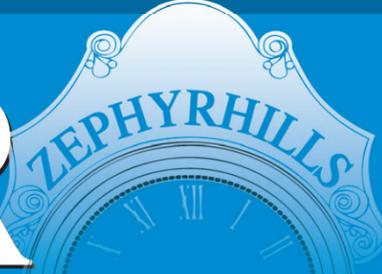


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Lack of building permits halts work

By Kathy Steele
ksteel@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County issued a stop work order at Epperson, after a routine county fire inspection found 19 structures lacked building permits.

The May 10 inspection came less than two weeks after Epperson kicked off the anticipated opening of the Crystal Lagoons amenity. The festivities, to mark the first development in the United States with this type of amenity, featured an appearance by Michael Phelps, the most decorated athlete



FILE

See LAGOON, page 11A

A 7.5-acre recreational pool by Crystal Lagoons is being built at Epperson.

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CHRISTINE HOLTZMAN

Welcoming summer, with a sweet treat

There's nothing quite like a cool, refreshing, sweet ice cream cone to help celebrate the end of school and the beginning of summer. Here, 6-year-old Sam Benson, of Zephyrhills, digs into his vanilla and chocolate soft serve ice cream at Dave's Treats in Zephyrhills. Sam, his mother and grandparents went to the ice cream shop recently to celebrate the last day of school.

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Local fallen officer cherished for laughter, love, and leadership

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

The countless who knew Capt. Charles "Bo" Harrison, say they're better people because of it.

And, the superlatives flow freely when people describe what he was like.

Here are just a few of those descriptions: Hero. Christian. Father. Brother. Husband. Friend. Leader. Coach. Servant. Great Officer. Integrity. Honorable.

He was "a servant-leader who made a difference to every man, woman and child who came in contact with him," said Pastor Deundrick Reed of Living Waters United Church in Dade City.

Reed served as master of ceremonies for the Bo Harrison Memorial on June 1 at the Boys and Girls Club.

The event has been held each year since Harrison's watch ended on June 1, 2003 — the day he was killed in the line of duty.

"He walked it, he talked it, and he lived it," Reed said. "He motivated and inspired. He sacrificed himself for others, no matter what. He was a man who was an example how we all should live our lives today."

Harrison, then a lieutenant, had served with the Pasco Sheriff's Office for 31 years. It was just two weeks before he was scheduled to retire when he was shot and killed while on surveillance near a nightclub on U.S. Route 301 in Lacombe around 2 a.m.

He was 57. According to reports, several deputies who were across the street heard a gunshot and went to investigate. They located Harrison in his patrol car suffering from a gunshot wound to the back. He was transported to Dade City Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Harrison had been shot with a high-pow-



Capt. Charles "Bo" Harrison

ered rifle by a sniper who was in the nearby woods. The shot went through the trunk of the car and struck him in the back.

A 19-year-old suspect turned himself in two days later and was charged in connection with Harrison's murder. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison with no parole.

Harrison, the highest-ranking black officer in county history, was posthumously promoted to captain.

He left behind a wife and three children. Before his law enforcement career, Harrison served in the Vietnam War as a U.S. Army paratrooper.

Dozens of law enforcement officers and officials from the Pasco Sheriff's Office, the Dade City Police Department and the Zephyrhills Police Department attended the memorial service.

Family, friends and members of the east Pasco community also attended, "honoring

See OFFICER, page 11A

Road study looks for traffic solutions

By Kathy Steele
ksteel@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County is moving forward with efforts to find consensus on easing traffic congestion in Wesley Chapel and building road connections between Pasco and Hillsborough counties.

Consensus appears elusive, however, on the proposed linkage between Mansfield Boulevard, in Pasco County and Kinnan Street in Hillsborough County.

Pasco residents don't want more traffic whizzing down a boulevard that already is gridlocked at peak hours.

But Hillsborough residents want a more direct route to shops, restaurants, churches and jobs just across the county line.

About 100 people attended a public meeting on May 22 at Pasco-Hernando State College Porter Campus to discuss a 450-page draft of the Wesley Chapel Road Connection Study.

Pasco County Commissioner Mike Moore and consultants with AECOM presented an executive summary of the study's findings.

The study looks at the pros and cons of four alternatives for road connections, without making a recommendation. A no-build option also is included.

"We don't have any bias in this study," said Ali Atefi, a transportation engineer with the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization. "We looked at it objectively."

The choices are no-build; linking Mansfield Boulevard with Kinnan Street; linking Mansfield and Kinnan, as well as extending Meadow Pointe Boulevard to Hillsborough County; and the final option calls for linking Mansfield and Kinnan, ex-

See ROAD, page 11A

B

INSIDE, PAGE 1B

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COURTESY OF SUE MAXWELL

Madison Maxwell holds a 'Kid Stew' sign. The 12-year-old from Lutz has been in hundreds of commercials. This is her first television show.

Local girl making TV show debut in 'Kid Stew'

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Twelve-year-old Madison Maxwell has done hundreds of commercials, beginning when she was just 4.

But, the sixth-grader at Academy at the Lakes in Land O' Lakes has never been involved in a television show.

Until now. She's one of nine cast members in a new series called "Kid Stew."

The show was created by James Patterson, an internationally known author of books written for young readers.

Four episodes of "Kid Stew" have been filmed and four more episodes are slated for production this summer.

Each episode, which lasts 30 minutes, features humor, skits and a fast-paced delivery to provide an engaging approach to learning.

It's been described as sort of a combination between a kid-friendly "Saturday Night Live" and the old PBS television show "Zoom," said Sue Maxwell, who is Madison's mom.

The cast members wear funny wigs, crazy facial hair and dress up like French waiters, sleazy record promoters, stuffy British TV hosts and famous historical characters, according to a news release.

The show will air locally, in a marathon scheduled for June 24 beginning at 9 a.m., on WEDU. It is being carried by more than 200 stations across the country.

Madison is involved in a recurring sketch, in which she and Blake McCall, another cast member, use a phone booth to travel back in time.

During those sketches, they visited Leonardo da Vinci, Cleopatra, Thomas Edison and Shakespeare, Madison said.

"That was very fun, except for the mosquitoes. I had 37 mosquito bites," she said, noting the filming was done outdoors near

a monastery, to give the time travel a historic feel.

Madison said it's been fun to be in the show, and she was pleased to be selected for the cast. She found out about the auditions from her agent in Miami.

She said the show doesn't require her to adopt an entirely new persona.

"It's your name, and you get to act like yourself and you are your own character," she said. "You can just be free."

The episodes are shot in Miami, Boca Raton and Ft. Lauderdale area, with seven of the nine cast members coming from South Florida and the other two, including Madison, from the Tampa Bay area.

A news release describes the show this way: "Kid Stew" celebrates imagination, and encourages children's interest in reading, music, art and creative expression. Featuring comedic sketches, music videos, fun facts, virtual visits around the globe, and guest appearances from creative adults and kids alike, the series offers four, half-hour episodes packed with fun in a 'for kids, by kids' format that appeals to elementary school age viewers."

The creator, Patterson, is known for his tween-targeted franchises, which include "Jacky Ha-Ha," about a 12-year-old girl who loves to make people laugh.

"Kid Stew" is co-produced by South Florida PBS and Patterson, and presented nationally by South Florida PBS via American Public Television.

Madison is excited about filming the rest of Season 1 and hopes there will be a Season 2.

She's not sure what she wants to do in the future. At one point, she wanted to be a dolphin trainer. More recently, she's been thinking about being an orthodontist, or perhaps a neurosurgeon.

At this point, it's too soon to tell. Madison lives in Lutz with her mom, Sue; her dad, Mike; and, her grandfather, Ki Kim.



Madison Maxwell

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Baldomero Lopez was more than a local hero



Knowing Your History

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

When motorists drive past the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes, chances are they won't know much about the history of the man for whom the facility is named.

That's where Bill Dotterer comes in. He's a volunteer with the Tampa Bay History Center and he shared the story of 1st Lt. Baldomero Lopez's life and his heroic actions during a talk earlier this year at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library. The history center and library jointly presented the free program.

Lopez may not be widely known in many circles, but he is in the U.S. Marine Corps, Dotterer said.

"Lopez is a very important person in Tampa Bay's history," the speaker added, noting Lopez was the first person who grew up in Tampa to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Dotterer shared details of Lopez's early years.

Lopez grew up during a time when Ybor City and West Tampa were vibrant places, with a thriving cigar industry, with people living there who had come from Spain, Cuba, Italy and Sicily, Dotterer said. There were social clubs, baseball teams and dominoes, he noted, and Lopez grew up in that milieu.

"In the neighborhood where he lived, he was well known as a baseball player. He had a paper route. He was just an All-American kid," Dotterer said.

Lopez also was interested in the military. He attended Hillsborough High School, where he was in charge of the ROTC program. He marched in the Gasparilla Parade one year, leading all of the junior ROTC units, Dotterer said.

The speaker noted that much of his talk was based on information he gleaned from a conversation he had with E.J. Salcines, a former judge and noted Tampa historian.

Lopez was third in his class when he graduated from Hillsborough High in 1943. He decided to enlist in the Navy, Dotterer said.

Initially, Lopez was sent to Quantico, Virginia, but he was pulled from that program and sent to Annapolis for an officer training program, Dotterer added. Next, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, as a second lieutenant.

By then, it was 1947 and the war had ended.

Lopez was sent to China, to lead a mortar platoon, and after that, he returned to Camp Pendleton, where he received orders to become an instructor at the Basic School in Quantico, Dotterer said.

Lopez was still at Pendleton when the Korean War broke out and his unit was assigned to go overseas, Dotterer said. Lopez wanted to go with them.



COURTESY OF BILL DOTTERER

This iconic image was taken of 1st Lt. Baldomero Lopez leading troops in an invasion at Inchon during the Korean War. Lopez died minutes after the photo was taken.

Dotterer then shared this account, which he said came from Salcines.

Lopez was on a train, heading from California to Virginia, Dotterer said.

"Every place that the train stopped, he got off and called and said, 'Please change my orders. I want to go with my unit.'"

"When he finally gets to Quantico, they say, 'OK, you can rejoin your unit,'" Dotterer said.

Lopez heads back to California, but at that point, his unit is already gone. Somehow, he catches up with them, across the Pacific, Dotterer continued.

The Korean War began when the North Koreans attacked south of this 38th parallel, which is what divides North Korea and South Korea, Dotterer said.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur was the head commander of allied forces in Korea, and he decided to take back Seoul, Dotterer said.

The invasion is made at Inchon Harbor, near Seoul.

It wasn't an ideal place to invade because it had the third-highest tides in the world, going from zero to 40 feet in a day. It also had 40-foot seawalls around it, which the Marines had to build ladders to scale, Dotterer said.

"The anchorage, itself, where all of the ships would end up for the invasion, was pretty small. It was pretty tight to get in there," he added.

