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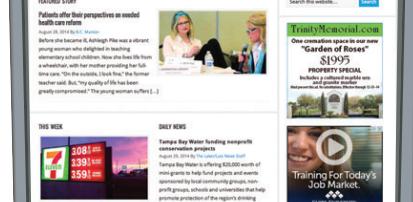
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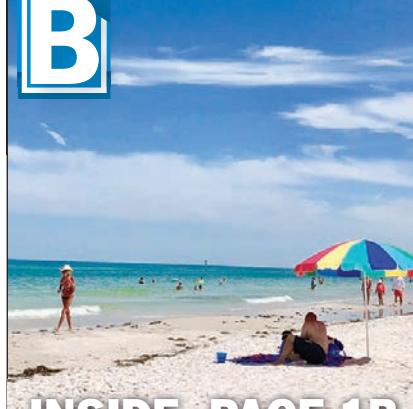
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INSIDE, PAGE 1B

## Pasco schools adopt tentative budget

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

The Pasco County School Board has adopted a tentative budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, with a final public hearing set for Sept. 18.

The proposed general fund budget for 2018-2019 is \$630,860,337. That's a \$15.2 million increase over last year's general fund, which represents roughly a 2.47 percent increase.

The capital projects funds in the budget for 2018-2019 total \$244,516,610, which reflects an increase of \$31.5 million or 14.78 percent above the 2017-2018 budget.

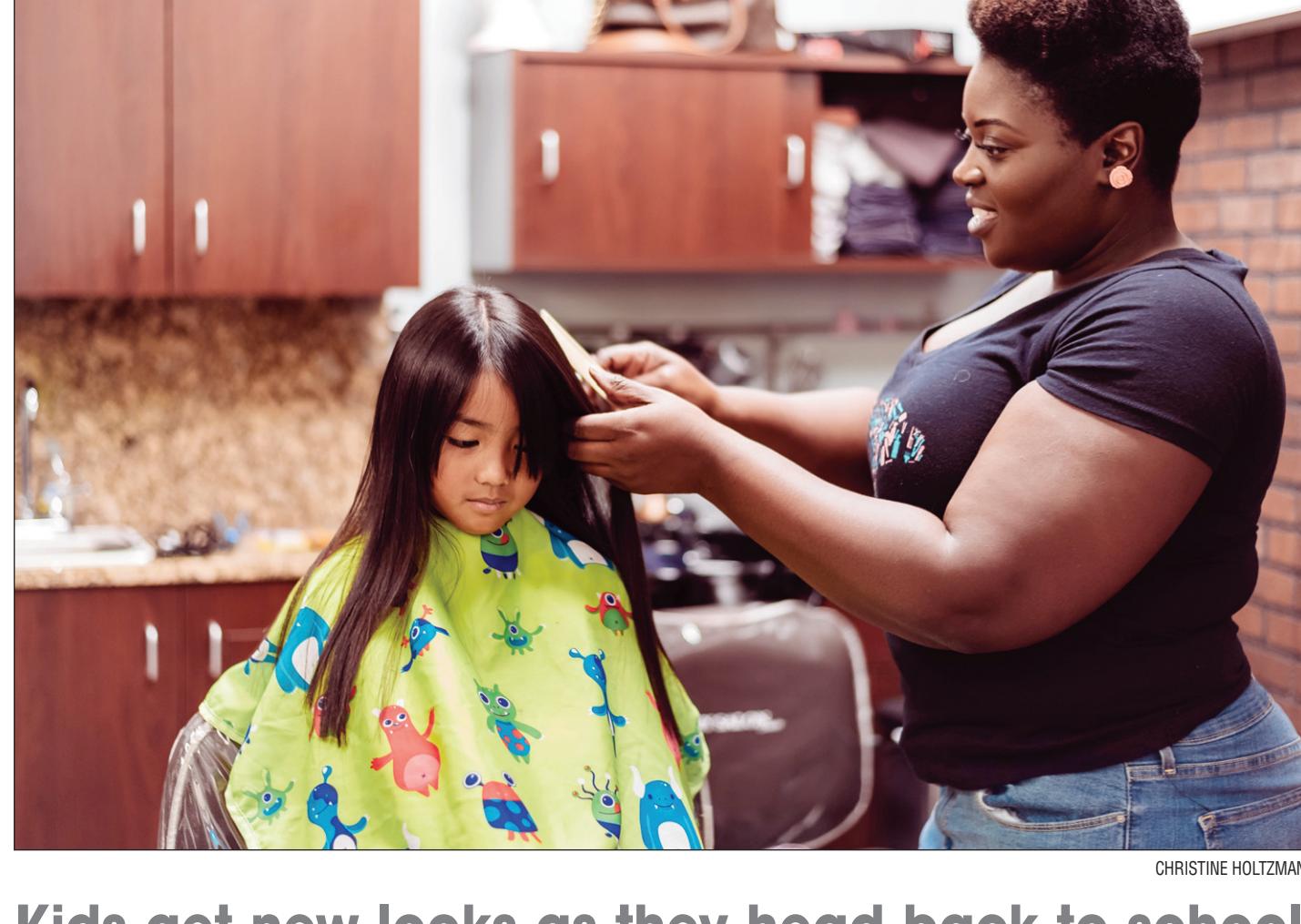
Capital Projects Funds are used to account for expenditures on acquisition or construction of major capital facilities and improvements to existing facilities. The funds also are used for the maintenance of approximately 2,400 buildings across the district, to purchase land and to pay for equipment, technology equipment, buses

and vehicles.

Under the proposed rate, the owner of a \$125,000 home, after deducting the \$25,000 homestead exemption, would pay \$627.90 in school taxes — a decrease of \$28.60 from last year.

The state's basic student allocation for the 2018-2019 school year is \$4,204.42. That's 47 cents more per student than last year. But, since the state applies a cost of liv-

See BUDGET, page 11A



CHRISTINE HOLTZMAN

## Kids get new looks as they head back to school

My Salon Suite, at 20707 Center Oak Dr., in Tampa, partnered with Dr. Bou Pediatrics and Young Chef's Academy to give kids a chance to get their hair cut, just in time to head back to school. Those donating school supplies could get free haircuts. The event also featured face painting, frozen treats and a bouncy house. The donations collected will benefit Metropolitan Ministries and Quail Hollow Elementary. My Salon Suite franchise owner Heather Tomasello plans to make this an annual community event. Above, 8-year-old K.C. Jao, of Wesley Chapel, gets a new haircut for back to school by stylist Wislynn Cosmay, of Hair By Wyss.



After getting their faces painted, 8-year-old Ankhilan Munkherdene, of Tampa, left, and 6-year-old Lewis Lynn, of Brandon, beat the afternoon heat and sit inside the lobby of My Salon Suite to eat their frozen treats.



Linette Gonzalez-Fuentes, owner of Fuentes Fantabulous Fun, holds a mirror up so that 6-year-old Nicole Panepinto, of Land O' Lakes, can see how the design turned out. The youngster's smile communicates her approval.

## Woodland Elementary School gets new look

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

Students and staff arriving this week at Woodland Elementary School for a new academic year found a campus that has undergone a substantial renovation.

The \$12 million project included \$9 million in construction costs and \$3 million for other expenses, including furniture, architectural fees, materials testing, telecommunications, district staff and other costs, according to Mike Gude, director of construction services and code compliance for Pasco County Schools.

The renovation of the school at 38203 Henry Drive included the addition of more than 100 paved parking spaces, a new and expanded administration suite, 12 additional classrooms, a new art room, two new music

## Solar farm appeal is rescheduled

By Kathy Steele  
[ksteele@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:ksteele@lakerlutznews.com)

A hearing on appeals to a proposed solar farm project has been rescheduled because of a glitch in advertising the original hearing date.

The Pasco County Commission, with the approval of all parties involved in the matter, agreed to continue the appeal until Sept. 4 at 1:30 p.m.

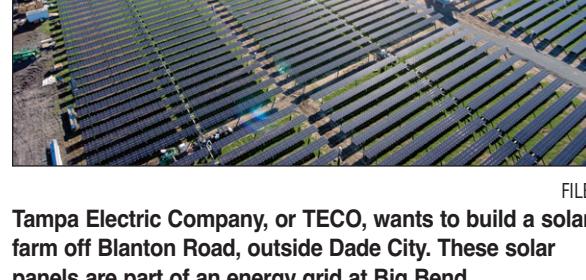
The original appeal had been set for Aug. 7.

The appeal will be heard in the commissioners' meeting room in Dade City.

Two appeals were filed after the Pasco County Planning Commission approved a special exception permit for the solar farm in April.

One came from Gordon and Kathleen Comer; the other from Sandra Noble. Noble and the Comers live near the proposed project site, off Blanton Road, outside Dade City.

First Solar Electric, which has a contract with Tampa Electric Company (TECO), wants to install about 460,000 photovoltaic solar panels on about 350 acres, on both



Tampa Electric Company, or TECO, wants to build a solar farm off Blanton Road, outside Dade City. These solar panels are part of an energy grid at Big Bend.

sides of Blanton Road. The solar farm, known as the Mountain View Solar Project, would produce on average of about 53 megawatts of power, which would be fed to TECO's power grid.

The project has been controversial, and drew large, impassioned crowds to previous hearings.

Area neighbors say the project will de-

See WOODLAND, page 11A

See SOLAR, page 11A

# We all have different likes, but...



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**The LAKER/Lutz NEWS**



KATHY STEELE

Workers are completing the interior build-out of MOD Pizza, a new restaurant by Tampa Premium Outlets.

## MOD Pizza sets up shop off State Road 56

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

MOD Pizza is expected to open soon in a mini-retail center along restaurant row, in front of Tampa Premium Outlets, off State Road 56 in Lutz.

The pizza chain's sign is in place outside, as workers complete the interior build-out for the restaurant.

The Pasco County Commission on Aug. 7 approved an application from Cypress Creek NVH LLC for an alcohol license that would allow sale of beer and wine only for on-site consumption.

A site plan on file with Pasco County shows a shell building of about 7,800 square feet, with space for multiple tenants.

MOD Pizza, at 2227 Sun Vista Drive, will occupy about 2,800 square feet at a storefront on an outer corner of the building, near Starbucks.

An outdoor patio of about 280 square feet also is planned.

In addition to the pizza restaurant, work

is ongoing for an eye vision center, according to county permits.

MOD Pizza would be the latest restaurant along an already busy row of sit-down and fast-food restaurants, off State Road 56, close to the outlet mall entrance.

Other restaurants include Chick-Fil-A, Culver's and Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen.

Commercial and residential development continues at a fast clip at an intersection that ties in with Interstate 75, Wesley Chapel Boulevard, Grand Cypress Drive, State Road 54 and State Road 56.

More restaurants and shops are coming to outparcels surrounding the outlet mall, Cypress Creek Town Center and Brightwork Crossing.

Burger King is open, and El Dorado Furniture Store is expected to open next year at Brightwork Crossing.

At Home Décor Superstore is under construction on an outparcel at the outlet mall.

Construction also is underway for several shops at Cypress Creek Town Center including Burlington, Earth Fare, Home Goods and Five Below.

## Wesley Chapel native proudly serves country

By Mary Rathman

mrathman@lakerlutznews.com

Kaelyn Cardona, a graduate of the Class of 2013 at Wiregrass Ranch High, is now known as Seaman Cardona and she works as a cryptologic technician in Pensacola.

The Wesley Chapel native is stationed with a command that's responsible for teaching future information warriors the skills required to defend America around the world.

She operates out of the Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) Corry Station in Pensacola.

As a cryptologic technician, she's responsible for analyzing electronic communications, jamming enemy radar signals, deciphering information in foreign languages, and maintaining equipment and networks used to generate top secret intelligence.

Cardona credits success in the Navy with lessons she learned during her years in Wesley Chapel.

"Growing up, I learned to never give up, which helps me so much in the Navy,"



Seaman Kaelyn Cardona

Cardona said, in a news release.

