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Vice President Joe Biden patiently fields an assortment of questions in Kelly Keene's fifth-grade classroom at Oakstead Elementary School in Land O' Lakes. (Photo by B.C. Manion)

Vice President makes pitch to jumpstart the economy

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@cnewspubs.com

It was no accident that Vice President Joe Biden chose to drop by Oakstead Elementary School last week in a pitch to sell President Obama's American Jobs Act.

Oakstead is the largest elementary school in Pasco County, a school district that's been rocked in recent years by steep budget cuts — including a $54 million shortfall this year that resulted in 513 fewer jobs.

Biden visited Kelly Keene's fifth-grade class in a portable classroom building before holding his afternoon news conference in the school's media center.

Keene's class has 25 children. That's six more students than she taught last year.

Oakstead, which has more than 1,000 students, lost eight teaching positions because of budget cuts. Built just six years ago, the school was constructed for 700 pupils. It must use 22 portable classrooms to accommodate the overflow.

At the Oct. 4 news conference, Biden said the proposed American Jobs Act would jumpstart the economy.

In part, the measure calls for preventing up to 280,000 teacher layoffs, while keeping cops and firefighters on the job; modernizing at least 35,000 public schools; providing tax cuts to small businesses; and building or repairing roads, rails, airports and waterways.

The measure was expected to go to a vote before the Senate as early as Tuesday, Oct. 11.

See BIDEN, page 2

Fifth-graders quiz VP

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@cnewspubs.com

There was a feeling of pent-up excitement in Kelly Keene's fifth-grade classroom last week as the children awaited the arrival of Vice President Joe Biden.

It was a big moment, not only for these children, but for Pasco County Public Schools, as well.

Biden is the highest-ranking government official ever to visit the school district, and that created a buzz all over the campus at Oakstead Elementary in Land O' Lakes.

When the vice president arrived, it didn't take long for him to establish a comfort zone with the kids.

He moved easily through the classroom.

He sat at a small desk to field some questions. He walked around the classroom to answer others. He leaned over to get closer to the kids.

He touched a student's hair. Squeezed a child's shoulder. Looked directly at the youngsters, as they posed their questions.

When Biden felt a little too warm, he politely asked the kids if it would be all right with them, if he took off his jacket.

The children had plenty of questions for the vice president. And, they obviously relished their time with him, as they snapped photographs to preserve the moment.

This is one of those days — the students said after Biden's departure — that they never expect to forget.

Here's a look at some of the things the kids wanted to know, and excerpts of the vice president's answers.

Q. Do you like what you do?

A. I do like what I do. My daddy used to say, "It's a lucky person who gets up every morning with both feet on the floor, who knows what they're about to do – knows what their job is – and is happy with that and thinks it makes a difference."

I like what I'm doing because I hope it makes a difference. I get to do things that help people.

Q. Were you excited to become vice president ?

A. The answer is yes.

When the president first came to me and said, "Joe, I'd like you to be my vice president, I said, 'No, I don't want to do that. I will be happy to help you anyway that I can, but I never thought about being vice president.' I thought it would be better for me to stay where I was, in the Senate.

"He said, 'Think about it. Talk to your

See QUIZ, page 3

GAITHER SACKS STEINBRENNER

The Gaither football team defeated Steinbrenner 37-7 on Oct. 6 to stay in first place in the district. The Cowboy defense put constant pressure on the Warrior offense, forcing nine turnovers. Seen is Gaither senior linebacker Josh Scarberry hitting Steinbrenner sophomore quarterback Curtis Fitch. **For complete coverage, see page 11.** (Photo by Glenn Gefers of www.photosby3g.com)

For one night, Sunlake's colors are shades of pink

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Anyone who knows Courtney and Meghan Durbin is aware of how they take on challenges, whether it is in school, with sports or in the fight against cancer.

The twin sisters at Sunlake High created Pink Out Day three years ago. The senior softball players had the idea to have the Seahawks team wear pink to raise awareness and show support in the fight against all forms of cancer at one of its games each year.

The girls have continued the spring version but are bringing it to the fall football season for Sunlake's home game against Hernando at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14.

"We started the Pink Out movement last year, but it was at an away (football) game at Wesley Chapel," Courtney said. "We wanted to do it at home to get more of the community involved. Also this year we're doing a fundraiser too by selling pink T-shirts to raise money for the American Cancer Society (ACS)."

Pink Out Day

Where: Sunlake High, 3023 Sunlake Blvd. in Land O' Lakes

When: Friday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

All those attending the football game against Hernando are asked to wear pink to so support in the fight against cancer.

Everyone in attendance is asked to wear pink. Even the Seahawks football players will be appropriately dressed.

"All the football players will be wearing pink gloves and pink socks and the cheerleaders are wearing pink bows," Courtney said. "Hopefully all the people in the community going to the game will wear pink

See PINK, page 15

Anatomy of a VP visit

Friday, Sept. 30: Special visitors drop by Oakstead Elementary School.

