games start at 1 p.m. For information, call Bob Case at (813) 713-4588. The club meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Karaoke night is the first Friday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. There is an air rifle Junior Shooting Sports Program for boys and girls ages 8 through 18 every Wednesday at 5 p.m.

PUBLIC AUCTION

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GULFSIDE ORIENTATIONS

Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care is hosting orientation for all new East Pasco volunteers July 17-18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Gulfside's Center for Hospice Care, 5760 Dean Dairy Road.

Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. Opportunities are available at the thrift shops, in the kitchen and serving meals, answering phones and greeting visitors, patient care, and spiritual care.

Space is limited, and reservations are required.

For information, call Jennifer Ball or Tracey Thompson at (813) 780-1235.

'I QUIT' AT FLORIDA HOSPITAL ZEPHYRHILLS

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., is offering the "I Quit" workshop July 17 at 5 p.m.

The workshop provides education on nicotine addiction and withdrawal, strategies for handling cravings, a free four-week supply of nicotine replacement therapy, and a referral for ongoing support after the class.

To register, call Jihane Ambrose at (813) 929-1000, or visit AHECTobacco.org.

GET THE MOST OUT OF INSURANCE

Most health care plans must now cover a set of preventive services like shots and screening tests under the Affordable Care Act.

To better understand insurance coverage, Bayfront Health Dade City's free physician referral service is offering information on how



COURTESY OF BAYFRONT HEALTH DADE CITY

Program launches seniors into healthy living

Bayfront Health Dade City has launched the Senior Circle program, formerly Senior Extra, for adults older than 50. The program will provide social opportunities, health education programs, exercise classes, volunteerism and entertainment. Other perks include in-hospital benefits when available, a magazine subscription, and planned monthly activities. Members recently gathered for the Senior Circle Sneak Peek event at the Dade City hospital. For information, visit SeniorCircle.com.

to get the most out of insurance.

Those in need of assistance can call (877) 362-5321, or visit BayfrontDadeCity.com.

AFO RECEIVES GRANT FROM GRISWOLD CARES

The Griswold Cares Foundation recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to The Alzheimer's Family Organization of Pasco for its strong commitment to providing respite care and the impact that care has in the communities it serves. The foundation was established in 2010 with the vision that all senior citizens, including those with limited financial means, have the opportunity to age with dignity in the comfort of their own homes.

GULFSIDE HOSPICE PROGRAMS

Gulfside Regional Hospice hosts a variety of bereavement groups throughout Pasco County. The following support groups are offered:

- Children Grief and Anticipatory Group, 5760 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills, every Tuesday, 5 p.m. Call (727) 452-1592.

- Parents Support Group, 5760 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills, every Tuesday, 5 p.m. Call (727) 992-8034.

- Newly Bereaved Group, 37826 Sky Ridge Circle on Dade City, every Wednesday, 2 p.m. Call (727) 992-8034.

- West Winds Support Group, 37411 Eiland Blvd., in Zephyrhills, every Wednesday, 3:30 p.m., by appointment only.

- Youth Support Group, St. Rita's Catholic Church, 14440 14th St., in Dade City, every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Call (813) 780-1235.

- Latino Parent Support Group, St. Rita's Catholic Church, 14440 14th St., in Dade City, every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Call (727) 992-8034.

- Children Support, 37826 Sky Ridge Circle in Dade City, every Thursday, 5 p.m. Call (727) 992-8034.

- Alumni 2011 Social Group, 37826 Sky Ridge Circle in Dade City, every Friday, 1 p.m. Lunch is served. Call Joan Kolb at (813) 715-4163.

A grief and loss puppet show with presentations also is available to schools and organizations, and can be scheduled by calling Ashley Monteath at (727) 844-3946.

VOLUNTEER FOR OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join its corps of advocates who protect the rights of elders living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes.

Local councils need volunteers to identify, investigate and resolve residents' concerns. Special training and certification is provided.

For information, call (888) 831-0404, or visit Ombudsman.MyFlorida.com.

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LUNCHES, from page 1

ties that needed them most.”

Three years ago, the school district began retrofitting retired school buses, turning them into traveling food stations. Most of the seats have been replaced with makeshift food counters, where kids can sit and eat, and have a bright view out the window.

There are five buses that travel around to various communities each day, loaded with a variety of foods depending on the day. It could range from a turkey sandwich, to a beef stick with cheese, to even build-your-own pizza kits.