At the same time, however, the limiting factors at Inchon also may have made it a good place to invade because the enemy would never expect it, he said.

LOPEZ DEMONSTRATED COURAGE

Lopez, who was 25, was on one of the landing ships.

Before the invasion, he wrote his parents a final letter, not knowing it would be his final letter, Dotterer said.

"Basically, he said, 'Hey, I chose to do this, so if anything happens, I decided I wanted to be a Marine officer, so here I am. Secondly, please send me some good cigars.'"

"On Sept. 15, the invasion begins. He is with Company A, First Battalion, Fifth

Marines, and they're going into Red Beach," Dotterer said.

There were two hills, which meant the enemy was at the top of the hill shooting down.

An iconic photograph, taken during the invasion, shows Lopez leading his troops up a wooden ladder over the seawall, Dotterer said.

"Sad to say, this is minutes before he is killed. He's leading his troops over the seawall. There's a machine-gun, automatic type position here, that they are trying to take out.

"He had actually pulled a pin on a grenade to throw it into the pill box," Dotterer said.

Instead, "he gets hit with automatic weapon fire. One in the shoulder. One in the abdomen or chest. He's shot down. That grenade has the pin out."

Within seconds, Lopez decided to save his troops. He scooped the grenade under his body.

"He took the full brunt of the grenade in the explosion. His troops were essentially saved. They went on to take that pillbox,"



Baldomero Lopez

Company A, 1st Battalion
5th Marines, 1st Marine Division
Born: Aug. 23, 1925
Died: Sept. 15, 1950

Dotterer said.

Since then, Lopez has been honored in various ways.

There's a historic marker commemorating Lopez's heroics in downtown Tampa and there's a memorial for him at Hillsborough High School. There's a public elementary school named after him in Seffner and there's a memorial to Lopez at Veterans Memorial Park.

In 2012, the Tampa Bay History Center received a Korean War Veterans Medal on behalf of Lopez, presented by Jong-Hoon Kim, a member of the 19th National Assembly and Chair of the International Relations Committee, Saenuri Party. Kim was accompanied by Choi Young-Jin, the Korean Ambassador to the United Nations and other Korean Dignitaries.

Additionally, there's Lopez Hall at the Basic School aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, a dining facility that was dedicated in 2013, and there's a navy ship named in his honor.

And, the Marine Corps Association and Foundation, (MCA&F), bestows The Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez Honor Graduate Award to the Marine of each graduating company from the Basic School who demonstrates the highest potential for future leadership and responsibility in the Marine Corps.

In essence, Dotterer said, "he was an amazing hero."

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NORTH TAMPA MARKET

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will host the North Tampa Market June 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is an outdoor fresh market organized by Tampa Bay Markets. Admission is free. For information, visit TampaBayMarkets.com.

GREEK FESTIVAL

The Opa Palooza Greek Festival will take place June 8 to June 10 along Dodecanese Boulevard on the Sponge Docks in Tarpon Springs. There will be live music, dancing, seminars, workshops, food, pastries, spirits and more. The hours are Friday from noon to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call (727) 322-5217.

SUMMER MEALS

Pasco County Schools Food and Nutrition Services Department's Summer Food Service program will run to Aug. 1. Meals will be provided at 50 school sites and 50 additional locations, including libraries, churches, parks, housing complexes, summer lunch bus stops, and more. Any child age 18 and younger can participate with no enrollment or fees, and no requirement that they attend a Pasco County public school. To find the nearest location, visit SummerFoodPasco.net, text "food" to 877-877, or call (813) 794-2480. Families can attend one of the summer kickoff events, which will include food, games, prizes, cool treats and fun. The parties are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 8 at Crews Lake Park, 16739 Crews Lake Drive in Spring Hill; and, June 14 at Zephyr Park, 5039 Fourth St., Zephyrhills.

RUST & DUST YARD SALE

The Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road in Dade City, will host its first "Recycle, Repurpose, Rummage & Yard Sale," filled with "rust, dust and unnecessary stuff," June 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Concessions will be open. For information, email bminton053@gmail.com, or call (352) 567-0265.

BACKYARD SEMINAR

UF/IFAS Pasco Extension will offer a free seminar on "Creating a Backyard That Attracts Wildlife" June 9 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. Participants can learn how to bring desirable birds, insects and animals into the yard by creating a habitat for them. To register, visit tinyurl.com/y6whmq2q.

SCRAPBOOK FUNDRAISER

Incarnation Catholic Church Council of Catholic Women will host a Scrapbook Crop Fundraiser June 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., to help offset expenses for roof repairs caused by a hurricane. Participants can meet and create scrapbooks. There will be a candy table and vendors. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks will be provided. The cost is \$40 per person. The event will be at 5124 Gateway Drive in Tampa. For information and a registration form, call (813) 886-9365, or email afshamblin@aol.com.

EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR

Moore-Mickens Education & Vocational Center, 38301 Martin Luther King Blvd., in Dade City, will host "Empowering Our Future Generations" June 9 at 5:30 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Larry Perkins. The honoree will be Latoya Jordan. Musical entertainment will be provided by FearingStar. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$10 for children age 12 and younger. For information, call (352) 457-3568 or (352) 518-8008.

HOME TERRARIUMS

UF/IFAS Pasco Extension will host "Building and Caring for Home Terrariums" June 9 at 10 a.m., at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347



Disaster Expo

The Pasco County Division of Emergency Management will host the 2018 Disaster Expo June 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, 3032 Collier Parkway. Representatives from various Pasco County departments and agencies, as well as local businesses, will be available to help participants plan for evacuations, protect homes and businesses, prepare go-kits for people and pets, register for special-needs assistance, learn how to get involved, and more.

Kids can take part in activities like creating go-kits with things from around the house. Parents can talk to disaster preparedness experts and pick up a copy of the 2018 Disaster Planning Guide, which includes updated evacuation zones. For information, including how to sign up for emergency notifications through Alert Pasco, visit PascoEmergencyManagement.com.

Eighth St. There will be a demonstration of the steps and procedures for planting and caring for a terrarium, as well as notable plants to use, with examples of containers, plants and how to solve problems. Admission is free. To register, visit tinyurl.com/y8hfea3x.

COMMUNITY CHORUS

The Carrollwood Community Chorus will perform June 9 at 7:30 p.m., and June 10 at 4 p.m., at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa. The "Rewind" concert will celebrate a decade of music, and take a look back at favorite selections from "The Music Man," "The King and I," "Oliver" and more. Tickets start at \$12. For information, visit CarrollwoodCenter.org, or call (813) 922-8167.

THE BLIND SIDE

Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., in downtown Tampa, will show the movie "The Blind Side" June 10 at 3 p.m., as part of its Summer Classic Movies Series. There also will be a question-and-answer session with Quinton "Big Mike" Aaron after the film. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Quinton Aaron Foundation, which helps children and students who are bullied. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$7 for theater members. For information, visit TampaTheatre.org.

GVU'NA FUNDRAISER

Lutz Guv'na candidate Kandy Sinquefield will host "BellyDance 4A Cause" June 10 at 2 p.m., at The Sydney Center, 102 Whitaker Road in Lutz. There will be different styles of belly dance, colorful costumes and uplifting music. Tickets are \$15 at Kandy4LutzGovna.com, or at the door, if available.

ROCK THE CEILING

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host "Rock the Ceiling" June 11 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., on Mondays, through Aug. 6, to paint your own ceiling tile with a favorite book cover. Paints and materials will be set up for use. Participants can leave their tile at the library or take it home to work on. All tiles will be hung in the library and will be judged Aug. 6 at the "Rock the Ceiling" Final Party, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. All ages can participate. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

MAKE A WOOD SIGN

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer Woodworking 101: Crazy Directional Signs on June 11 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Participants can learn the basics of woodworking and use a scroll saw to cut out arrows and paint them. Registration,

safety forms and a waiver are required. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

PET ROCKS

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel, will offer a Tween Summer Reading Club "Pet Rocks" class June 12 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will meet June 12 at 7 p.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The guest speaker will be Bob Lindemuth on "What is a Seed Orchard and What Does it Do?" There will be light refreshments and a native plant drawing. For information, call Sandy Vanno at (727) 207-1853.

CRAFT NIGHT

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will have Summer Reading Club craft night for grades eight to 12 on June 12 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Participants can make dream catchers, flower crowns and leather wrap bracelets. There also will be music, socializing and snacks. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

FREE KIDS' MOVIES

Cobb Grove 16 Theatres, 6333 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel, will again offer its free Kids Summer Movie Escape. The theater will show "Kung Fu Panda 3" and "Angry Birds" June 12, June 13 and June 14 at 10 a.m. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Same-day ticketing only. Large groups, schools and camps are welcome. For information, call (813) 948-5444, or visit CobbTheatres.com.

GEOLOGY ROCKS!

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer "Geology Rocks!" on Tinkering Tuesday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m., for kindergarten through fifth grade. There will be geology themed crafts and activities. Registration is required by calling (813) 929-1214.

U.S./CUBA LECTURE

The Carrollwood Village HOAs will present a lecture on U.S./Cuba relations June 13 at 6 p.m., at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa. The guest speaker will be Albert A. Fox Jr., founder and president of the Alliance for Responsible Cuba Policy Foundation. Admission is free. For information and to RSVP, email aaron@carrollwoodcenter.org.

ONE MAN CIRCUS

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host the "Fritz Brothers One Man

Circus" June 13 at 10:30 a.m., for kindergarten through fifth grade, and their caregivers. There will be juggling, unicycling and circus activities. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

MAKE BELIEVE THEATER

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer a Read to Me Summertime Reading Club story time June 13 at 10:30 a.m. The special guest will be Katie Adams' Make Believe Theater: American Tall Tales. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

SUPERHEROES AND VILLAINS

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a Summer Reading Club "Superheroes vs. Super Villains" craft June 13 at 10 a.m., and again at 2 p.m., for kindergarten through third grade. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS

The Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida-Pasco Chapter will meet June 13 at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Room One. The guest speaker will be Mona Neville, Pasco County forester, on the topic of invasive cogon grass. Networking begins at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. For information, email DECFPasco@gmail.com.

READING CLUB STORY TIME

The New River Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel, will host a Summer Reading Club Story time June 13 at 10:30 a.m. For information, call (813) 788-6375.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host an ice cream social June 13 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., as part of its Libraries Rock! Preteen Summer Reading Club. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

INNOVATION GRANTS

Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund is accepting grant applications for any young person, ages 16 to 25. The applicant must have an enthusiasm and passion for an innovative idea or project, and must be working and developing new ideas in areas such as music, the performing arts, technology and entrepreneurship. The grants, up to \$5,000 each, are not scholarships for academic studies, but financial support for assist innovative young people in bringing ideas and projects to fruition. The current application deadline is June 15. For information, visit hunterwatson.org/grants.