Principal Tammy Kimpland doesn't give it much thought. Her school is often a district showcase for visitors from Spain, China and other places.

Later that same day, some special visitors drop by again – this time there are some men in dark suits. Kimpland and Assistant Principal Megan Hermansen find out their school is being considered for a visit by Vice President Joe Biden. The two school administrators are sworn to secrecy.

Satur day: Kimpland and Hermensen are at the school, making preparations for the Biden's possible visit. They get the word around 4:30 p.m. that it's a go. It was, as Kimpland put it, "a pretty exciting moment."

Sunday: Kimpland and Hermensen are at the campus, while more preparations are made.

Monday: Kimpland arrives at 6:30 a.m. and doesn't leave campus until around 9:30 p.m. That's the day when school staff called about 250 district staff, parents, students, teachers and members of the community to invite them to the event; nearly everyone said yes.

Other pr e-visit logistics included:

—Moving shelves in the media center out of the way to make room for about 200 chairs for guests.

—Rounding up 200 matching chairs from all over campus to create a nice appearance for the event.

—Rearranging books onto different shelves in the library, including the addition of books on top shelves behind the podium where Biden would make his remarks.

—Touching base with Publix to order refreshments for the vice president, Secret Service agents, the Sheriff's Office and the White House staff. (Although she said she rarely tries to pull rank, Kimpland said did tell Publix that the order she was making for a very important guest. She thought the supermarket chain might give her a discount or a couple of sandwich trays. Instead, it catered the event – with sandwiches, fruits, drinks, desserts and even decorations — free of charge).

Tuesday: Principal Kimpland arrives at 5:45 a.m. so security can do a sweep of the school.

Oakstead Elementary Principal Tammy Kimpland introduces the vice president after days of preparation for the "special visitor." (Photo by Anthony V. Masella Jr. of www.OurtownFLA.com)

Faculty and staff members park in different locations to leave room for arriving guests.

Vice President Joe Biden makes history in Pasco County public schools by being the highest-ranking public official ever to visit the school district.

— B.C. Manion

BIDEN, from page 1

During his remarks, Biden cited a newly released report revealing that 300,000 teachers across the nation have lost their jobs since 2008.

"That's bad for the teachers, in terms of being able to make a living, but it's devastating for our children," Biden said. "This is an emergency."

Oakstead is a "Grade A" school, the vice president said, but he noted, "there are a lot of schools around the country that aren't Grade A."

During the past 12 months, budget cuts across the nation have resulted in 200,000 fewer teachers, 10,000 fewer firefighters and 18,000 fewer police officers, Biden said.

Besides reducing public services, those reductions play out in very practical ways across the economy, the vice president said.

"It means fewer haircuts, fewer trips to the restaurant, fewer times you can take your kids to the movies, fewer times you can gas your automobile up — and fewer, and fewer and fewer," Biden said.

When cuts are made to education, they have long-term consequences, added Biden, whose wife taught in public schools for years and now teaches at Northern Virginia Community College.

"All of this matters. It matters in terms of our long-term national security. It matters in terms of how many children we're going to have college-ready 12 years from now. It simply matters," Biden said. "We're competing in a much more competitive world."

The jobs act would create opportunity at a time when the nation desperately needs it, Biden said.

"People ask me, 'Can we afford it?' My response is, 'Can we afford not to do this?'" Biden said.

During his remarks, the vice president thanked parents and teachers and Principal Tammy Kimpland for all that they do to help children learn. And, after the news conference, he worked the crowd – shaking hands and posing for photographs, while patriotic music played.

Outside, Nina Gregory, a teacher who serves special education students and their parents, said she was glad she was able to attend the event.

"I loved it. It's been so tough for teachers and parents, as well," Gregory said.

"It really was inspiring. I think that we needed to hear the validation that teachers are important. I loved the way that he emphasized parent involvement.

"It's a tough time, but there's hope. We have to keep on trucking and things will happen," she said.

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QUIZ, from page 1

wife.'

I talked to my wife. She said, "You should be vice president."

Q. What do you enjoy doing in your spar e time?

A. If I get a chance to do anything in the world, I like to spend the time with my kids. My kids have become my best friends.

Q. What is it like being vice pr esident?

A. Well, it's kind of cool. You get to meet a lot of people. I used to do a lot of things with foreign leaders, you know, what they call heads of state. I'd go and visit Prime Minister (Vladimir) Putin in Russia and Prime Minister (Benjamin) Netanyahu of Israel. I spent a lot of time in Afghanistan and China and Iraq and all around the world.

In my career as a senator, I spent a lot of time dealing with war and peace and terrorism and all of those kinds of things.

Just since I've been vice president, they just told me the other day how many miles I've traveled in Air Force Two. I've traveled over 445,000 miles just since I've been vice president.

Q. What is the best part of your job?

A. The best part of my job, I guess, is that I get to go home every night and have dinner with my wife.

When I was a senator for 36 years, I used to commute every day on Amtrak, on a train. Every single day, I'd get up every morning, and I'd get a 7:30 train and I'd go for an hour and a half, and I'd arrive in Washington at 9 o'clock and I'd leave Washington somewhere between the 6 and 7 o'clock train, so I'd get home as early as 7:30, or usually, 8:30 or 9 o'clock every single day.

