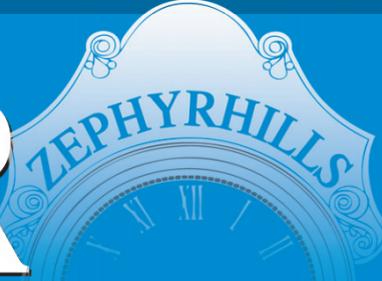


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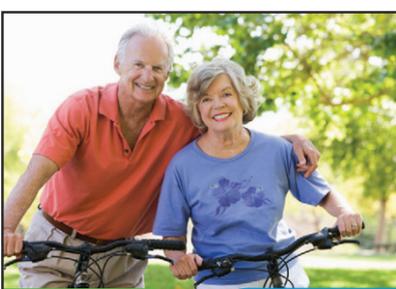
# The LAKER



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AUGUST 6, 2014



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MICHAEL MURILLO/STAFF PHOTO

From left, Tyler Kirby, Ty Tanner, Jalen Pickett and Jackie Tucker will drive the Zephyrhills Bulldogs' offense in 2014.

## Zephyrhills coach focused on playoffs, not Pasco

By Michael Murillo  
[mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com)

Three years ago, a late-season loss to Pasco High School derailed the Bulldogs' chances at the playoffs.

The following year, it happened again: The Pirates won, and Zephyrhills High School stayed home for the postseason.

Last season the division rivals played again, with both sides needing a victory to make the playoffs. And just like the previous two contests, Pasco came out ahead and Zephyrhills was left out.

The rivalry might have fans circling this

### 2014 Bulldogs Schedule

8/22 - Wesley Chapel	10/10 - Nature Coast Tech
9/5 - Gulf	10/16 - Central
9/12 - at Mitchell	10/24 - at Hernando
9/19 - South Sumter	10/31 - at Pasco
9/26 - at Weeki Wachee	11/7 - at Sunlake

year's matchup on their calendar, but to Zephyrhills head coach Reggie Roberts, it's still just another game on the schedule.

"It's not something I sit around and think about," Roberts said. "Contrary to what peo-

ple believe, I'm not worried about Pasco. We have a lot of games. If we lose all our games and win the Pasco game, we're still not in the playoffs."

Making the playoffs is the next step for the Bulldogs and Roberts, who is now entering his fifth year as the school's coach. The team has finished with a winning

record for three straight years, but has fallen short of the postseason each time in Class 5A-District 6.

See **PLAYOFFS**, page 6

## Mad voters could affect November turnout

By Michael Hinman  
[mhinman@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:mhinman@lakerlutznews.com)

There's one question Susan MacManus gets more than any other as we head into a contentious election season. And despite her long and impressive credentials as a political science, even she can't answer it.

Who will occupy the governor's desk after November? Will Rick Scott stay put? Will Charlie Crist return as a new man? Or is it time for Nan Rich to take over?

"Who is going to win the governor's race? I don't know yet," MacManus, a Land O' Lakes native, told the Republican Club of Central Pasco on June 25. "And neither do you."

Two things for certain are that this could not only be the most expensive governor's race in history, but also the most negative. Political groups on both sides already have launched mud-slinging ads against each other, Scott taking hits for the Medicare scandal that rocked his former company in the 1990s, and Crist for raising taxes and fees during the economic downturn.

Want a good look at what's to come?



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

**University of South Florida political scientist and Land O' Lakes native Susan MacManus shared some of her observations about the upcoming Florida gubernatorial race with the Republican Club of Central Pasco last month.**

One only has to look back to the recent special Congressional election in Pinellas County between Democrat Alex Sink and Republican David Jolly, MacManus said.

"The mood of the public is a very angry mood," the University of South Florida pro-

fessor said. "They are very disappointed in politicians, and don't like any one of them, and don't believe any one of them. And this already is the most nasty race known to humankind, and not just to Florida."

But it doesn't have to be all negative, MacManus said. Two ads that stood out over the last several months were Sink appearing with her father and Scott with his grandchild. Both resonated well with voters, but barely get a glance in the sea of negativity.

"A couple nice ads are very refreshing, but then the next ones after that are slash and burn again," MacManus said.

The biggest problem facing politics is money not directly raised by a candidate's campaign. Both Sink and Jolly had plenty of spending beyond their campaigns, setting a tone that neither of them felt represented them. The same already is happening between Crist and Scott as the voice of outside money gets louder and louder.

With the governor's race too close to call, those wanting to peer into the future might have to look at other factors on the

See **VOTERS**, page 6

## Coin club offers chance to learn about history, politics, investing

By B.C. Manion  
[bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com)

Richard Schmetisch's fascination with coins began when he was about 8 years old.

His dad took him to a flea market, and as they browsed through tools and lawn mowers, Schmetisch spied a coin dealer. And so his passion began.

"I just went, 'Wow!'" the now 51-year-old Land O' Lakes man said. "I think coins interest a lot more kids than adults."

Schmetisch began by collecting wheat pennies, buffalo nickels and Mercury dimes, but has branched into more sophisticated collecting since then.

"You could still get buffalo nickels in your change back then, and Mercury dimes in your change," he said.

Schmetisch remembers the weekend ritual he shared with his dad.

"Every Saturday when I would go to the flea market, my dad would let me buy one coin," Schmetisch said.