VETERANS ART EXHIBIT

In 2015, the Straz Center for the Performing Arts launched a series of community art projects. Its current exhibit, "Power to the People: The Bill of Rights," is on display until Sept. 3 along the Straz Center's portion of the Riverwalk. The showcase features 10 pieces by Tampa Bay veterans, who were each assigned one article of the Bill of Rights to inspire an original work of art. The artworks are deeply artistic meditations on the first 10 amendments to the Constitution by women and men who served in the armed forces to protect these rights. The exhibit is free.

BASIC RIFLE SAFETY CAMP

Dade City Rod & Gun will offer the NRA's First Step (Firearm Instruction, Responsibility and Safety Training) Rifle Program for area youth and those interested in learning how to properly handle a rifle. The 4 1/2-hour session will be offered during the summer, subject to availability. The cost is \$40 per participant and includes the use of a rifle, ammunition, training materials, refreshments, professional instruction and a safe shooting environment. For dates and times, email [Larry Shrewsbury at LShrews1@aol.com](mailto:LShrews1@aol.com).

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WESLEY CHAPEL REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Wesley Chapel Republican Club will meet June 14 at 6:30 pm at Lexus of Wesley Chapel, 5350 Eagleston Blvd., in Wesley Chapel. The guest speaker will be State Sen. Denise Grimsley, who is running for Florida Agriculture Commissioner. She now serves as chairman of the Florida Agriculture Committee and was the recipient of the 2017 Florida Farm Bureau Legislator of the Year award. Coffee and home-made desserts will be served. Admission is free, and all are welcome. For more information, contact Peter Cracchiolo at (813) 360-9813 or email him at peterzbear@aol.com.

REPUBLICAN CLUB OF CENTRAL PASCO

The joint meeting of the Republican Club of Central Pasco and the Pasco Federated Republican Women's Club will be June 25 and will feature Pasco County Judge Group 7 candidates, Jeremiah Hawkes and Kent Compton. Judge Candy VanDercar, who currently holds the seat is not seeking re-election

The meeting is a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite dish. The club will supply the beverages.

The meeting is open to the public and the club encourages anyone that seeks to be involved in the political process to attend. The club meets at Copperstone Executive Suites, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd, in Land O' Lakes. The social begins at 6:30 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 7 p.m. For more information, call (813) 996-3011.

TRINITY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The Trinity Democratic Club will meet

on June 27 at 6:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Alex Sink, a former banking executive, former Chief Financial Officer for the state of Florida and a candidate for governor in 2010. She will be address the upcoming Florida elections. The meeting is at the Fox Hollow Golf Club, 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway, in Trinity. Doors open at 5 p.m. for dinner and a happy hour (self-pay), with food and beverages available for purchase throughout the meeting. For more information, call (415) 609-3633 or email us trinitydems@earthlink.net.

MIKE MOORE QUALIFIES BY PETITION SIGNATURES

Mike Moore, who is running for re-election to the district two seat of the Pasco County Commission, has secured the required number of petition signatures to qualify through the petition method. The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections Office has received, verified and certified the signatures, according to a letter sent to Moore by an official in Supervisor of Elections Brian E. Corley's office.

ENDORSEMENT

State Rep. Danny Burgess has endorsed Mike Moore, who is running for re-election to the district two seat on the Pasco County Commission, according to Moore's campaign.

Political Agenda is a column that runs only during election years.

There is never a guarantee of publication, but we do consider each item we receive. Please submit items for consideration at least two weeks prior to the desired publication date. Send submissions to news@lakerlutznews.com.

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B.C. MANION

Pasco County Sheriff's Office K-9 deputies Chris Miller and Jimmy Hall, explain how Buster, the bloodhound, tracks the scent of a missing person.

Pasco Sheriff's Office has new tool to track missing persons

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@akerlutznews.com

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office has a new tool to help find people with Alzheimer's, dementia, autism or other cognitive disorders who wander off.

Sheriff Chris Nocco held a news conference last week to talk about using scent kits to help locate missing persons with cognitive disorders.

"What we're trying to do, as quickly as possible, is to find those loved ones who go missing — find those missing children who have wandered off from the house; those who are dealing with mental disabilities that wander off," Nocco said.

"The stress on the family is overwhelming," Nocco said, noting that in addition to other calls, his department handled 1,200 calls regarding missing persons in the past year.

"The faster we can track them, the faster we can find them, the faster that we save them," the sheriff added.

Besides protecting the missing persons from harm, a quick result alleviates concerns of loved ones and enables the law enforcement agency to deploy its forces sooner to respond to other types of calls, Nocco said.

The scent kits will be distributed through the department's SafetyNet Program, said Det. Gennis Holsom.

That program uses a transmitter attached to a SafetyNet participant, which is tracked by deputies with radio receivers. The scent kit will add another tool to that program.

That program focuses on the cognitive disorders community, Holsom said. "If they wander off, we'll respond to the

scene with receivers, we can put in the unique radio frequency that that particular transmitter emits and we'll basically track the sound. We can track right to them.

"To add to the toolbox of the Safety Net program, we're adding the scent kit, starting in June.

"The scent kit is specifically for our bloodhounds. It will be a pure scent, which will be kept at that individual's house," he said.

To collect someone's scent, sterile gauze is rubbed on exposed skin, such as the arm or neck. The gauze is then sealed in a glass jar. The scent can remain viable for 5 years or longer. Care must be taken to collect the scent properly, to be sure there is no cross-contamination.

During the news conference, the department gave a demonstration of how the scent kits will be used.

A bloodhound named Buster was given a sniff of a scent that had been collected and stored in a jar. Working with K-9 deputy Chris Miller, Buster followed a trail that led to a man who was hiding in a stand of pine trees.

The scent kit enables the bloodhound to smell an item that has just the missing person's scent on it, K-9 deputy Jimmy Hall explained.

"Sometimes, if we take a scent article from the house, three or four other people within the house might have touched it," Hall said. "If you were to hand me a shirt, there's no telling how many different scents are on there."

Those who are interested in learning more about the program should contact Shelby Homko, at (727) 815-7119.

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New Technology Stops Strokes and Restores Blood Flow

Special to The Laker/Lutz News

For the first time ever in Pasco County, a local hospital now has the ability to surgically intervene while a stroke is occurring, and restore blood flow to prevent additional brain damage.

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point has opened the county's first specialized stroke intervention center that uses new technology that allows physicians to stop a stroke from progressing by physically removing the blood clot causing the stroke.

"This is taking our stroke care to a new level," said Carol Corder, vice president of neuroscience at the hospital. "This is true intervention — we are able to surgically go into the blood vessel and literally pull out the clot causing the blockage, restoring blood flow and preventing damage to the brain."

Corder oversees the hospital's stroke intervention program in its neuroscience unit. Her team includes John Clay Brunson, M.D., a physician recently hired with extensive experience in interventional neuroradiology, and Lisa Zielinski, a registered nurse and 25-year hospital employee, who has been appointed stroke coordinator to educate hospital staff, patients and community groups about stroke prevention.

"In the past, after we stabilized a stroke patient, we transferred them to a medical facility in Tampa if they were a good candidate for interventional treatment," said Corder. "Now we can do this life-saving treatment here at Regional Medical Center, which gives patients a greater chance of survival and can reduce the amount of brain damage a stroke causes."

In addition to hiring highly trained staff for its neuroscience unit, Regional Medical Center has also invested in new radiology equipment to give its medical team the tools needed to perform interventional stroke procedures.

The hospital recently installed a digital biplane imaging system, the Innova™ IGS 630 system from GE Healthcare, which allows physicians to view extremely detailed, real-time images of a patient's head, neck and



John Clay Brunson, M.D., interventional neuroradiologist



Carol Corder, vice president of neuroscience



Lisa Zielinski, stroke coordinator



A new digital biplane imaging system allows physicians to remove a clot that is causing a stroke.

spine.

"It is critical for us to see the anatomy very clearly while guiding catheters, stents and other medical devices in the brain to areas needing treatment," said Corder. "This equipment allows us to intervene in endovascular procedures that require exact precision, such as removing a clot that is causing a stroke."

The faster stroke patients can get access to life-saving interventions, the greater the chance of survival and maximum recovery with minimal brain damage, adds Stroke Coordinator Zielinski.

"Every second counts when it comes to strokes, which is why 'Time is Brain' is the mantra of all stroke centers," said Zielinski. "It is very exciting for our team to now be able to help stroke patients on-site with immediate, intervention treatment."

Zielinski explains that over 80 percent of strokes are caused by blood clots, and the remaining 20 percent are due to brain aneurysms, which is the rupture or leakage of an artery wall in the brain. Both causes can be treated by neuro-interventional surgery to stop the blockage or leakage.

"It is tremendously rewarding to have the technology to stop a stroke from progressing and to remove the blood clot or stop the aneurysms from causing more damage," said Zielinski.

Heading up the hospital's Neuro-Interventional Surgery Program is Dr. Brunson, a board-certified diagnostic radiologist and fellowship-trained interventional neuroradiologist. He joined Regional Medical Center in March.

Dr. Brunson earned his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine, completed a diagnostic radiology residence at Howard University Hospital and received dual full fellowship training in diagnostic neuroradiology and interventional neuroradiology at Hospital of University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, respectively.

"With the addition of our Neuroscience Center, we now have 24/7 emergency advanced stroke care. Every minute counts and the quicker we can detect and treat someone with a stroke, the faster we can help save the

F.A.S.T. WARNING SIGNS

F - Face Drooping

Does one side of the face droop, or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven or lopsided?

A - Arm Weakening

Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S-Speech Difficulty

Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like "The sky is blue." Is the person able to correctly repeat the words?

T - Time To Call 9-1-1

If someone shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 and say, "I think this is a stroke," to help get the person to the hospital immediately. Time is important! Don't delay, and also note the time when the first symptoms appeared. Emergency responders will want to know.

Other symptoms*

- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance, or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

* These symptoms sometimes appear separately, in combination, or with F.A.S.T. signs.

Source: American Stroke Association

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brain" said Sharon Hayes, Bayonet Point CEO. "This is just another example of Regional Medical's investment in technology and our commitment to providing patients with the best care possible."

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point has been serving the Pasco community since 1981. It is a 290-bed acute care hospital located in Hudson, and home of the nationally acclaimed Heart Institute. It has more than 300 physicians, 1,264 employees and 400 volunteers on its integrated healthcare delivery team.

For additional information on Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, visit www.BayonetPointHospital.com or

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MMTC's Wesley Chapel clinic is headed by Dr. Nomen Azeem, a pain management specialist who includes both patients and their families in developing treatment plans so that everyone involved understands the origin of the patient's pain as well as their available treatment options.

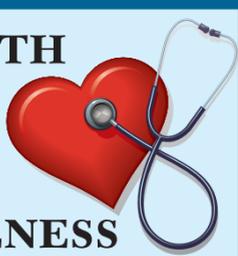
He actively continues to conduct research and author peer-reviewed publications in addition to treating patients, and is an associate assistant professor in the pain/neurology department of the University of South Florida.

