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# Pasco student earns top score in nation

By Kevin Weiss  
 kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Madison Hoyle spent hours upon hours reviewing practice problems and quizzes, so she'd be fully prepared for the Cambridge International AS Psychology exam.

It turns out that was time well-spent for the Pasco High senior.

Hoyle was recently recognized by Cambridge Assessment International Education for achieving the highest score in the nation on the psychology exam, outperforming all other American students.

Her actual score was not released because of Cambridge's data privacy policy.

Hoyle and other Pasco High students in the Cambridge program took the two-part, written psychology exam last May.

The first paper required students to re-



COURTESY OF MADISON HOYLE

Pasco High School senior Madison Hoyle was recently recognized for scoring highest in the nation on the Psychology AS exam.

call details of well-known psychological studies, such as the Milgram and Stanford Prison experiments.

The second paper required students to evaluate the experiments by explaining given strengths and weaknesses, and providing a better, alternative study themselves.

Hoyle, in a recent interview with The Laker/Lutz News, said she was "blown away" when she heard about the high mark.

Nevertheless, Hoyle admitted the exam as a whole wasn't too difficult, noting the first written exercise was easier than the second "just because it was a lot of being able to memorize."

Said Hoyle, "I pretty much spent like three days memorizing all that stuff, so I knew pretty much that I was pretty good on

See SCORE, page 11A



CHRISTINE HOLTZMAN

# Waving flags — with precision and enthusiasm

Day 1 of tryouts for the Zephyrhills High School Color Guard was marked by hopefuls giving it their best shot to learn techniques, in pursuit of becoming members of the 2018-2019 team. Instructor Melody Staving watches as this year's ensemble and those trying out perform a flag routine at Zephyrhills High School.



17-year-old Angel Bicknell gets ready to demonstrate a routine to the girls who hope to join the 2018-2019 team. Bicknell has been on the team for three years.



Eighteen-year-old Caly Fonseca, right, shows one of the new team hopefuls, 13-year-old Savannah Baptist, how to properly hold the flag.

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RICHARD RILEY

# Taking time out for prayer

The Dade City community set aside time to participate in the National Day of Prayer on May 3. At right, Dade City Mayor Camille Hernandez read a proclamation from the Dade City Commission regarding the day set aside to recognize the value of prayer. Above, members of VFW Post 4283 of Dade City provided an honor guard during the event near the historic courthouse.



# Budget talks look at next two years

By Kathy Steele  
 ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

As the Pasco County Commission contemplates the county's budget for fiscal year 2019, it's also thinking about the budget for 2020.

Commissioners are looking ahead, because they know that a referendum on the November ballot could have a sizable impact on the county's budget.

Voters will decide on Nov. 8 whether to expand homestead exemptions by \$25,000. If the referendum passes, Pasco County stands to lose an estimated \$10 million to \$12 million in property tax revenues.

So, instead of looking at just this year's budget, commissioners are taking a close look on any expenses that could affect future budgets.

Pasco County Administrator Dan Biles has asked department heads to submit flat budgets, with little to no increase.

There are 14 potential budget initiatives that will compete for property tax revenues in the 2019 budget.

Expanded library hours is one of the initiatives competing for the funds. Libraries slated to get more hours in 2019 are Hugh Embry Branch Library in Dade City and Hudson Regional Library in Hudson.

Other budget initiatives include the 911 Call Center and salary increases for county employees.

Salary raises would be 2 percent for cost of living, and 2 percent for merit.

Biles said employees "are our most important resources."

See BUDGET, page 11A

**B**

INSIDE, PAGE 1B



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# Pilot code enforcement program yields results

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

A more proactive approach to reducing blight in Pasco County appears to be working, and the Pasco County Commission wants the efforts to continue.

Commissioners approved a pilot program in April 2017, described as “high return enforcement.”

The focus was to become more aggressive in pursuing the worst of the county’s code violators through the use of fines and court actions.

A partnership of county departments, including the county attorney’s office, Pasco County Sheriff’s Office, code enforcement and building inspections have worked together, using existing staff members and resources.

The program has received no dedicated funding.

Assistant County Attorney Kristi Sims presented a progress report during a recent workshop in New Port Richey.

“The idea was to use what we had and to reorganize to take on more than what would normally have been taken on,” said Sims.

The program focused on repeat offenses, danger to health and public safety, and violations with serious impacts to the community.

One court case, settled in 2017, led to the removal of about 40 mobile homes and as many as 15 recreational vehicles at the Lazy Breeze Mobile Home & RV Park, off U.S. 301, outside Dade City.

“We’ve done a lot with a little,” Sims said. “It’s up to the board to decide if they want us to continue doing it.”

The program won praise from county commissioners.

“I think the public really notices,” said Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey.

In her district, Starkey said no one has a problem with removing blight because “it’s keeping their property values down. It’s keeping commerce and business out.”

Pasco County Commission Chairman Mike Wells Jr., also complimented the program’s results.

## Highlights from the past year include:

- 63 blighted structures were demolished by property owners
- 55 blighted structures were demolished by Pasco County
- 17 demolitions are pending
- 10 nonconforming signs have been removed or converted to monument signs
- 46 signs have been repaired
- More than 8,500 illegally stored tires were removed from five sites, as a result of lawsuits
- Lawsuits are pending against five owners of vacant, dilapidated commercial buildings

He had one cautionary caveat.

“We shouldn’t be overregulating and hurting small businesses,” said Wells. But, he did favor demolitions, and other actions that address matters of life and public safety.

The county’s priority is “not to go out and bust people’s chops about a sign or bushes,” he added.

Sims said the program relies on a scoring system to prioritize the worst offenses, including factors such as safety risks.

“Our goal is to strategize enforcement based on the board’s goals,” she said.

“Commercial blight is an expressed priority of this board,” Sims said.

She also noted that the county is flexible in scheduling a timetable to complete repairs.

“Our goal isn’t to eradicate a business or use, if it can be fixed,” Sims said. “What we’re looking for is compliance, and progressing toward fixing it.”

One of the challenges is to balance an employee’s everyday workload with the additional duties required by the new enforcement efforts, Sims said.

A lot of time is taken up with clerical work, and the need for up-to-date communications on work done by multiple departments. Additional staff for clerical work and building inspections is needed, Sims said.

County commissioners seemed to be receptive to the idea of including funds in the 2019 budget to address some of these issues.



COURTESY OF PASCO COUNTY

A pilot program to take proactive actions to reduce blight in Pasco County resulted in demolition of about 50 mobile homes in the former Lazy Breeze Mobile Home & RV Park, outside Dade City. Also, more than 8,500 illegally stored tires were removed from several sites as a result of the program.

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## GADGET GAB

The Land O' Lakes Branch Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host "Gadget Gab" May 10 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., for anyone who wants to learn more about smartphones and tablets. No prior knowledge of mobile devices is required. The free class will provide smartphones for training purposes only, or bring your own. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

The Pasco Alliance of Community Associations will meet May 10 at 7 p.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The guest speaker will be Brian Corley, Pasco County supervisor of elections. For information, visit [MyPACA.org](http://MyPACA.org).

## BOOK BAZAAR

The Friends of the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a book bazaar May 11 and May 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a diverse selection of books, audio and video media, magazines, and related materials, all for a modest cost. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## RED HAT MEETING

The Radiant Redz (formerly Red Belles of Lutz) will meet May 11 at 12:30 p.m., at Chuy's Tex-Mex restaurant, 25750 Sierra Center Blvd., across from the Tampa Premium Outlets in Lutz. For information, email [mgpeters@earthlink.net](mailto:mgpeters@earthlink.net).

## NAUTICAL MASON JARS

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will offer a craft class May 11 at 10 a.m. Participants can learn to make a nautical mason jar. The class is limited to 20 participants. All supplies are included. Registration is required by calling (813) 780-0064.

## TEA & FASHION BENEFIT

There will be a Spring Tea and Fashion Show May 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Saint Anthony Padua Catholic Church Parish Center, 32825 Rhode Island Ave., in San Antonio, to benefit the Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center in Dade City. Guests should bring their own teacup. Hats and gloves are encouraged. Tickets are \$20 per person. Seating is limited. For information, call Angelica Herrera at (352) 521-1218. For tickets, call Herrera or visit [Foundations of Life at 37733 Meridian Ave., in Dade City](http://Foundations of Life at 37733 Meridian Ave., in Dade City).

## TAMPA BAY LIBCON

The third annual Tampa Bay LibCon will take place May 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood. There will be special guests, cosplay contests, a Super Smash Bros. tournament, panel discussions, trivia, tabletop gaming, kids' crafts, face painting, green-screen photography and robotics demonstrations. Guests must register the day of to participate in the contests. Admission is free. For information, visit [HCPLC.org/libcon](http://HCPLC.org/libcon).

## PLANT SOCIETY FIELD TRIP

The Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will take a field trip May 12 at 10 a.m., to the native garden at the Morean Art Center and Chihuly Collection in St. Petersburg. Lunch will be at the 4th Street Shrimp Store. Participants should bring water and snacks. For information, contact Gail Parsons at (813) 928-1412 or [gailpar1@verizon.net](mailto:gailpar1@verizon.net).

## PAINT A SIGN

The Land O' Lakes Branch Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a class May 12 from 10 a.m. to noon, for ages 9 and older. Participants can use acrylic paints to design a cardboard sign. Registration and a



## Straw hat day

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will host a Mother's Day and National Straw Hat Day celebration May 11 at 1 p.m. Guests should wear their most extravagant straw hat to celebrate spring. For information, call (813) 264-3804.

## Mother-Son game night

The Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, and Pasco County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources will host a "Mother-Son Game Night" May 11 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at 3032 Collier Parkway, for ages 4 to 15. There will be inflatables, laser tag, mini golf and more activities. The cost is \$10 per pair and \$5 for any additional child, if paid by May 9. After May 9, the price is \$15 per pair and \$5 for an additional child. For information, call (813) 929-1220.

## Farmers market

The San Antonio Farmers Market will celebrate moms on May 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at San Antonio City Park. All moms will receive a free chance drawing ticket for a Mother's Day basket. There also will be vendors, free activities for kids, and hot dogs and sodas available for purchase. Vendor fees support charities of the Rotary Club of San Antonio. For information, contact Winnie Burke at (352) 437-5161 or [rotarysanantoniofl@gmail.com](mailto:rotarysanantoniofl@gmail.com).

## Shower & fashion show

Amira's Retail Shop, 28152 Paseo Drive, Suite 140, at The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel, will host a Mommy Shower & Fashion Show Fundraiser May 12 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. There will be live entertainment, giveaways, light refreshments and discounts. Tickets are \$10. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to The Promise Love Foundation, which is currently raising money to help a family that recently adopted nine siblings. Tickets can be purchased at the shop or online at [Facebook.com/events/960339154146411](https://www.facebook.com/events/960339154146411). For information, call (813) 618-3931.