He passed his love for coin collecting along to his son, Kyle, who began coming with him to coin club meetings when he was 7. Now 25, Kyle and his dad were both at a recent meeting of The Tampa Bay Coin Club, which draws members from throughout Tampa Bay.

The coin club meetings are useful, both men said.

"They have guest speakers who teach you about coins and collecting and what to look for, what to be careful of," Richard said. "A lot of the interest in coins is going to be the history. If you start collecting a certain coin, you start finding out about that time in

See **COIN**, page 6

## MOSI gives health screenings new meaning at theater

By Michael Hinman  
[mhinman@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:mhinman@lakerlutznews.com)

When the Imax theater first opened at Tampa's Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa in 1995, the technology behind the larger-than-life films was still quite revolutionary.

Today, however, it's hard to find a movie complex without an Imax screen, and nearly all of them are digital — leaps and bounds beyond MOSI's now almost antiquated film-based system.

But that's changing after a \$2 million donation from Florida Hospital that will not only rename the dome theater after the hos-

pital chain, it will bring science to the masses in ways that were never imagined 20 years ago. Called "Florida Hospital Presents Live SX," surgeons at local hospitals will perform routine surgeries, which will be broadcast live to MOSI's Coleman Science Works Theater for middle school, high school and college students.

"Live SX" will be a lot like the more traditional surgery amphitheatres, except without the need to travel to a hospital. Surgeons will answer questions from the audience, and provide a glimpse into surgery many may not have had otherwise.

"We believe that investing in MOSI is important for the community," said Mike

Schultz, president and chief executive of Florida Hospital West Florida Region, during a check presentation at the Fowler Avenue museum last week. We believe our investment will help support MOSI as it moves forward, to create long-term sustainability of the museum, and further (develop) future scientists and health care professionals while helping develop the work force in the greater Tampa Bay area.

"We want to make a difference."

Access to medical professionals in this way is something many don't get to experience otherwise, especially in suburban areas

See **MOSI**, page 6

# From teacher to candidate, Ledbetter just can't say no

By Michael Hinman  
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Where there's a will, there's a way. And when there's a need, there's Beverly Ledbetter.

The retired educator has made Dade City her home since the days of Richard Nixon, inspiring thousands of students at Pasco Junior High School and later Pasco High School for more than three decades. Along the way, Ledbetter found herself in the most unexpected jobs, whether it be coaching the school's soccer team, or helping educators through her work with the teachers' union.

It was always impossible for Ledbetter to turn down a calling when she was needed, and that's what attracted her to Will Weatherford's state House seat — one that has her heading into a November contest against former Zephyrhills mayor Danny Burgess.

"There are a lot of things I see with our lawmakers that are very frustrating," she said. "I'm particularly concerned with the lack of respect in Tallahassee."

The polarizing political atmosphere that has practically crippled Washington has crept to the state level, making it impossible for someone to work with anyone they disagree with. That means Democrats — and a good chunk of the state's population they represent — are being marginalized, with no one willing to break through and find ways to come together.

"One of the things that you learn as a teacher is to look at both sides of the issue," Ledbetter said. "There are Republicans who have good ideas, just as there are Democrats who have good ideas, and they should be acknowledged."

Ledbetter has always considered herself politically minded, and has made a number of trips to Tallahassee over the years lobby-



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

**Beverly Ledbetter says she's always been motivated to find a voice for those who get pushed aside, and learned as a teacher the importance of understanding all sides of an issue. It's her drive, she says, that will get her to Tallahassee.**

ing for education. Her husband, Michael Ledbetter, was a Pasco County commissioner in the late 1970s, and the two actually met during a Young Democrats meeting at the University of South Florida several years before that.

Ledbetter actually considered running

## BEVERLY LEDBETTER

Democrat for House District 38

### OCCUPATION

Lead faculty, Saint Leo University  
Retired teacher, Pasco County Schools

### FAMILY

Michael Ledbetter, husband  
Nathan Ledbetter, son  
Courtney Williams, daughter

### RESIDENCE

Dade City, since 1973

### FUNDRAISING, THROUGH JULY 4

\$15,162

for school board, but realized quickly that she can make a greater impact overall by helping to set policy at the state level.

Many observers believe the advantage in the House race belongs to Burgess, a Dade City lawyer who was Zephyrhills' youngest mayor. It's a heavily Republican district already, and Burgess has strong name recognition — especially in eastern Pasco County.

Ledbetter, however, is hardly a stranger to voters. As a teacher and a coach, she has directly touched the lives of many in the area, which could help her draw votes from beyond Democrats. In fact, many of the people who signed her petitions to get on the ballot were Republicans, she said.

Raising money is going to be tough, however.

"My friends are teachers, many of them who haven't had raises in a long time," Ledbetter said. "When I get that check from a fellow teacher, and it's usually around \$25, it gives me a warm feeling. But I also know

it's an investment that makes me feel determined to go out and work my butt off, and prove that their trust in me is well-placed."

Education is one of Ledbetter's top priorities, but it's not the only one she wants to tackle in Tallahassee. She also is pushing to expand Medicare coverage in the state to help get more residents health care through the federal Affordable Care Act. Gov. Rick Scott, a Republican who opposes the federal health care program unofficially known as Obamacare, has refused to expand Medicare, citing a concern that the cost to do that will fall back on Florida taxpayers.