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HEALTH

&

WELLNESS



Send health news to
news@lakerlutznews.com

The Laker/Lutz News likes to keep our readers informed about available classes, seminars, lectures and events regarding health and wellness issues. Hospitals, doctors, individual practitioners and anyone related to the health care industry can submit information, at least two weeks in advance, to be considered for publication. Photos of events, recognitions and so on, also are welcome. Submissions should include who, what, where, when, cost, contact information, identifications for individuals in a photo (unless it is a large group), and a photo credit. This information should be emailed to news@lakerlutznews.com.

VETERANS BENEFITS

American House, 38130 Pretty Pond Road in Zephyrhills, will present a free seminar on navigating veterans benefits June 7 at 1 p.m.

The guest speaker will be attorney Michelangelo Mortellaro on the topics of the types of benefits available, how to qualify, how to apply, and more.

To RSVP by June 6, call (813) 400-2262.

NECK, BACK & PELVIC PAIN

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will offer a "NeuroSpine Q & A" information session June 8 at 1 p.m., in the fourth-floor classroom.

Dr. Armen Deukmedjian and Dr. Amir Ahmadian will discuss neck, back and pelvic pain.

For information and to RSVP, call (844) 504-9378, or visit FHWesleyChapel.org/Events.

FREE HEARING EVALUATIONS

Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation will offer free hearing evaluations on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 6333 River Road in New Port Richey.

To make an appointment for a test, call (727) 312-3881.

If hearing aids are needed, financial assistance also is available.

WATER SAFETY

Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation will host a free water safety class for deaf and hard-of-hearing children June 9 at the New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center, 6640 Van Buren St.

The program is formatted with safety exercises for children with hearing challenges. Sign language interpreters will be available through Jessica Harris Interpreting Services.

Breakfast also will be provided.

For information, call (727) 312-3881, or visit FamilyHearingHelp.org.

SPORTS CAMP FOR DIABETIC YOUTH

Lake House Martial Art School of Self-Defense & Personal Safety in San Antonio will host its 23rd annual "Fun Sports Camp for Youth with Diabetes" June 10.

Participants can gain knowledge and ex-

perience in managing their medical issues while engaging in physical activities.

The school is at 11857 Curley Road, and can be reached by calling (352) 424-1001.

YOGA AT LIBRARY

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer these yoga classes:

- Yoga for Stress Relief: June 11 at 6 p.m.
- Chair Yoga: June 12 at 10:15 a.m.

Participants should bring water, a large beach towel or yoga mat, and wear comfortable clothing.

For information, call (813) 929-1214.

JOINT REPLACEMENT

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will present a lecture on total joint replacement June 11 at 11 a.m., in the Nursing Administration classroom.

Participants can learn how to prepare for surgery and become familiar with the recovery process.

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

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

MEN'S HEALTH

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will present a lecture on "Men's Health: What You Should Know" June 12 at noon, in the fourth-floor classroom.

Dr. Ralph Highsaw, board-certified urologist, will discuss issues including bladder disorders, erectile dysfunction and BPH.

A light lunch will be provided. For information and to RSVP, call (844) 504-9378, or visit FHWesleyChapel.org/Events.

TEEN HEALTH

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will present "Healthy Mouth, Healthy You" June 12 at 2:30 p.m., on the topic of teen health and fitness.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

There will be a free Medical Marijuana Awareness Seminar June 12 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express, 8310 Galbraith Road in Tampa.

Participants can learn how medical marijuana works, get dispensary and clinic information, and learn how to get a Florida registry card.

To RSVP, call (850) 906-5000, or visit MarijuanaAware.com.

BACK PAIN SEMINAR

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will present "What's Going on Down There: Making Sense of Your Back Pain" June 13 at 5:30 p.m., at its Inspiration Place, Wellness Plaza, third floor.

This is part of the hospital's pelvic health series.

For information and to RSVP, call (844) 504-9378, or visit FHWesleyChapel.org/Events.

MEDICARE 101

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) volunteer June 13 at 1 p.m., to answer Medicare questions, help complete forms, and more.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

HEALTHY HUMMUS

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will present "Nine Unusual Ways to Eat Hummus" June 13 at 11 a.m.

Participants can learn ways to incorporate this healthy fat packed with vitamins and minerals into a diet.

For information, call (813) 264-3804.

COPD SCREENING

Morton Plant North Bay Hospital, 6600 Madison St., in New Port Richey, will offer free COPD screenings June 13 from 10 a.m. to noon, in the Medical Arts Building, Suite 304.

For information, call (727) 953-6877, or visit BayCareEvents.org.

YOGA THERAPY

American House, 38130 Pretty Pond Road in Zephyrhills, will host an animal-assisted therapy yoga experience — Goat Yoga — June 18 at 9:30 a.m.

Snacks will be served.

To RSVP by June 14, call (813) 400-2263.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

- Breast Cancer Support Group: June 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Compassionate Friends Support Group: June 20 from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Lymphedema Support Group: June 21 at 3 p.m.
- Huntington's Disease Support Group: June 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- JDRF Cups of Hope Type 1 Diabetes

Support Group: June 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome. For information, call (727) 834-5630.

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Pasco offer a NAMI Family Support Group the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Atonement Lutheran Church, 29617 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel.

The group is open to family members and caregivers of someone with a mental illness diagnosis.

For information, call (727) 992-9653, or visit NAMIPasco.org.

FLORIDA HOSPITAL EARNS STRAIGHT A'S

The Florida Hospital West Florida Division has a perfect score card in patient safety and quality, and is the only hospital system in the Tampa Bay area that earned the highest rating for all of its hospitals that participated in the survey.

The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit health care ratings organization, announced its 2018 Hospital Safety Grades, and all seven participating hospitals in the West Florida Division received an A, including Florida Hospital Carrollwood, Florida Hospital Tampa, Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, Florida Hospital North Pinellas, Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center Sebring and Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center Lake Placid.

Florida Hospital Carrollwood also was named a Top General Hospital in 2017 and has received an A grade from Leapfrog six consecutive times since 2015.

OAK HILL HANDS OUT AWARDS

Oak Hill Hospital recognized its employees with the following honors:

- Kristin Baker, emergency room RN: Excellence in Nursing Professional Mentor
- Jennifer Diaz, CNA, fifth-floor Telemetry: Star Associate of the Year
- Shawn Kernz, intensive care RN: Excellence in Nursing Award for Compassionate Care
- Katie Stacy, marketing coordinator: Frist Associate Humanitarian Award
- Martha Sugg, current president of the Volunteer Association: Frist Volunteer Humanitarian Award

For information, please visit OakHillHospital.com.

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Jenny Buck, MD, FACOG



Malieri Colon-Rivera, MD, FACOG



Nay Hoche, MD

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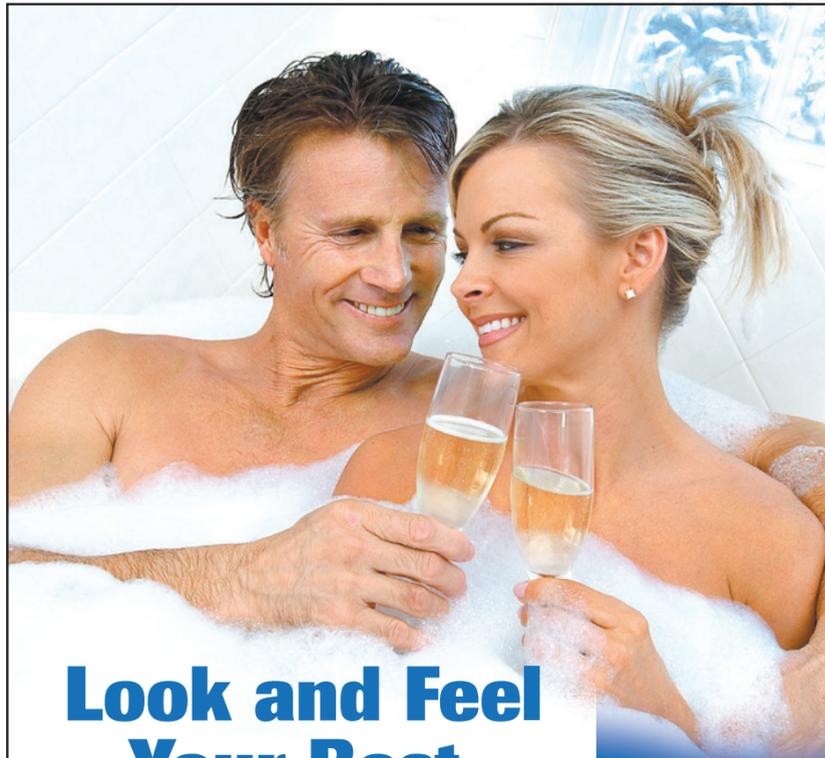
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COURTESY OF PATRICIA SERIO

Planting flags for Memorial Day

A team of woman's club members pay homage to the spirit of Memorial Day by placing American flags at veterans' grave sites at the First Baptist Cemetery in Land O' Lakes.



Nat Cunningham and Renate Mastandrea do their part honoring the veterans for Memorial Day, by placing American flags on their grave sites at the First Baptist Cemetery in Land O' Lakes.



Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

Always Tired? Sleep Problems? Call Evolution Functional Medicine Solutions That Last A Lifetime

Have you been to more than one doctor looking for a diagnosis on why you always feel tired, have difficulty sleeping and/or have trouble remembering things?

And, have these doctors prescribed various treatments and an array of medications, yet after following their recommendations, you still do not feel well?

If this sounds like you, it's time to call Evolution and see Erin Bolton, a functional medicine specialist with 10 years experience, and her colleague, Dr. Robert Hannum, a physician who has been practicing in Tampa Bay for 28 years.

Bolton and Dr. Hannum recently joined forces to offer patients innovative, functional medicine at their new Land O' Lakes office.

"Functional medicine gets to the root of what ails you – be it obesity, hormone issues, thyroid problems or fatigue – and then treats it once and for all," said Bolton. "There is no guessing. Through our testing, we will figure out a solution to treat your symptoms, and put together a complete package for lifelong body solutions."

Dr. Hannum, a doctor of osteopathic medicine, further explains, "Traditionally, an osteopath is taught to treat the person as a whole. We look at a patient's whole body, and don't focus on just one disease and one body part. We are trained to look at the causes behind all the problems in the body."

Dr. Hannum began his medical career as a family practitioner. He started focusing on alternative medicine 20 years ago, taking a functional approach to healing that complements Bolton's practice at Evolution.

At first, Bolton specialized in just nutrition and weight loss, as she is certified in Obesity and Individual Weight Management by the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.

But, because her patients had other medical issues, she expanded her practice to treat a wide variety of conditions, including hormonal imbalances, inflammation, toxicity, food allergies, digestive problems, adrenal fatigue, depression and fibromyalgia.