## Rose Society show

The Tampa Rose Society will host its annual Mother's Day weekend Rose Show May 12 at Westfield Citrus Park Mall, 8021 Citrus Park Town Center. Locally grown, fresh-cut roses and floral arrangements will be available for a small donation to the society. The public can vote on three "People's Choice" awards in the categories of fragrant roses, favorite hybrid tea and favorite old garden rose. Admission is free. For information, contact Karen Prevatt at (813) 634-1830 or [kprevatt@verizon.net](mailto:kprevatt@verizon.net).

## Pops in the Park

The Florida Orchestra will host a Mother's Day concert at the opening of the Julian B. Lane Waterfront Park, on the river next to the University of Tampa, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. There will be symphonic, Broadway and movie music, as well as food trucks, with beer and wine on site. Admission is free.

signed liability waiver are required. RSVP by calling (813) 929-1214.

## SHADE PLANT SEMINAR

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host a question-and-answer session with a master gardener May 12 at 9 a.m., and a free shade plant seminar at 10 a.m. Registration is required. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

## ROSEBUD CONTINUUM

The Rosebud Continuum will host an open house May 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 22843 Hale Road in Land O' Lakes. There will be free tours through the Florida Native Plant Trail, featuring the Florida Native Wildflower Meadow. Guests also may see native and migrating birds on the lakeside ecotour, and can visit the hydroponics and aquaponics area. At 10 a.m., learn how to "Bee a Keeper" in the apiary. Kids can visit a petting zoo. For more information, you can visit [sites.google.com/view/rosebudcontinuum](https://www.google.com/view/rosebudcontinuum).

## TAMPA BAY AIRFEST

MacDill Air Force Base will host the Tampa Bay AirFest May 12 and May 13. This year's headliner will be the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, joined by the F-22 Demo Team and the A-10 Demo Team (flying airshows for the first time in seven years). Admission is

free. For information, call (813) 828-7469, or visit [www.macdill.af.mil/AirFest-2018](http://www.macdill.af.mil/AirFest-2018).

## SWAMP STOMP

The Hillsborough River State Park will host the third annual Hillsborough River Swamp Stomp May 12. There will be more than 30 obstacles, some man-made and some natural, to challenge participants. There also will be an after-party. The cost starts at \$35, with a \$5 insurance fee. Parking is \$10. Proceeds benefit the Hillsborough River State Park Preservation Society. For information, call (813) 987-6771. To register, visit [tinyurl.com/ya22wazp](http://tinyurl.com/ya22wazp).

## SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

Participating Goodwill stores will be hosting "Cereal for Summer" food drives through May 13 to help feed needy families this summer. The stores, including the Goodwill Superstore at 2390 Willow Oak Drive in Wesley Chapel, will be collecting donation of cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars and other nonperishable breakfast foods.

## SUCCULENTS & CACTI

The Lutz Library, 101 Lutz-Lake Fern Road, will offer a free "Succulents and Cacti 101" seminar May 14 at 6:30 p.m. Topics will include landscapes, varieties of plants, cultivation and watering basics, potting soil, container gardening, and propagation.

For information, call (813) 744-5519, or visit [Hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu](http://Hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu).

## TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

The New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd., will host the MedExpress Teddy Bear Clinic May 15 at 11 a.m., for ages 3 to 5. Participants can learn about hand-washing, X-rays, medical tools, basic health care treatments, and what to expect when visiting a doctor. Kids can bring their favorite teddy bear or other stuffed friend. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit [HCPLC.org](http://HCPLC.org).

## TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host the Third Tuesday Book Club May 15 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., to discuss "The Japanese Lover" by Isabel Allende. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

## STEM STATION

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel, will offer a Tween STEM Station May 16 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., for children interested in science, technology, engineering or math. There will be a hands-on project. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

## CUB SCOUT MEETING

Cub Scout Pack 9 will host its monthly pack meeting and yearly roundup for new scouts May 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at McKittrick Elementary School, 5503 W. Lutz-Lake Fern Road, in the cafeteria. For information, email Jean-Maurice Yazbeck at [jeanyazbeck@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanyazbeck@yahoo.com).

## LOL BOOK CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Branch Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host the LOL Book Club May 16 at 1:30 p.m., to discuss "The Other Einstein" by Marie Benedict. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## T-SHIRT PAINTING

Life's Treasures Thrift Store, 4910 S. Allen Road in Zephyrhills, will offer a free T-shirt painting workshop May 19 at noon. Supplies to paint one shirt will be provided. Bring a plain T-shirt or purchase one from the store. Learn to paint a design or picture on the shirt using stencils. Sign-up is online at [ChaptersHealth.org/calendar-chapters-health](http://ChaptersHealth.org/calendar-chapters-health). For information, call (813) 355-4830.

## FARM ACTIVITIES

Sweetfields Farm, 17250 Benes Roush Road in Masaryktown, will again showcase its 'living labyrinth' — a sunflower maze — on weekends during the month of May from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturdays and Sundays (last admission on farm grounds is at 3 p.m.) The maze also will be open Memorial Day, May 28. Admission is \$9.50 plus tax for age 12 and older; \$5 plus tax for ages 3 to 11; and free for age 2 and younger. No pets are allowed. This is an outside activity, and subject to close if weather is severe. No rain checks or refunds. For information, call (352) 279-0977, or visit [SweetfieldsFarm.com](http://SweetfieldsFarm.com).

## BOOKS FOR TROOPS

Books for Troops, a nonprofit group that provides recreational and educational reading material to men and women in uniform free of charge. The group is asking for specific books to answer a request from Forward Operating Base Fenty. All books on the required military reading lists are for officers and enlisted on active duty or reserve duty. These donations will be accepted in hardback. The list of needed books can be found at [BooksForTroops.org/books-requested](http://BooksForTroops.org/books-requested). Donations can be dropped off at Simply Self Storage, 22831 Preakness Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.



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# Pasco Schools seeks to address students' mental health needs

By Kevin Weiss  
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County Schools is searching for additional ways to better serve its students' mental health needs.

As part of that effort, the school system brought together student services staff and community mental health providers on May 4 for the district's first-ever Mental Health Symposium. The seminar's aim was to raise awareness of students' mental health, build capacity of staff to respond, and increase collaboration between schools and mental health providers.

The daylong event featured a panel discussion on mental health, plus a series of breakout sessions, which covered such topics as eating disorders, anxiety, school-based violence prevention, trauma reduction and supporting recovery, non-suicidal self-injury, connecting mental health services, and so on.

About 280 student services staff — school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school nurses and dropout prevention teachers — participated in a morning or afternoon session, said Dave Chamberlin, Pasco Schools student services supervisor.

Pasco County Schools Superintendent Kurt Browning kicked off the event with a brief introduction, during which he underscored the necessity of the district to provide quality education and to meet students' mental health needs.

"We have got to be singularly focused on meeting those social and emotional needs of our kids," Browning said, "before they can even learn to do mathematics or science."

The symposium, which coincided with Mental Health Awareness Month, was at the district's offices. Planning for it began in September.

In the aftermath of the Valentine's Day school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland that left 17 dead, Browning noted there's been a renewed emphasis on mental health, and student and staff well-being.

Offering one possible solution of his own, Browning stated he's a "huge proponent" of trauma-informed care, an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma.

"We've got to get out and educate our teachers — training our teachers and school-based staff about trauma informed care," the superintendent said.

That suggestion, among many others, was presented during the hour-long panel discussion featuring community mental health providers, a student, and a parent



KEVIN WEISS

Pasco County Schools' first annual Mental Health Symposium featured a panel discussion and breakout sessions concerning eating disorders, anxiety, school-based violence prevention, trauma reduction and supporting recovery, non-suicidal self-injury, and connecting mental health services.

with experience interacting with the system of care.

Access, awareness and availability of mental health services seem to be ongoing barriers, panelists suggested.

## HELPING YOUNGER CHILDREN

There's a great need for more pediatric psychiatrists and pediatric bed space in the county, said Craig Leech, program manager for the Land O' Lakes-based Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center.

Leech explained the recovery facility is only able to utilize 20 of its 25 pediatric beds at a time, and there's oftentimes a waiting list of several days for children to get the mental services and treatment. "At any given day, we are full and do not have bed space. We are the only pediatric receiving facility in Pasco County," he said.

Another panelist, Doug Leonardo, senior vice president of Chrysalis Health, said more flexibility is needed in providing mental health services for children.

He advocates conducting school behavioral health screenings to flag potential mental health problems with students at a younger age.

"We need to do a better job at getting upstream of these issues. We have universal screenings in schools for hearing and speech...I don't know why we would not want to do the same things for mental health issues," he said.

Leonardo, who's helped provide mental health and substance abuse in Pasco County and other areas for more than 20 years, also supports creating more community partnerships among schools, law enforcement and mental health professionals.

He emphasized the importance of encouraging parents to be unafraid to seek help for their children who may suffer from mental illness.

"We can treat the kids but, if we don't have the parents engaged and bought in

and helped, it doesn't really work, so we really need that family system to be involved," the health professional said.

While health experts described some of community resources available to youth, many students are unaware of what's available to them, Anclote High senior Emily Leopardi said.

Leopardi overcame a broken home and dysfunctional family life, and is on track to graduate high school and attend Hillsborough Community College in the fall. Growing up, she was fortunate to receive counseling and assistance from Youth and Family Alternatives Inc., and Baycare Behavioral Health.

"I would like to see more support in the schools that focus on mental health, and resources for students like myself who's family life is challenging. ... Without the help of these providers, students like myself can fall through the cracks," she said.

Other panelists, including moderator

Monica Rousseau, said reducing the stigma associated to mental health problems must remain a focus.

Rousseau, coordinator for the Pasco County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP), referenced a study that more Americans are starting to understand mental illness is very much a chronic illness, like any other physical illness; yet more and more people are associating mental illness with violent tendencies, she said.

"We have shootings, we have a lot of big news stories that are really skewing the way people view people with mental illness, so it's really important to be stomping out that stigma," Rousseau said.

Some issues related to children's mental health services might soon be mitigated with the recent passing of Senate Bill 7026 ("Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act").

Besides its various school safety mandates, the new law creates mental health assistance allocation for every school district in Florida.

It also requires school districts to deliver a plan focused on delivering evidence-based mental health treatment, assessment, diagnose, intervention services and so on.

For school districts like Pasco, it marks a "big sea change," Leonardo said.

"We're going to start asking school districts to do things that I think, historically, they haven't focused on doing. It probably happens sporadically, but now it's being mandated," Leonardo said.

With a solid foundation and framework, and an influx of funds from the new law, Leonardo noted the district and county as a whole is "in a really good position to make some meaningful changes."

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# Three Wesley Chapel teams competing at world finals

By B.C. Manion  
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Three teams from Wesley Chapel are heading to Iowa State University to compete at the 2018 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, in Ames, Iowa.

Some competitors from all three teams already know what it's like to compete on the world stage.

That's because they were members of Wesley Chapel Elementary, which brought home the top prize.

The students on last year's Wesley Chapel Elementary team are now divided between this year's three qualifying teams. One is at Wesley Chapel Elementary and the other two are from Thomas E. Weightman Middle, just down the road.