“All of it comes with fruit, and everyone always gets their milk,” Norvell said. “Our mobile units also carry applesauce and extra peach cubes for some of our children who are below a certain age.”

The buses will typically stop in a common park area of a community, many times with picnic tables nearby so that kids can choose to eat on the bus, or maybe out in the shade. But to ensure that only they eat the food they get, kids can't take any food with them.

No one under 18 is turned away at the mobile units either, Norvell said. If they are there, they will get something to eat. If a bus runs out of food, they can quickly call out to a nearby BreakSpot location to get more.

Amy Sue Hammond leads a two-person team that drives the mobile unit through stops around Dade City. She spent 15 years as a bus driver for East Pasco County schools, and now transports autism students to schools that are sometimes 90 minutes away.

In the summer, she's working with BreakSpot, continuing her own personal

2014 Summer BreakSpot food program

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has modernized access to the 2014 Summer BreakSpot food program for kids needing meals while school is out.

Access to more than 3,400 locations statewide — including more than 60 in Pasco County and nearly 125 in Hillsborough County — is available one of the following four ways:

- Dial 211
- Text “FoodFL” to 877-877
- Download the Nutrislice smartphone app
- Visit SummerFoodFlorida.org.

commitment to make sure every child has a chance.

“You have to have a lot of patience, but seeing these kids excited to see us pull up is its own reward,” Hammond said. “All of this we're doing is very important, because without these buses, many of these kids would go hungry.”

Hammond's bus is one of two buses that serves East Pasco. Her bus begins each day at Pasco Elementary School, while a second bus departs every morning from Lacochee Elementary School. Both make a total of three stops, with Hammond's route typically seeing nearly 100 kids a day.

“Despite all we do to get the word out about this program, I am sure there are people who still don't know about it,” Norvell said. “Some people are just surprised when you start to talk about it. But it's something we have available, and something we hope families who need it will take advantage of.”

FILM, from page 1

ly appealed to Bavota. There was a freedom of not having to be at the theater each day, and only being allowed to focus on one project at a time. So he worked closely with the Orlando film school Full Sail University, and has appeared in a number of other productions as well, such as “The Business Card,” which appeared on the Christian Television Network.

The usually clean-cut Bavota is sporting stubble and long hair as he gets ready to start filming “The DreamCatcher's Ranch” this week. The entire production is budgeted for \$50,000, small even by independent film standards. But that's because the crew not only has full access to DreamCatcher Ranch, but many of the primary people — especially the actors — have different crew jobs as well.

“What we did is kind of unique,” Bavota said. “Everybody on the film got a job to act, and everybody got an extra job to fill in holes wherever we needed it. This is a way to ensure everyone feels they have ownership of what we're doing here.”

Although the film is fiction, the stories of some of the various rescued horses on the ranch are real. Bavota has fallen in love with one mare, Blac, that the ranch won in an auction for \$10 just minutes before Blac was headed off to a meat-packing plant.

Others have heartbreaking stories of abuse or abandonment, finding a home in Clermont when no others were available.

The ranch itself spends \$3,000 a year to care for each horse, Bavota said, with most of those funds recouped by riding lessons and donations. The hope is the film will connect with younger audiences, especially



COURTESY OF MICHAEL BAVOTA

Kayle Grace had to become an expert horse rider to take on the role of Kelly in “The DreamCatcher's Ranch,” an independent film being shot in Clermont. Grace helped Zephyrhills resident Michael Bavota write the story.

girls, who typically have a fondness for horses, and could help champion the cause of caring for rescued animals.

“We want to help the ranch to attract more volunteers and more funds,” Bavota said. “We want to attract people who can help the owners expand the ranch, so that they can take care of even more rescue animals. And we want to give them a story that will make them stop and think.”

The cast and crew of “The DreamCatcher's Ranch” are still raising money for the production through the online crowdfunding site Indiegogo. And the hope is to have the film completed by winter so that it can start appearing in film festivals as early as Christmas.

To donate to the project, visit tinyurl.com/DreamCatcherRanch. And to learn more about the actual horse rescue ranch in Clermont, visit online at DreamCatcherHorses.com.

CLEAN, from page 1

that all these folks are driving all the way down to Tampa to clean up Tampa, when we live right in Zephyrhills,” she said.

While the first community cleanup drew more than 200 volunteers more than a year ago, it's settled into a smaller, core group. But there are some new faces, though Price said she hopes for more involvement from groups and civic organizations. She mentioned Crossroads Pentecostal Church as one congregation that has attended several cleanups.