With the addition of Dr. Hannum, the team at Evolution can now address most medical



Robert Hannum, D.O.
Family Physician



Erin Bolton
Functional Medicine Specialist

conditions presented by their patients, using their functional medicine approach.

Bolton and Dr. Hannum like to compare the body to an orchestra, in which different instruments represent the organs of the body.

"At Evolution, we tune the entire orchestra, rather than concentrate on just one or two instruments, and then customize that orchestra to the patient's budget, lifestyle and medical test results," Bolton said.

This functional approach often attracts patients seeking answers for complex, chronic conditions. New patients often come to Evolution as a last resort, after seeing four to seven specialists over time, Bolton said.

Bolton is quick not to disparage the place and necessity of traditional medicine, which is why she partnered with Dr. Hannum, a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pennsylvania.

"We always do what is right for the patient, whether the solution includes a prescription or not," said Dr. Hannum. "Patients are always listened to at Evolution by every member of our dedicated, caring staff."

If you are struggling with your health, Evolution wants you to know there is hope.

"Please give us a call — we promise that we will always do the right thing for you," said Bolton.

Evolution is located in Land O' Lakes at 5420 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Suite 101, and offers early morning and evening hours. For more information, call (813) 333-5593, or go to Evolution4Health.com.



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Chalk Talk

Send school news to news@lakerlutznews.com

ESSAY WINNER

As part of the Clerk & Comptroller Paula O' Neill's Constitutional Essay Contest, Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano announced Angie Bolton, a student at St. Anthony's Catholic School in San Antonio, as the essay winner.

Bolton's essay best communicated her response to the topic question, "Which taxes impact you the most: local, state or federal? Why?"

Her submission met all the contest criteria of overall essay structure, appearance and readability.

Students in sixth through eighth grade, from public, private, parochial, charter, on-line and home-schools entered the contest.

Bolton was awarded a Best Buy gift card at a ceremony on May 3.

All entrants received a personal letter from Fasano thanking them for their participation.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Pasco-Hernando State College recognized outstanding student leaders and named the Distinguished Alumni for 2018 at a banquet at its West Campus in New Port Richey.

The Dr. Felisha R. Barker Outstanding Student Leaders were: Johnathan McCurnin



COURTESY OF BARBIE MONTY

Taking action against local hunger

Fifth-grade students from Carrollwood Day School volunteered at Feeding Tampa Bay as part of their student-initiated study focusing on hunger. The class and its teacher, Barbie Monty, inspected, sorted, organized and weighed nonperishable and perishable goods for distribution throughout the Tampa Bay communities. The group played a role in providing 2,892 meals for the hungry in the area.

and Audrey Pease, East Campus-Dade City; Emily Brock and Keilah Rodriguez, North Campus-Brooksville; Markishia Clarke and Dean Powell, Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch-Wesley Chapel; Savannah Lugo and Kaitlyn MacLean, Spring Hill Campus; and Dealaney Allen and Steven Gomez Rosario, West Campus.

Additionally, four military veteran students were recognized: Jesse Aldrich, North Campus; Brandon Bryant, Porter Campus; Amande Moore Frazier, West Campus; and Brandon Swanbom, East Campus.

The 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Margarita Romo (Class of 1980), founder and executive director of

Farmworkers Self-Help Inc., which allocates services to house, feed, clothe, education and employ less fortunate farmworkers.

DONATION CREATES SCHOLARSHIPS

Pasco-Hernando State College's spring commencement included presentations of two \$10,000 donations to the PHSC Foundation provided by Dr. Rao Musunuru, chair of the PHSC District Board of Trustees and local cardiologist.

The two donations created endowed scholarships in honor of Marilyn Pearson-Adams, PHSC District Board of Trustees member, and Robin Schneider, PHSC District Board of Trustees vice chair.

In the past year, the Foundation has awarded \$1 million in scholarships to benefit PHSC students.

FEE ADJUSTMENT MEETING

Pasco-Hernando State College's District Board of Trustees will consider approving proposed adjusted course-related fees at its next board meeting, scheduled for June 12 at 6 p.m., at the North Campus in Brooksville, 11415 Ponce de Leon Blvd., in the library's McKethan Conference Room.

Fee adjustment proposals are reviewed and approved for DBOT consideration by PHSC's Council of Academic Affairs, a committee that includes representation by administrators, deans, academic department chairs, faculty and staff.

For details regarding the proposed fee adjustments, justification for the fees and fee implementation dates, visit Policies.PHSC.edu, and click on Policies and Procedures, Public Disclosure.

PASCO SUMMER MEALS

Pasco County Schools Food and Nutrition Services Department has expand-

ed its Summer Food Service program, which runs to Aug. 1, to more than 100 sites across the county.

Meals will be provided at 50 school sites and 50 additional locations, including libraries, churches, parks, housing complexes and more.

Summer lunch bus stops are included among the 100 sites.

Any child age 18 and younger can participate with no enrollment or fees, and no requirement that they attend a Pasco County public school.

To find the nearest location, visit SummerFoodPasco.net, text "food" to 877-877, or call (813) 794-2480.

Families can attend one of the summer kickoff events, which will include food, games, prizes, cool treats and fun. The parties are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- June 8 at Crews Lake Park, 16739 Crews Lake Drive in Spring Hill
- June 14 at Zephyr Park, 5039 Fourth St., Zephyrhills

STUDENT BUS PASSES

The Pasco County Public Transportation Department will offer Student Summer Haul Passes to students for \$20.

Pasco County students can ride the fixed-route bus system all summer. The special rate will be effective through Aug. 31.

Haul passes can be picked up at all Pasco County libraries; the Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller's office at the West and East Pasco Government Centers; the Pasco-Hernando State College bookstores in Wesley Chapel, Dade City and New Port Richey; and the PCPT Administrative Offices at 8620 Galen Wilson Blvd., in Port Richey.

For information, call (727) 834-3322, or visit vit.ly/SummerHaulPass.

For bus routes and schedules, visit RidePCPT.com.



COURTESY OF EMILY KOCHANSKI

Chamber awards scholarships

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce awarded a total of \$5,000 in scholarships to eight Zephyrhills High School seniors during a ceremony in the school's auditorium on May 15. Recipients were chosen based on community service, presentation, character and academic achievement. From left: Madison Reidenbach (\$500), Katharine Ayers (\$500), Meghan Shannon (\$500), Avyanna Galyan (\$1,000), Ghyslain Velaquez (\$1,000), Eden Faison (\$500), Sandy Lin (\$500) and Amanda Cook (\$500).

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OFFICER, from page 1A

the memory of a man who answered the call to serve his country and community.”

The two-hour long gathering and reception also featured some of Harrison’s favorite gospel songs from his parish, St. John’s Missionary Church, in Dade City.

Harrison was mainly recognized for his impact to the community; serving as one of Pasco’s first black deputies; and for his life growing up in Dade City, where he was a sports star for the local black high school, Mickens High School.

Hazel Wells, 70, grew up with Harrison. She graduated high school with him in 1965 and remained friends long after.

In her words, Harrison was “a heroic, outstanding, God-fearing man.”

Last month, Wells wrote a proclamation to the Dade City Commission to forever make June 1 known as Capt. Charles “Bo” Harrison Day in Dade City.

Back in 2015, Wells successfully petitioned Dade City officials and neighbors to rename 11th Street as Charles “Bo” Harrison Street.

Wells also recalled Harrison for his upbeat, positive nature and athletic prowess.

“He was just a happy person,” Wells said, “and he loved sports.”

“I can still hear (people) on the Mickens ballfield yell, ‘Run Bo’ because he would run so fast. Any kind of sport, he excelled in,” Wells said.

Another lifelong friend, Willie Broner, 69, still cherishes fond moments with Harrison.

Both played on the same sports teams growing up and also served together in Vietnam. While serving in the war, Broner was caught in enemy territory when Harrison risked a 20-mile trek “all by himself” to help rescue his childhood friend.

Broner went on to become a longtime educator in Pasco County and a successful basketball coach at Pasco High School, where he recorded over 300 career victories.

“I will always remember Bo,” Broner paused, “as long as I live.”

“He will always be remembered in my heart. ... I will always remember a great man; a great, great, great friend,” Broner said.

Harrison, known as “BoBo” by those closest, was also reminisced for his radiant smile, his great sense of humor, and his distinguished, boisterous laugh.

Such a laugh would often echo through the hallways of the sheriff’s office, said Pasco Sheriff’s Det. Johnny Windsor, who worked under the fallen deputy early in his career.

“If you knew Bo,” Windsor said, smiling, “you knew the laugh that he had. ... You always knew when Bo was in the building.”

Windsor, himself now set to retire after a 30-year law enforcement career, shared stories and tales about working with Harrison.

One that still holds meaning: Harrison welcomed Windsor and family to his church and to share a meal as part of law enforcement appreciation week.



COURTESY OF RICHARD RILEY

A crowd exceeding 100 people turned out for the annual Bo Harrison Memorial on June 1 at the Boys and Girls Club, in Lacombe.

For Harrison, race was never an issue, said Windsor, who is white.

“It’s something for somebody to want to invite you to their church,” said Windsor, “when you’re not the same color as they are.”

Added Windsor: “He did not see color and it didn’t matter. This day and age that’s important. It should be important to all of us.”

Also oftentimes “the happiest guy on earth,” the veteran detective recalled Harrison as someone he could reach out to for help at anytime.

“He was a guy that was very approachable,” Windsor said. “You could walk up to him and have a conversation with him. You

could talk about work issues. You could go to him about personal issues. At that time there were very few people in the agency that I would go to with personal issues, but I will tell you Bo Harrison was one of them. I was proud to know that man. I was proud to say he was my friend.”

Windsor also said Harrison was a major influence on his career.

Looking back in his early days as a deputy, Windsor remembers thinking Harrison as “the guy I want to be like.”

“I believe that Bo Harrison probably made me the deputy sheriff that I am today and I thank him for that,” he said.

LAGOON, from page 1A

in the history of the Olympics.

The massive pool, with a patented technology to keep its waters crystal clear, covers about 7.5 acres at Epperson.

Pasco County building officials were notified of the problem immediately, and the stop work order issued the same day, said Anthony Mastracchio, the county’s deputy building official.

County officials said most of the struc-

tures without permits were tiki bars and cabanas.

Representatives of Metro Development Group, which is developing Epperson, met with building officials about the permits on May 14, and permit applications are being pursued, Mastracchio said.

“This is a great project and the county wants it to move forward,” he said.

However, the county will assess penalties by doubling the cost of the permit fees.

Mastracchio said some of the structures weren’t placed on the initial site plan sub-

mitted a year ago but Metro Development has provided new drawings which include the structures.

Building inspections, including plumbing and electrical, are done by a private company, which then files reports with the county.

Mastracchio said the county only does the fire inspections.