"How can you look a parent in the eye and tell them their family can't have medical attention?" Ledbetter said. "I taught kids who had teeth rotting out, and kids who needed glasses. Luckily, in Dade City, we have some very generous doctors and dentists who were willing to step up and help, but not everywhere is like Dade City."

Ledbetter also wants to spur economic growth not by giving companies large amounts of money and tax breaks to locate here, but to help train the workforce so they can attract higher-wage jobs to the state.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy," she said. "When you can give them a leg up, and give them the support they need, they will create the jobs."

Ledbetter is a lifelong Democrat, but says she would prefer to label herself a "practical realist." That means acknowledging her November election is a tough one to win, but also knows that when it comes to voters, they can sometimes do the unexpected.

"It's going to be difficult, I know that," she said. "But I believe in standing up for people who can't necessarily do it for themselves, whether it's the elderly, children, or simply people who need health insurance. That's why I'm a Democrat."

## POLITICAL AGENDA

SEND POLITICAL NEWS TO MHINMAN@LAKERLUTZNEWS.COM

### MOORE MEET AND GREET

Mike Moore, who is seeking the Republican nomination for Pasco County Commission District 2, will have a meet and greet Aug. 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Alice Hall, near Zephyr Park on State Road 54 in Zephyrhills.

There will be entertainment and light refreshments.

### BILIRAKIS CHAMPIONS RIDGE ROAD, SCOLDS CORPS

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis is calling for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reform its permitting process, saying it's hurting work

on projects like the Ridge Road expansion in Pasco County.

"The Ridge Road expansion is a matter of public safety for the people of Pasco County and the Tampa Bay region," the Palm Harbor Republican said, in a release. "My constituents have been waiting too long for action by the Army Corps of Engineers. They have only been met with stonewalling by the Corps, which continues to require a seemingly endless array of redundant and costly environmental reviews and evaluations."

Bilirakis looked to reform the organization by trying to defund the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, which oversees the Corps.

The project has been delayed for years because of concerns of the environmental

impact it would have.

The road project is designed to expand Ridge Road to connect Moon Lake Road with the Suncoast Parkway.

### TIME TO TALK LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION

The elevated toll road along the State Road 54/56 corridor might be gone as a private project, but it could still be alive and well as something taxpayers would eventually have to fund.

That and other projects are up for discussion when the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization makes a few stops next month around the county to talk about its long-range transportation plan for the next 25 years.

Meetings will take place the first two weeks in August in Land O' Lakes, Dade City and New Port Richey. All of them begin at 5 p.m.

Upcoming meetings include Aug. 6 at Lacochee Elementary School's media center at 38815 Cummer Road in Dade City.

After a meeting at the New Port Richey Public Library Aug. 7, the MPO will return to the eastern side of the county with a meeting Aug. 12 at the Historic Pasco County Courthouse, 37918 Meridian Ave., in Dade City.

### POLL WORKERS NEEDED FOR AUGUST, NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Energetic? Service-oriented? Then the Pasco County supervisor of elections may be looking for you.

Poll workers are needed for both the primary election Aug. 26 and the general election Nov. 4. Positions are paid, but potential candidates will need to be able to stand, bend, stoop, lift approximately 30

pounds, and have normal vision and manual and physical dexterity.

Applicants also need to write and read English, have an email address, and be able to work the entire day from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All positions receive mandatory paid training the month preceding both the primary and general elections.

### FREE RIDES TO THE POLLS

Pasco County Public Transportation will do its part to help get out the vote by offering free rides to the polls on election days for the upcoming cycle.

The deal was worked out between PCPT and county elections supervisor Brian Corley, and was approved by the Pasco County Commission last week.

On both primary day Aug. 26 and the general election day Nov. 4, voters who present their voter information card will ride free to their local polling location. The goal is to encourage and promote participation in the election process, while also introducing public transportation as a viable option for travel throughout the county, said PCPT director Michael Carroll.

In return, Corley's office will use available media advertising and respective websites to inform potential riders and voters how to access and navigate the transit system.

### MOBILE HOURS FOR ROSS

U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, will host mobile office hours Aug. 12 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Lutz Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road in Lutz.

Other dates in Lutz include Sept. 9, Oct. 14 and Dec. 9.

For more information, call (863) 644-8215, or (813) 752-4790.

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**CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL**

# We never doubted that bigger is better

By Diane Kortus  
Publisher



Unless you're reading this column online, by now you should have realized that something big is different about this week's paper.

Really big.

We are 6 inches longer, or 25 percent bigger, than we were last week. This makes us the same size as most daily newspapers.

We've been working on this transition since May, so today is a big day for my staff and me. We are thrilled with how our new paper looks and feels, and hope you are too.

Converting to a larger size has touched just about everything we do, from the size of our ads to the size of the plastic bags we use to deliver your paper. It's been more work, and has affected more aspects of our business, than we ever imagined.

But we've never doubted our decision to go bigger. We truly believe this is the best way to meet the changing needs of our readers and advertisers.

There are many reasons behind the change that we've talked about in promotional ads and in our news columns for the past month. But the biggest one is a larger paper gives us more space to print local stories for you and your family.

Becoming the same size as a daily also communicates that we're no longer the "little community paper" that some people may

perceive, but rather a "real newspaper" to be taken seriously.