There are benefits to the monthly events aside from helping to keep Zephyrhills looking nice, Price said. The group tries to keep

them fun, promoting a contest for the strangest piece of trash collected. Previous winners include a hairpiece and seats for a boat.

An hour's worth of exercise also is a positive, she said. And volunteering could have even longer-term benefits for an individual who might be looking for work or trying to make new contacts.

“You never know who is going to be picking up trash next to you,” Price said. “It might be somebody who is looking to employ someone. It might be someone who knows someone else. You never know. There are a lot of good connections that have been made.”

I Heart Zephyrhills also would write letters of recommendation for students

looking to boost their college resume to confirm that they've done volunteer work for the group, Price said.

The city does a very good job of keeping things orderly, she said, and Price's group aims to simply help clean up where they can. Unfortunately, people can get accustomed to a certain amount of trash. One or two wrappers might not seem like a big deal, but they impact the community appearance, and can soon grow into a problem.

“It piles up pretty quickly,” she said.

As a permanent resident since 1998, Price has organized more than 300 community events, from the monthly cleanups to an annual flag exchange and replacement program. She said it is part of her nature to

get involved in her community.

“It's just my thing,” Price said. “I was just raised that way — that you're always trying to better the place where you live. It's just kind of what I do, and I really love it.”

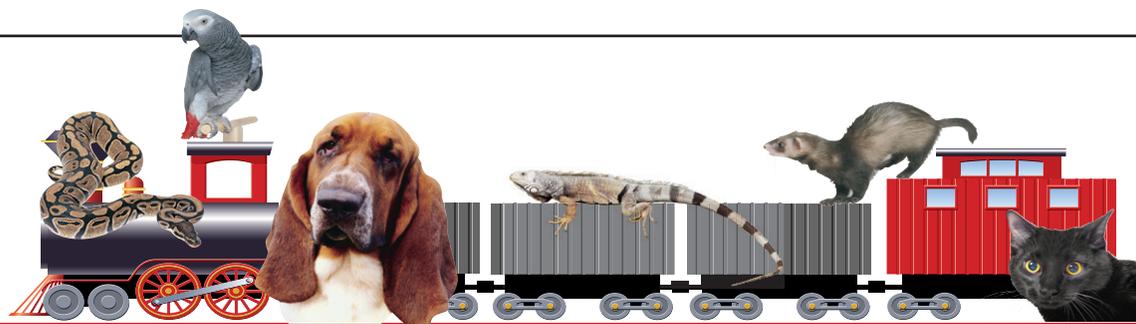
I Heart Zephyrhills works on the last Saturday of every month except December. Volunteers will head next to Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave., west of U.S. 301 on State Road 54. The July 28 event begins at 9 a.m.

Volunteers should wear a pair of work gloves, closed-toe shoes and long pants. I Heart Zephyrhills will provide water, garbage bags and a method of hauling away the trash.

For more information, contact Price at (813) 782-1500, ext. 104, or email her at dr-mjpricegp@gmail.com.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRAND HORIZONS

Annmarie Shackewyc shows off a few of the colorful note cards made in a craft class.

Ice cream hits the spot at Grand Horizons

By Helene Rubenstein
Grand Horizons

The activities continue at Grand Horizons. Because of the summer months, some things are continuing, while some activities are on hiatus until the fall starts.

The many that continue include the ladies luncheon known as The Lunch Bunch. True, there was less of a turnout for June, but they sure had a good time and made the most of it.

Approximately seven women showed up June 3 to have lunch at Capri Pizza & More restaurant, located across the street from Grand Horizons. This was a treat in itself, as during the winter months the group couldn't go there as the seating is limited.

But, it is perfect during the summer months as there was a small group of women, and they sure had a good time.

If you've never gone to Capri Pizza, it is a delightful, family-owned restaurant. The women had their choice of spaghetti, lasagna, pizza, macaroni and other fantastic dishes. Barbara Janelle hosted the luncheon, and when I spoke to her she reported that it may have been a small group, but each woman seemed to enjoy herself.

Barbara went on to say that the inside was decorated with pictures hanging on the walls. It not only had pictures of personnel, but others as well. It has a cozy atmosphere, and since I have gone there before, I can definitely vouch for it.

Whatever we have had at this restaurant was always delicious, and my husband and I have always walked out content. So you can see that the summer months do not pose a problem for The Lunch Bunch as they pick out a restaurant that is close-by and has good food.