“Our process actually worked,” he said. “He (fire marshal) alerted us immediately. Our concern is for life safety.”

Metro Development’s president, Greg Singleton, wasn’t available for comment.

Epperson officials did release this statement: “The Crystal Lagoon at Epperson unfortunately did not open as we all hoped on May 19th. Here’s why: This is the first-ever Crystal Lagoon in the United States, and while exciting, that means the review processes are all new, and that is requiring more certifications. We know this is disappointing, and we apologize. We are working closely with Pasco County partners, and we appreciate their diligence. Meanwhile, we are doing everything we can to welcome everyone to the lagoon as soon as possible.”

ROAD, from page 1A

tending Meadow Pointe Boulevard and extending Wyndfields, also to Hillsborough County.

Moore said he favors the Meadow Pointe extension, which would link to a future road in K-Bar Ranch.

A count of residents’ preferences from a 2017 public meeting showed that road project had strong support.

“I’ve got to be concerned about my residents here in Pasco County,” Moore said.

Tampa City Councilman Luis Viera, who

attended the May 22 meeting, said all three connections are necessary. His constituents in New Tampa especially want Mansfield and Kinnan connected.

“I understand it’s not a black and white issue,” Viera said. “It’s gray. But, that is a real potential game changer. Hillsborough County is a stakeholder in this.”

Hillsborough County commissioners in 2017 approved \$250,000 toward linking the two roads.

There could be one point of agreement on Mansfield and Kinnan, which currently dead-end at the county line — roughly 30 feet to 40 feet apart.

A gate could be installed that would provide access to emergency vehicles only. The cost would be about \$7,000 for each county.

But, the Mansfield and Kinnan connection remains a hard sell for many Pasco residents.

“Adding traffic is what I’m worried about now,” said Ray Kobasko.

The Meadow Pointe extension makes more sense, he said. “It’s been planned all along. All the people who bought over there were told that,” he said.

Mike Hanna also opposes a Mansfield-Kinnan link.

“Connections have to be made but not all

three of these,” he said. “A lot of people drive Mansfield every day and have accidents now. I’d not be in favor of more traffic coming up there.”

Residents can comment on the study through June 15. A final study will be released in August or September.

A citizens’ survey also is planned in coming months, giving residents a chance to weigh in on potential projects. The MPO is scheduled to make its recommendation in October.

Pasco County commissioners will have the final say on which, if any, of the alternatives are selected for construction.

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Saint Leo lacrosse celebrates its best season

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Saint Leo University made history in 2006 as the first NCAA lacrosse program in the state of Florida.

The university has added another significant notch to its belt — becoming the state's first lacrosse program to make a national championship appearance.

Saint Leo's men's lacrosse team squared up on May 27 against Merrimack College in the NCAA Division II Lacrosse National Championship at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts.

The Lions were overmatched by the Massachusetts-based foe, surrendering 23-6. However, the season still goes down as the best run in team's 13-year history.

Saint Leo finished the 2018 campaign with a 16-3 overall record, including a 7-0 mark in the Sunshine State Conference.

The team ranked among the nation's leaders in scoring (11th, 13.63 goals per game), shot percentage (first, .393) and clearing percentage (third, .907).

Leading up to the season finale, the Lions defeated conference rival University of Tampa 11-10 in the national quarterfinals and then downed Lenoir-Rhyne (North Carolina) University 12-11 in the national semifinals.

As the team regroups from a biting title game loss, players are proud to finish national runner-up and be part of the remarkable campaign.

Redshirt junior goalkeeper Tom Tatarian described the season as "an incredible run."

Senior attacker Anthony Visintin evoked similar feelings: "It sounds cool and awesome to say that we had the best record in Saint Leo history and we get to go down as one of the best teams to go through here. Obviously, we would've rather it gone the other way and we would've rather won and have the whole big grand ending, but I guess you could say it's the second-best ending that could happen."

As one of 15 seniors on the 2018 roster, Visintin and others took the onus upon themselves to make their final season count — by improving upon a relatively disappointing 2017 where the Lions finished 9-5 overall and 1-4 in conference play.

Many of those upperclassmen, including Visintin, were also part of squads that finished 9-5 and 7-7 in 2016 and 2015, respectively.

"I think for me, playing for four years, we kind of found ourselves underachieving almost every year," he said.



Saint Leo men's lacrosse coach Brad Jorgensen launched the program more than a decade ago.

"But I think this year we were able to finally put it together. Having a big senior class definitely helped," added Visintin, who finished with 20 goals and 11 assists.

Saint Leo men's lacrosse coach Brad Jorgensen said the team, starting in the off-season, "worked hard to go from a pretty good team to a great team."

Jorgensen, who helped launch the program more than a dozen years ago, explained there was a "re-energized" commitment and attitude toward game preparation, strength and conditioning, among other team aspects.

The heightened focus and mindset, Jorgensen pointed out, allowed the Lions to win several close games this year; eight of their wins came by three or fewer goals.

The prior year, the Lions lost two conference games by two goals. They lost two others by four goals and five goals, respectively.

Jorgensen explained: "I think we had a tendency, when the pressure got on, to do what felt comfortable instead of what needed to be done on some occasions and it was really that tougher battle of, 'Am I willing for the next 10 months to do the hard stuff to get us to where we want to go?'"

He added: "Guys needed to realize the devil's in the details and, when you lose as many close games as we did in 2017, it just points to a little bit of a lack of attention to detail and commitment to getting the little things right."

THINKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

Like many of the Lions' players, Jorgensen acknowledged he's still reeling



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO ATHLETICS

The Saint Leo men's lacrosse team recently became the state's first program to make a national championship appearance. They lost to Merrimack College 23-6 in the NCAA Division II Lacrosse National Championship at Gillette Stadium, in Foxborough, Massachusetts.

from the national championship loss.

But the longtime coach hasn't lost sight of what just getting there means for the program's future.

"We got unbelievable exposure over the course of the (championship) weekend," Jorgensen said. "Being able to have the Saint Leo logo plastered all over Gillette during the final four where you're talking 35,000 to 40,000 people were able to see us and see our school and be exposed to it, that's obviously huge."

It's especially important for recruiting because the national title appearance enhances Saint Leo's reputation as a bona fide lacrosse power.

"I think every coach tells recruits that they want to play for a championship and that they're a championship program and all that other stuff, but it becomes a heck of a lot easier sell now that you've been that close," the coach said.

Meanwhile, the lacrosse program looks to move on without a senior class that made up about 40 percent of the 2018 roster.

Among the key departures is attacker Jake Gilmour, the program's first-ever United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Division II First-Team All-American.

Another is defender Jake Bye, who was named USILA honorable mention.

Said Jorgensen, "It's not like this class graduating snuck up on us, but it is kind of

impossible to discount what we're losing to graduation. ...Some guys who have been starting here for four years won't be here in the fall when we get started. That's going to be an adjustment."

Even so, the Lions do have solid core in place for next season.

That includes Tatarian, a second-team All-American goalkeeper who ranked sixth nationally with 13.84 saves per game; attacker Charlie Kurtenbach, who was second on the team in goals (40) and assists (29); and midfielder Julian Taylor, a Tampa product and Plant High School alum who tallied 23 points.

Tatarian, for one, is embracing what's in store for 2019, where he'll be a graduate student exhausting his final year of eligibility. (He received a medical redshirt for an injury suffered as a freshman in 2015.)

He will be the longest-tenured player on next year's roster, likely forcing him to become more of a leader in both actions and words.

Said Tatarian, "There's really going to be a movement forward to a younger team and I have to take that responsibility upon myself as well as the other seniors to really shoulder the dynamic for this program, for what we're about, and what we're going to do moving forward. I think it's going to be a very exciting process seeing all the young guys coming in and see what they're going to bring to the table."

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COURTESY OF JOHN MEDVID

Big Bass!

Land O' Lakes residents Noam Soash, left, and Bud Hogens, teamed up to win first place at the South Pasco Bassmasters (SPBM) May 19 tournament, hauling in five bass for whopping weight of 18.60 pounds at Lake Hernando. The haul included the biggest bass of the tournament, weighing 9.37 pounds. The duo caught their fish using isolated patches of pads. The next SPBM tournament is June 16 at Lake Tarpon. For information, visit SouthPascoBassmasters.com.

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 Pledge at rhendrix@pasco.k12.fl.us.

PHSC YOUTH BASKETBALL CAMP

The Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC) basketball team is hosting a three-day youth basketball camp from June 18 through June 20, at the PHSC West Campus Physical Fitness Center, 10230 Ridge Road, in New Port Richey.

The camp is open to boys and girls ages 7 to 17. Players will be grouped according to age and ability.

The camp, run by PHSC head basketball coach Micheal Jones and his players, will consist of lectures, individual instruction and full court games.

Each camp day runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Campers are encouraged to bring a bag lunch and water bottle.

For information about cost and other questions, contact Micheal Jones at (727) 816-3340 or e-mail jonesm@phsc.edu

SAINT LEO YOUTH BASEBALL CAMPS

The Saint Leo University baseball team is hosting a pair of summer youth camps in June and July at Thomas B. Southard Stadium, 33701 State Road 52, in Saint Leo.

The first session runs from June 25 through June 27; the second runs from July 23 through July 25. Each camp day runs from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

The camps, for boys ages 8 to 14, will cover all facets of the sport.



COURTESY OF MARK STECKMAN

District Champs!

The Land O' Lakes Little League Major Division won the Florida District 25 President's Cup championship on May 22 by defeating Zephyrhills Little League 8-7 at North Seminole Little League, in Tampa.

For information about cost or to register online, visit the Saint Leo camps and clinics webpage at saintleocamps.com.

For detailed information about the clinic, contact Saint Leo assistant baseball coach Matt Kennedy at (352) 588-8841 or at matthew.kennedy@saintleo.edu.

YOUTH SPEED RUNNING CAMP

The Speed Starz Track Club, USA Track & Field member club, is hosting a speed and conditioning training camp through July 19 at Wiregrass Ranch High School, 2909

Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

Week-day training sessions are offered between 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with extended hours available upon request.

Open to elementary, middle and high school students, the camp will teach advanced track & field drills and techniques, such as footwork, acceleration and speed, change of direction, proper running form and more.

For information about cost and other questions, contact BB Roberts at (352) 807-0397 or e-mail FastSprintQuick@yahoo.com.

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Figure skating heats up in Wesley Chapel

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

As Tampa Bay becomes synonymous with hockey this time of year, another ice-based sport is heating up in the region.

For the first time, the Florida Sports Foundation selected Pasco County to be the host community for the annual Sunshine State Games Figure Skating Championships.

The competition took place at Florida Hospital Center Ice in Wesley Chapel, from May 18 through May 20.

The games drew more than 300 male and female skaters of all ages, with skaters and their families trekking all the way from the First Coast to South Florida, and everywhere in-between, to compete in the statewide, Olympic-style program.