We've stepped up our game to fill the void left by the two daily newspapers in our market — The Tampa Bay Times and The Tampa Tribune — which have steadily cut back their local news coverage and frequency of their regional sections in Pasco and north Hillsborough counties. These big dailies once had neighborhood news sections they published seven days a week. As they scaled back their news staffs, their regional editions dwindled from seven days a week, to five, to three and now just once or twice a week.

We have picked up their slack by expanding The Laker/Lutz News, both in size and content. We still give you the human interest stories you've always loved, but we've increased our coverage of growth

and development, new and expanding businesses, public and private education, and city and county government.

There's no doubt that size does matter and bigger is better — at least when it comes to newspapers in the communities we serve in Lutz, Odessa, Land O' Lakes, Wesley Chapel, Zephyrhills and Dade City.

Going bigger has energized my employees and the business community that supports us like nothing before. And we're confident our new size also will inspire our readers and make you more loyal than ever to The Laker/Lutz News.

Please let us know what you think of our new size. We're betting the only complaint we'll hear is the larger size is harder to hold when drinking a cup of coffee and reading your paper Wednesday morning.



## Zephyrhills looking for contest entries

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominees for its annual business and community awards, which will be honored during the chamber's annual meeting and banquet Sept. 18 at Scotland Yards Golf Club.

Nominees do not have to be a mem-

ber of the chamber, but should meet the criteria established in each category. Winners from last year are not eligible, and deadline to enter nominees is Aug. 13.

For information, visit online at [ZephyrhillsChamber.org](http://ZephyrhillsChamber.org).

### RN JOB FAIR

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will host an experienced RN job fair Aug. 7 from noon to 5 p.m., in the hospital's main lobby.

Hiring managers will be on hand to try and recruit registered nurses for the hospital.

Those who apply for an open RN position before the fair can receive a welcome gift, as well as learn about open opportunities and sign-on bonuses.

### HOBBY LOBBY HOME SOLD

Merchant's Square, a Zephyrhills strip mall where Hobby Lobby opened earlier this year, is now under new ownership.

RCG-Zephyrhills SPE LLC finalized its sale of the 75,000-square-foot shopping center on Gall Boulevard on July 23 for \$4.1 million. RCG-Zephyrhills is affiliated with RCG Ventures in Atlanta, according to state corporate records. It is a real estate investment group that raised more than \$100 million last August to invest in "value-add shopping centers" across the country.

The price tag on Merchant's Square is less than the \$5.6 million Merchants Station LLC paid for the property in 1998 when it was anchored by Kash n' Karry. That grocery store later rebranded to Sweetbay, which closed last year after the chain was sold to Bi-Lo Holdings.

Hobby Lobby became the new anchor for the strip mall in January when it opened a 46,000-square-foot store there.

This is the second major property deal in Zephyrhills this year, following All Craft Marine Holdings' \$1.5 million purchase of its manufacturing space on County Road 54 in February.

### TIME TO SAVE ENERGY ON MAIN STREET

Main Street Zephyrhills Inc., has become one of the first organizations to participate in a pilot program organized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Called "America Saves," the new program is designed to create and support the economic success of Main Street communities

and other small-scale commercial districts by improving building performance and energy efficiency.

Supported by a \$2 million grant award from the U.S. Department of Energy, America Saves will drive cost savings and new investment in existing buildings in Main Street communities across the country, officials said.

"Helping business and property owners save money on energy will allow them to invest more in their business and ultimately add jobs to our economy," said Gina Granger, executive director of Main Street Zephyrhills, in a release.

### DADE CITY CHAMBER WANTS AWARD WINNERS

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards banquet Oct. 16. With that, it's seeking nominations for various awards.

Typically, awards are open to members who have been a part of the chamber in good standing for at least a year. Some of the

categories include Business Leader of the Year, Large Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Civic Association of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

To learn more about how to nominate, contact Jo Uber at the chamber office at (352) 567-3769, or email her at [juber@dadedecitychamber.org](mailto:juber@dadedecitychamber.org).

### CHAMBERS CONSIDER MERGER

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce has opened up talks with the New Tampa Chamber of Commerce with the idea that the two could explore "integrating membership" of the two chambers. The goal, Wesley Chapel chamber executive director Hope Allen said, would be to "build a strong organization focused on membership development, community development and economic development in the New Tampa/Wesley Chapel area."

The Wesley Chapel chamber's board of directors have appointed a task force to explore the logistics and benefits of a merger, and are now conducting a due diligence review, Allen said.

"While discussions are still in their infancy, we are always interested in reviewing partnerships that enhance our business community," Allen said, in a statement. "After the task force completes its review, the next step is to engage a broader pool of people in the discussion, including current chamber members and community leaders."

The New Tampa chamber, founded in 2009, has a little more than 100 members. The Wesley Chapel chamber was founded in 1998, and maintains about 460 members.



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# What's Happening

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## LIBRARY BOOK BAZAAR

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will have a book bazaar Aug. 8-9 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 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.

## BACK TO SCHOOL BASH AT COBB

Cobb Theatres Grove 16 and Cinebistro, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, will host its annual Back to School Bash Aug. 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with special guest WWE superstar Titus O'Neil. The free event will feature school supplies, games, face painting, haircuts, tutoring information, dental hygiene tips, and more. For information, call (813) 948-5445.