The IWTC Corry Station is just one component that makes up the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) domain, headquartered at Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station.

The CIWT leads, manages and delivers Navy and joint force training to 22,000 students annually.

It also oversees about 200 courses at four information warfare training commands, two detachments, and additional learning sites located throughout the United States and Japan.

As a member of the U.S. Navy's most relied-upon assets, Cardona and other sailors and staff know they are part of a legacy, serving as a key component of the information warfare community.

These sailors have a tremendous responsibility in creating options for fleet commanders and advising decision-makers at all levels, serving worldwide aboard ships, submarines and aircraft, and from the National Security Agency to the Pentagon.

Cardona said, "Serving in the Navy means giving back to my country that I love."



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# Citizens' survey offers praise, concerns

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com



Pasco County  
Commissioner  
Kathryn Starkey

About 60 percent of residents who responded to an annual National Citizens Survey rated Pasco County's quality of life as good.

Similarly, residents gave good marks to the overall quality of county services and customer services.

But, the survey results weren't entirely rosy.

The growth in housing is happening faster than infrastructure, including roads and schools, according to residents who took the survey.

Traffic congestion and unsafe speed limits on roadways also emerged as a top concern among residents.

And, only 38 percent thought Pasco had a good or excellent reputation and image.

In comparison to 472 other communities included in the national citizens survey, Pasco ranked 410.

Pasco actually participates in two annual surveys to gather information about what is on the minds of its citizens.

One is the National Citizens' Survey, based on random outreach to residents in communities across the country, including Pasco. At the same time, Pasco conducts its own online survey, open to anyone who wants to participate. Questions on both surveys are similar.

The goal is to collect feedback that can guide Pasco County officials in crafting policies and addressing issues of concern to residents.

The online survey is used mostly for comparison to the national survey's data on Pasco, said Marc Bellas, the county's performance management director.

Pasco's online survey received more than 2,800 responses. Of those, 1,200 people also provided comments.

"The citizens' survey is our primary listening mechanism," said Bellas. "We can identify things before they become a problem."

The survey identified safety, the economy and mobility as the top issues of concern.

Some comments focused on traffic, including the timing of traffic signals and speeding motorists.

Bellas said the Pasco County Sheriff's Office has been notified regarding specific problem areas.

"They have directed targeted patrols to address these things," he said.

The national survey contacts residents randomly based on factors such as zip codes, population density and housing.

Bellas said the survey is statistically valid, with a plus or minus error rate of 6 percent.

In addition to the top three issues of concern to residents, the surveys also looked at these factors: natural environment, built environment, recreation and wellness, education and enrichment, and community engagement.

Online survey results trended generally

lower than the national survey results.

Bellas said some of that difference is based on how data is collected for each survey.

For instance, online results on overall quality of life were about 57 percent — lower than the national survey of 60 percent favorable.

Both surveys had ratings below the national benchmark of about 68 percent.

"We still need to get much, much better at pushing out the positive things (about Pasco)," Bellas said.

On the national survey, about 62 percent of residents thought the overall quality of services provided to residents was good. That was on par with the national benchmark.

However, the online survey found less than 50 percent of residents felt good about the county's delivery of services.

On the "most important issues," residents put road maintenance first, followed by code enforcement, and parks and recreation.

A number of comments, especially from west Pasco residents, raised concerns about drug-related crime, blight and homelessness.

"There were more comments on that than I have seen on any prior year," said Bellas. "Our challenge is to engage others to be part of the solution...to make Pasco a premier county."

One issue that drew attention from county commissioners was how to improve Pasco's reputation and image.

Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey suggested the county adopt a "state of the county" annual report, similar to those done by city mayors.

There were some concerns raised by county commissioners regarding an A & E television show, "Live PD." On Friday and Saturday nights, camera crews from the show follow deputies on their night shifts as they respond in real time to emergency calls.

Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco signed up his office as one of about six departments around the country that are highlighted on the show.

"It's about transparency," said Chase Daniels, assistant executive director for the sheriff's office. It allows people to see the challenges that law enforcement faces, he added.

But, some area businesses can end up shown in the background as arrests are made. County commissioners said they would like to see more positive aspects of policing presented, along with the crime fighting.

"We need to be very mindful of the image we're putting out to the world," Starkey said.

## Laker/Lutz News picks up seven statewide journalism awards

The Laker/Lutz News staff report

The Laker/Lutz News received seven awards in the Florida Press Association's Weekly Newspaper contest for work completed in 2017.

The competition included a total of 1,439 entries from 64 newspapers. Judges for the contest were editors and publishers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Ohio, Missouri, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York. The awards were announced on Aug. 10 in Orlando.

The Laker/Lutz News took home three first place awards, two second place awards and two third place awards. It competed among newspapers with circulations exceeding 13,000 — the largest circulation class in the contest.

"The awards we received this year from Florida Press are reflective of the good work our journalists do every week reporting on the issues in our communities," said Publisher Diane Kortus. "This year, I am especially proud that every member of our news team was recognized, and that their work covered such a wide variety of topics."

Staff writer Kathy Steele took first place honors in the Education Reporting category for a story she wrote about the Spring Fling Buddy Ball at Wesley Chapel High School.

Steele also took third place in the State and Local Tax Reporting category for a story

she did about the use of tourist taxes to help finance the Wiregrass sports complex in Wesley Chapel.

Stefanie Burlingame, the newspaper's graphic designer, took first place in Spot News photography for her shot of a flooded River Road in Dade City, in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

The newspaper also captured the top two places in the category of Photo Series in One Issue.

Fred Bellet, a regular contributor, won first place in that category for a series of photos he shot to illustrate a story about The Tampa Bay Water Ski Show Team's free performance at Tower Lake in Oldsmar.

Randy Underhill, also a regular contributor, won second place in that category for a series of photos he shot to showcase the activities of the Bay City Flyers, a radio-controlled flying club.

Editor B.C. Manion received second place in the Faith and Family category for her account of a Land O' Lakes family grappling with the uncertainty of whether their son had survived Hurricane Maria. The hurricane ravaged the island of Dominica, where their son was in medical school.

Staff writer Kevin Weiss won third place in the Community History category for his story tracing the history of the Jewish community in Tampa, which dates back more than 170 years.

## The LAKER / Lutz News

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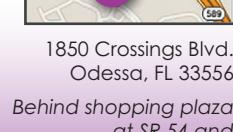
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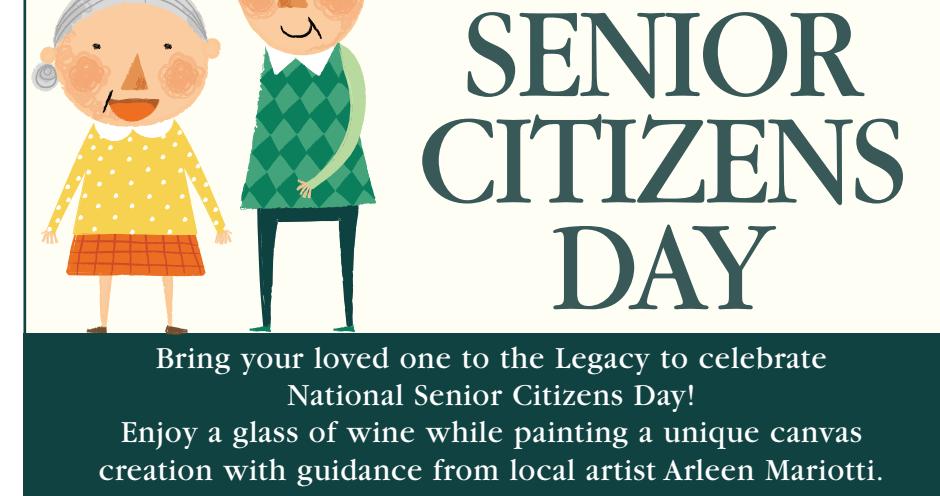
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August 15, 2018

3A

# What's Happening

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## IDOL AUDITIONS

ABC Action News and Tampa Bay's Morning Blend have opened sign-ups online at ABCActionNews.com/Idol, for Tampa Bay Idol auditions. The first 400 registrants will have a chance to audition. A one-day audition will take place for registrants to perform a short a cappella song before a panel of local celebrity judges Aug. 18 at Florida Hospital Center Ice. Local singers must meet all eligibility requirements, and download the official rules and local registration on the website.

## LATIN NIGHTS

Maestro's Restaurant at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts will host Latin Night Aug. 16 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Maestro's will transform into a Latin supper club, featuring a live salsa band, dancing, tapas and drink specials. Dance assistance also will be available from Simone Amaral of Simone Salsa Dance Studios. The cover charge is \$15 per person, at the door or at the Straz Ticket Office. Another Latin Night is scheduled for Sept. 20. For information, visit StrazCenter.org.

## THRIFT SHOP DAY

All six Gulfside Hospital thrift shops will honor National Thrift Shop Day with 25 percent off storewide, plus double punches on store loyalty cards, Aug. 17. Each shop also will have a drawing for store gift certificates and other prizes. Donations of gently used clothing, household items, electronics and more will also be accepted. For locations, visit GHPPC.org.

## FLEA MARKET FUNDRAISER

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club Summer Flea Market Fundraiser will take place Aug. 17 and Aug. 18 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Old Lutz School, 18819 U.S. 41. There will be collectibles, household items, kitchenware, décor, seasonal, clothing, books, the Plant Lady's booth and more. All proceeds will benefit the community. For information, call (813) 786-8461.

## SUMMER SPLASH

The Church at Myrtle Lake, 2017 Riegler Road in Land O' Lakes, will host a Summer Splash: Super Soaked Summer Family Festival on Aug. 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is free and will include water balloon games, a slip-and-slide, and dinner. For information and to RSVP, call (813) 949-5516, ext. 100, or visit MyrtleLake.org.

## WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER

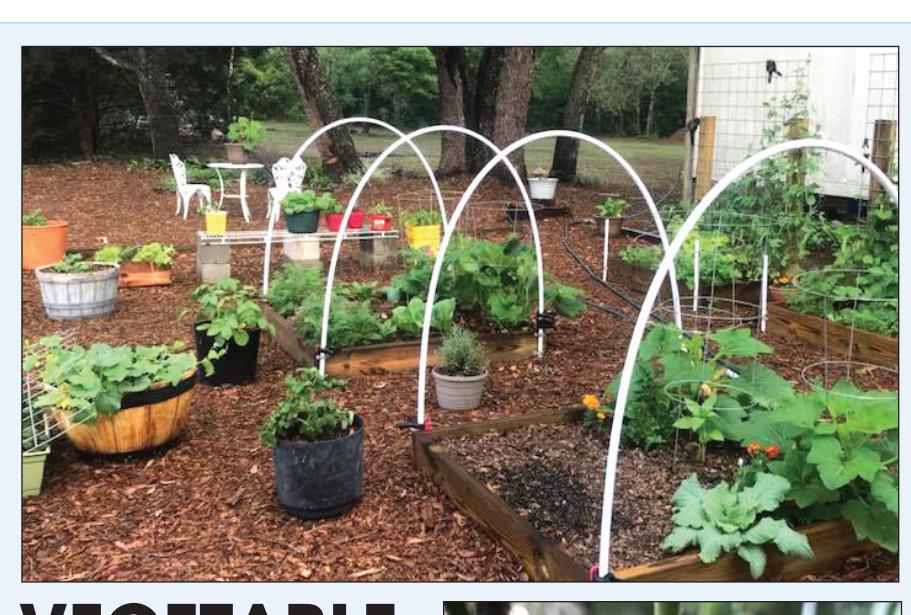
Beach House Assisted Living & Memory Care at Wiregrass Ranch will host "Wine for a Purpose" Aug. 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., to benefit Sunrise of Pasco County. The event is for ages 21 and older. Tickets are \$30 each, or two for \$50. To register, visit SunrisePasco.org.