The majority of the participants were girls between the ages of 10 to 14.

SKATING SISTERS SHINE

A pair of young sisters from Wesley Chapel fared among the best.

Twelve-year-old Haley Scott and 10-year-old Jordan Scott each earned gold medals in their respective competitions.

Haley won the novice ladies division with a personal-best in the free skate (84.96 total score).

Jordan, meanwhile, won the juvenile girls free skate event (48.75 score) and was a recipient of the Betty Stark Award as the games' top juvenile skater.

Haley won the same award back in 2016 for first-place finishes in the juvenile girls free skate and intermediate ladies short events.

She also won the games' Dorothy Dodson Award in 2017, named after the late long-time figure skating judge that recognizes the highest combined score in the intermediate ladies free skating and short program events.

The success in Florida has translated to the national stage, for Haley.

Between October and January, she skated in the South Atlantic Regional Championships in Ashburn, Virginia (second place, Intermediate Ladies); the Eastern Sectional Championships in Boxborough, Massachusetts (second place, Intermediate Ladies); and in the 2018 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, California (10th place Intermediate Ladies).

But, her proudest skating moment came the year before, when she earned a bronze medal in the juvenile girls division at the 2017 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Kansas City, Missouri.

Ranked among the nation's top young figure skaters, the Olympics may be a reality someday.

"My goal is just to keep having fun, keep pushing to my potential, just enjoying the journey," she said. "The Olympics would be great."

The Scott sisters have each been skating for about six years, when they first tried it out at a friend's birthday party.

They've been hooked ever since.

"I like the challenge of it. Each day you get to do something new and try to push yourself," Haley said.

Added Jordan: "I also love competing. It's really fun to ice skate."

A CONVENIENT TRAINING GROUND

The skating wunderkinds, along with their mother Julie Scott, moved to Wesley Chapel from Port Orange, chiefly for the offerings at Florida Hospital Center Ice.

Labeled the largest ice sports facility in the Southeastern U.S., the 150,500-square-foot, two-story complex features five ice rinks — an Olympic rink (200 feet by 100 feet), three National Hockey League-sized rinks (200 feet by 85 feet) and a mini rink.

While living in Port Orange, the family would commute three hours everyday to a skating facility in Jacksonville.

They made the daily drive for about four years, until Florida Hospital Center Ice launched in January 2017.

Now they're just minutes away from sheets of ice.

"This facility is probably the best in the southeast right now. It really is. You really can't beat it," Julie Scott said.

The Scott sisters, who are home-schooled, use the Wesley Chapel facility about six days a week for practice and training. Their team of coaches is also stationed there.

"They've got ballet here. They've got yoga. They have it all. They have a trainer. It's all in-house, which is really nice," their mother said.

Other skating families are relocating to Wesley Chapel to access those opportunities.

Josh and Marissa Wright and their two children soon plan to move to the area from Boynton Beach. They want to be within a 15-minute drive of Center Ice.

They recently made the 3 1/2-hour drive from South Florida so their 6-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn, could participate in the games' basic series event.



FRED BELLET

In the juvenile division, figure skater Kaitlyn Wright, 6, left, talks with friend, Briana Reich, 7, of Wellington. The two girls are coached by Lauren Salzlechner, also of Wellington. Wright and her family may be moving to Wesley Chapel in order to live near Florida Hospital Center Ice.



FRED BELLET

A graceful Peyton Mazur glides on the ice during practice at the annual Sunshine State Games Figure Skating Championships at Florida Hospital Center Ice in Wesley Chapel.



COURTESY OF JULIE SCOTT

Twelve-year-old Haley Scott, of Wesley Chapel, won the novice ladies division with a personal-best in the free skate (84.96 total score). Her younger sister, Jordan Scott, 10, also earned a gold medal in the juvenile free skate.

When Josh first toured the facility, he was awestruck with the complex located off Interstate 75 at the State Road 56 interchange.

"It's amazing. It's unbelievable. I mean, there's nothing like this," he said, adding the facility his family currently uses only has one rink.

FLORIDA'S FIGURE SKATING SURGE

The first Sunshine State Games Figure Skating Championships began 32 years ago in Clearwater with less than 60 skaters.

It's grown nearly fivefold since, and has been hosted at several other locations over the years, including Tampa, Ellenton, Jacksonville and West Palm Beach, among others.



COURTESY OF JULIE SCOTT

Ten-year-old Jordan Scott, of Wesley Chapel, won the juvenile girls free skate event and was a recipient of the Betty Stark Award as the games' top juvenile skater.



FRED BELLET

Twelve-year-old Avery Kelley and her coach, Steve Belanger, both of Jupiter, made the trip to the annual Sunshine State Games Figure Skating Championships at Florida Hospital Center Ice in Wesley Chapel. Kelley, a competitor in the intermediate division, skates with "elegance and poise," according to her coach.

Betty Stark has served as the games' figure skating director since its inception.

She said it's "a good tune-up" for skaters with aspirations of reaching qualifying competitions, like regionals and sectionals, later in the year.

"A lot of the kids that participate in the Sunshine State Games get the opportunity, if they place, to go on to the State Games of America," she said, noting several home-grown skaters have wound up competing nationally and internationally.

Stark, a former club figure skater herself at the University of Florida, has also witnessed the sport's surge in the state across the past three decades.

"It's been taking off a lot," she said. "The number of rinks and the interest in figure skating has increased a lot. Coaches have been coming down here starting up programs. Guests coaches from across the country love to come down for the warm weather...and some of them just wind up staying here; and they bring their expertise from their years of skating and their coaching."

Meantime, the figure skating event may remain here for the foreseeable future.

Pasco County Tourism Manager Consuelo Sanchez said the county plans to bid to keep the state games in Wesley Chapel for the next few years.

"We are interested to keep it here be-

cause it is the most important (figure skating) competition in the whole state of Florida," she said.

Further, the event may be a springboard for drawing even larger figure skating competitions at Florida Hospital Center Ice.

"The good thing about bringing the Sunshine Games is we're going to show that we can host big events," Sanchez said.

"We're already having conversations with USA Figure Skating to try and bring regionals and, hopefully, national championships here. But, they wanted to see that we have the capability of hosting these events, and this is a great experience."

The facility is already no stranger to the big stage.

It was the training home for the USA Hockey Women's National Team that won gold in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

It has also hosted multiple National USA Hockey championships and is the training home for international athletes — including six-time French national champion figure skating pair Vanessa James and Morgan Cipres.

And, it's bucking the notion that ice sports are reserved for northern states and colder climates.

Said Julie Scott, "Everybody always asks us, 'Why ice skating in Florida?' But, why not? You've got these great facilities."

PET of the WEEK



Miss Princess rules

One of five kittens in an alley cat's litter, little Miss Princess is aptly named. Besides her gorgeous emerald green eyes, she is confident, serene and has a regal demeanor. Miss Princess loves to be outdoors and she reigns over all she sees. Curt Kibbe, of San Antonio, is her proud owner.

Send us a picture and information on your favorite pet!

Write a short paragraph about why your pet is special along with a photo and mail to: **Pet of the Week**, c/o The Laker, P.O. Box 479, Lutz, FL 33548 or email to mrathman@lakerlutznews.com, ATTN: Pet of the Week
PLEASE NOTE: OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS MUST BE INCLUDED FOR YOUR PET TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION.

PET PAWS

PET ADOPTION AND AWARENESS

Southeast Guide Dogs will be available with information at a Pet Adoption and Awareness Event June 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Thrifty Dog Thrift Store, 9017 Commercial Way in Weeki Wachee.

The event will include local foster groups, therapy and service animal groups, raffles, 50/50s, silent auctions, food vendors, games, music and more.

Southeastern Guide Dogs will be there to explain how you can make a difference in someone's life by becoming a puppy raiser.

Thrifty Dog, also a nonprofit foundation, advocates for animals through monetary aid, education and awareness.

It supports local animal rescues, shelters, and therapy/service organizations.

Visit the foundation at [Facebook.com/thriftydog](https://www.facebook.com/thriftydog).

For information, call Anthony or Jeri Loffler at (352) 701-1107.

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.

Readers can now find Pets of the Week and Local Wildlife photos on our website at LakerLutznews.com, under the Pets/Wildlife link.

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If you would like to adopt Fari or Maggie, be sure to visit Pasco County Animal Services at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes. The adoption center is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6:30 p.m. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip and vaccines. For more information, email adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net.

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LOCAL WILDLIFE



Grabbing a bite to eat

This red-shouldered hawk had been perched up on the trampoline in Kanasha Reyes' backyard in Land O' Lakes for a few days. Evidently, the hawk was spotting prey and ultimately was rewarded by catching a lizard.



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BUSINESS DIGEST

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SWIFTMUD MAPPING

The Southwest Florida Water Management District, or Swiftmud, selected the private firm of Dewberry to collect and process mapping data in Pasco County, according to a news release from Capstone Communications.

The firm will provide services and products to assess, monitor, analyze and manage water quality, water distribution and flood control.

Dewberry also will collect ground control data, creating digital elevation models, and delineating building footprints and impervious features to support Swiftmud and Pasco County.

Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) data was completed in January 2018. Lidar uses a laser pulse from a transmitter to collect measurements and other topographical data.

Dewberry is headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia. It has more than 50 locations nationwide.

For information, visit Dewberry.com.



COURTESY OF STEPHEN JOHN PHOTOGRAPHY

Hope Allen, president of the North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce, center, and about 200 attendees celebrated the chamber's ribbon cutting at its new location.

North Tampa Bay chamber grand opening

North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated the grand opening of its new office, at 1868 Highland Oaks Blvd., in Lutz, off State Road 54.

About 200 people attended the event,

which included hors d'oeuvres, a wine tasting by Time for Wine, a cash bar, live music and a tour of the new office.

The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce has about 830 members and is

the largest in Pasco County. It serves Wesley Chapel, New Tampa, Lutz, Land O' Lakes, Trinity, Odessa and New Port Richey.

For more information, visit NorthTampaBayChamber.com.

AVALON GROUNDBREAKING

Avalon Park West recently had a groundbreaking for its new amenity center, at River Glen Boulevard and Little River Way.

The center will have a pool, clubhouse, splash park, play lawn, tiki hut, spa, picnic area, playground and more.

Avalon Park West, at 33613 State Road 54, is about 7.5 miles east of Interstate 75. It has easy access to The Shops at Wiregrass and The Groves at Wesley Chapel.

At build-out, the community is expected to have about 4,800 residences, including single-family houses and apartments, as well

as a town center with commercial and office space.

Avalon Park Group is based in Orlando. For more information, visit AvalonParkWest.com.

Continued on next page

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BUSINESS DIGEST

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SPORTS GROUNDBREAKING

Wiregrass Ranch Sports Complex will have a groundbreaking June 7 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., at 3211 Lajuana Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

Pasco County and RADDsports, which will manage and operate the sports complex, will host the free event.