## SHARK WEEK AT AQUARIUM

The Florida Aquarium is offering a kids' admission discount during Shark Week Aug. 9-16. Kids ages 11 and younger wearing a make-it-yourself shark week mask or glasses will receive a \$5 discount on a regular paid ticket. There will be shark-themed activities throughout the week, including mermaid appearances, scavenger hunts, games, and guest speakers. For a mask or glasses template and complete schedule of events, visit [FLAquarium.org](http://FLAquarium.org).

## ZOO SALUTES HEROES

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is celebrating Family Fun Month throughout August by offering a free weekday admission to active duty, retirees and veterans of the U.S. military and first responders. To take advantage of the offer, the military member or first responder needs to register online at [LowryParkZoo.org/Hero](http://LowryParkZoo.org/Hero), print a voucher, and present it with valid identification at the zoo ticket window. The voucher is valid for the military member or first responder, plus one free guest.

## HOMEBUYER CLASS

The Community Development Division of Pasco County is offering a homebuyer class

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT PET PANTRY IN NEED OF DONATIONS

Dogs Day Pet Pantry, 14012 Seventh St., Suite A, in Dade City, is looking for donations of pet food and pet 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.

And mark your calendar: Dogs Day is hosting a "Walk n Wag" event Oct. 4 at The Hardy Trail, Church Avenue and Eighth Street, in Dade City. Guests can bring their dog for a fun 2-mile walk or 5-kilometer run. Registration is at 8 a.m., and the race begins at 9 a.m.

Entry fee is \$12 per person, which includes a T-shirt and gift bag.

Vendors are invited for a \$20 fee to display their wares from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Walk n Wag" will benefit the pet pantry.

For information, visit [DogsDayInDadeCity.com](http://DogsDayInDadeCity.com), [DogManiaAndCats.com](http://DogManiaAndCats.com), or call Lucy Avila at (352) 521-5858.



Aug. 18-19 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Historic Pasco County Courthouse, 37918 Meridian Ave., in Dade City. To register, call (727) 442-7075.

## MAKE GREETING CARDS AT CARES

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

- Greeting Cards and More: Aug. 21 at 9:30 a.m. All supplies except adhesive and paper snips are provided for \$10. To reserve a spot, call (352) 206-0277.

- Watercolor Classes with Sandi Lallemand: Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Bring own supplies. Cost is \$10. To register, call (352) 523-1213.

## CACTUS, SUCCULENT SALE

The University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive in Tampa, is

hosting the 20th annual Central Florida Cactus & Succulent Society Labor Day Show & Sale Aug. 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission and parking are free. For information, call (813) 974-2329, or visit [Gardens.usf.edu](http://Gardens.usf.edu).

## DONATE FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Denny's, 29933 State Road 52 in San Antonio, is accepting household items, clothing, tools, yard items, garage items and electronics from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., through Sept. 3, in support of breast cancer awareness. All proceeds will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. For information, call Frank Martin at (352) 588-7931.

## WINE WALK WEDNESDAY

The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Drive in Wesley Chapel, will host Wine Walk Wednesday Sept. 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For a \$15 donation to benefit the Jason Ackerman Foundation, guests will receive a souvenir wine tumbler and passport for wine and food tastings. There will be live music and the latest fashion trends. Guests must be 21 or older, and show valid identification. For information, visit [TheShopsAtWiregrass.com](http://TheShopsAtWiregrass.com).

## 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.

## 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](http://Habitat.org/restores).

## 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](mailto:sybrian.zephyrcap@gmail.com).

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. For information on events, visit Zephyrhills Eagles No. 3752 on Facebook.

## 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.

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# Feds offering loans, grants for rural expansion

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Zero-interest loans and grants are now being offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in an effort to promote long-term economic growth and community vitality in rural areas.

The funding programs, administered by the USDA Rural Development department, includes \$30.6 million in no-interest loans, and \$9.2 million in grants to establish revolving loan funds that finance business and economic development activities in

rural areas.

Applications for these funds will be accepted through the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, federal officials said. That would include rural utilities eligible for USDA financing under the Rural Electrification Act who wish to help administer the funds locally.

The funding is designed to help with business startup and expansion, business technical assistance and job training, and community facilities projects that support economic development.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis through state offices of the USDA and are evaluated monthly.

The Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program is looking to improve conditions in designated Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones, and for members of Native American tribes in rural areas, for grants up to \$100,000.

Funding can be used to support business incubators, feasibility studies and business plans, long-term strategic business planning, leadership and

entrepreneurial training, and other related efforts.

USDA also has two other grants available from funds put together for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program, including a \$500,000 grant for rural transportation projects, and a \$250,000 grant for federally recognized Native American tribes. Those funds can be used to provide technical assistance and training to help rural communities improve passenger transportation services or facilities.

For details, visit [USDA.gov](http://USDA.gov).

## HEALTH

&

## WELLNESS



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

### SHINE PROGRAM NEEDS HELP

The volunteer program Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders is asking for volunteers to offer free counseling and assistance to seniors and those with disabilities on topics related to Medicare, Medicaid, prescription drug assistance, supplemental insurance and more.

Volunteers are needed in Pasco and Pinellas counties.

A three-day training is provided. Transportation costs are reimbursed, and meals are provided.

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

A volunteer application can be found online at [FloridaSHINE.org](http://FloridaSHINE.org).

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Gulfside Hospice's bereavement department is offering a 10-week newly bereaved support group beginning Aug. 6 at 4 p.m., at Gulfside's East Clinical Office and Bereavement Center, 37826 Sky Ridge Circle in Dade City.