Then, on June 8, there was an ice cream social in the community center with approximately 50 people hosted by Rosemary Semian. She did a fine job as they had different ice creams and loads of toppings.

From what Rosemary told me, they had bananas, strawberries and pineapples, plus

whipped cream and also cherries. Just writing this paints a vivid picture!

After ice cream, while some people went to walk off what they had, others stayed to have a friendly game of euchre. It sounds to me that Rosemary did a fine job. Our thanks go out to her.

In between, while they had their activities that go on a regular basis such as dominoes, shuffleboard, Wednesday coffee and doughnuts, etc., there was also a craft class June 10. Marcia Johnson led the class in making notecards. Marcia told me the cards were blank inside with colorful ladies on the front all dressed up in hats with feathers. I wasn't there for this, but the finished product sounded really nice.

There are two ladies' luncheons a month — the first called "The Lunch Bunch," and one that met later in the month called "The Ladies of Grand Horizons" lunch group. This particular group met for lunch at Abbott Station, a restaurant located in Zephyrhills that is a lovely place to dine. This particular event was hosted by Luella Wheeling.

Luella said that the chef greeted everyone and made them comfortable. He made sure that whatever he served was to the person's liking. She also mentioned that it was a nice size group considering the many people that are away for the summer months.

Abbott Station is known for its soups with pumpkin soup their specialty. They include one other soup, which is made fresh every day. They serve sandwiches that are big enough for seconds or doggie bags to take part of the meal home.

The inside of the restaurant has many pictures and other interesting memorabilia on the walls. There is also a lovely porch that is inside, and people can eat there and take in the surrounding area. I have gone here before and just know that all who attended got a lovely meal at a nearby location.

Grand Horizons will publish a new photo directory for residents. Photos were taken at certain times, with more dates to follow.

WEEKLY



DAILY

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Alligator surprises Gem Estates residents

By Lee Heffelfinger
Gem Estates

What a surprise when my neighbor, Janet Clarke, knocked on my door to tell me there was an alligator down on Rockford Avenue.

I seriously thought, "You got to be kidding." But Russ and I got into our golf cart and rode down to Rockford Avenue. And sure enough, there were three sheriff cars blocking the road, and three deputies up by the house trying to capture a four-foot alligator thrashing around and trying to get away from the men.

Finally, it was subdued enough for them to tape shut the mouth and throw a raincoat over it, and it was hauled off somewhere where there was water.

Wish I would have taken my camera to take some pictures, because the people up

north probably wouldn't believe it.

Our coffee socials are basically that, socials. The attendance has been very sparse, but it's still a way for those of us that remain for the summer to get together.

We recently learned Chuck Newman had a shoulder replacement, and his daughter, Vicki Bluhm recently had knee replacement. Both are doing well.

Neva Roy is at her home after being at the Heritage Park Health & Rehabilitation in Dade City. Her son is staying with her for the time being.

Several of us are planning to go to Branson, Missouri, again, but we need a few more passengers. If anyone is interested in going Nov. 12-19, we'll have 11 meals, six good shows, and \$70 free play at two hotels.