To get to the 39th World Finals, tens of thousands of students from around the globe used their creativity and teamwork to create original solutions to problems, according to the Odyssey of the Mind website.

Brian Mihelich, coach of one of the Weightman teams, said the kids who won last year have benefitted their new teams.

"To get to that level, you have to be so dynamic and creative — definitely by having those kids on separate teams, it contributed, without a doubt," Mihelich said.

The Wesley Chapel Elementary team won first place at the regional, state and world competitions last year, and hopes to repeat that accomplishment this year.

Three of the original team members remain on the elementary school team, while the others went to middle school teams.

Experience in the competition helps, said Mihelich, who has coached for four years.

"We've got two kids on the team that



COURTESY OF BRIAN MIHELICH  
Members of one of the Thomas E. Weightman teams that are going to World Finals are, from left: Jake Piller, Zachary Mihelich, Claire Donahue, an adult spontaneous judge, Miriame Melaika, Izzy Piller and Maya Kurian.



Maya Kurian, Zachary Mihelich, Jake Piller, Izzy Piller and Reeya Latchana work together to make a prop for an Odyssey of the Mind competition.

have been with Odyssey for five years. One that's been in Odyssey for three years; one for two years; and then one, it's their first year," he said.

He thinks the program helps young students develop a new way of approaching challenges.

"I believe that this is one of the most valuable programs that are out there. It's academic, combined with the performing arts. When you put the two together, it's a different way of thinking," he said. "Odyssey of the Mind is all about coming up with a solution to a problem that no one else would."

It also gives students a chance to compete with students from all over the world, and it's a program for students from kinder-

garten through college.

Mihelich's son, Zachary, who is on the team, "absolutely loves it," the coach said.

"He is so incredibly passionate about Odyssey. He loves the teamwork side, the creative side, the competitive side."

Mihelich added: "Every team has a little different level of intensity. My group — they're pretty competitive," he said. They set a goal at the beginning of the year to qualify for the world competition.

Early on, they were meeting about 40 hours a month. Later on, it increased to about 80 hours a month.

"My garage is 100 percent OM (Odyssey of the Mind)," said Mihelich, who lives in Epperson.

The team works hard, Mihelich said, but

their parents also play an important role.

"I've got some really committed, just awesome parents this year, too. Without the parents' full support — behind their kids and me as a coach, and just the team in general — it wouldn't be possible. These parents have been phenomenal.

As the teams gear up to compete at World, they're also raising money.

Mihelich's team is holding car washes and taking orders for boxes of Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

Anyone who would like to help any of the teams can reach out to either Wesley Chapel Elementary or Thomas E. Weightman Middle, to get in touch with the coaches.

Those wishing to help Mihelich's team can reach him at MihelichBrian@yahoo.com.

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Andrew C. McDannold, of Lutz, is not your typical attorney. In his office, a warm and inviting space near Lutz Preparatory School, McDannold deliberately takes the time — frequently, over a cup of coffee — to learn as much as possible about his clients. By understanding their stories, he says, he's able to create legal solutions tailored to achieve each client's unique goals.

"No one knows what tomorrow will bring. That's why it's so important to have a plan in place today," said McDannold. "We help you build a legal framework that provides additional support if you lose the ability to make medical or financial decisions, ensures your minor children will be appropriately cared for, and defines exactly how your assets will be distributed after your death."

One of McDannold's biggest challenges is the natural tendency of people to avoid thinking about death. "Everyone expects to wake up tomorrow. We all know in the back of our minds that it may not happen, but we persist in our expectation because it's unpleasant to think about the alternative. So, most people remain blissfully unprepared for the future."

To help you take the first step, McDannold offers a free initial consulta-

tion and handles most matters on a flat-fee basis. He can help you create wills, trusts, medical directives, and a wide range of specialized planning solutions, regardless of your age or economic situation.

In addition to traditional estate planning, McDannold Law helps clients with legal issues unique to seniors and persons with special needs; estate administration and the probate process; and guardianships for minors or incapacitated adults.

McDannold also fights to ensure disabled veterans receive the benefits to which they're entitled, and he has successfully advocated before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington, D.C.

McDannold, a Tampa native and graduate of North Carolina State University, is a decorated veteran of the U.S. Air Force. During his military career, he commanded a squadron responsible for managing aircraft maintenance, created logistics plans for U.S. Central Command, and served two tours of duty in Iraq as a military advisor.

When the time came to prepare for his second career, McDannold's planning and problem-solving experience drew him to the legal profession. He attended Stetson University College of Law, graduating cum laude and earning the Certificate of Concentration in Elder Law.

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# Pasco elementary schools to get safety guards

By B.C. Manion  
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

The Pasco County School Board approved Superintendent Kurt Browning's proposal to hire a director of safety and security, and to add up to 50 school safety guards for the district's elementary schools, according to a district news release.

The school board's action was in response to a 2018 bill that the Legislature passed and the governor signed into law. It requires all school districts to provide security at all schools beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

The Legislature provided funding in the bill and districts were given three options:

- Provide school resource officers (SRO) at each school,
- Provide school safety officers for each school, or
- Participate in the school guardian program requiring certain school personnel to be armed.

The law also requires each district to appoint a school safety specialist, which is the director of school safety and security position approved by the board.

During a recent school safety workshop, Browning told school board members he would prefer to have an SRO on each of the district's school campuses, but the district could not afford that option.

The advertisements for the jobs have been posted on the district's website and its Facebook page.

The district is hosting two recruitment and interview events for the school safety guard positions. They will be on May 10 and May 21, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., in Building 2 of the district office complex, at 7227 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. The interviews for the director position will be on May 10 and May 11.

The district's middle schools and high schools will continue to be staffed by SROs through the Pasco County Sheriff's Office and municipal police departments.



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## Woman's club endorses Judi Fisher

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club has chosen to endorse and support Judi Fisher's candidacy in the annual Land O' Lakes Honorary Mayor race. Karin D'Amico, club president, presented Fisher, of Architectural Signage, with a donation check to help kick off her campaign. The woman's club hopes Fisher will follow in the footsteps of the club's past president and current Honorary Mayor Rosie Heim. From left: Rosie Heim, Judi Fisher and Karin D'Amico.

## Acting president named at Saint Leo University

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Dr. Jeffrey D. Senese has been named the acting president of Saint Leo University, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Dr. William J. Lennox Jr.

Lennox announced his retirement effective April 30.

The Saint Leo University Board of Trustees appointed Senese to the leadership role. He was the university's first provost and senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs.

Lennox became the university's ninth president in 2015, following the retirement of Dr. Arthur F. Kirk Jr., according to a news release from the university.

Lennox, who is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general, previously served as superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy. He also was a university trustee before

being selected to serve as the university's president.

"When I was asked to assume the role of president, it was always my intention to serve, in a way, as a transition leader between the long service of Dr. Kirk and a candidate who could serve for a decade or longer," Lennox said, in the release.

The new acting president was named Saint Leo's first provost following a nationwide search. Senese held significant leadership roles in previous assignments such as at Cardinal Stritch University, one of the nation's largest Franciscan universities; Johnson & Wales University (Providence, Rhode Island); Philadelphia University (Pennsylvania); and Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

"Please know that I am both humbled and honored that the board has asked me to lead Saint Leo University," Senese said, in the release.

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**AORTIC VALVE LECTURE**

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point will offer a lecture on "TAVR: Do You Suffer from Aortic Valve Stenosis?" May 10 at Heritage Pines, 11524 Scenic Hills Blvd., in Hudson.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Keshav Ramireddy, medical director of the Valve & TAVR Clinic, and board certified in cardiovascular disease, interventional cardiology and internal medicine.

Registration starts at 5 p.m., and a complimentary dinner will be served. Admission is free.

Reservations are required. For information, call (727) 869-5498.

**HEALTH CARE ROUNDTABLE**

CareerSource Pasco-Hernando will host a free Health Care Roundtable for all health care employers May 10 at Rasmussen College, 18600 Fernview St., in Land O' Lakes.

The discussion will feature training and workforce needs, business growth and technology, market trends and sector strategy.

To register, contact Ana Segovia at [asegovia@careersourcepascohernando.com](mailto:asegovia@careersourcepascohernando.com) or (352) 293-1335.

**BIRTH CENTER TOURS**

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer birth center tours in the Labor & Delivery Unit at 1 p.m., on May 13, May 20 and May 27.

The orientation program and tour are designed to introduce the services available to the entire family. Admission is free.

To register, call (813) 443-2046.

**CANCER SURVIVOR EVENT**

The BayCare Cancer Survivor Event will take place at George M. Steinbrenner Field, 1 Steinbrenner Drive in Tampa, May 12 from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

All cancer survivors, regardless of when they were diagnosed or treated, will each receive a free ticket to the home game (Tampa Tarpons vs. Florida Fire Frogs). Additional tickets can be purchased for \$4. Each guest also will receive a food



**DERBY LEAGUE GIVES BACK**

Revolution Roller Derby, a mixed-gender Flat-Track Roller Derby League, hosted a battle between its own Valkyries and The Brantucky Bombers to benefit Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic & Sexual Violence Center.

The league collected goods, including all-gender clothing, toiletries, children's books and gift card, to support Sunrise.

Revolution Derby will continue to collect donations through the month at SpinNations Skating Center, 8345 Congress St., in New Port Richey, on Mondays from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

For information on the Sunrise center, visit [SunrisePasco.org](http://SunrisePasco.org).

For league information, visit [RevolutionRollerDerby.com](http://RevolutionRollerDerby.com), or email [info@RevolutionRollerDerby.com](mailto:info@RevolutionRollerDerby.com).



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voucher, and can take photos at selfie stations, take part in kid-friendly activities, and view a private fireworks display.

There will be a Cancer Survivor Recognition Concert by the country band Smithfield after the game.

Registration is required at [BayCareCancerSurvivorEvent.org](http://BayCareCancerSurvivorEvent.org).

**JOINT REPLACEMENT**

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will present a lecture on total joint replacement May 14, May 21 and May 28 at 10 a.m., in the Nursing Administration Classroom.

Learn more about preparing for surgery and the recovery process.

Based on the requirements of your physician and availability, participants could get pre-op testing done the same day.

Admission is free. To register, call (813) 443-2046.

**DIABETES MANAGEMENT**

Access Health Care Physicians, 5382 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill, will offer a lecture on "Overcoming Barriers to Success in Diabetes Management" May 14 at 1 p.m., for anyone diagnosed with diabetes mellitus and family.

Reservations are required by calling (352) 200-2190.

**MENOPAUSE DISCUSSION**

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will host "Secrets to Surviving and Thriving through Menopause" May 15 at noon, in the fourth-floor classroom.

Dr. Jennifer Roller, board-certified obstetrics and gynecology, will discuss hot flashes, night sweats, and signs, symptoms and treatment options for peri-menopause, menopause and post-menopause.

Registration is required.

For information, call (844) 504-9378, or visit [FHWesleyChapel.org/events](http://FHWesleyChapel.org/events).