## 4-H PROGRAM MEETING

The 4-H Brooker Creek Explorers Youth Development Program will have an informational meeting Aug. 18 at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road in Tarpon Springs. Youth ages 5 to 18 from Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas can join. The club encourages community service, public speaking, and leadership. For information, email Leah Fox at 4hbrookercreekexplorers@gmail.com.

## KOL AMI OPEN HOUSE

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host an open house Aug. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants can take part in games, meet the Kol Ami family and committees, learn about the curriculum, sign up for youth groups, take part in a drumming workshop, and have free hot dogs, fruit, cookies and more. For information and to RSVP, call (813) 962-6338.



## VEGETABLE GARDENING BASICS

UF/IFAS Pasco Extension will offer two workshops on vegetable gardening basics, both from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.:

- Aug. 18 at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd.
- Aug. 22 at 15029 14th St., Dade City.

Participants can learn how to choose a location for a garden, what makes good soil, when to plant different vegetables, and how to control common vegetable garden pests.

For more information, please contact Eden Santiago at (352) 521-1255 or send an email to esantiago@pascocountyfl.net.



## BACKPACK BLESSING

Keystone Community Church, 21010 State Road 54 in Lutz, will host a Back to School Dedication Aug. 19 at 10:30 a.m., with a special service in support of and to pray for children and teachers as they begin another school year. Children are asked to bring their backpacks for a special blessing. Following the dedication, there will be a festival, including lunch, bounce houses, a dunk tank for a teacher, and more. For information, call (813) 948-4522.

## AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club (ZAARC) will meet Aug. 20 at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 5855 16th St., in Zephyrhills. The business meeting will start at 6 p.m., followed by a coffee break. At 7 p.m., there will be a discussion or presentation program. The club also meets for breakfast every Thursday at 8 a.m., at Village Inn, 5214 Gall Blvd. For information, visit ZAARC.org.

## BEGONIA SEMINAR

UF/IFAS Pasco Extension will offer a free begonia seminar Aug. 21 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the New River Branch Library, 34043 State Road 54 in Wesley Chapel. Participants can learn about the types of begonias, and how to propagate, care for and landscape with the plants. Registration is required at EventBrite.com. For information, call (352) 518-0156.

## ESSENTIAL OILS CLASSES

Deanna Jacobs will host essential oils classes from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Aug. 21 (do-it-yourself use of oils) and Aug. 28 (how to use oils) at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave., in Zephyrhills. For information, call (813) 479-7724.

## SCAM WORKSHOP FOR SENIORS

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will offer a "Be Smart" scam workshop Aug. 22 at 1 p.m. Seniors can learn how to protect themselves from scams that target their age group. For information, call (813) 264-3804.

## BIBLE STUDIES

Cypress Creek Church, 1854 Oak Grove Drive in Lutz, will offer men's and women's Bible studies. The "Cypress Creek Men" will meet every Wed., from 10:30 a.m. to noon, for six weeks starting Aug. 22. The "Women at the Well" will meet at the same time, but for a total of eight weeks. Childcare will be provided. There is a book fee. For more information and to sign up, visit CypressCreekChurch.org, or call (813) 210-1563, for men; or (813) 948-8860, for women.

## JUNIOR WOMEN MEET

The GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club will meet Aug. 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Stonewood Grill & Tavern, 17050 Palm Pointe Drive in Tampa Palms. Guests can have appetizers and mingle with current club members to learn more about how the group helps the community. For information, visit the group on GFWCNewTampaJuniors.org or Facebook.com/GFWCNewTampaJuniors, or email ntjwc@gfwcnewtampajuniors.org.

## DOMINOES TOURNAMENT

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will host a Dominoes Tournament Aug. 24 at 10 a.m., for those that want to prepare for the countywide tournament. For information, call (813) 264-3804.

## FREE FAMILY MOVIE

University Area CDC will host a free family movie night Aug. 24 at the University Area Community Center, 14013 N. 22nd St., in Tampa. The movie will be Disney's "A Wrinkle in Time." Doors open at 6 p.m., and the movie starts at 6:30 p.m. Drinks and popcorn will be free. Additional food will be available for purchase. There also will be prizes. Kids age 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. The event is co-sponsored by New Tampa Players, and Safe and Sound Hillsborough. For information, call Diana Diaz at (813) 558-5212, ext. 316.

## SHABBAT SERVICES

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will have family Shabbat services Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m. There will be guitar music, stories and active participation from kids and adults. For information, call (813) 962-6338.

## CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN

Main Street Zephyrhills, 38537 Fifth Ave., will host a free Saturday in the Square Classic Car Cruise-In Aug. 25 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Bring your classic car and listen to music by DJ Starvin Darvin. Guests also can bring a lawn chair, and enjoy local craft food and beverages. No coolers will be allowed. The classic car parking entrance is at Fifth Avenue and Eighth Street (limited designated classic car parking, first come, first served.)

## SUMMER SOCK HOP

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 First Ave., N.W., will host a Summer Sock Hop on Aug. 25 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call (813) 264-3804.

## GOODWILL OFFER

Drop off clothing or household items at any Goodwill Industries-Suncoast donation site and receive a coupon good for up to two free children's tickets to Dinosaur World, one for each paid adult admission. Goodwill shoppers who "round up" their purchases to the nearest dollar will also get a coupon. The Dinosaur World BOGO coupons will be distributed through August, while supplies last, and can be redeemed through Oct. 31. For store locations and attended donation sites, visit Goodwill-suncoast.org.

## AUTO SHOW

The MidFlorida Auto Show & Lake Mirror Concours, a classic and collector car show, will take place Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Lakeland. There will be cars, food, music and more. Registration is open online at MIDFLORIDAAutoShow.com. Early-bird registration runs through Aug. 31.

## HERALDS OF HARMONY

The Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony is a 60-voice semiprofessional chorus that performs throughout the year for businesses, and social, civic and professional organizations. The group rehearses from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the TPepin Hospitality Center, 4121 N. 50th St., in Tampa. Anyone interested in becoming a member can call Steve Matheson at (813) 254-9115. For information, visit HeraldsOfHarmony.org.

## BINGO EVERY TUESDAY

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Pasco Sheriff's Lodge 29 hosts bingo every Tuesday evening, at 21735 YMCA Camp Road in Land O' Lakes. Doors open at 4 p.m., Early Bird is at 5:30 p.m., and regular games start at 6 p.m. A bingo book starts at \$3 for two cards. There are drinks and snacks available, but outside food and drink are allowed. All proceeds benefit the Pasco County Law Enforcement FOP and Fallen Law Officers Memorial. For information, visit F.O.P. Pasco Lodge 29 on Facebook.

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# Bilirakis focuses on veterans at chamber stop

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, who represents Florida's 12th Congressional District, emphasized efforts he's making on behalf of veterans during a recent appearance at a North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The congressman indicated "a top priority" is fighting to improve and expand veterans' health care benefits and offerings.

"The veterans are a big deal for me," said Bilirakis, the featured guest speaker at the chamber's August luncheon at Fox Hollow Golf Club, in Trinity.

Bilirakis, who serves as vice chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, outlined several pieces of legislation that would provide veterans "the health care they deserve."

One such bill that he's introduced — Protection for Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Act of 2018 (HR 6582) — would allow veterans exposed to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan to immediately access the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) medical care and disability benefits by providing a presumption of service connection.

Bilirakis cited a correlation between burn pit exposure causing cancer, and other lung and respiratory problems.

The VA currently does not recognize toxic burn pit exposure as a contributing factor to the development of such illnesses.

He compared the burn pit issue to veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange in earlier wars and died while the VA took decades to study its effects.

"A lot of heroes are coming home and they're sick — some have passed away," Bilirakis said. "I don't want to see another Agent Orange issue."

Ensuring veterans' access to dental care is another undertaking, the congressman said.

Last year, Bilirakis introduced the Veterans Early Treatment for Chronic Ailment Resurgence through Examinations (VET CARE) Act, to require the VA to put in place a four-year pilot program providing dental care for veterans.

Current law places limitations on the availability of dental care for veterans through the VA. Access to VA dental care is primarily restricted to patients with a 100 percent disability rating, former prisoners of war, and a few special exceptions.

"Right now, it's extremely limited," Bilirakis said of veterans' access to dental care, noting such preventive health care could result in lower overall health care costs for the VA.

"We want to make sure every veteran, ultimately, has an opportunity to get dental care," he said.

"First of all, we've got to take care of our veterans. Secondly, we're going to save money on the backend — if we take care of our veterans," Bilirakis said.

Since 2015, he has partnered with the West Pasco Dental Association and Pasco-Hernando State College to highlight the need for VA dental care, and to provide free treatment for local veterans at the Stars, Stripes and Smiles event.

Bilirakis also mentioned the need for wholesale improvements to the VA's Transition Assistance Program (TAP), which helps veterans reintegrate into civilian life.

Said Bilirakis: "It takes what, six months to train a soldier, and then, they get a week in the TAP program? That's not enough to get them back into society, find them jobs



FILE  
U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis was the featured speaker at the North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce August lunch meeting at Fox Hollow Golf Club, in Trinity.

and treat any issues they may have."

Remedying some of those problems within TAP are already in progress.

Last month the House passed the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act (HR 5649), which would provide grants to organizations that deliver veteran job readiness services, such as resume building and interview training, while connecting veterans with businesses in their community.

Bilirakis also touched on some of his other legislative priorities — mental health, the opioid crisis and improving care for people with congenital heart disease. He also stressed the importance of increased bipartisanship "for the good of the country."

## BILIRAKIS RECEIVES AWARD

During the luncheon, Bilirakis also received the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Enterprise Award, which he received in recognition of his support of pro-growth policies in the first session of the 115th Congress.

The annual award was given to 249 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 48 members of the U.S. Senate.

During the first session of the 115th Congress, the Chamber scored members on seven Senate votes, including those on tax reform legislation and the confirmation of Supreme Court Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch; and 14 House votes, including votes on tax reform legislation, access to Medicare, and lawsuit abuse. Various votes in support of small businesses were scored, too.

Members who supported the Chamber's position on at least 70 percent of those votes qualify to receive the award; Bilirakis had a 93 percent voting record.

"I guess I earned it," Bilirakis said of the award. "I'm a pro-business guy, I'm a small business guy, and, I know that these tax breaks are going to really do a lot," he said.

"We want you to grow, we want you to innovate, and hire more employees at a higher rate. Things are going good right now, and we have to keep it going," Bilirakis said.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

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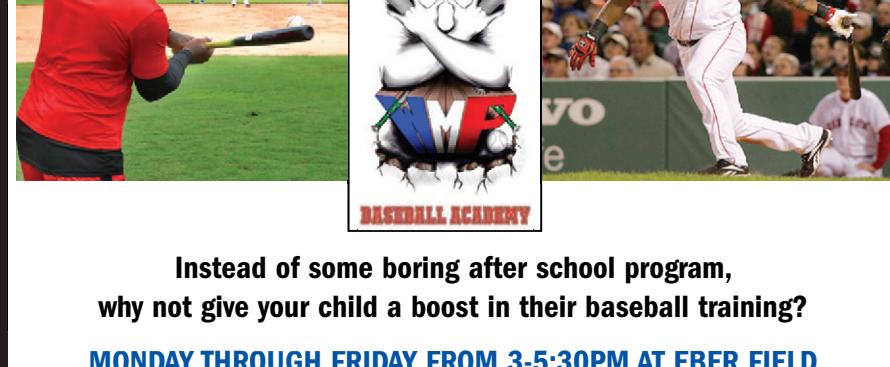
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Carrollwood. And then there's the **St. Joseph's Hospital-North** emergency department, which is best saved for, well, emergencies. BayCare is always ready to care for you with **BayCareAnywhere** doctors available 24/7, local **BayCare Urgent Care** Centers open seven days a week with extended hours, and emergency care available at St. Joseph's Hospital-North. **Learn where to get the right care: BayCareRightCareRightPlace.org**



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## POLITICAL AGENDA

### PASCO ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR ADDRESSES ELECTION SECURITY

Pasco County Supervisor of Elections Brian E. Corley issued this statement on Aug. 9, regarding election security in Pasco County.