For information, call Cecilio De Leon at (727) 992-8034.

### NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT HPH HOSPICE

HPH Hospice has new volunteer opportunities for those who have a few hours to spare every week.

HPH is accepting applications for a two-day volunteer orientation that will take place Aug. 12-14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 37445 Clinton Ave., in Dade City.

Thrift store volunteers need only attend the morning of the first day.

Lunch will be provided, but reregistration is required.

For store volunteers, call Caroline Wertel at (813) 355-4830. For hospice opportunities, call Liz Helms at (352) 518-1400.

### GULFSIDE HOSPICE ORIENTATION

Gulfside Hospice is offering a two-day orientation for all new volunteers Aug. 14-15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Gulfside's Center for Hospice Care, 5760 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills.

Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. Space is limited, and reservations are required.

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

### 'I QUIT' AT FHZH

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., is offering the "I Quit" tobacco cessation program Aug. 21 at 5 p.m.

The workshop will include education on nicotine addiction and withdrawal, strategies for handling cravings, a free four-week supply of nicotine replacement therapy, and a referral to the Florida Quitline for ongoing support.

To register, call Jihane Ambrose at (813) 929-1000, or visit [AHECtobacco.org](http://AHECtobacco.org).

### GET THE MOST OUT OF INSURANCE

Many 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 to get the most out of insurance.

Those in need of assistance can call (877) 362-5321, or visit [BayfrontDadeCity.com](http://BayfrontDadeCity.com).

### 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](http://Ombudsman.MyFlorida.com).

### CARES PROGRAMS

CARES Enrichment Center, 13906 Fifth St., in Dade City, offers 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 veterans are accepted.

For costs and available funding, call (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 (352) 518-9300.



COURTESY OF MARCUS PRICE

## And here he is

Bodhi Price, a student at Woodland Elementary School in Zephyrhills, recently performed in Sarasota's Circus Arts Conservatory's Summer Showcase on his birthday, July 11. Bodhi would like to become a stuntman, actor and performer, and circus training is part of his plan to achieve his goal.

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz

## Chalk Talk

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

### STILL TIME TO ENROLL AT PHSC

Students interested in enrolling for fall term classes at Pasco-Hernando State College should register immediately. Classes begin Aug. 25.

PHSC will introduce three new health programs this fall: pharmacy technician, surgical technology, and health information technology.

There also will be two bachelor degree programs in supervision and management, and in nursing.

Students can apply online at [PHSC.edu/wise](http://PHSC.edu/wise). The application fee is \$25.

An additional \$20 is assessed during the late registration period. Late registration is Aug. 25-29.

For information, visit [PHSC.edu](http://PHSC.edu).

### BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Cobb Theatre Grove 16 & Cinebistro's 2014 Back to School Bash will be Aug 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

The event will include face painting, games, haircuts, health screenings, school

supplies and more.

The theme for this year's bash is the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," which will be the theater's major summer release.

### PASCO COUNTY SCHOOLS REOPEN AUG. 18

Students in Pasco County will return to school for the 2014-15 school year Aug. 18.

Notable dates on the calendar are:

- Possible hurricane makeup days are Nov. 24-25, and Feb. 16
- Veterans Day will be a school day
- Thanksgiving holiday is Nov. 24-28
- Winter break is Dec. 22 through Jan. 2
- Spring break is March 16-20
- Last day of school is June 3

For complete calendar information, visit [Pasco.k12.fl.us](http://Pasco.k12.fl.us).

### 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.

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## PLAYOFFS, from page 1

To build on their success and make the playoffs, Zephyrhills will need to improve over last year, and Roberts likes what he's seen so far. The team has been working out hard, getting stronger and faster, and has impressed in seven-on-seven drills.

In particular, Roberts thinks the Bulldogs will be known as a defensive force.

"They swarm to the football," he said. "They're very speedy, but these guys are strong, too. They're very strong guys who will hit you."

But Roberts expects a more dynamic offense on the field as well. With playmakers at the receiver position like Jackie Tucker and Tyler Kirby, Roberts wants to see the offense stretch the opposing defense and not allow them to focus on the running game.

Zephyrhills also will benefit by having more players focus on just offense or defense instead of having to play both ways,

## ZEPHYRHILLS BULLDOGS

### LAST YEAR: 7-3

4-3 in district play  
Third place in Class 5A-District 6

### KEY RETURNING PLAYERS

**Ty Tanner**, quarterback  
**Jalen Pickett**, running back/wide receiver/safety

### PLAYER TO WATCH

**Jackie Tucker**, wide receiver  
*"I guarantee you Jackie Tucker is going to be known after this year. He's a tall kid who's already gathering a ton of attention."* — Coach Reggie Roberts

Roberts said. In the past, with perhaps just 26 or 27 players on the team, there simply wasn't enough talent to let athletes concen-

trate on one side of the ball. This year the coach wants to suit up 40 players, allowing them to stay fresher during the games and focus on where they can best help the team.

He thinks that change alone will make a difference for the Bulldogs this season.

"That was our problem the last three or four years, ever since I took over this program," he said. "That always hurts when kids have to go both ways."

It also hurts when a team loses talented seniors, and Roberts admits the Bulldogs took a hit on the offensive line. They lost four seniors at that position, and other players will need to step up and fill those roles.