**OBSTETRICS PROGRAMS**

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will offer these community events:

- Tours of obstetrics unit: May 15, May 22 and May 29 at 5 p.m.
- Newborn Care Class: May 16 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Super Prep Childbirth Class: May 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Infant CPR: May 23 at 6 p.m.

Reservations are required. For information, call (727) 834-5630.

**MEDICARE PROGRAM**

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) volunteer May 16 at 1 p.m., to answer Medicare questions.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

Continued on next page

**"I LOST 58 LBS. IN 3 MONTHS"**

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AGE 63, LOST 4 SIZES IN 3 MONTHS



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## Ombudsman of the Year

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Council has selected Annette Bellinger, vice president of the GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club, as Ombudsman of the Year 2017. Bellinger was chosen for her dedication to the needs of long-term care residents without a voice, in raising awareness of their needs and concerns. She has mentored and inspired new ombudsman volunteers, and challenged assisted living and nursing facilities to do better for the residents in their care. Bellinger received a keepsake clock from Ron Dickey, vice chair of the West Central Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

COURTESY OF PATRICIA SERIO

## DIABETES AND YOUR FEET

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will offer a seminar on "Diabetes and Your Feet: Management of Diabetic Foot Complications" May 16 at noon.

The guest speaker will be Kyle Moore on the potential effects diabetes can have on the feet and lower extremities, and what can be done to prevent complications.

A complimentary light lunch will be served. Admission is free. Reservations are required.

For more information, please call (727) 834-5630, or send an email to MedicalCenterTrinity@HCAhealthcare.com.

## SMOKING CESSATION

Oak Hill Hospital, 11307 Cortez Blvd., in Brooksville, will offer the Tools to Quit smoking cessation program May 16 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Participants can learn to prepare a plan, deal with cravings, and how to cope with physical and emotional symptoms.

Four weeks of free patches, gum or lozenges will be available, while supplies last.

Registration is required. Call (813) 929-1000.

## GRISWOLD CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The Tampa Office of Griswold Home Care marked 10 years in business with a series of activities targeted at organizations serving seniors and the disabled.

The office awarded grants from the Jean Griswold Foundation to both the Tampa and Pasco County Lighthouses for the Visually Impaired and Blind, and Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care.

The project theme, "Ten Years of

Service, Ten Acts of Caring," aligns with both Griswold Home Care's mission to provide quality care for seniors and the disabled, and its late founder Jean Griswold's compassion and empathy that drove her to start the company in 1982.

Opening in January 2008, the Tampa office expanded into Pasco County, and now covers clients from Brandon to Hudson and from Thonotosassa to Westchase.

For information, please visit GriswoldHomeCare.com.

## FREE HEARING SCREENINGS

May is Better Hearing Month and JC Audiology, 1519 Dale Mabry Highway in Lutz, will offer free hearing screenings on Fridays throughout the month of May.

Dr. Judith L. Reese and Dr. Jennifer Steed will be available for screenings.

For information, call (813) 949-1331, or visit JC-Audiology.com.

## LAUREN'S KIDS CHARITY

Lauren's Kids, a statewide organization to prevent childhood sexual abuse through education and awareness, will be the Pasco County Tax Collector's charity of the month.

Individuals who have vehicle registrations coming due in May can trade in existing license plates for a Lauren's Kids specialty plate. The tags also may be purchased for newly registered vehicles.

Those that purchase the specialty tag will be entered into a drawing for a gift card.

Cash donations also will be accepted at any of the five tax collector offices.

For information, call Greg Giordano at (727) 847-8179, or visit PascoTaxes.com.

For information on the nonprofit, visit LaurensKids.org.

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**RARE GEM BUILDABLE LOT** IN LAKE PADGETT ESTATES - Build your dream home or invest for the future with access to 3 ski lakes, including Lake Padgett. Owners have access tennis courts, recreation areas and horse stables. NO CDD. Bonus- A short ride to outlet mall and choice restaurants! Call Cody at 813-909-0712

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**HONOR DAY CEREMONY**

Citizens Concerned for Students will recognize the public middle and high school African-American students who have earned the Honor Roll at least once during the current school year.

The annual awards ceremony, Honor Day, will celebrate almost 2,000 students who have earned the achievement on May 12 at 5 p.m., at the Pasco Schools Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel, 30651 Wells Road.

The fifth annual College and Career Fair also will take place at 3 p.m., in the adjacent Wesley Chapel High School gymnasium.

The fair will feature schools and career resources, including Florida State University, Pasco-Hernando State College, the United States Coast Guard, St. Petersburg College and more.

A voter registration booth also will be available.

Both the awards ceremony and fair are free.

For more information, you can visit HonorDayPasco.org.

**TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that by 2024, there will be more than 1.5 million skilled trades job openings as Baby Boomers retire.

Harbor Freight Tools for Schools "Teaching Excellence" will award a combined \$1 million in cash prizes to 18 outstanding public high school skilled trades teachers and programs.

Three first-place winners each will receive \$100,000, with \$70,000 going to the high school skilled trades program and \$30,000 to the individual teacher or teacher team.

The 15 second-place winners each will be awarded \$50,000, with \$35,000 going to the program and \$15,000 to the teacher/team.

Applications are open until May 16 and are due July 6.

Semifinalists will be announced on Aug. 15, and the first- and second-place winners will be announced on Nov. 15.

For information and to register, visit HFTForSchoolsPrize.org.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS**

Life's Treasures Thrift Store, 4910 S. Allen Road in Zephyrhills, is looking for teens age 14 and older to join its team.

Students can acquire volunteer hours toward the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship community service requirement, as well as develop their character, add new skills and increase their confidence.

For information, contact Anne Ferrell at (813) 357-5321 or ferrella@chapters.health.org.

**EDUCATION ASSESSMENT**

Thirty-five years after "A Nation at Risk" was released, student achievement is either flat or dropping for many U.S. students, according to the results of the latest National Assessment of Education Progress, known as the Nation's Report Card.

Scores from the 2017 NAEP administration saw no significant change from the prior 2015 assessment, except for a one-point increase in eighth-grade math scores.

The results were as follows:

- Reading proficiency or above: Fourth grade, 37 percent; Eighth grade, 36 percent
  - Math proficiency or above: Fourth grade, 40 percent; Eighth grade, 34 percent
  - Math proficiency declined in 10 states
- Florida, in particular, did see unprecedented gains statewide and in two of its largest districts — Miami and Duval counties.

**SCHOOLS HONORED**

The National School Boards Association's National Black Council of School Board Members presented its Recognizing Innovative Strategies in Equity (RISE) Award to Hillsborough County Public Schools during its annual conference.

The RISE Award honors a school board for its excellence in policies, practices and strategies that promote and enhance equitable outcomes and career readiness for



COURTESY OF PASCO COUNTY SCHOOLS

**Helping disadvantaged students**

Pasco County Schools recognized Dr. Rao Musunuru and Shayne George for their contributions to its Students in Transition program, which ensures the educational rights of homeless children and youth. Both made personal donations to the Pasco Education Foundation to help the district's program for disadvantaged children and their families. From left: Kurt Browning, superintendent of schools; Michele Overland, SSPS-SIT homeless liaison; Kurt Conover, representing Shayne George; Dr. Rao Musunuru; Stacey Capogrosso, Pasco Education Foundation executive director; Michelle Barthel, school social worker; David Chamberlin, supervisor Student Services; and Cynthia Armstrong, school board member.

African-American students.

The award is sponsored by McGraw-Hill Education, a learning science company that delivers personalized learning experiences that help students, parents, educators and professionals improve results.

For information about the council, visit NSBA.org and click on "services."

For more on McGraw-Hill, visit MHEducation.com.

**PASCO-HERNANDO RANKS FOURTH**

Pasco-Hernando State College has been ranked fourth overall best college among 28 state and community colleges by Schools.com.

Schools.com evaluated the 28-member institutions in the Florida College System, including traditional community colleges and state colleges that provide bachelor degrees, as well as associate degrees.

Florida's efforts to develop a more well-trained and educated workforce have garnered national attention.

The statistical methodology used to rank colleges included affordability, graduation

rates, transfer rates and student-faculty ratio.

PHSC ranked fourth behind Valencia College (Orlando), followed by Eastern Florida State College (Cocoa) and Lake-Sumter State College (Leesburg), respectively.

**LOOKING FOR ALUMNI, PHOTOS**

Independent Day School/Corbett Prep is turning 50 and is looking for alumni who attended the Independent Day School in Tampa, for an anniversary celebration that will take place Aug. 18.

The school is asking for stories and photos from former students who were enrolled anytime between the school's founding in 1968 to present day.

To share your memories, help with planning or attend the event, email Lisa Herscovici at lherscovici@corbettprep.com, or join the Facebook group at Facebook.com/groups/IDS50.

Independent Day School changed its name to Corbett Prep in 2012, and is located at 12015 Orange Grove Drive in Carrollwood.

For information, call (813) 961-3087.

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paper one. Paper two was challenging because you kind of had to talk about all the studies as a whole and compare them.”

The Cambridge curriculum can be compared to Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) curricula, whereby students in the high school program can earn college credits and an international diploma. Those who earn the diploma also qualify for a Florida Bright Futures College scholarship.

In 2017, students in the United States completed nearly 100,000 Cambridge International AS & A Level exams, a record number and an increase of 23 percent over the prior school year, according to Cambridge International.

Hoyle, a Zephyrhills native, has been taking Cambridge classes at Pasco High since her freshman year.

In choosing the accelerated academic program, it was a matter of convenience compared to the IB program at Land O’ Lakes High School.

Hoyle said she was debating whether to do IB or Cambridge and decided on Cambridge because she didn’t want to get up really early to take a bus over to Land O’ Lakes.

She also liked the fact that Cambridge didn’t require her “to take classes like fine arts and gym and that kind of thing, and I could actually take classes that were interesting that would also count as college credit.”

Because of all the Cambridge credits she earned, Hoyle said her college freshman year will be mostly complete.

Hoyle will attend Florida Gulf Coast University in the fall, where she plans to study biology. She eventually wants to go to medical school and become an emergency room doctor.

She said the Cambridge program helped her to become a better learner, which may ease the transition to college life.

In some instances, Cambridge courses were more challenging than AP courses, the student said.

“I think the fact that all of the (Cambridge) tests were written helped because I actually had to know things to be able to write them down, instead of being able to try and guess on it,” Hoyle said.

“Even though there are some written responses on AP, it’s primarily multiple choice, so even if you don’t know how to do the problem, there’s a chance that you can kind of guess on it. With Cambridge, there’s really no way to go around that. You actually have to have the information and be able to do it.”

Hoyle wasn’t the only Pasco High student recognized by Cambridge International.

Thirty of her peers were also recipients for Cambridge Learner Awards for their achievement on Cambridge examinations for the 2016-2017 school year.

And, Pasco County Schools as a whole was named District of the Year — Medium Sized Cambridge District.

The district was recognized for expanding access to Cambridge exams by more than 100 percent and achieving a pass rate of 76 percent.