"As an election administrator in the nation's largest battleground state, my fellow SOE's and I are highly cognizant of the ongoing and evolving threats to elections security," Corley said, in the statement published on the Supervisor of Elections' website.

"Supervisors of Elections throughout Florida have been working extensively for some time with our state and Federal partners, including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS has been invaluable in assisting myself and my team in preparing for and ensuring response to a myriad of threats."

"Pasco County has modeled our approach and focus on Prevention, Mitigation and Response to both physical and cyber threats. Currently, there is no indication that Pasco County systems have been penetrated. If the voter registration system becomes unavailable on Election Day, all polling locations are issued a paper backup precinct register. If a voter's eligibility cannot be determined at the polls, provisional ballots are available to ensure that every voter can cast a ballot on Election Day."

"We will continue to be hyper vigilant to

these real and emerging threats. Please know that we are ready to respond." The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections also released a statement, which can be viewed from the homepage of PascoVotes.com.

### REPUBLICAN CLUB OF CENTRAL PASCO

The Republican Club of Central Pasco will meet Aug. 27. Rep. Amber Mariano will be the guest speaker. She will discuss legislative issues and her re-election bid for State House Rep. District 36. 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. A social begins at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7 p.m. For more information, call (813) 996-3011.

### ENDORSEMENTS

Dr. Linda Jack, candidate for State House District 36, has received the endorsement of Ruth's List Florida, according to Jack's campaign.

*Political Agenda is a column that runs only during election years. Please submit items for consideration at least two weeks prior to the desired publication date. Send submissions to news@lakerlutznews.com.*



COURTESY OF PATRICIA SERIO

### Guidance can go a long way

Members of the GFWC Little Women of Lutz, with guidance from their GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club advisors, prepared and served a luncheon for the woman's club. The luncheon was to raise funds to send one or more of their teen members to the annual Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Training Seminar (HOBE). The training has proven to be successful in providing young people with valuable tools to become leaders in their schools, church groups and communities. For information about this group of young teens, call Jane Mason at (765) 617-7575. From left: Little Women President Kendall Lennon, Madison Richie and Rachel Lightner with advisors Dee Knerr and Jane Mason.

## EARLY VOTE 2018

### Primary Election Dates & Times

Sat Aug 18 - Sat Aug 25

Sat & Sun 9 - 5

Mon - Fri 10 - 6

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Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

#### ALICE HALL COMMUNITY ★

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- Visit [www.pascovotes.com](http://www.pascovotes.com) for wait times at all locations.

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Supervisor of Elections

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## TOBACCO CESSATION

Tobacco Free Florida will offer two classes for participants who want to quit any form of tobacco use.

• Aug. 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, CREATION Health Wellness, 38233 Daughtry Road

• Aug. 22 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Florida Department of Health Pasco, 13941 15th St., Dade City

Participants will receive a free workbook and materials. Free nicotine replacement patches, gum or lozenges will be available, if medically appropriate, for ages 18 and older.

Preregistration is required by calling (813) 929-1000.

For more information, visit [TobaccoFreeFlorida.com/quityourway](http://TobaccoFreeFlorida.com/quityourway).

## MEDICARE ANSWERS

A SHINE (serving health insurance needs of elders) volunteer will be at the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, Aug. 18 at 10 a.m., to answer questions about Medicare.

For information, call (813) 929-1214.

## SUNRISE FUNDRAISER

Sunrise Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center in Pasco County will host a summer fundraiser Aug. 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Beach House Assisted Living and Memory Care in Wesley Chapel, for ages 21 and older.

The event, "Wine for a Purpose!" will feature wines and appetizers from local restaurants, live entertainment, a chance to win raffle items and auction items.

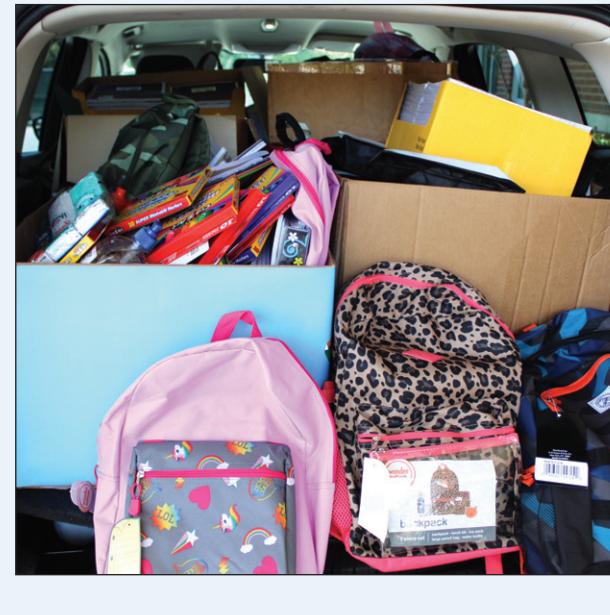
The cost is \$30 per person, or two for \$50.

All proceeds will go to support the programs and services provided by Sunrise of Pasco.

For more information, please call Sunrise at (352) 521-3358, or send an email to [events@sunrisepasco.org](mailto:events@sunrisepasco.org).

## NEUROLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will offer a seminar entitled "When Seconds Count: Tackling Neurological Emergencies" Aug. 21 at noon, in the fourth-floor classroom.



COURTESY OF FLORIDA HOSPITAL TAMPA

## Moon Lake gets needed school supplies

Team members from Florida Hospital at Connerton Long Term Acute Care delivered much-needed school supplies to Moon Lake Elementary in New Port Richey. The donations will help students successfully kick off the school year. This is the fifth year the LTAC team has provided the supplies.

Headaches, fatigue, muscle spasms, weakness or seizure disorders can arise fast, and can have devastating results if not diagnosed and treated.

Dr. Angel Gonzalez-Rodriguez, board certified in psychiatry and neurology, will discuss how to recognize the signs and symptoms.

A light lunch will be provided.

For information and to make a reservation, call (844) 504-9378, or visit [FHWesleyChapel.org/Events](http://FHWesleyChapel.org/Events).

## INFERTILITY SERIES

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will offer a seminar on abnormal uterine bleeding, as part of its Infertility Series, Aug. 22 at 5:30 p.m., at Inspiration Place, Wellness Plaza, third floor.

Dr. Anthony Imudia, board certified in obstetrics and reproductive endocrinology, will give a lecture. There also will be a group discussion.

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

## A MATTER OF BALANCE

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point will offer the free program "A Matter of Balance" Aug. 22 to Sept. 14, on Wednesday and Fridays, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Rao Musunuru M.D. Conference Center, 14100 Yosemite Drive, Rooms 3 and 4, in Hudson.

Participants can learn to view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity,

make changes to reduce fall risks at home, and exercise to increase strength and balance.

For information and reservations, call (727) 869-5498.

## NAMI PROGRAM

NAMI Family-to-Family, a local organization of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will offer an education program starting Aug. 23, every Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., for 12 weeks at Medical Center of Trinity Behavioral Health, 5637 Marine Parkway in New Port Richey.

The program is for family, partners, friends and significant others of adults living with mental illness.

The course can help participants understand and support their loved one, while maintaining their own well-being.

Information will be included on illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and other mental health conditions.

Seating is limited. To register, call (727) 992-9653, or email Gloria Strother at [gloriastrother@verizon.net](mailto:gloriastrother@verizon.net).

## HORMONE SEMINAR

Samantha Taylor Fitness, 2206 Knight Road in Land O' Lakes, will host a free hormone seminar, entitled "How Hormones Affect a Sexier, Healthier, Younger and More Vibrant You," Aug. 25 at 12:30 p.m.

The seminar is for men and women. The guest speakers will be from Infinity Medical Institute.

Coffee and healthy desserts will be provided.

Reservations are required at [SamanthaTaylorSeminars.com](http://SamanthaTaylorSeminars.com).

## NEW ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGY

The Medical Center of Trinity has acquired the latest enhance technology in robotic-assisted surgery, which will enable doctors to operate with enhanced vision, precision, dexterity and control.

The high-definition 3D vision system allows surgeons to see key anatomy with immense depth and clarity.

The specially trained surgeons who perform the procedures at the hospital control the robotic-assisted surgical system, which translates his or her hand movements into small, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside the body.

Robotic-assisted surgery allows the doctor to perform complex procedures through just a few tiny openings.

For patients, this may mean less trauma and pain, minimal scarring, decreased blood loss, and faster recovery.

The new technology is guided hands-on at all times by a board-certified physician.

Procedures are now performed in general surgery (gall bladder, appendectomy, hernia), colorectal, gynecology, thoracic, urology and urogynecology.

For more information on minimally invasive surgical options and physicians who perform robotic-assisted surgery at Medical Center of Trinity, call (727) 834-5630, or visit [MedicalCenterTrinity.com](http://MedicalCenterTrinity.com).



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Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. Tobacco Free Florida offers free tools and services to help you get started.



## Class Schedule

Thursday, August 16, 2018 / 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills – Creation Health Wellness  
38233 Daughtry Road, Zephyrhills

Wednesday, August 22, 2018 / 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Florida Department of Health Pasco  
13941 15th Street, Dade City

Wednesday, September 5, 2018 / 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Morton Plant, North Bay Hospital  
6600 Madison Street, New Port Richey

Wednesday, September 5, 2018 / 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Florida Hospital Dade City  
13100 Fort King Rd, Dade City

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 / 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Good Samaritan Clinic  
5334 Aspen Street, New Port Richey

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 / 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel  
2600 Bruce B Downs Blvd Wesley Chapel

Friday September 14, 2018 / 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills – Creation Health Wellness  
38233 Daughtry Road, Zephyrhills

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# Food safety issues aren't confined to the kitchen

By Whitney C. Elmore  
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

Several high-profile cases of food poisoning and related illnesses recently have caught the attention of home gardeners.

Infections caused by rat lungworm from slugs, and infections caused by E. coli and Salmonella bacteria contamination are not new.

Thousands of food safety fact sheets, videos and classes are available regarding our understanding and prevention of these illnesses, especially to those working in the food preparation industries and agricultural commodities.

The United States has the best food safety protocols and regulations on the planet, but the occasional parasite slips through undetected from improper handling, preparation or storage.

Some of these illnesses are short-lived while some, especially in immune-compromised individuals, young children or senior-citizens, can develop life-threatening illnesses. Luckily, this is extremely rare, considering the amount of foods grown, produced, processed, shipped, stored and cooked across the nation.

Some home gardeners feel more confident in their ability to grow and store their own produce safely. However, this doesn't necessarily mean the produce is safer or that you can stop taking precautions in your quest to grow and store homegrown produce properly.

Regardless of where your produce is grown, it is exposed to the environment and potential pests. Mostly, those pests are only interested in eating your plants and do us no harm, but how we handle our plants, both while they're in the ground and during harvest is important in preventing illnesses.

Leafy plants, such as lettuce, kale and cabbage, have hundreds of nooks and crannies where water can get trapped on the leaf surface. These are potentially good areas for parasites to set up a protected home, if the water that gets on these leaves is contaminated.



COURTESY OF UF/IFAS

Leafy plants, such as lettuce, kale and cabbage have hundreds of nooks and crannies where water can get trapped on the leaf surface. These are potentially good areas for parasites to set up a protected home, if the water that gets on these leaves is contaminated.

washed at harvest and before cooking, there's a potential for bacteria and other parasites to hide in those nooks.

Your plant roots, not leaves, should be watered carefully, not just to prevent parasites but to also ensure the plant can use the water.