Roberts feels optimistic about the team's ability to take the next step, however, in part because he's been able to change the attitude in the locker room. With a tenure that's eclipsed a high school athletic career, all the players on the team know Roberts, his philosophy, and his expectations.

They have years of winning under their

belts (Zephyrhills has gone 20-10 in its last three seasons) and Roberts has installed an attitude that winning is not only attainable, it's expected, when they give their best effort.

"Every year is getting easier, I'll be honest with you," he said. "It was a little easier last year. It's hard to change a locker room and the kids from my first year are gone. Right now these kids have the attitude that we can win every time we get on the football field."

One goal for the Bulldogs is to get off to a strong start (three of their first four games are at home) so they aren't scrambling for wins later in the year. If it comes down to beating a rival, the team will give it their all, Roberts said.

But he expects the team's fortunes to be set before they face Pasco at the end of October in their last district game of the year.

"I have a feeling that the playoffs are going to be set long before that game," he said.

## COIN, from page 1

history and why were certain dates rare and other ones not. What was going on? Was there a war? Was there a Depression?"

There are even coins from countries that no longer exist.

"You learn a lot about geography and history from foreign coins," the older Schmetisch added.

Collecting coins and currency also is a great way to learn about politics and the economy, he said.

"There's no end to it. And, I love that about coins. It keeps you learning."

His son, Kyle, said coin collecting has been a fun hobby, and "extremely profitable."

"There are a lot of coins I got when I was a kid for \$5 and \$10 that are easily worth \$50 now," said Kyle, a New Tampa resident. In less than 20 years, he's made a return that's tenfold the investment.

Kyle said his dad loves learning as much

as he can about coins.

As for him?

"I love trading things back and forth. I like trading up," Kyle said. "I like getting this bag of coins for \$10 and trading that for a coin that's worth \$15 and selling that coin for \$20."

Attending the Tampa Bay Coin Club meetings is very informative, Kyle said.

"There's more knowledge in these meetings than you can possibly imagine," he said, noting some club members have been collecting coins for more than a half-century. The knowledge they have is phenomenal."

Anyone interested in coin collecting should feel free to attend a club meeting because members are welcoming and enjoy sharing their knowledge, Kyle said.

Many people who inherit a coin collection have no idea what it is worth, he said. So, it's a good idea to show it to members of the coin club to help assess its value.

"A coin club like this one, you can get 20 second opinions in 20 seconds," Kyle said.

"Lots of times they'll put you in touch with a collector."

Rudy Valentin is one of those people who has stored up decades of knowledge about coins and currency. The Land O' Lakes resident was 8 when he bought his first coin, and that was 61 years ago.

"A friend of mine found this Spanish coin, of Isabella II. I bought it from him for eight cents. I still have that coin," he said.

Initially, it was a mild interest, Valentin said, but he became more serious about it during the 1960s. He's collected coins from the United States, Spain, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Germany.

"I have a beautiful German coin collection," said Valentin, who has published articles in Numismatist, the magazine of the American Numismatist Association.

Valentin is humble about his knowledge. "You stay along long enough, you're going to be an expert."

The coin club aims to be a fun place for coin and currency lovers to gather, said Joseph Crespo, the club's president. Crespo, who lives in Wesley Chapel, said he began collecting coins when he was 8.

His interest began when his mother gave him some coins she had saved from his grandmother's store. That sparked his interest, so he

## If you go

**WHAT:** Tampa Bay Coin Club  
**WHERE:** Forest Hills Park Community Center, 724 W. 109th Ave., Tampa  
**WHEN:** Second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.  
**COST:** \$10 annual dues  
**INFO:** TampaBayCoinClub.org

went to the bookstore and bought a catalog.

The 40-year-old said he's most interested in U.S. coins, especially between 1850 and 1899. He favors coins that were minted in San Francisco and New Orleans.

For those who are interested in learning the values of coins, Crespo recommends they join coin clubs, read publications, attend coin shows and surf the Internet.

It's important to know what coins are worth before buying or trading, he said. If people realize you lack knowledge, they'll charge you too much or pay you too little, Crespo said. "Learning is power."

Coin collectors can invest substantial amounts of money, but they don't have to, Crespo said. It's possible to enjoy the hobby without spending a fortune.

"You don't have to be Donald Trump," he said.

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## VOTERS, from page 1

ballot, especially ones that might draw people from a certain party. MacManus starts and stops with the three proposed state constitutional amendments.

The first one, which MacManus said should appeal to both Democrats and Republicans, would commit 33 percent of net revenues from existing excise taxes to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund conservation program. The second would legalize marijuana in Florida for medicinal purposes.

The third is one that could be a warning bell for Democrats: It would allow a governor to make judicial appointments before a judge's term is up. That would allow an outgoing governor to decide seats in the judiciary that would affect the next governor.

"Every editorial board in the state is going to be against that," MacManus said.

One amendment that may not be as big of an advantage for Democrats is medicinal marijuana. The popularity of that amendment has started to wane in recent months, and opposition groups are raising millions of dollars to combat it, MacManus said.

That means the push to get out the vote on that measure will likely split between both parties, although it's still unclear how

many more college students might head to the polls because of it.

"Guess where they got all the signatures to get that on the ballot to begin with?" MacManus said. "It was every college campus in the state. You couldn't walk across out campus without being interrupted by someone passing a petition."