The district launched the Cambridge education program at Pasco High and Pasco Middle schools in 2014.

The acceleration program has since been incorporated into San Antonio Elementary, Paul R. Smith Middle and Anclote High schools.

Pasco High teacher Erika Simmons administers several Cambridge courses, including psychology.

She taught many of the students recog-

**Pasco High School Cambridge Scholar Award winners**

- Andrew Hull
- Carrie Greene
- Tam-An Hoang
- Kayleigh Heather
- Drew Johnston
- Julia Gregory
- Madison Jender
- Madison Hoyle
- Sylvia Martinez
- Molly Bentley
- Savannah Jividen
- Mackenzie Green
- Taylor Hays-Lankford
- Elizabeth Coleman
- Allyson Worthy
- Brendan College
- Brittnee Hampton
- Hazel Wilburn
- Lindsey Torres
- Akosua Kissi
- Nathalie Sawczuk
- Micaela Blomeley
- Annemarie Peacock
- Amber Wood
- Susana Stripling
- Maunel Tarango
- Brian Andruskiewicz
- Emily Weiser
- Jillyan Jerkins
- Cara Dwyer

nized by Cambridge, including Hoyle.

“They’re a tremendously bright group of kids that for being part of a program so new, they’ve been able to thrive and be very successful, and patient,” the teacher said.

Simmons, who previously taught AP classes for several years at Wiregrass Ranch High, explained it was a “huge change” for instructors and students adjusting to the Cambridge educational style.

In the AS-level Psychology course, for example, students focused on 20 different studies or experiments in depth, ranging from biological to social psychology. The students were then required to not only have in-depth knowledge about each study but also be able to critically evaluate the study on topics, such as usefulness, validity, reliability and ethics.

Said Simmons, “The biggest thing is (students) learn to really be critical thinkers... and they learn how to really deconstruct information. They do a lot of reflecting on the process of learning, and I think that whole reflection process pushes them to another area of learning that AP really doesn’t offer as much.”

She continued: “They’re taught to question the validity, the credibility of sources, whether it’s in psychology, chemistry, in the news. They’ve learned to be critical of things, as well as getting multiple perspectives on things...and then analyzing, ‘OK, well which one of these do I go with? What do I support?’”

Simmons was initially astonished, yet ultimately not surprised, when she heard Hoyle achieved the nation’s highest mark on last May’s psychology exam.

The teacher described Hoyle as “incredibly diligent and focused.”

“She’s an out-of-the box thinker. She doesn’t come to deal with the generic ideas. She does bring new ideas and questions in her studies,” said Simmons.

“Last year, when I would grade Madison’s papers or I’d grade the whole class, if I was frustrated that kids weren’t getting it, I could always go to Madison’s paper and be like, ‘OK, I know she’s going to get it because she always did. It was consistent. ...I don’t think she got anything but As on her exams last year, so I knew that she always showed that she knew what she was doing. I never worried about her,” the teacher said.

**BUDGET, from page 1A**

“That’s my No. 1 priority, taking care of our employees. We need to stay competitive.”

As they consider budget priorities, commissioners also are facing a Pasco County Sheriff’s budget request for a total of about \$12.6 million.

Of that, about \$7.2 million is for operations, with about \$5.4 million for the cost of temporary housing for inmates at the overcrowded Land O’ Lakes Detention Center.

The county’s 2018 budget came in at about \$1.3 billion, with no change to the existing millage rate.

The millage rate determines how much the county collects from property taxes.

Estimates on new property tax revenues for 2019 have increased slightly. In February, county officials anticipated a 7.5 percent increase of about \$13.3 million.

The estimate now is for about an 8 percent increase, or \$14.2 million. However, once deductions are made for items such as payments for special tax districts, community redevelopment areas, and temporary housing for inmates, the county’s portion of new money dips to about \$3.7 million.

Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco’s operations budget - separate from inmates’ temporary housing - is about a 6 percent increase. That’s a smaller increase than the \$8.1 million requested in 2018, which paid for raises, equipment and new hires.

Nocco brought up the issue of over-

crowding at a February workshop with commissioners.

In his budget letter to the board on May 1, Nocco puts the blame for the matter on the “failure of (the) past County administration.”

No action in past years was taken to approve a 1,000-bed expansion, estimated at around \$128 million.

Now, according to Nocco, the county can expect an annual bill of about \$9.8 million to pay for temporary housing, until the jail expansion is built.

“It has now become a burdensome, unfunded liability for the county,” Nocco states in his letter, which commissioners didn’t receive until after their May 1 workshop.

At the February workshop, county commissioners discussed placing bond issues before the voters to pay for the jail expansion, other public safety projects, and libraries.

No decision has been made.

Current options for inmate’s temporary housing include transferring some inmates to Seminole County, possibly Hernando County, and installing trailers at the detention center. The cost of a contract with Seminole is estimated at \$2.5 million, with another \$2.4 million for trailers at the detention center.

Pasco County officials expect to receive the final taxable assessed values from the Pasco County Property Appraiser by July 1.

Commissioners would then set the millage rate on July 10, and the budget would be finalized in September.

The fiscal year for 2019 begins Oct. 1.



FILE

**Margarita Romo receives honor**

Margarita Romo, a member of the Rotary Club of San Antonio, was named Pasco-Hernando State College’s 2018 Distinguished Alumni. Romo is the founder and executive director of Farmworkers Self Help Inc., which facilitates the self-development of farmworkers and their families through programs of education, advocacy and health. The organization now encompasses the Norma Godinez Arts and Education Center, Mi Otra Casa Community Teen Center, La Casa de Esperanza y Salud (a free health clinic for farmworkers) and Las Mariposas (a mentoring group for girls co-sponsored by the Rotary Club). Romo’s many awards include a Doctorate of Humane Letters by Saint Leo University; Hispanic Woman of the Year by the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Foundation; and the Robert Bannerman Award as a distinguished activist of color; among others.

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## McGough, other local athletes get NFL shots

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

The 2018 NFL Draft has come and gone, and one athlete from The Laker/Lutz News Coverage area had the privilege of hearing his name called during the three-day event from April 26 to April 28 — Gaither High School product Alex McGough.

McGough was selected by the Seattle Seahawks in the seventh round (220th overall) as a quarterback out of Florida International University.

A four-year starter, the 6-foot-3, 214-pound McGough cemented his legacy as FIU's most decorated passer, completing 807-1335 passes (60.4 percent completion rate) for 9,091 yards, 65 touchdowns and 37 interceptions. He also rushed for 535 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Last season, he guided FIU to an 8-5 record — the program's third-ever winning season and first since 2011 — a mark achieved in Butch Davis' first season as FIU head coach.

"I couldn't be happier for Alex," Davis said, in a released statement on McGough's draft selection. "His passion, leadership and performance last year was incredible. He played a huge role in our team's success, and he has absolutely earned this opportunity to play in the NFL."

In a post-draft media conference call, McGough said he's "beyond grateful" to get chosen by the Seahawks, adding he's "ready to get to work."

Said McGough, "I wanted to come into the draft just kind of open-minded, and obviously, whatever happened, happened... The only thing I could control was the work I put in. I'm very happy with what I put in, and Seattle saw that and they took me."

Though he didn't earn an invite to the NFL Scouting Combine in March, many NFL draft analysts viewed McGough as a late-round sleeper, spotlighting his physical tools, poise, and red zone accuracy, while also spotlighting his limitations.

An ESPN.com draft analysis characterized McGough as "a good athlete with a good frame, though his hands (9 1/8 inches) are on the smaller side. His 30:19 touchdown-to-interception ratio over the past two seasons isn't ideal."

Seattle brought McGough in for a private workout a few weeks prior to last month's draft. During his visit McGough said he developed a connection with quarterbacks' coach Dave Canales and came away overall impressed with the organization.

"It's an organization full of great people, and they want to win bad," McGough said.

McGough was one of 13 quarterback prospects taken in this year's draft and the first by the Seahawks since Russell Wilson was selected in the third round of the 2012 draft.

Besides Wilson, Seattle's starting quarterback and a four-time Pro Bowler, the roster includes two other quarterbacks — seven-year veteran Austin Davis and second-year player Stephen Morris.

McGough likely will have to beat out one of those backups in training camp and preseason to solidify a roster spot.

"I'm a competitor that wants to win and I'll do everything to win," McGough said. "I just want to play football and succeed."

Though he's facing a relative uphill battle, McGough is no stranger to perseverance, nor proving doubters wrong.

He most recently underwent a full recovery from a broken left collarbone he suffered in the Bad Boy Mowers Gasparilla Bowl in December.

And, despite a noteworthy high school career — amassing more than 5,100 career passing yards and 52 touchdown passes in four varsity seasons — McGough was rather under-looked. He earned just two football scholarship offers (FIU and Colgate



FILE

Florida International University/Gaither High quarterback Alex McGough was selected in the seventh round (220th overall) by the Seattle Seahawks in the 2018 NFL Draft.

University, in upstate New York). He went on to achieve instant success at FIU, setting numerous school passing records and then becoming the program's eighth player to be drafted in its 14-year football history.

Meanwhile, McGough joins rare company as just the fifth player from a Hillsborough County high school to be drafted as a quarterback in the last 50 years. The others are Robinson's John Reaves (1972), Leto's Gary Huff ('73), Chamberlain's Dean May ('84) and Plant's Aaron Murray (2014). (McGough transferred from Wesley Chapel High School to Gaither following his freshman year.)

Besides McGough, a handful of other athletes with ties to The Laker/Lutz News coverage area have been given shots with various NFL teams, signing as either priority undrafted free agents or invited tryout players.

Each will have an opportunity to stick with their respective teams at rookie minicamps, which run from May 11 through May 14.

Here's a closer look at the others:



FILE

### JANARION GRANT, RECEIVER:

Baltimore Ravens (mini-camp tryout invitation)

**COLLEGE:** Rutgers University (Piscataway, New Jersey)

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Pasco High School; graduated in 2013

When healthy, the 5-foot-9, 177-pound receiver was one of the most electrifying offensive playmakers in college football, chiefly in the return game. But, Grant struggled to stay on the field of late, playing in a combined 11 games the last two seasons, dealing with an ankle injury and other nagging ailments. Despite limited action in 2016 and 2017, Grant became Rutgers' all-time kickoff return-yardage leader (2,857 yards) and tied for the NCAA record for combined kick return touchdowns (eight). That skill on special teams perhaps gives him a leg up on other tryout players the Ravens signed.

Before college, Grant left a lasting legacy at Pasco High School, where he was a four-year starter and still holds the county record for most career touchdowns (77) by a skill player. He was also a two-time All-State selection.

Also notable, Grant is the grandnephew of Lacochee native Jim "Mudcat" Grant, a 14-year MLB veteran and two-time All-Star, who, in 1965 became the first black pitcher to win 20 games in a season in the American League and the first black pitcher to win a World Series game for the American League.