Roots, not leaves, absorb water. Plus, water on the leaves can promote plant diseases. These diseases won't make you sick, but they can certainly cause some heartache if your plants die. Furthermore, if you have slugs or snails eating on your plants, and you're not controlling them, there's a very small risk of consuming tiny slugs/snails with parasites. Keeping an eye out for these during harvest is an easy way to prevent storing them in your veggies.

All veggies and fruits, whether they are grown at home or purchased from a store, should be carefully washed and inspected for potential "creepy crawlies" before consumption.

Proper washing, cooking and sanitation are just as critical in food storage and preparation as safe handling in the garden.

Planning your garden carefully can also make our foods less susceptible to contamination. Some spots in the garden might be more prone to pet urination or contamination from feces washing across the soil surface during heavy rains and irrigation events.

Food safety isn't just for the kitchen. Food-borne illnesses can be prevented. Food safety starts in the garden.

For more information about food safety, and proper storage and handling instructions, please visit: Harvesting Vegetables and Food Preservation and Safety. For information about controlling snails and slugs in the garden, visit: Snails and Slugs.

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is a federal, state, and county partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences and to making that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life.

*Dr. Whitney C. Elmore is the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension director and an Urban Horticulture Agent III.*

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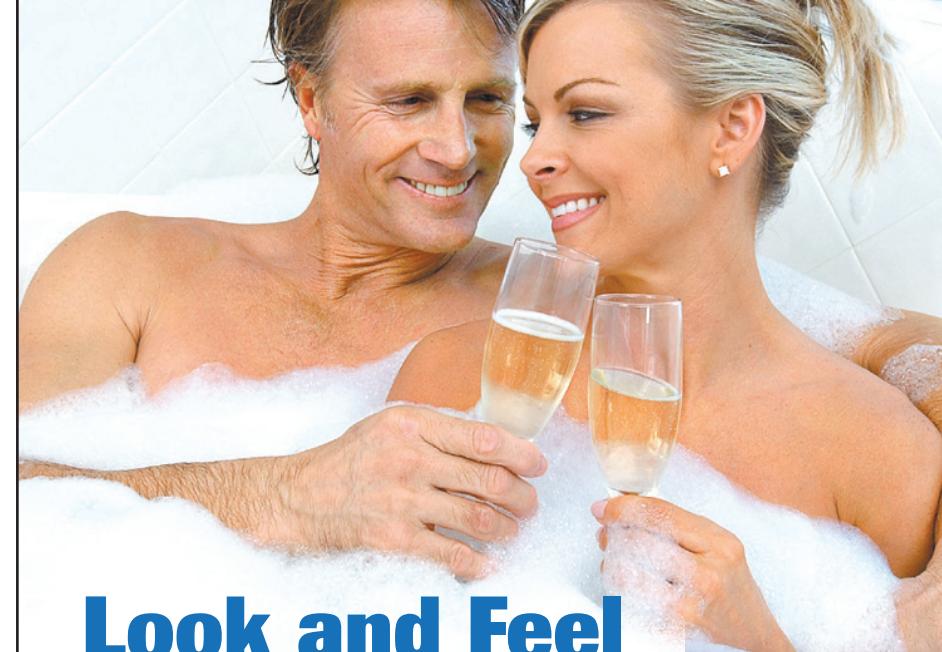
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# Chalk Talk

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## BACKPACK BLESSING

Keystone Community Church, 21010 State Road 54 in Lutz, will host a Back to School Dedication Aug. 19 at 10:30 a.m., with a special service in support of and to pray for children and teachers as they begin another school year.

Children are asked to bring their backpacks for a special blessing.

Following the dedication, there will be a festival, including lunch, bounce houses, a dunk tank for a teacher, and more.

For information, call (813) 948-4522.

## CHILDHOOD CENTER COURSE

Pasco-Hernando State College will offer a course for child care directors to become credentialed.

The new course, Operation of an Early Childhood Center, meets Florida Department of Children and Families requirements for the director credential.

Interested child care workers can enroll for the course, which runs Aug. 20 to Oct. 10 at the Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, 2727 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

The class will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

A second course will be offered on Oct. 16 to Dec. 6, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the West Campus, 10230 Ridge Road in New Port Richey.

For information or to enroll, visit [PHSC.edu/academics/continuing-education](http://PHSC.edu/academics/continuing-education).

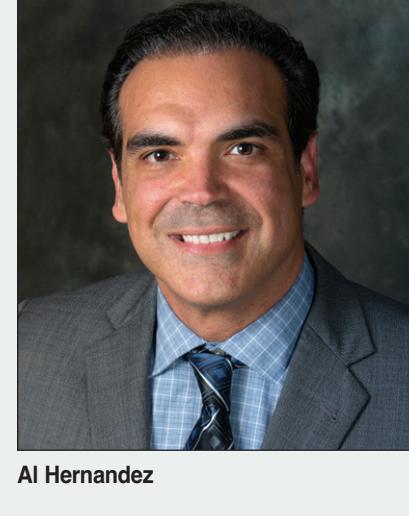
## SAINT LEO READY FOR STUDENTS

Saint Leo University will welcome close to 700 first-year students, as they officially move into their residence halls Aug. 16. Classes will start Aug. 21.

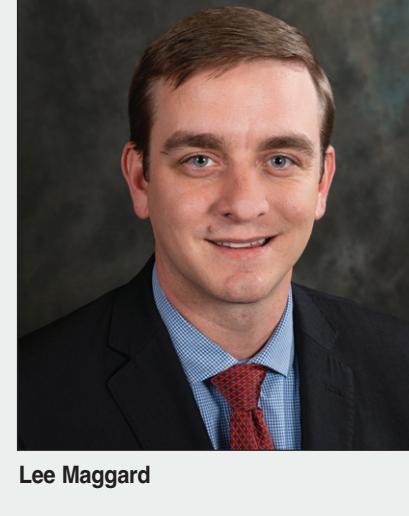
Move-in day for those first-year students will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at University Campus, 33701 State Road 52 in St. Leo.

The new Lions, and parents, can take part in a reception Aug. 16 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., in the Marion Bowman Activities Center gym. For students, there will be a mini pep rally at 4 p.m.

Orientation for international and Honors



Al Hernandez



Lee Maggard



Robin Schneider

## Three reappointed to district board

Gov. Rick Scott announced the reappointment of Al Hernandez, Lee Maggard and Robin Schneider to the District Board of Trustees for Pasco-Hernando State College. All three have been reappointed for a term ending May 31, 2022.

Alvaro "Al" Hernandez, of Odessa, is vice president of marketing at Humana, and received his bachelor and master de-

grees from Nova Southeastern University.

Lee Maggard, of Zephyrhills, is the assistant vice president and commercial relationship manager for CenterState Bank in Dade City. Maggard received his associate degree from PHSC in 2007 and a bachelor degree from the University of Florida in 2009.

Robin Schneider, of Spring Hill, is mar-

keting coordinator at Medical Center of Trinity. Schneider currently serves as the PHSC District Board of Trustees vice chair.

"We are very pleased with the reappointments of our board members and look forward to their continued leadership and commitment to higher education in our communities," said Timothy Beard, PHSC president, in a release.

Program students, as well as Emerging Mathematics and Computer Science scholars will be Aug. 14 to Aug. 16.

Incoming biology students can take part in Bio Boot Camp. The camp is a pre-semester primer, and students can get familiarized with the laboratories, attend lectures and learn study skills.

All students can join in a sing-along with the movie, "The Greatest Showman," Aug. 20 at 7 p.m., in Selby Auditorium in Lewis Hall, hosted by the Department of Language Studies and the Arts.

On the first day of classes, Aug. 21, Student Activities will host a welcome back event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., near the Student Community Center. Students can get shirts spray painted, take first-day-of-school photos, and have smoothies and ice pops.

Throughout the first week of school, various campus groups will host events.

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

### FREE COLLEGE WORKSHOP

Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center

for the Performing Arts will offer "College Bound: Figuring It Out, Part 2" Aug. 23 at 7 p.m.

The free workshop is for students interested in musical theater, music, theater and dance programs, at the college and university level.

Students and parents will be provided with the tools and knowledge to navigate the performing arts programs, submit a solid application, and prepare for prescreen and entrance auditions.

For information, call (813) 222-1040, or visit [PatelConservatory.org](http://PatelConservatory.org).

### BACK 2 SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

Eckerd Connects, which helps vulnerable and troubled children, is hosting a "Back 2 School" campaign in an effort to support local programs: Project Bridge, Raising Hope, E-Nini-Hassee, Challenge Youth Academy, and foster children in Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.

To support the campaign, school supply donations can be made at any drop-off center. Locations can be found at

[Eckerd.org/Back2School](http://Eckerd.org/Back2School).

Monetary donations can be made on Eckerd.org. A \$25 donation can support a child with either one school uniform or one backpack full of supplies.

The campaign runs until the end of August.

### PASCO SCHOOLS' CITIZENS ACADEMY

Pasco County Schools is launching a Citizens' Academy to educate the public on the operation of the public school system.

The academy will consist of seven monthly meetings: three during the day and four in the evening.

The mornings will be school visits around the county, while evenings will be classroom lessons on budget, school choice, planning, construction and maintenance, transportation, school safety and more.

Each academy class will have 30 to 50 members from the community.

For information, visit [PascoSchools.org](http://PascoSchools.org), and click on the Citizens' Academy banner at the top.

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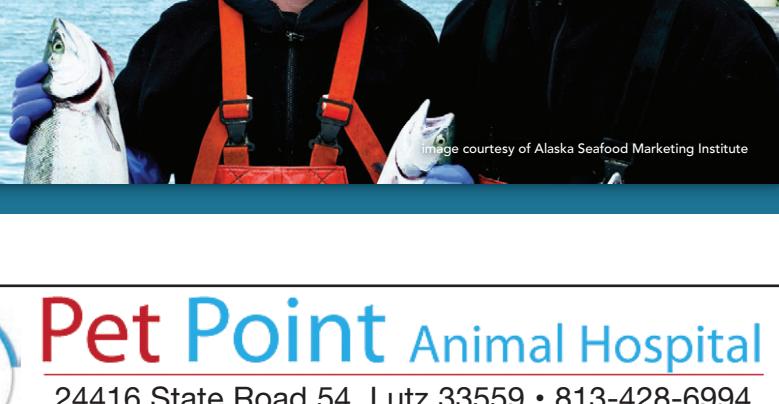


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## BUDGET, from page 1A

ing adjustment, Pasco's base student allocation for the coming year is \$4,144.72.

Here are some big-picture highlights of the proposed budget:

- Teaching makes up 61.78 percent of the district's expenditures

- Teaching combined with other school-level programs, including transportation, media, counseling, psychological services, school administration, capital outlay, community services, and operations and maintenance, makes up 92.38 percent of the operating budget

- Curriculum development and staff training make up 3.26 percent of the operating budget.

- Human resources, finance, purchasing, warehouse, data processing and mail services make up 4.36 percent of the operating budget.

While the state provides funding for schools, it also dictates how much of that money is spent.

For instance, during the 2018 session, the Florida Legislature passed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, which addresses gun violence on school campuses and promotes school safety. The bill requires armed security guards at every school. Each of those officers is required to undergo training, a background check, drug screening and psychological evaluation.

Pasco already has School Resource Officers at its middle schools and high schools, and is adding school security safety guards at its elementary schools this year.

The public safety act also requires the development of a mental health assistance plan, which will establish or expand school-based mental health care, through assessment, diagnosis, intervention and treatment.

The Safe Schools allocation of \$3,725,606 will be used for school resource officers, school safety guards, traffic control and year-end security.

The Mental Health allocation of \$1,721,460 will be used to expand school-based mental health care.

In another area, the district must provide an additional hour of intensive reading beyond the normal school day, for the entire year, at 10 schools that were identified as low-performing schools.

The district also intends to spend its Digital Classrooms allocation of \$1,419,851 for computers, iPads and digital devices to support the district's classrooms.