The Pasco County Commission approved a public/private partnership in 2017.

The project will include a 98,000-square-foot indoor sports arena, outdoor sports fields, an amphitheater with an event lawn, trails, pavilions and a playground.

Pasco County has a ground lease for a Marriott Residence Inn that will be built with private funds at the complex.

The sports complex is expected to host sporting and recreation activities, including basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, dancing, wrestling, gymnastics, curling and badminton.

CHAMBER BREAKFAST

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly business

breakfast June 7 from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., at the Golden Corral, 6855 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills.

The cost is \$8 for chamber members and \$10 for non-members.

For information, call the chamber at (813) 872-1913, or email Eleanor@zephyrhillschamber.org.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will have its general membership meeting June 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn Tampa Suncoast Parkway, 2155 Northpointe Parkway, at Northpointe Village.

Guest speaker will be Joanie Sigal, of SJS Associates.

MIDFLORIDA Credit Union is the sponsor.

The cost for members is \$20 if paid by June 7. Afterward, the cost is \$25 for members and non-members.

For information, call the chamber at (813) 909-2722.

SMART BUSINESS SERIES

The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a seminar on "how a video can change your business" June 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., at Overnight Success Studios, 17743 Hunting Bow Circle, Lutz.

The seminar will offer tips and advice on videos, whether made on a cellphone or by a professional studio.

The presenter will be Miroslav Beck.

The cost for early registration is \$20 for

Taylor Morrison groundbreaking

Taylor Morrison, a national homebuilder and developer, recently broke ground on Chapel Chase, a new single-family residential community in Wesley Chapel.

Chapel Chase will have nearly 90 homes built on about 40 acres, off Boyette Road. The community will be located a few miles from Interstate 75 and Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, with access to major employment corridors, medical facilities, local airports, shopping centers, restaurants and entertainment, according to a news release.

Chapel Chase also will



COURTESY OF TAYLOR MORRISON

Living room at a planned single-family residence.

be less than 1 mile from a regional park with baseball fields, soccer fields, a football field, tennis courts, basketball courts, a fitness trail, playground and a fishing area.

Homes at Chapel Chase will feature open-design concepts with large living spaces, designer kitchens,

owner's suites and other design options.

Taylor Morrison Home Corporation is headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona, and builds two brands - Taylor Morrison and Darling Homes.

For information, visit ChapelChase.com and TaylorMorrison.com.

members, and \$25 for non-members.

Walk-ins will be welcome, if seats are available. Costs at the door are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.

For information, email [Beck at mira@beckav.com](mailto:Beck@mira@beckav.com), or visit NorthTampaBayChamber.com.

BUSINESS SEMINAR

Pasco-Hernando SCORE will have a free seminar, "Using the Internet for Your Business," June 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30

p.m., at the Hugh Embry Branch Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City.

The seminar will demystify much of the "gobbledygook" relating to the Internet through an eight-step process of key activities. The seminar will explain how to leverage technology, and show various roles that a website can play in enhancing your business.

Space is limited, so register early.

For information and to register, visit PascoHernando.score.org.

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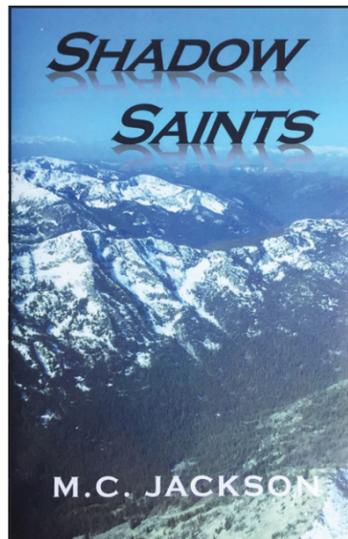
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Wesley Chapel's own Christine (M. C.) Jackson, publishes debut novel, "Shadow Saints," with Xlibris Publishing.

It is an action/suspense story about a family's entanglement with domestic terrorists intent on destroying America and her freedoms.

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See www.spindriftstories.com for a peek inside and information on the author and book.



Novena Prayer to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

Immaculate Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus and my mother, I come to you with confidence in your powerful intercession, manifested through your Miraculous Medal.

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

Amen.

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

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS 2018 SALES TAX HOLIDAY

JUNE 1-7
For a list of qualifying items, visit
floridarevenue.com/disasterprep

Hurricane supplies sales tax-free

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Shoppers have through June 7 to stock up tax-free on supplies they may need if a hurricane or another disaster hits Florida.

The Florida Legislature passed the 2018 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, which was signed by Gov. Rick Scott.

The sales tax holiday began on June 1. During the tax holiday, qualifying items that relate to disaster preparedness are exempt from sales tax.

Here's a list of items that are tax-free during the sales tax holiday:

- \$10 or less:**
 - Reusable ice packs
- \$20 or less:**
 - Any portable self-powered light source
 - Flashlights
 - Lanterns
 - Candles
- \$25 or less**
 - Any gas or diesel fuel container, include LP gas and kerosene containers
- \$30 or less**
 - Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only:
 - AA and AAA-cell
 - C-cell
 - D-cell
 - 6-volt

- 9-volt (Automobile and boat batteries excluded)
- Cooler and ice chests
- \$50 or less**
 - Tarps
 - Plastic sheeting, plastic drop cloths and other flexible waterproofing sheeting
 - Ground anchor systems
 - Tie-down kits
 - Bungee cords
 - Ratchet straps
 - Radios (powered by batteries, hand-crank or solar)
- \$750 or less**
 - Portable generators used to provide light or communications, or to preserve food in the event of a power outage.
- Always exempt**
 - Bottled water, which is not flavored or carbonated
 - Canned food, including meats, vegetables, fruits.
 - Other foods, including peanut butter and other nonperishables
 - Prescriptions
 - Baby food and formula

For more information and a list of qualifying items, please see the Department of Revenue's Taxpayer Information Publication on the 2018 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday.

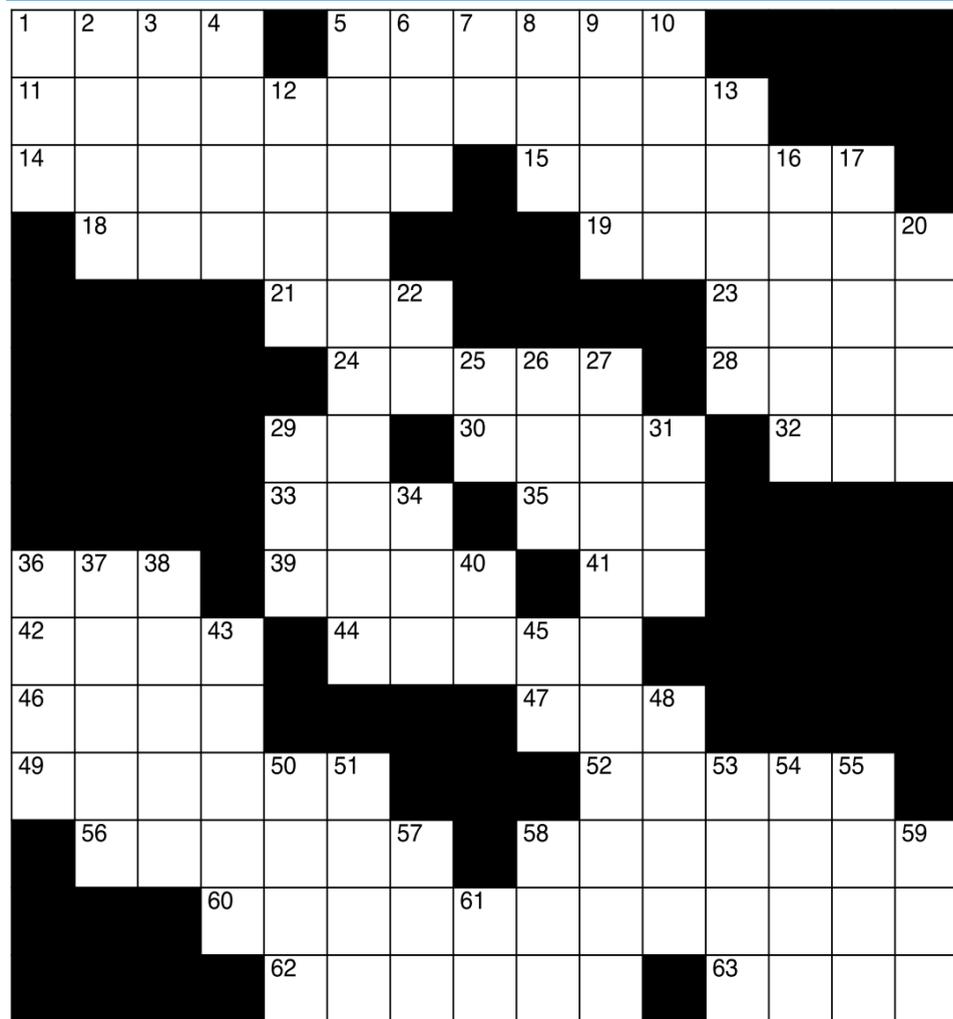


COURTESY OF STEVEN HOSKINS

Petty officer returns home

Petty Officer 2nd Class Stewart Trimble is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS San Juan, one of the world's most advanced nuclear-powered submarines. The submarine recently returned after a deployment where it served as ambassador during port visits to Falsane, Scotland and Rota, Spain. Trimble is a Wesley Chapel native and 2011 Wesley Chapel High School graduate.

The LAKER / Lutz NEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Absence of difficulty
5. Preserve a dead body
11. Gratitude
14. Grads may attend one
15. Less difficult
18. Visionaries
19. Fish-eating bird
21. Indicates near
23. '69 World Series hero
24. Scandinavian mythology source
28. Pop
29. Rapper __ Hammer
30. Senses of self-esteem
32. Hormone that stimulates the thyroid
33. __ Farrow, actress
35. Electronic data processing
36. Baby talk (abbr.)
39. Slender, snake-like fish
41. Air Force
42. Computers
44. Ecological stage
46. Wings
47. In the course of
49. Laid back
52. Jewelled headdress
56. In slow tempo
58. __ Falls
60. Corrections
62. Periods in one's life
63. Hyphen

5. Genetically distinct geographic variety
6. Category of spoken Chinese
7. Barium
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. NFL great Randy
12. Ireland
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Tall plants with slender leaves
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. Potato state
25. Delaware
26. A way to develop
27. Associations
29. Woman (French)
31. Sunscreen rating
34. Brew
36. One who leads prayers
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Citizen (senior)
43. Scads
45. Morning
48. Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
50. S-shaped line
51. Small, thin bunch
53. Worn by exposure to the weather
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Of the ears
58. "The __ Degree"
59. Type of residue
61. Keeps you cool

DOWN

1. Body part
2. Large primates
3. Retch (archaic)
4. Sea eagle

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

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