COURTESY OF FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

### JACOB PUGH, LINEBACKER:

Seattle Seahawks (priority undrafted free agent)

**COLLEGE:** Florida State University  
**SCHOOLS:** Godby High School (Tallahassee); Jefferson County High School (Monticello, Florida); Pasco Middle School (Dade City native)

A decorated high school player and highly-touted blue chip prospect who won state championships at two different north Florida programs, the Dade City native never seemed to fully blossom at Florida State, where he posted a combined 108 tackles, 11 tackles for loss, seven sacks and two interceptions across four seasons.

Solid numbers, sure, but a bit anticlimactic considering Pugh was named an Under Armour High School All-American and widely viewed as one of the nation's top five linebacker prospects in the 2014 recruiting class.

Blessed with length, agility and athleticism in a sturdy 6-foot-4, 246-pound frame, Pugh has moldable traits to stick on an NFL roster.

Pugh attended Pasco Middle School before his family moved to the Panhandle, where he began, and ended, his prep career.

His ties to east Pasco run deep. His uncles, Darren and Troy Hambrick, led Pasco High to the county's only state champi-

onship (1992) before spending five years each in the NFL. He's also related to Pasco High alums Janarion Grant (Rutgers) and Josh Johnson, a former NFL who now plays in the Canadian Football League. Pugh is also cousins with fellow Auburn wide receiver Nate Craig-Myers, a Dade City native who attended Tampa Catholic, where he was one of the most prized football recruits to come out of the Tampa Bay area in years.



COURTESY OF VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

### TREY JOHNSON, DEFENSIVE BACK:

Pittsburgh Steelers

(priority undrafted free agent)

**COLLEGE:** Villanova University (Villanova, Pennsylvania)

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Steinbrenner High School; graduated in 2013

A standout defensive back at a small school in the FCS ranks — 45 total tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, one interception and 13 pass break-ups in 2017 — Johnson further landed on NFL scouts' radars after showcasing elite athleticism at Villanova's Pro Day in late March. At the sanctioned workout, the 5-foot-11, 177-pound Johnson touched 36 inches in the vertical jump, reached 10-foot-8 in the broad jump and posted a sizzling 4.37-second 40-yard dash.

Johnson becomes the first Steinbrenner High graduate to sign an NFL contract. There, Johnson earned four varsity letters in football, as well as three in basketball and two in track. He was also inducted into the National Honor Society.



FILE

### SHAHEED SALMON, LINEBACKER:

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

(mini-camp tryout invitation)

**COLLEGE:** Samford University (Homewood, Alabama)

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Land O' Lakes High School; graduated in 2014

The 6-foot-2, 232-pound outside linebacker solidified himself as one of the most dominant tacklers in the FCS ranks the last two seasons, racking up a combined 202 tackles, 28.5 tackles for loss, and 5.5 sacks in 2016 and 2017. Though an undrafted player from a lower-level division of college football, a path to the NFL isn't out of the question for Salmon, as more than 150 FCS players made NFL active rosters in 2017.

At Land O' Lakes, Salmon was a four-year starter and an All-State selection as a senior. He also competed in basketball and track.



### PASCO COUNTY ALL-STAR GAMES

The second annual Pasco County All-Star Baseball and Softball Games, presented by the Pasco Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is set for May 12 at noon, at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School, 13651 Hays Road in Spring Hill. The showcase features the top senior players from several high schools in

the county. Tickets are \$10; parking is \$5. For information, contact Bob Durham at (813) 784-4410 or bdurham@fca.org.

### SUNLAKE HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP

The Sunlake High School girls basketball program is hosting a summer camp for girls ages 8 to 14, from June 11 through June 14. Activities and drills include ball handling, skill building stations, game situations, 3-on-3, 5-on-5, shooting and more.

Each camp day runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For cost and other information, email Reesa Hendrix at rhendrix@pasco.k12.fl.us.

### SAINT LEO NAMES ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Saint Leo University announced Erin Bean, a former school employee, to the position of assistant athletic director for external operations.

The former Saint Leo employee returns to the school by way of the University of South Florida, where



Erin Bean

she spent the past three years as the primary contact for its nationally ranked women's basketball team, the men's soccer team, and assisted with the football program.

In her new role at Saint Leo, Bean will oversee all aspects of external relations and oversee the athletic communications office.

Bean has seven years of experience in collegiate athletics, including experience in all three NCAA Divisions. That includes stints at Tennessee Technological University, the Northeast Conference, and Juniata College.

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## USF Professor Susan A. MacManus retires

### But don't expect this political analyst to sit on the sidelines for the 2018 Mid-Terms

By B.C. Manion  
bcmansion@lakelutznews.com

When Dr. Susan A. MacManus recently headed to the front of Room 128, in the Social Science Building on the University of South Florida campus — it was to deliver the final lecture of her 47-year teaching career.

Her regular students were there, but there were visitors, too — former students who wanted to be there to share the moment.

MacManus offered her thoughts about the coming Mid-Terms, and when she concluded, she announced: “That, my friends, is my last lecture ever,” with her voice cracking a bit.

One student immediately rushed forward to give MacManus a hug.

Another declared: “You’re going to make me cry.”

Those gathered finished out the period eating pizza and cake, and picking up political buttons, reporters’ notebooks and additional trinkets MacManus had collected along the political trail.

Being a teacher was always part of the plan, said MacManus, who grew up in Land O’ Lakes.

“I knew very, very early that I was going to be a teacher. I loved school. I really enjoyed my teachers.

“Sanders (Memorial Elementary) had a lot of really good teachers,” MacManus said.

She graduated at 16 from Pasco High School and initially was a double major, in political science and physical education at Florida State University.

It didn’t take long, though, for MacManus to discover that politics were her true passion.

She graduated from FSU with a bachelor’s degree in political science and went straight to the University of Michigan for a master’s degree. She was attracted to its Survey Research Center, and it was there she developed an interest in polling.

After that, she landed her first job as an instructor at Valencia Community College. She was 21.

### AN EARLY INTEREST IN GOVERNMENT FINANCING

While teaching at Valencia, she took advantage of a program that allowed her to be paid to go back to school to expand her expertise. She went to FSU where she studied urban planning and political science, under Thomas Dye, who ultimately turned out to be her major professor and mentor.

After returning to Valencia, Dye called her out of the blue and offered her the chance to become his research assistant, allowing her to pursue her doctorate at FSU.

For her dissertation, MacManus examined the revenue patterns of cities and suburbs across the United States. She coded data for multiple decades for 600-plus cities and suburbs across the country.

“From the beginning, understanding the financing of state and local governments has been a terrific asset to me as a political scientist,” she said.

Her first big university job was at the University of Houston, she said. “It just was the right fit for me. The city was exploding.”

Next, she was recruited by Cleveland State, in Cleveland, Ohio, which also was a good fit professionally and personally.

Her sister, Lou, and her brother, Cameron, were both practicing medicine there and both had young children — allowing MacManus to bond with her nieces and nephews from their infancy.

After four years in Cleveland, she returned to Land O’ Lakes.

“I had left home when I was 16,” she said. “Basically, I hadn’t been able to experience rich time with my parents.”

Coming back to the community where she grew up gave her a chance to work at USF, learn about the family’s citrus business, and to help her mom write two local history books about Lutz and Land O’ Lakes.

“I look back on it, and it all fits together,” she said.

Beyond her influence on students, MacManus also became widely known for her deep knowledge of Florida and national politics.

During the 1990s, she began providing political analysis for News Channel 8.

That started at the encouragement of Bill Ratliff, who had interviewed her for his political show and told her: “You ought to think about doing this. You’re good at it because you can talk to everyday people.”



Dr. Susan A. MacManus, known nationally for her knowledge of Florida and national politics, stands near her home in Land O’ Lakes.

### Some 2018 Mid-Term insights

Dr. Susan A. MacManus, distinguished professor of political science, offered these observations during her final lecture at the University of South Florida:

- **Lawyers will be busy.** “This is going to be a very litigious, contentious election. Lawyers are going to make a lot of money this election cycle because you’re going to have a lot of voting rights’ issues being litigated.”
- **The ballot will be crowded.** “We’ve got everything under the sun, up for election this time.” Besides U.S. Senate and Governor, Floridians will be choosing congressional representatives, state lawmakers and local elected officials. There’s 13 proposed constitutional amendments, too.
- **Lots of new faces will be on the political scene.** “We’re already seeing a record number of new people who have never run before filing to run for office in Florida, at every level.”
- **A coming Blue Wave?** “As an analyst, I’m not seeing it yet. It could happen, but it’s not there yet.”
- **Expect a close finish.** “The last four elections, two governors, two presidential — 1 percent margin of victory for the winner. It doesn’t get any better than that.”



Dr. Susan A. MacManus stands in front of a bus parked at the first 2016 presidential debate. The bus is touting CNN’s coverage of the 2016 race for president between Donald J. Trump and Hillary Rodham Clinton.



Dr. Susan A. MacManus has amassed a large collection of political buttons while covering the campaign trail as a political analyst. Some were on display during her recent retirement reception.

MacManus replied: “Well, I’m a country girl, you know.”

She agreed to give it a try, if Ratliff would show her the ropes.

She went on to become part of the television station’s coverage team for national political conventions, presidential debates and inaugurations.

And, for decades, she has been a prolific speaker providing her insights to hundreds of civic groups, statewide associations, political and government groups.

Beyond that, she has frequently shared her knowledge in television, radio and newspaper interviews.

She also provided analysis of political conventions during the past two presidential elections, and coverage of the 2016 presidential election for The Laker/Lutz News.

Those experiences of providing political analysis for the media and speaking before myriad groups required her to stay informed, she said.

“It’s absolutely made me keep on top of things. It made me a far, far better teacher,” she said.

The connections she made were invaluable, too.

“I cannot tell you how many internships and jobs that my students have gotten as a consequence of people I have met, on both sides of the political aisle, at major political events,” she said. “You don’t get those kinds of opportunities for students, sitting in your office.”

### HASHING OUT OPPOSING VIEWS

MacManus believes her personal background prepared her for her future career.

“I grew up with differences of opinion about politics and lots of family bantering, especially at our large-extended family events.

“But, when it was time to eat and have fun, that was put aside.

“That has been one of the greatest gifts I was given — for being an analyst — was growing up in that kind of environment. I don’t get to the point where I can’t talk to somebody because they think differently,” she said.

She praised her last crop of students at USF for being able to hold widely divergent views, while maintaining civility.

It’s an art, she fears, that’s being lost in society today.

Communication has changed, too.

### Susan’s Four Fs

Dr. Susan A. MacManus never got an F in anything, except for Home Ec, according to her sister, Lou MacManus, who spoke at Susan’s retirement reception at the University Club of Tampa, on the 38th floor of One Tampa City Center.

She said these are the four Fs that have been a constant in Susan’s life: Family, friends, faith and fun.

The reception reflected that. Some former students drove down from Gainesville. Another former student flew in from Washington D.C. Her best friend traveled from Michigan. Her cousins came from Land O’ Lakes. And, scores of others were there, too, to celebrate Susan’s accomplishments.