The budget also includes \$80,459,730 for debt service, which is an increase of \$5.9 million or nearly 8 percent higher than 2017. The district must repay debt service before making other expenditures.

The budget also lists scores of capital projects, including several in central and east Pasco.

They include:

- Major renovation/remodeling of Land O'Lakes High School, Woodland Elementary School and Zephyrhills High School

- Construction of the new Cypress Creek Middle School

- Design of a kindergarten through eighth grade school at Starkey Ranch

- Cafeteria renovations at several schools, including Denham Oaks Elementary, Chester W. Taylor Elementary and Lacoochee Elementary

- Replacement/repairs of heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems at Centennial Elementary and Sand Pine Elementary

- Site improvements at Wendell Krinn Technical High School, a new technical high school that is opening this fall in the former Ridgewood High School, which was closed and refurbished, in New Port Richey

## SOLAR, from page 1A

stroy one of the county's best assets - its scenic views. They also differ with how county officials have interpreted Pasco's development regulations, and say that the solar farm is a power plant that should be placed

in an industrial district.

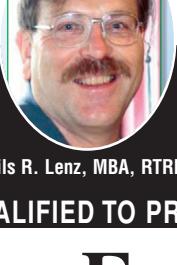
County officials say the solar farm doesn't fit the legal definition of a power plant, but it is suitable in some agriculturally zoned areas, with a special exception permit. They also say Pasco's regulations are in line with how other counties approve solar farms.

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COURTESY OF PASCO COUNTY SCHOOLS

An exterior view of a new building at Woodland Elementary School in Zephyrhills.



Cafeteria workers have a renovated kitchen at Woodland Elementary School.

## WOODLAND, from page 1A

rooms, an expanded student drop-off loop for parents, and a renovated kitchen and cafeteria, with a multipurpose room and stage, according to a school district news release.

Woodland Principal Shaunte Butcher recently gave a look at the upgraded facility to school district officials, including School Board member Allan Altman and schools Superintendent Kurt Browning. That tour was recorded on a video that's available on YouTube.

During that video, Altman recalled visiting Woodland in 2007 to meet with the former principal Kim Poe, who showed him the school's need for renovations.

Funding for the improvements came through the passage of the Penny for Pasco, which voters extended in 2012.

"Today is just so exciting," Altman said on the video, referring to the project's completion.

He noted he was pleased "to see a beautiful school that's going to serve the students and the families of the Zephyrhills area for years and years to come."

As Butcher made her way around campus, she said the new cafeteria can serve twice as many students at once, allowing the school to trim down time needed to serve lunch each day.

The old cafeteria is now four classrooms, and the old kitchen is now a lab for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Other improvements include new furniture for the school's existing classrooms, media center and teacher workroom, Butcher said.

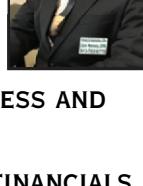
Restrooms were updated, too.

When the school was built in 1976, it was designed for 652 students. As enrollment grew, more and more portable classrooms were moved onto campus to accommodate students.

The school's new capacity is 900.

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# Community Sports

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## Prep football primer

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

ith high school football practices in full swing and games beginning Aug. 24, here's a look at teams, players and games to watch as the 2018 season unfolds, for programs in The Laker/Lutz News coverage area.



FILE

Academy at the Lakes will aim to defend its FCAPPS eight-man state title.

### TEAMS TO WATCH:

#### ACADEMY AT THE LAKES WILDCATS

The defending Florida Christian Association of Private and Parochial Schools' (FCAPPS) eight-man champions — who also went 11-1 — appear to be in line for another solid campaign, even with the exodus of a handful of top players such as running back/linebacker Daniel Gonzalez, receiver Isaiah Smith and defensive back Jordan Oladokun, who transferred to Gaither High School for his sophomore season.

The talent cupboard isn't completely

#### GAMES TO WATCH:

**Wiregrass Ranch at Zephyrhills** (Aug. 24, 7:30 p.m.) — Two of Pasco County's top squads last year square off in the first week of the 2018 season.

**Sunlake at Land O' Lakes** (Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.) — The annual "Butter Bowl" rivalry has been one-sided of late — Sunlake has won eight straight (including one via forfeit in 2011) — but Land O' Lakes figures to be more competitive with the matchup on its home turf and the Seahawks coming off an uncharacteristic losing season (4-6 in 2017).

**Zephyrhills at Pasco** (Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.) — The annual 9-Mile War may be more heated after Pasco head coach Tom McHugh this summer accused Zephyrhills' coaches of recruiting improprieties, based on a July letter sent to Pasco County athletic director Matt Wicks. While the Pirates lead the all-time series 40-20, Zephyrhills has won the past three contests by a combined 138-29.

**Zephyrhills Christian at Victory Christian** (Lakeland) (Oct. 5, 7 p.m.) — The Warriors seek to avenge its 12-0 loss in the first round of last year's FHSAA Class 2A playoffs.

**Gaither at Wiregrass Ranch** (Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.) — Matchup could decide the District 8-7A runner-up — as it has the past two years — assuming Plant High repeats as district champs.

#### PLAYERS TO WATCH:

##### Chris Butash, quarterback, Carrollwood Day School, senior

**THE SKINNY:** Butash, who lives in Wesley Chapel and formerly attended Academy at the Lakes, is coming off a season where he threw for 2,088 yards and 18 touchdowns/15 interceptions, and rushed for 570 yards and six touchdowns. Verbal commit to Division I FCS Holy Cross (Worcester, Massachusetts).



FILE  
New Land O' Lakes head coach Chad Walker looks to steer the Gators to its first winning season since 2013.

##### Darrion Robinson, receiver, Pasco High School, junior

**THE SKINNY:** Coming off a breakout season where he caught 25 balls for 577 yards and eight touchdowns. His 23.1 yards per reception ranked tops in Pasco County.

##### Malik Jones, lineman, Zephyrhills Christian Academy, junior

**THE SKINNY:** The 6-foot-3, 300-pound lineman is an intimidating force on both sides of the trenches, particularly on defense posting 60 tackles, 20 tackles for loss and four sacks last

Leivas and leading tackler Myron Bloom (76 tackles, five tackles for loss). Aside from those senior standouts, the Gators must find consistent quarterback play and additional offensive contributors.

The schedule doesn't offer a ton of favors for the new Gators coaching staff. A tough district slate includes Mitchell and Springstead, along with other formidable opponents, such as Anclote, Hernando, and Lakeland Christian — each of which had winning seasons last year.

#### WIREGRASS RANCH HIGH BULLS

Wiregrass Ranch will have to move on from having one of the county's most highly recruited football prospects in years — defensive back Jordan Miner, now at Penn State — plus a bevy of top contributors on offense such as 1,000-yard rusher Adrian Thomas, now at Division III Thiel College (Greenville, Pennsylvania).

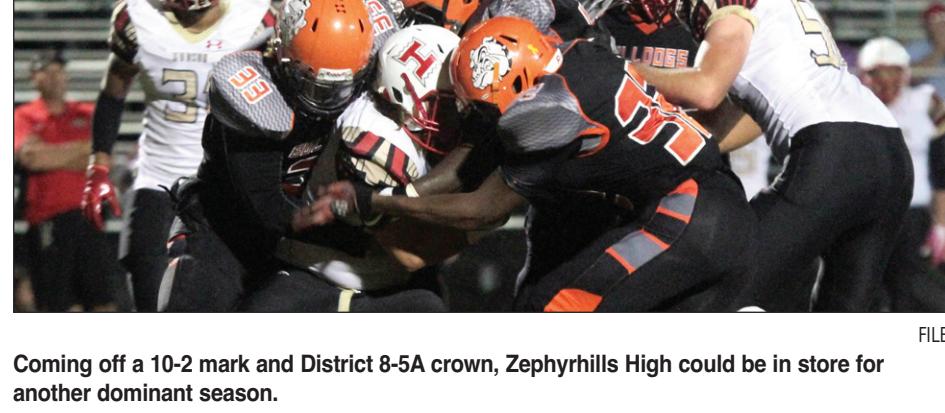
The Bulls, however, should have enough reinforcements in place for a third straight winning season, after going 9-3 last year and 7-4 in 2016 under head coach Mark Kantor.

Incumbent quarterback Grant Sessums returns for his senior year after throwing for 1,483 yards, eight touchdowns and nine interceptions. Other key returnees include senior receiver/defensive back Dorian Green, senior defensive lineman Kasean Ridgel, and junior linebacker Dylan Ridolph, who tallied 89 tackles, and led the team in sacks (15) and tackles for loss (23). Also expect contributions from several up-and-coming players who'll move up from a junior varsity team that went 6-1 last season.

#### ZEPHYRHILLS HIGH BULLDOGS

Zephyrhills fans will have to get used to rooting for a new quarterback, following the graduation of Charles Harrison III — who became one of the county's most prolific signal callers in his three years as a starter.

Luckily for the Bulldogs, whoever takes snaps certainly won't lack throwing options, with arguably the region's top receiving corps — seniors Ja'Quan Sheppard (35 catches, 797 yards, 13 touchdowns), Tre' Pavis Mobley (41 receptions, 640 yards, 10 touchdowns) Cartrell Strong (25 receptions, 410 yards, four touchdowns) and Tyreese Wigfall (15 receptions, 286 yards, seven touchdowns). Another constant is third-year head coach Nick Carroll, who's tactfully built off the sustained success of former coach Reggie Roberts, going 10-2 and 8-3 his first two seasons, respectfully. With a collection of Division I and college talent, don't be surprised if the program secures its eighth straight winning season. Last year the Bulldogs outscored opponents by a margin of 562-209 and went undefeated in District 8-5A. That included several blowouts against the likes of Sunlake (36-7), Ridgewood (59-7), Fivay (70-0), Gulf (70-0), Hudson (63-0) and Pasco (43-13).



FILE  
Coming off a 10-2 mark and District 8-5A crown, Zephyrhills High could be in store for another dominant season.

## THE TEAMS

Schools in Laker/Lutz News Coverage Area (and their 2017 records):

### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY:

- **Carrollwood Day School Patriots** (Class 2A-Region 3): 2-7 overall, 1-2 district
- **Freedom High School Patriots** (Class 7A-Region 8): 3-6 overall, 2-4 district
- **Gaither High School Cowboys** (Class 7A-Region 8): 7-4 overall, 5-1 district
- **Steinbrenner High School Warriors** (Class 8A-Region 6): 2-7 overall, 1-5 district

### PASCO COUNTY:

- **Academy at the Lakes Wildcats** (8-man-Florida Christian Region 2): 11-1 overall, 7-0 district
- **Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School Hurricanes** (Independent-Sunshine State Athletic Conference (SSAC)): 3-7 overall, 2-2 district
- **Cypress Creek Middle High School Coyotes** (Class 4A-Region 3): 0-11 overall, 0-0 district
- **Land O' Lakes High School Gators** (Class 6A-Region 6): 4-5 overall, 1-3 district
- **Pasco High School Pirates** (Class 6A-Region 6): 4-7 overall, 0-4 district
- **Sunlake High School Seahawks** (Class 6A-Region 6): 4-6 overall, 2-2 district
- **Wesley Chapel High School Wildcats** (Class 5A-Region 8): 6-4 overall, 4-3 district
- **Wiregrass Ranch High School Bulls** (Class 7A-Region 8): 9-3 overall, 4-2 district
- **Zephyrhills High School Bulldogs** (Class 5A-Region 8): 10-2 overall, 7-0 district
- **Zephyrhills Christian Academy Warriors** (Class 2A-Region 2): 8-3 overall, 0-1 district



COURTESY OF ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Zephyrhills Christian Academy's Malik Jones

#### ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Warriors have transitioned to 11-man football under head coach Mike Smith, going 8-3-1, 7-2 and 4-4 the past three years, respectively. Now coming off a playoff appearance in the Class 2A ranks, the team figures to have another big season, as 24 of its 27 players are juniors or seniors. Among that senior group, on offense, is starting quarterback Jacoby Braxton, leading receiver Kavion Marbra, and Javion Hanner, who tallied over 1,000 all-purpose yards and led all skill players with 10 touchdowns. Meanwhile, on defense, most contributors return to a unit that last season allowed fewer than nine points per game and racked up 51 sacks and 16 interceptions. Among the standouts are Marbra (five interceptions at cornerback) and defensive end/linebacker Jalen Spencer (21 sacks). The team's second-leading tackler from last season, Eugene Davis (94 total tackles), also returns.