Outside of that, however, MacManus still feels turnout will be a big problem in November. A drop in Pasco County voters in the presidential election of 2012 may have cost Mitt Romney the White House, she added.

The Tampa Bay media market remains an important one to all parties, MacManus said. It's already split evenly between Republicans and Democrats with 37 percent each, with the remaining going to the ever-growing number of independent voters.

Florida will be on the national stage for the mid-term elections, drawing in big names like the Clintons and Obamas to help generate turnout for Democrats. But the GOP has some weapons as well, MacManus said.

"If the Republicans can split the women vote and the independent vote, they can win the statewide races," she said. "Those are key."

## MOSI, from page 1

like northern Hillsborough and southern Pasco counties, said Molly Demeulenaere, MOSI's vice president of growth.

"A lot of hospitals don't open their operating rooms, and we'll be working with families in Pasco County to help make that possible," she said. "Younger kids especially are going to have access to this information before they start to figure out what they want to do for a living, and (it) allows them to spark that interest at a much earlier age."

Where the surgeries will take place depends on Florida Hospital itself, Demeulenaere said. They could be hosted from Tampa, Wesley Chapel, even Zephyrhills.

The Imax dome image is 10 times larger than a conventional 35mm frame, and three times larger than a standard 70mm frame, museum officials said. The dome theater offers a six-channel, high-fidelity motion picture sound system manufactured by Sonics Associates Inc., as well as a projector, which when it was installed, was one of the most advanced, using technology to keep the picture steady and prevent film hiccups.

MOSI always has prided itself as a hands-on museum, bringing science directly to people who visit.

"When people think of a museum, they normally think of these big open spaces where you don't touch anything," Demeulenaere said. "But museums are a true lab of creativity and education, and play a vital role in the community as a whole." MOSI did not say when work would begin on the theater, and it may have to wait its turn in line as other science centers are undergoing similar transitions and there are few companies qualified to do the work. Most of the money donated by Florida Hospital will go into the "transformation," as MOSI is calling it, although remaining funds can be used to help supplement other programs at the museum.

"Florida Hospital is demonstrating true community leadership, and I think we should really thank our lucky stars for Florida Hospital and all the work that they do in our communities throughout Florida," MOSI board chair Robert Thomas said. "I just can't begin to tell you how important this is, and how thrilled we are to have them as a partner in the future of this organization."



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# A happy Fourth of July celebration at Grand Horizons

By Helene Rubenstein  
Grand Horizons

July started off with a craft class with several people creating a variety of crafts. This class usually gets together once a week with hostess Cheryl Leone. They have created many things in the past and still more to come in the future.

Some of the crafts that they have worked on, or will work on, consist of magnet boards, mesh wreaths, poster boards, 3-D crafts, flowerpots, clay pot people, and so much more.

Just recently, Annmarie Shackewyc worked on creating a papier-mache box, and she placed it on a wood candlestick. It was lovely.

From one week to another, you never know what to expect, as Cheryl has lots of ideas and welcomes any suggestions. I would like to add that Cheryl has done a marvelous job and everyone thanks her for it.

July 4 arrived and 73 people were at the community center to celebrate Independence Day. The social club provided the cake and chicken, while all the cooks at Grand Horizons provided the rest. There sure was a nice variety.

Since I wasn't there to celebrate with all my friends and neighbors, I did get some information from Annmarie. She told me that after the potluck, Cheryl hooked up her Nintendo Wii and people played some bowling. From what I understand, this is when you hook up the controls to the television, and you can play all types of games. I hope to have this when we return to Florida, as it sounds really interesting and lots of fun.

The hosts of the Fourth of July potluck were Dave and Barb Livingston, along with



COURTESY OF CHERYL LEONE

Judy Ellsworth displays a mesh wreath she created during one of the weekly craft classes.



COURTESY OF ANNMARIE SHACKEWYC

Ed and Joan Fisher celebrate Independence Day at a potluck July 4.



COURTESY OF CHERYL LEONE

Chick and Annmarie Shackewyc, and Ed and Joan Fisher as helpers. Without these volunteers, they wouldn't have had as great a time as they did.

On July 11, 30 residents from Grand

Horizons attended the lunch connoisseurs at Ling's Chinese Buffet. We have gone there before, and every so often they get the urge for more Chinese food, and this is where they usually go. They not only have every type of food imaginable, but the place is clean and has room for an enormous crowd like us.

Words can't express how good this restaurant is. I heard from Judy Ellsworth that Fred Sage led the prayer before the meal. I also heard that the people sat in a back dining room so they were able to mingle and try the many varieties of food. It sure sounds that all who attended had a very good time.

A good portion of the rest of the month was filled with more activities like shuffleboard, mahjong, card games, dominoes and so much more.

On July 20, there was a pool party potluck. Considering the amount of people that have gone elsewhere for the summer months, there still was a good turnout. I spoke to Cheryl and she mentioned that 30 people showed up for this potluck.

Cheryl and Ken Leone were the hosts for this different and exciting event. They had pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans and a variety of salads.

Cheryl went on to say that after the potluck, they all gathered for another game on the Wii in the community center.

It is nice to host a gathering outside every so often, and it sounds to me like everyone had a good time.

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As your loving, trustful child I ask this favor...Obtain for me as well, a pure heart, that my entire life may give glory to God.

Amen.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. M.J.B. & M.D.B.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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