Lou ribbed her older sister, sharing little-known details about her — including Susan’s fascination for insects when she was young and her runner-up finish a Pasco County beauty pageant. (Actually just in the top 10, Susan says).

University of South Florida President Judy Genshaft praised Susan’s academic contributions. Genshaft also noted: “I would venture to say that Susan is among the most sought-after political analysts in the country.”

The room was decorated with photographs of Susan pictured with prominent political figures, and all sorts of political buttons on display. There was even a polling booth, from the 2000 presidential election — the year of the infamous “hanging chad.”

Susan’s long-time friend, Dr. Liana Fernandez Fox, said the party was exactly Susan’s kind of celebratory gathering.

“We filled this room with family and friends, good friends — and, with mementoes of Susan’s fabulous and fun career, of educating students, voters and the media,” Fox said.

### What people are saying about Dr. Susan A. MacManus

Dr. Judy Genshaft, president of the University of South Florida, and Dr. Liana Fernandez Fox spoke during a retirement reception for Dr. Susan A. MacManus at the University Club of Tampa. During the event, sponsored by USF Women in Leadership & Philanthropy, the women offered these comments — made by others — to honor MacManus:

• **“Besides my parents, no one has had as much impact on me as Dr. MacManus. She is an incredible teacher. She has a story about everything, and is so generously willing and giving of her time and knowledge to students who want to work.”**

— Anthony Cilluffo, former research assistant for MacManus and current research associate with the Pew Research Center in Washington D.C.

• **“Susan is as much of an institution in Florida politics, as ambitious candidates embarrassing themselves at the Possum Festival, or sipping Cuban coffee in Little Havana. Besides the sheer depth of her knowledge, she happens to be one of the nicest people on the political scene.”**

— Adam Smith, the Tampa Bay Times political editor

• **“The views of Susan MacManus have always been welcomed, eagerly sought — about both Florida politics and national politics. Susan is a gifted academic, whose work my own team has cited many times. What makes Susan even more special is her remarkable ability to translate her work, as well as her colleagues’ findings, for the benefit of the news media and the general public. A keen observer of the political scene for decades, Susan will, no doubt, be called upon frequently in retirement. We continue to need her voice.”**

— Dr. Larry Sabato, founder and director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

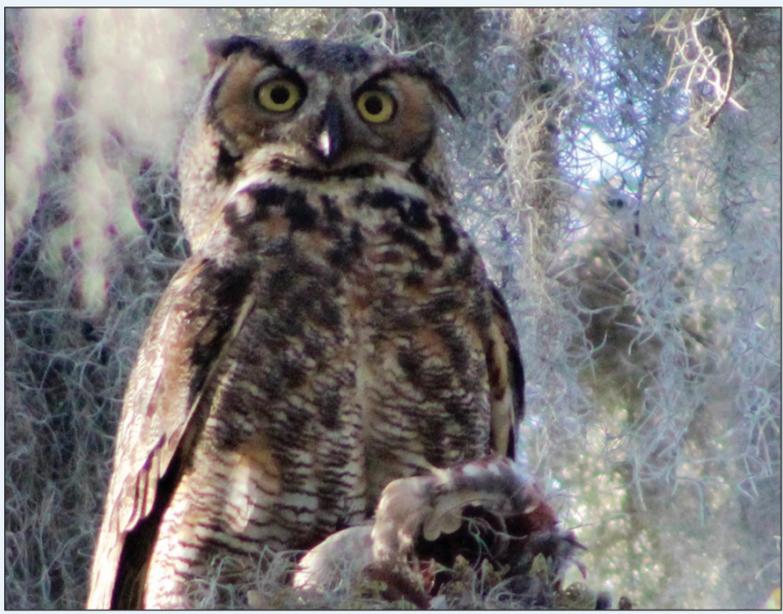
“Candidates and parties, and everyone else, you have to go to multiple platforms,” MacManus said. “You cannot any longer rely upon one source of information.”

As she was winding up her final class, she paused to thank her students.

“I’ve learned far more from you than you’ve learned from me. Your generation is the most interesting one we’ve had, in a very long time,” she said.

“Thank you for being a wonderful, wonderful class,” MacManus said. “I couldn’t ask for a better end to my career than you all. Thank you.”

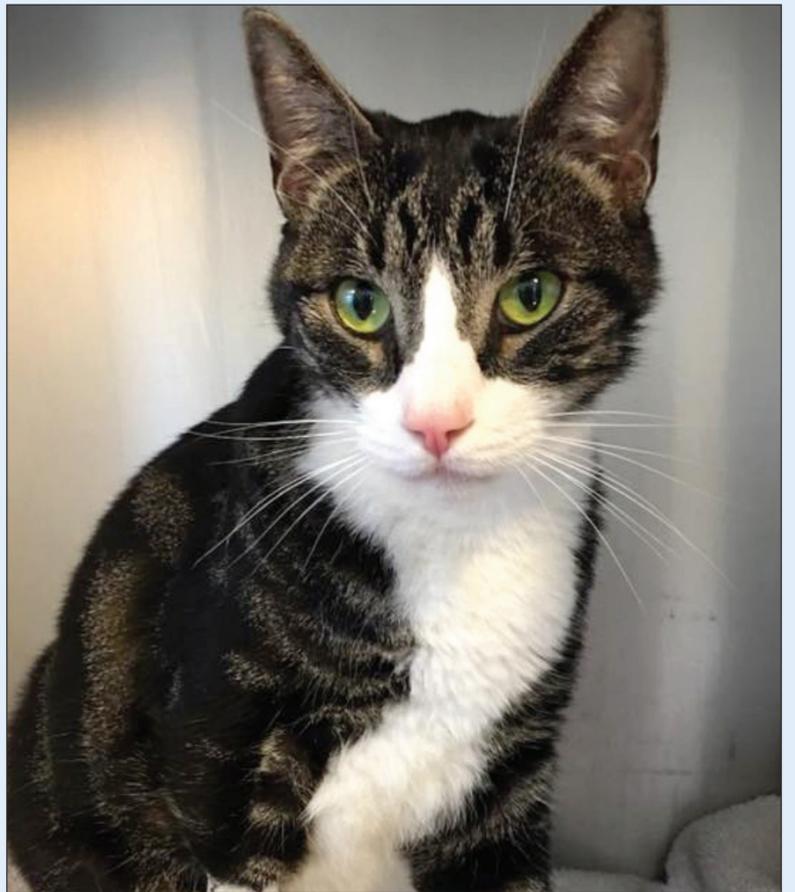
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Self-proclaimed amateur photographer Margaret DeSisto captured this photo of a Great Horned Owl and a fledgling (about 5-weeks old) in a nest in Philippe Park in Safety Harbor. These owls use a broad range of habitats, including swamps, deserts, tropical rainforests, cities, orchards, suburbs, parks, and deciduous and evergreen forests.

# PET of the WEEK



## A treasured pet

This cutie was found in an alley when he was about a week old. Named Precious, he has adapted to the indoors like a champ. He loves playing on the sofa cushions much better than climbing on the old tires where he was born. Precious' happy owner is Richard Arto, of San Antonio.

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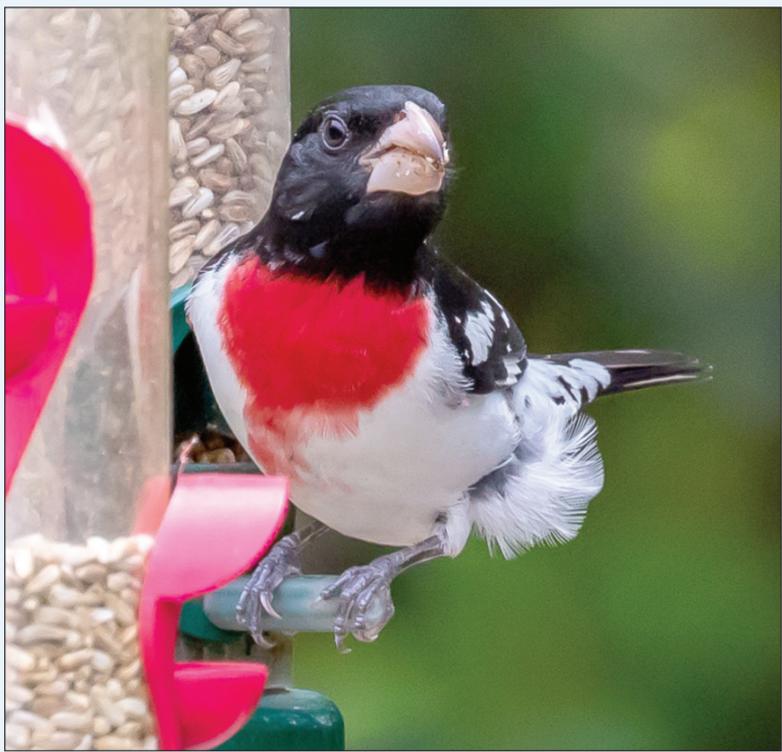
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## What a beauty!

Lillian Cucuzza, of Land O' Lakes, captured this photo of a male rose-breasted grosbeak on her feeder. Cucuzza sees quite a variety of feathered friends during the short-lived Spring migration of birds coming up from the Florida Keys.

## SPONSORED PET ADOPTIONS

The Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center, 440 N. Falkenburg Road in Tampa, received a \$2,000 donation, to sponsor the adoptions of 100 dogs or cats.

The woman, who asked to remain anonymous, said she wanted to bring attention to the reality that there are numerous pets in need of a healthy, happy home.

The donation will cover the \$20 cost for pets that have already been vaccinated, registered, microchipped, and spayed or neutered.

For more information, call (813) 744-5660.

## \$20 ADOPTIONS

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes is offering \$20 adoption specials for the month of May.

All dogs and cats are vaccinated, microchipped, spayed/neutered and heartworm/FIV tested at the time they leave the shelter.

The promotion excludes puppies and kittens age 6 months and younger, and adult dogs less than 25 pounds.

For information, call (813) 929-1212.

## ADOPTERS NEEDED

The dog kennels at Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center, 440 N. Falkenburg Road in Tampa, are full of pets that need a loving family to give them a second chance.

The center is an open-admission shelter and is at 99 percent capacity.

There are more than 250 dogs available for adoption. Many are ready-to-go, which means the dog can be adopted and taken home the same day for \$20.

All pets are vaccinated, microchipped, registered and have been spayed or neutered.

The shelter is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For information, call (813) 744-5660.

## DOG DAY AFTERNOON

Asturia, located off State Road 54 just west of the Suncoast Parkway in Land O' Lakes, will host Dog Day Afternoon May 19 from noon to 5 p.m.

Dog lovers can sit, stay and play with their pets, and kids can visit the bounce house and slide. There also will be face painting, a balloon artist, door prizes, live music and food trucks that will offer "ap-PET-tizers."

More than a dozen pet-friendly exhibitors will be at the event, including local veterinarians, pet stores and groomers.

Exhibit space is still available for \$50, which will be donated to Vets4Pets.

For information, call Carla Luigs at (904) 810-0500 or David Weekly Homes at (813) 422-6166.