FILE  
COURTESY OF FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL

Freedom High's Jeremiah Ashe

Division I FBS offers, including Cincinnati, South Florida and Rutgers universities.

#### Jeromy Reid, running back, Gaither High School, senior

**THE SKINNY:** Rushed for 1,110 yards and nine touchdowns last season. Tallied five 100-yard games, including a monstrous 267-yard, two touchdown performance against Brandon High early last season. Holds Division I FBS offers from Western Kentucky and South Florida universities.

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FLORIDA HOSPITAL

## America's finest beach is in Clearwater



### Worth the Trip

Karen Haymon Long  
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

**S**tanding on baby-powder white sand, staring out at the gentle lulling of the Gulf's waves, I realized how lucky we are here on Florida's West Coast to live so close to Clearwater Beach.

It's the ideal beach to swim, stroll for shells, watch birds and people, eat in some really good beach restaurants, or just sit on a beach towel and read a good book.

If you want to, you can go fishing on Pier 60, rent a Jet Ski or a paddleboard, or soar over the water in a parasail pulled by a boat. You can even cruise past the beach aboard a pirate ship.

All this and more made Clearwater Beach the No. 1 beach in America in 2018, thanks to TripAdvisor's annual poll of those who visit the popular travel website. It came in a powerful seventh in the world among beaches. And, it was the only beach in America on this year's world list.

Sometimes tourists find the beach more often than locals do, thanks to its prominence on travel websites, in newspapers and guidebooks.

USA Today ranked it the second-best beach in Florida in 2015. (First: Gulf Islands National Seashore in Pensacola). Two years earlier, the newspaper called Clearwater Beach the best beach town in Florida.

Ironically, Clearwater Beach is not a town at all, but part of the city of Clearwater, whose logo proudly proclaims "Clearwater Bright and Beautiful Bay to Beach."

The beach is definitely something to be proud of: TripAdvisor recommends 93 things to do in Clearwater. Going to its beach comes in first.

Lots of changes have come to the beach in the last decade. You'll notice them right



KAREN HAYMON LONG

A lifeguard stand on Clearwater Beach adds a whimsical touch to one of the world's best beaches. It came in seventh in the world in the 2018 TripAdvisor Best Beaches Contest, the only American beach on the world list.

away if you haven't been in a while.

New upscale, pricey hotels — Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach, Opal Sands Resort, Sandpearl Resort, Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa — have all joined what used to be mostly mom and pop motels.

The picturesque Clearwater Beach Walk, a broad promenade lined with palms, billowing grasses and outdoor showers with comical green turtle sculptures on top, now skirts the beach from Pier 60, at the western end of State Road 60, heading south a half mile.

It's a fun place to people-watch and to ride a bike or skate, when it's not too crowded. Otherwise, it makes a nice path for walking along the beach, or to go to lunch or dinner in a nearby bar or restaurant.

The restaurants also make Clearwater Beach a great place to visit. They are numerous and varied, and many offer tasty grouper sandwiches, fish spread and other fresh seafood.

Frenchy's alone has four restaurants, all with excellent food and service, and all within a short walk to the beach.

Heilman's Beachcomber Restaurant, opened in 1948, is a longtime favorite of old Clearwater families, who have spread the word to younger generations.

And, Palm Pavilion Beachside Grill & Bar, with its inn next door, has long been a popular spot for good food, live music and unparalleled sunset views. It opened in 1926 and has been owned by the same family for 44 years.

If you want to get an idea of why Clearwater Beach got its name, go to VisitStPeteClearwater.com, and look at the webcam "Live from Clearwater Beach." You can see in the photos just how clear the water really can be and how green or blue, depending on the sunlight.

You can see the wide swaths of powdery white sand and little kids skimboarding, digging in the sand with beach shovels or flying kites.

If you go yourself - and you really should if you can - you can rent a colorful beach umbrella or a cabana and chairs, or bring your own, and your own cooler, too. Just don't bring alcohol. It isn't allowed on the beach.



Palm Pavilion Beachside Grill & Bar, on Clearwater Beach, has been offering beachgoers good food, music and spectacular sunset views since 1926.

We like to park in the paid public lot between Palm Pavilion Beachside Grill & Bar and Frenchy's Rockaway Grill, off Rockaway Street. We lay our towels on the beach and walk north, where it's quieter and fewer people go. Homes, some opulent and others more modest, face out to the Gulf on this part of the beach that has limited parking, unlike farther south.

If you walk south, you'll likely pass Pier 60, where anglers fish day and night for redfish, snook, Spanish mackerel, trout, snapper, flounder and even sharks.

The 1,080-foot fishing pier has a bait shop, sells drinks, food and souvenirs, and offers Gulf glimpses from telescopes.

Two hours before and after sunset every evening, the pier puts on "Sunset Celebrations," drawing crowds to see colorful sunsets, listen to music, watch street performers and buy local crafts.

But, the Gulf is the star here and the main reason many come from all over the world. Its waters near shore are shallow, its waves usually gently lap onto the sugary sand, leaving treasured shells for everyone to find and take home.



Act like a pirate and take a cruise on Captain Memo's Pirate Ship that goes into the Gulf of Mexico in front of Clearwater Beach. The ship offers sunset and daytime cruises, as well as children's parties and activities. Visit CaptainMemo.com for prices and times, or call (727) 446-2587.



Clearwater Beach's Pier 60 is a popular place for fishing, bird-watching and Sunset Celebrations, which happen every day all year around. If you don't fish, you can rent a Jet Ski to take a spin in the Gulf.

**CLEAR THE SHELTERS**

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, will take part in "Clear the Shelters 2018" on Aug. 18 from noon to 6:30 p.m.

All adoption fees will be waived, no exclusions, on this date only.

And, all adoptions include spay/neuter, microchip and vaccinations.

Pasco County residents are required to purchase appropriate licensing for a new pet.

For more information, please visit [ClearTheShelters.com](http://ClearTheShelters.com).

**PET-FRIENDLY CITIES**

National Homeless Animals Day is approaching and more than 85 million U.S. pet-owning households are projected to spend \$72 billion this year, according to the personal finance website, WalletHub.

In order to determine where Americans' animal companions can enjoy the best quality of life, without breaking the bank, WalletHub compared the creature friendliness of the 100 largest cities across 24 key metrics.

The data set ranges from minimum pet-care provider rate per visit to pet businesses per capita to walkability.

The top 10 most pet-friendly cities are: (1) Scottsdale, Arizona; (2) Orlando; (3) San Diego, California; (4) Austin, Texas; (5) Phoenix, Arizona; (6) Tampa; (7) Cincinnati, Ohio; (8) Seattle, Washington; (9) Las Vegas, Nevada; and (10) Irvine, California.

The least pet-friendly city, ranking in the 100th position, is Honolulu, Hawaii.

To view a full report, visit [WalletHub.com/edu/most-pet-friendly-cities/5562](http://WalletHub.com/edu/most-pet-friendly-cities/5562).

**BOW WOW BINGO**

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club will host its annual Bow Wow Bingo & Luncheon Aug. 30 at 10 a.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd.

The event is a fundraiser to benefit Canine Companions for Independence, which provides assistance dogs free of charge to adults, children and veterans with disabilities.

The cost is \$20, and includes a catered luncheon and 10 games of bingo.

Extra cards will be available.

There also will be prizes, opportunity baskets and more.

To reserve a spot, call (813) 949-1710.

**NOMINATE PASCO ANIMAL SERVICES**

Cat's Pride cat litter has launched its new Litter for Good program. When you buy a green jug of Cat's Pride Fresh & Light, the company will donate a pound of litter to animal welfare organizations across the country.

For Pasco County Animal Services to be eligible to receive a share of the donated litter, nominations are needed from its supporters.

To nominate PCAS, visit [CatsPride.com/member-dashboard](http://CatsPride.com/member-dashboard). Join the free Cat's Pride Club, search for the shelter by zip code (34638) and nominate Pasco Animal Services.

Those interested can also watch a video about the program at [CatsPride.com/litterforgood](http://CatsPride.com/litterforgood).

**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](mailto:news@lakerlutznews.com).

**Adopt A Friend****FOR LIFE****Stop in and meet Claire**

Claire is a 1 1/2-year-old smoky grey girl that came to the shelter in June. She started off very shy, but now enjoys company in the Feline Freedom room with a few other friends. Claire would love to have a home — perhaps yours — to call her own.

**Crumpet is a sweet boy**

Crumpet arrived at the shelter as a stray in the beginning of July. He walks well on a leash and would love the opportunity to walk by your side.

If you would like to adopt Claire or Crumpet, 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@pascocoountyfl.net](mailto:adoptionpartners@pascocoountyfl.net).

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Readers can now find Pets of the Week and Local Wildlife photos on our website at [LakerLutznews.com](http://LakerLutznews.com), under the Pets/Wildlife link.

**The LAKER / Lutz NEWS**

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Dogs >50lbs - \$205

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Please call for details.

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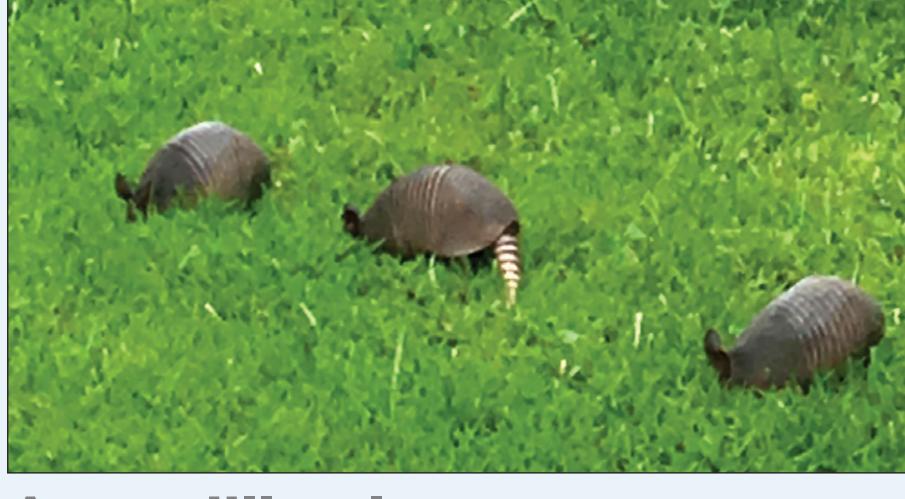
# PET of the WEEK



## Bella loves belly rubs

Bella is a 13-year-old pit bull and boxer mix. She was adopted from the Humane Society when she was 3 years old. Bella has been an excellent companion, and enjoys hikes, playing with sticks and daily belly rubs. Bella truly is a beautiful dog, and her family is blessed to have her. Bella's proud owner is Kathleen Danielson of Lutz.

## LOCAL WILDLIFE



### Armadillos love ants and termites

Desiree Brauninger caught this 'roll' of armadillos scrounging around the yard in Grand Oaks in Wesley Chapel. Armadillos have very poor eyesight and use their keen sense of smell to hunt for food. The mammal uses its claws for digging and finding food, as well as making homes in burrows. The word armadillo means 'little armored one,' in Spanish.



Winning September 2018 photo, 'Surviving the Storms of Life' by Traci Czyznik

## Recognition up for grabs in photo contest

*The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report*

Black and white, vertical, date-stamped, digitally manipulated images or mobile phone photos will not be considered.

A volunteer committee of Gulfside staff and volunteers will review the entries. Winners will be notified by Oct. 15.