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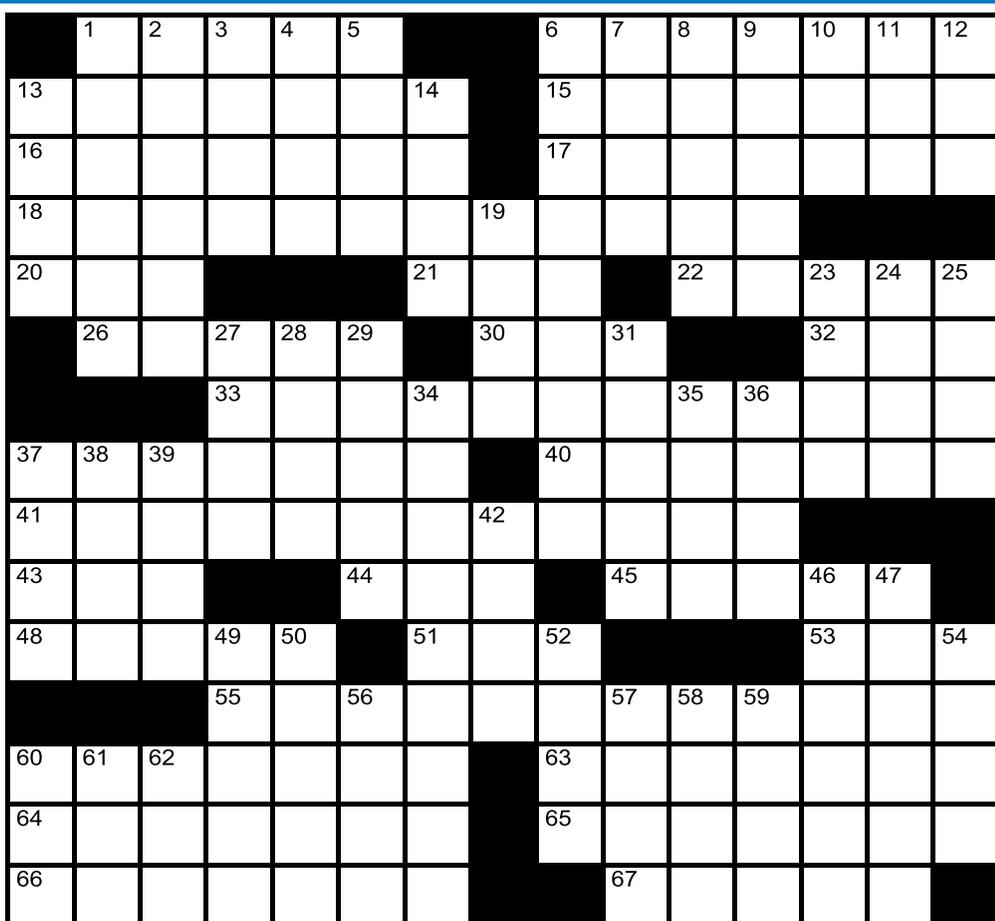
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ACROSS

- 1. Air pollution (pl.)
- 6. Immeasurably deep chasms
- 13. Keen insights
- 15. Stone Age artifact
- 16. Knocking sound (hyphenated)
- 17. Occupancy by title, lease or rent
- 18. Extending from the U.S. to Japan
- 20. Last day of the week (abbrev.)
- 21. Big, fat mouth
- 22. Cut corners
- 26. Doozie
- 30. ___ de deux
- 32. Bill and ___
- 33. Absurd
- 37. One who fails to carry out a promise
- 40. Neophyte
- 41. Door-to-door

(hyphenated)

- 43. Armageddon
- 44. Clod chopper
- 45. Donnybrook
- 48. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (acronym)
- 51. ___ Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
- 53. Grassland
- 55. Pass allowing one to get on a ship (2 wds)
- 60. Like some triangles
- 63. Major neck artery
- 64. Cornmeal concoction
- 65. Hard, colored minerals composed of metal oxides
- 66. Passed out
- 67. File

DOWN

- 1. Sacred beetle of ancient Egypt
- 2. Undergo change
- 3. Arab League member
- 4. Catches on
- 5. Become unhinged
- 6. Italian appetizer
- 7. Strengthen, with "up"
- 8. Symbols representing Shakti
- 9. Remiss
- 10. Anger, e.g.
- 11. "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
- 12. Diffident
- 13. Song and dance, e.g.
- 14. "Don't go!"
- 19. Crime boss
- 23. Clickable image
- 24. Grimace
- 25. Ask
- 27. "Planet of the ___"
- 28. Advocate
- 29. Choppers, so to speak
- 31. Play, in a way
- 34. Work on a galley
- 35. "___ on Down the Road"
- 36. Cambodian currency
- 37. Perlman of "Cheers"
- 38. A long, long time
- 39. Art subject
- 42. Principal
- 46. Click beetle
- 47. In a spooky manner
- 49. Less inept
- 50. A great deal (2 wds)
- 52. Nervous twitches
- 54. Annexes
- 56. A chip, maybe
- 57. Back of the neck
- 58. Dismal
- 59. A type of geometric solid
- 60. Marienbad, for one
- 61. Bully
- 62. ___ mode (2 wds)

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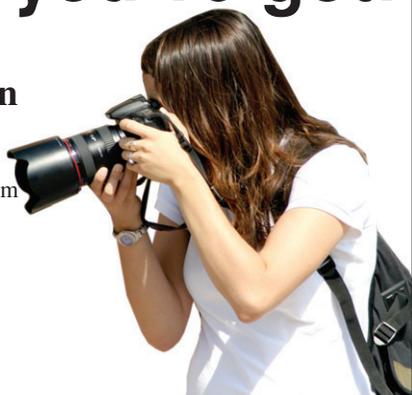
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