## SHARE YOUR PET NEWS

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

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

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

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

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CSI Camp**

Additional camps may be added!

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[www.saintleocamps.com](http://www.saintleocamps.com)

# BUSINESS DIGEST

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

## THE MAIN INGREDIENT OPENS

The Main Ingredient opened at the corner of State Road 54 and Collier Parkway, behind the new 7-Eleven convenience store.

The specialty food store offers bulk food bins of organic, vegan, gluten-free and paleo foods. Other items include specialty tea leaves, fresh roasted coffee beans, specially blended spices and rubs, infused olive oils and balsamic vinaigrette.

Customers can scoop and weigh as much or as little as they want.

Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The store is family-owned and operated.

## DICKEY'S BARBECUE OPENS

Dickey's Barbecue Pit opened April 30 at 23048 State Road 54, Suite 505, in Lutz.

Franchise owner is local entrepreneur Sunny Patel, according to a news release from the Dallas-based, Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants Inc.

World War II veteran Travis Dickey opened the first Dickey's Barbecue in Dallas, Texas in 1941.

To celebrate the grand opening, Dickey's Barbecue will offer four weeks of specials and giveaways on the following days:

- **Thursdays:** A free Big Yellow Cup with free refills all day
  - **Fridays:** All first responders in uniform will receive a 50 percent discount. Guests also can make donations to Dickey's charitable foundation — Barbecue, Boots & Badges.
  - **Saturdays:** \$2 pulled pork sandwiches from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - **Sundays:** Guests receive one free Kids Meal with each \$10 adult purchase.
- Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.
- For information, call (813) 406-5259.

## SCRUB-A-DUB BIN CLEANING OPENS

Scrub-A-Dub Bin Cleaning opened recently at 27027 Fordham Drive in Wesley Chapel.

The business offers a monthly service of scrubbing clean residential trash and recycling bins at curbside. Scrub-A-Dub uses eco-friendly, biodegradable disinfectants and deodorizers. A specially equipped truck will reclaim the dirty water used to clean the bins, so there is no runoff. Waste water is then disposed of at a waste water treatment facility.

For more information, please contact owner Jennifer Trudel at (844) 727-8229 or [info@scrubadubbins.com](mailto:info@scrubadubbins.com), or visit [ScrubADubBinCleaning.com](http://ScrubADubBinCleaning.com).

## PLANET SMOOTHIE OPENS

Planet Smoothie opened at 1941 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in The Shoppes at New Tampa plaza in Wesley Chapel.

The new fruit smoothie shop, a franchise operation, is part of the national Planet Smoothie brand. It is across from The Shops at Wiregrass.

The first shop opened in Atlanta in 1995. Planet Smoothie's headquarters are in Arizona.

For more information, contact Insiya Choilawala at (386) 538-6006.

## FREE BUSINESS SEMINAR

SCORE will host a free business seminar, "How to Really Start Your Own Business" May 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills.

The seminar will cover the idea, testing and protecting the idea, finding good people, how to structure your business, cash flow and more.

Seating is limited. To register, please visit [PascoHernando.score.org](http://PascoHernando.score.org). For more information, email [Score439@verizon.net](mailto:Score439@verizon.net).

## NORTH TAMPA LUNCHEON

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will have its May 2018 Momentum Thursday on May 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Brookdale of Lutz, 414 Chapman Road.

For early bird registration, please RSVP online with credit card at

[NorthTampaChamber.com](http://NorthTampaChamber.com) or by email to [Contact@northtampachamber.com](mailto:Contact@northtampachamber.com) by 5 p.m. May 9, at the discounted rate of \$15 (whether you eat or not).

After that date, the cost is \$20 (whether you eat or not), payable at the door by cash, check or credit card.

For information, call the chamber at (813) 563-0180.

## BACKYARD POOL SUPPLIES OPENING

Backyard Pool Supplies will have a grand opening and ribbon cutting May 10 from 10 a.m. to noon, at 6417 County Line Road, Suite 103, in Tampa. The store is on the southwest corner of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, between Winn Dixie and LA Fitness.

Refreshments will be served. For information, email Charlene Kutzan at [info@a-qualitypools.net](mailto:info@a-qualitypools.net).

## CHAMBER GRAND OPENING

The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce will have its grand opening and ribbon cutting May 10 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at 1868 Highland Oaks Blvd., Suite A, in Lutz.

There will be hors d'oeuvres, an office tour, networking and a cash bar.

Please RSVP to the chamber at (813) 994-8534, or email Grace Martin at [gmartin@northtampabaychamber.com](mailto:gmartin@northtampabaychamber.com).

More BUSINESS DIGEST, page 5B

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# BUSINESS DIGEST

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

## COFFEE SOCIAL

The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce will have its Monthly Coffee Social on May 15 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., at Buttermilk Provisions, 2653 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

This is a "no agenda" event with time for social networking.

For information, call Grace Martin at the chamber at (813) 994-8534.

## DISCOVERY VILLAGE OPEN HOUSE AND ANNIVERSARY

Discovery Village at Tampa Palms will have its one-year open house anniversary May 16 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at 17470 Brookdale Trace Court in New Tampa.

This free event will have cocktails, appetizers, live music and door prizes.

Come tour this senior-living community. For more information, please contact Kim Frattini at (813) 600-5994 or email [srosenberg@discoveryvillage.com](mailto:srosenberg@discoveryvillage.com).



FILE

## METTLER TOLEDO JOB FAIR

Mettler Toledo will have a job fair May 24 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at 1571 Northpointe Parkway, off State Road 54, in Lutz.

Job openings are available for electrical and mechanical assemblers; electrical and mechanical engineers; regional sales manager; welders; direct marketing specialist;

sales engineers; order entry administrators; field service engineers; and more.

Mettler Toledo had its grand opening at Northpointe Village in April. The Swiss-owned manufacturing plant is a global supplier of precision scales and services uses in research, and the packaging and production of food and pharmaceuticals.

Mettler Toledo offers an entrepreneur-

ial environment, and competitive salary and benefits, including health, dental, vision, prescription, life, short-term disability and long-term disability. The company also offers 401k accounts with a company match; tuition reimbursement, employee referral bonuses; and training.

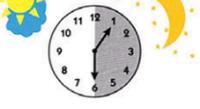
For a full list of available positions and to apply online, visit [MT.com/careers](http://MT.com/careers).

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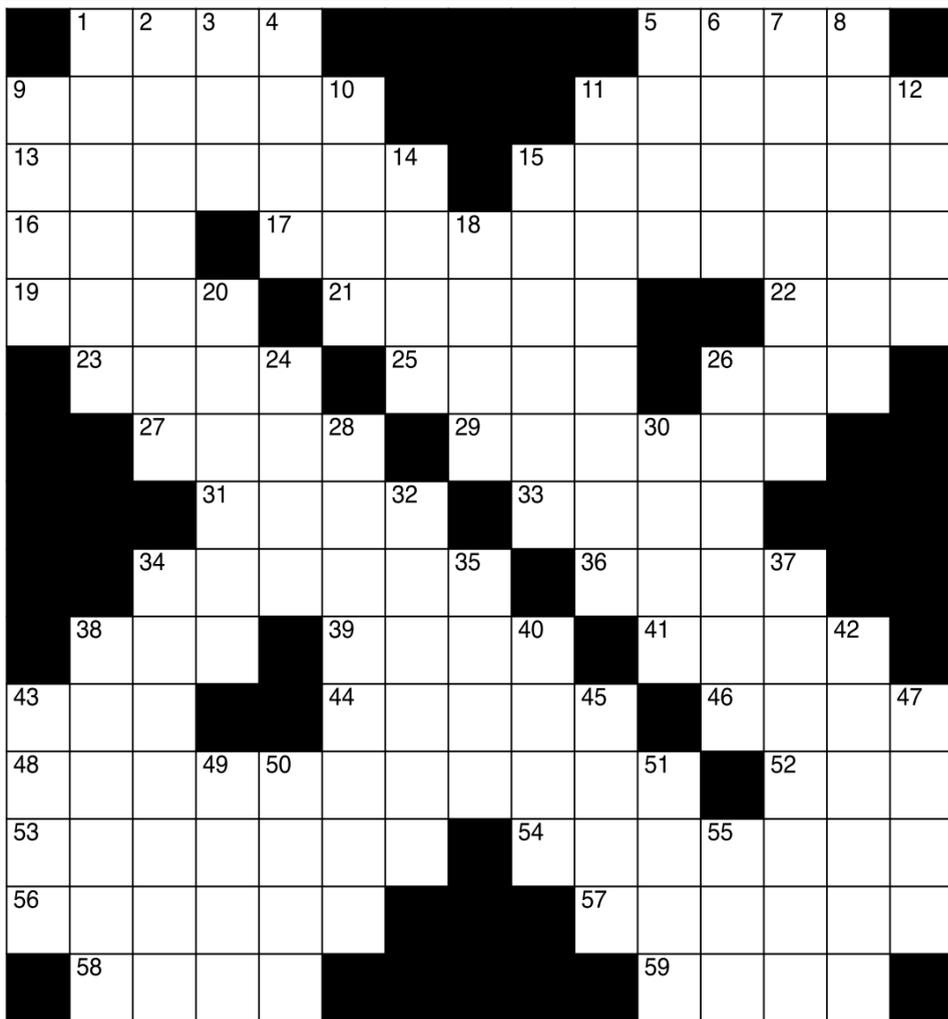
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5. WC's
9. Religious retreat
11. Warfare
13. One you wouldn't expect
15. Disease-causing microorganisms
16. For each
17. Grammatical term
19. One point east of southeast
21. \_\_\_ Dern, actress
22. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
23. Shampoo
25. Scale drawing of a structure
26. An enclosure for confining livestock
27. Goat-like mammal
29. Cigar
31. Appear
33. "Westworld" actress \_\_\_ Rachel Wood
34. Leaked through
36. The highest adult male singing voice
38. Musical group \_\_\_ Soundsystem
39. Aurochs
41. Crazy (Spanish)
43. Swiss river
44. Strains
46. Frock
48. Found in most body tissues
52. Cool!
53. Reasons behind
54. Christian recluse
56. Removes
57. Repents
58. Energy
59. Tailless amphibian

**DOWN**

1. Not awake
2. Type of dessert
3. They \_\_\_
4. Retired Coast Guard admiral
5. Gene positions
6. Exclude
7. One who is bound
8. Where drinks are served
9. Small vipers
10. Blackbird
11. Adventurer
12. Shade
14. A way to gain
15. A salt or ester of boric acid
18. Monetary units
20. Removed
24. "My country, tis of \_\_\_"
26. Horses
28. Drives back by force
30. Bold, impudent behavior
32. Rates
34. Types of nerves in males
35. A ridge of sand created by the wind
37. Wind instrument
38. Pakistani city
40. Dry or withered
42. Delivered a speech
43. Peak
45. Small waterbird
47. Days falling in mid-month
49. Elvis' daughter
50. Flat and smooth
51. Dallas Cowboys great Leon
55. What cows say

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B



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