Each winner will receive five printed calendars, plus a gift certificate redeemable at any of Gulfside's six thrift shops.

Winning photos also may be featured on Gulfside's Facebook page, throughout the year.

The deadline to enter is 5 p.m., Sept. 15.

For questions, or a complete copy of contest guidelines and requirements, contact Anne Kibbe at (727) 845-5707 or [GHPPCphotos@gmail.com](mailto:GHPPCphotos@gmail.com).

## PUT YOUR PET IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

We are looking for photos and information on your favorite pet.

Include in your short story your pet's name, age, and breed.

*Don't forget to include the owner's name and city of residence!*

Send photo and information to:

*The LAKER/Lutz NEWS*

Email to: [mrathman@lakerlutznews.com](mailto:mrathman@lakerlutznews.com), SUBJECT: Pet of the Week

Mail to: Pet of the Week, c/o The Laker, P.O. Box 479, Lutz, FL 33548



# BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to  
news@lakerlutznews.com

## JULY RENTALS ON THE RISE

Lutz landed in seventh spot among the most expensive cities for a one-bedroom rental in the Tampa Bay area in July, according to a report from Zumper.

The median cost for a one-bedroom in Lutz in July was \$1,060, about 5 percent more than in June. That put Lutz in a tie with Brandon.

Two-bedroom rentals in Lutz rose 1.6 percent, month to month, at a median cost of \$1,290 in July.

New Port Richey was the most affordable, with median rents at \$720 in July. Hudson was second at \$780 a month.

But, New Port Richey also was near the top in fastest growing cities for one-bedroom rentals, up more than 14 percent over July 2017, the report found.

The median rent in Florida in June was \$1,185.

For information, visit Zumper.com.

## WATER QUALITY REPORTS

Pasco County Utilities customers can

now view the latest water quality testing results online in the annual 2017 Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR), according to a news release from Pasco County.

Customers can access specific information on their residential area through a direct link provided on their water utilities bill, or by selecting their report at [bit.ly/2017pascowaterreport](http://bit.ly/2017pascowaterreport).

Pasco County Utilities routinely monitors drinking water based on federal and state laws.

August is #WaterQualityMonth nationwide.

To join the conversation about how Pasco County Utilities protects drinking water, connect on Twitter@PascoWater.

For more information, please visit PascoCountyUtilities.com.

## AWARDS BANQUET

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will host "Zephyropoly," a membership appreciation and community awards banquet, Aug. 23 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at St. Joseph's Parish Center, 38750 Fifth Ave., in Zephyrhills.

For more information, please contact the chamber at (813) 782-1913 or [marketing@zephyrhillschamber.org](mailto:marketing@zephyrhillschamber.org).

## EAST PASCO NETWORKING

The East Pasco Networking Group will meet Aug. 14 at 7:30 a.m., at IHOP, 13100 U.S. 301 in Dade City.

Guest speakers will be Roxxy Geisenheimer, executive director of the Samaritan Project; and, Madonna Wise, a local author and historian.



Future site of O'Reilly Auto Parts in Land O'Lakes

KATHY STEELE

## O'REILLY AUTO STORE

O'Reilly Auto Parts is coming to Land O'Lakes.

Construction is underway at 3600 Land O'Lakes Blvd.

County records indicate that permits have been issued for a building of about 7,200 square feet.

This will be the auto parts store's first

location in Land O'Lakes. O'Reilly has existing stores in Dade City and Zephyrhills.

The auto parts chain began in 1957 with a single store in Springfield, Missouri, which remains the company's headquarters.

According to the company website, the chain currently has more than 5,100 stores in 47 states.

Provisions, 2653 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

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

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

**More BUSINESS DIGEST, page 7B**

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- Electrical Maintenance Plans • 18 Mo No Interest W.A.C.

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## BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to  
news@lakerlutznews.com

### CHAMBER MIXER

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will have a mixer Aug. 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Asturia, 14575 Promenade Parkway in Odessa.

For information, contact the chamber at (813) 909-2722 or events@centralpascochamber.com.

### WOMEN-N-CHARGE

Join Women-n-Charge Sept. 7 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Plantation Palms Golf Club, 23253 Plantation Palms Blvd., in Land O'Lakes.

Guest speaker will be Brenda Alloco, a client-focused mentor, writer, and time management consultant.

The cost is \$15 for members and \$18 for guests who RSVP by Monday prior to the meeting.

Afterward, the cost is \$20 for members and \$23 for guests.

If you would like to register, please visit [Women-n-charge.com/meetings/](http://Women-n-charge.com/meetings/).

# Breaking ground at Del Webb Bexley

Pulte Group plans to break ground in August on six model homes at Del Webb Bexley, according to a news release from Pulte Group.

The 850-home, age-restricted community is within the Bexley by Newland Communities master-planned neighborhood, off State Road 54, in Land O'Lakes.

The Del Webb homes are designed for pre-retirement and retiring baby boomers.

Del Webb communities target the age 55 and older population.

The Bexley project is the first Del Webb community to be built from the ground up

in the Tampa Bay area since 1960.

Home designs include the one-story, two-bedroom "Steel Creek" model; the two-story, four-bedroom, four-bath "Pinnacle Grand;" and Stonewater.

The six model homes are among 17 designs offered at Del Webb Bexley, which is being developed on about 490 acres with Bexley.

The model homes are expected to be completed, and open to buyers by January.

Del Webb Bexley residents can enjoy a lakefront club and café.

They have the option to purchase addi-



WWW.DELWEBB.COM

Steel Creek exterior.

tional access to Bexley's all-ages amenities, including 10 miles of multi-use Avid trails; parks and play areas; soccer field; dog parks; two resort-style pools; bike park; and a schedule of social events.

For information, visit [DelWebb.com/bexley](http://DelWebb.com/bexley).



Sonestwater exterior.



Pinnacle Grand exterior.

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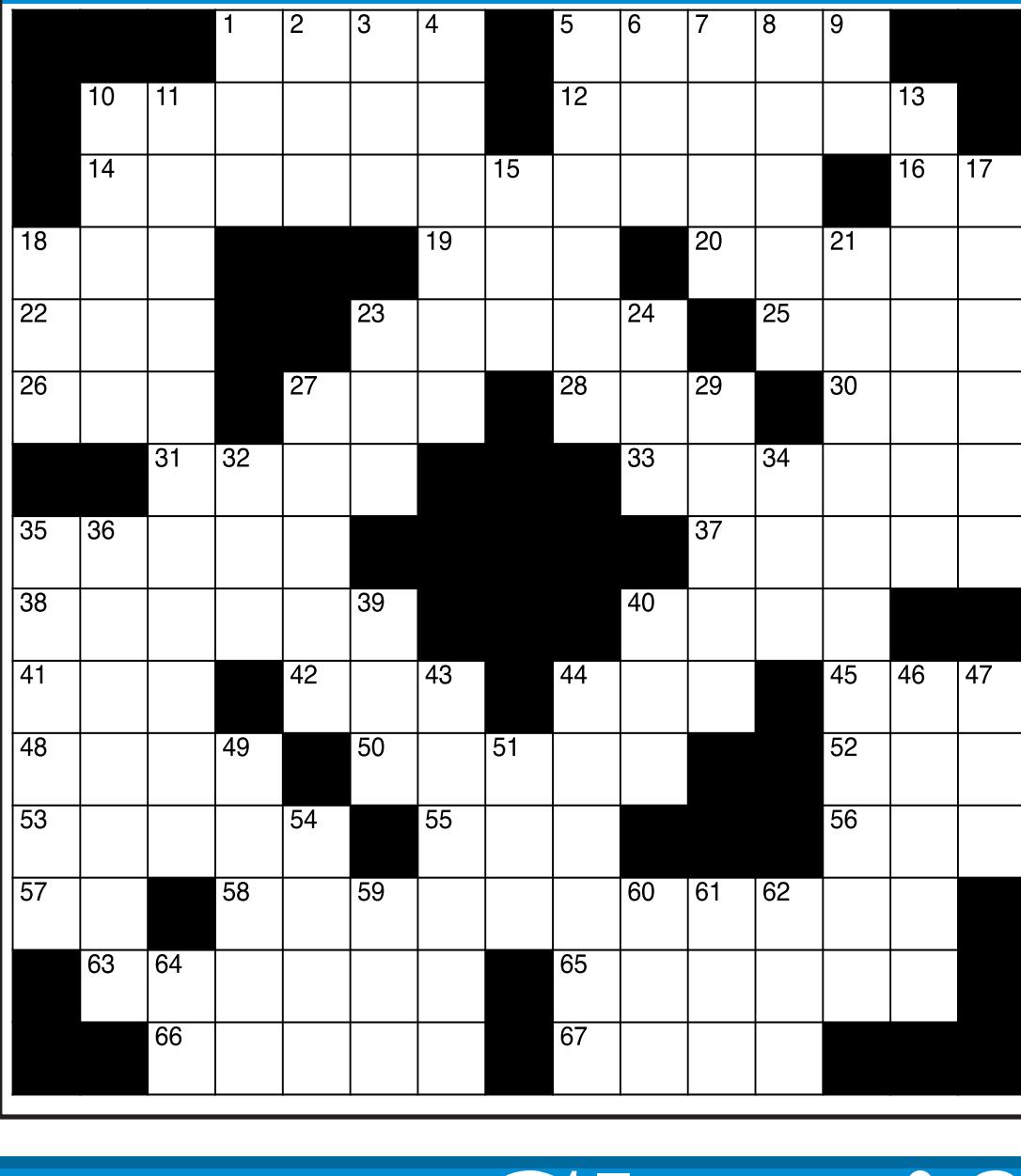
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## ACROSS

1. Imitated
5. Explosion
10. One who writes
12. Large nests
14. Philly specialty
16. A form of "to be"
18. Automobile
19. A way to stand
20. Waterlogged land
22. A way to provide
23. We all need it
25. Stalk of a moss capsule
26. Promotional materials
27. Bashful
28. Ten
30. He captured Valencia
31. Quickly
33. Violent seizure of property
35. Fugazi bassist
37. Baseball great Davey
38. Large bird cage
40. British noble
41. They protect Americans (abbr.)
42. Economic institution
44. Pat lightly
45. Not even
48. Cools
50. Seat belt advocate
52. A dishonorable man
53. Smooths over
55. Moved quickly
56. Part of a play
57. South Dakota
58. Worsen
63. Madam Butterfly and La Boheme
65. Removes
66. Dull, brown fabrics
67. Comedian Rogen

## DOWN

1. 100 sq. meters
2. Dessert
3. One point south of due east
4. Profoundly
5. Swatted
6. Confederate general
7. Soviet composer
8. Japanese deer (pl.)
9. Tellurium
10. Burn with a hot liquid
11. Pupas
13. Famed chapel
15. Car mechanics group
17. Blocks from the sun
18. Numbers cruncher
21. Responds in kind
23. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
24. Each
27. Fitzgerald's wife Zelda
29. Tribe of Judah rep
32. Patti Hearst's captors
34. "The Raven" author
35. Bars give them their own nights
36. Essential for guacamole
39. Currency
40. Golfers hope to make it
43. Touch gently
44. Does not allow
46. Cyprinids
47. Insecticide
49. Passover feast and ceremony
51. Patriotic women
54. Protein-rich liquids
59. Type of soda
60. Necessary to extract metal
61. Inform upon
62. A type of residue
64. Palladium

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 7B

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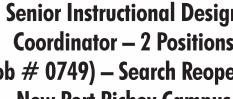
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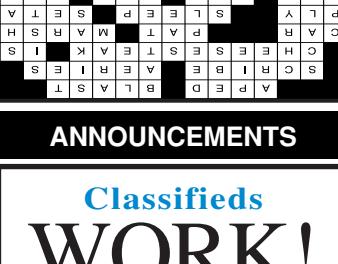
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### GAME PAGE ANSWERS



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