Now, we live in Washington, D.C.

Q. Do you work dir ectly for the pr esident?

An animated Vice President Joe Biden reacts to questions in Kelly Keene's classroom.

A. I do. Let me tell you what my normal day is. What I do is every day when the president and I are both in Washington, every day I start off with a meeting in the morning with the president. It has a fancy name, it's called PDB, presidential daily briefing.

What that means is that our experts on terrorism and on things relating to our security, we meet every day in the Oval Office.

They tell us what happened over night.

And then there's a second meeting. We talk about the economy.

Every day, I'm sitting next to the president on average 5 to 6 hours a day, when he's in Washington and when I'm in Washington.

Q. Does the Secr et Service follow you everywher e?

A. Yes. They follow me everywhere and they do that for my protection.

By the way, there are almost as many women who take care of me in the Secret Service. They can shoot just as straight as a guy.

They are always with me, and they make my life a lot easier.

Q. How often do you get to visit schools?

A. These days, I don't get to schools as much as when I was a senator.

(Then) I made sure … to visit every single solitary high school in my state once a year and I went to a lot of grade schools.

I did that for two reasons. First of all, you guys are smarter than you think you are and you guys ask the best questions. And, sometimes, when you ask questions, I can figure out what your parents are thinking, too.

Lots of times, you sit at the dinner table and you hear your mommy and daddy talking about stuff, and you kind of wonder about that.

Q. Do you like sports?

A. My dream was that I thought I could be a flanker back for the New York Giants. I was a pretty good football player in high school. Not as good in college. I love football.

I also was pretty good in baseball. I always liked basketball, but my mom wouldn't let me play three seasons, so I had to choose.

VERBATIM

Oakstead Elementary Principal Tammy Kimpland, talking about Vice President Joe Biden:

"I've met lots of different types of people. He was so down-to-earth and so genuine. I think that surprised all of us.

"Nobody from our staff felt like they were not important to him."

Oakstead Elementary Assistant Principal Megan Hermansen, talking about the Secret Service agents on campus:

"They didn't walk around flashing their guns. They were very knowledgeable about working in a school with young kids."

Allison Paolillo, an Oakstead parent, on the atmosphere at school:

"My girls felt like they were going to the prom."

Fifth-grade teacher Kelly Keene, complimenting her students, who had a chance to interact with the vice president:

"I was so impressed by how prepared they were. The questions that they came up with were completely theirs. Some of them floored me."

Vice President Joe Biden, describing his relationship with President Barack Obama:

"The deal that the president and I have, is I asked him, 'Why do you want me to be vice president?' He said, 'I want you to help me govern.'

"I said, 'Look, here's the deal. I'd like to be the last guy in the room when you're making a big decision.' He's honored that. Every big decision he has, the last guy who gets to say, 'This is what I think you should do or not do' is me."

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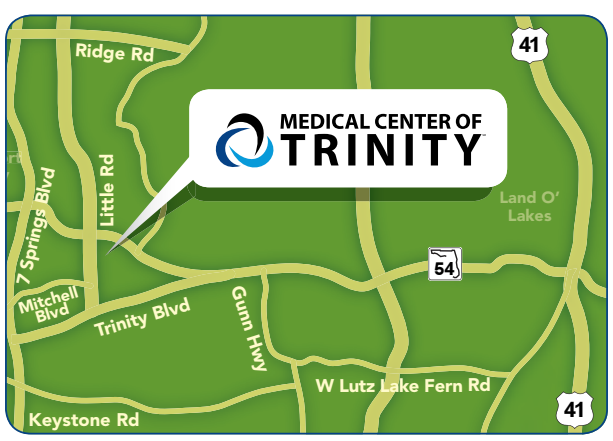

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Preferred Referrals Networking meets on Tuesdays from 11:30-1 p.m. at Elsa's Mexican Restaurant, 18450 N. US 41 in Lutz. Those attending buy their lunch, but the meeting is free. For more information call Edna Dunston (813) 875-3177 or Les Saland (813) 995-0292.

BUSINESSES HELP IN WAR AGAINST BREAST CANCER

ULTA Beauty stores are inviting customers to participate in Windows of Love – Donate with a Kiss, a campaign to support the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

ULTA Beauty will cover its windows with kisses, an international symbol of love, with each kiss representing a $1 donation to the research foundation.

ULTA Beauty will provide a variety of ways to help.

Those who donate $1 are eligible for a drawing to win a beauty bag of pink products, valued at $598, and those who donate $10 can receive their choice of a pink ribbon umbrella or pink ribbon cosmetics bag.

Hungry Howie's is also taking action to help fight breast cancer.

The pizza chain will make a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation for every pizza that Hungry Howie's sells at its Florida and Alabama locations during the month of October.

SUNCOAST EPILEPSY FOUNDA TION HONORS SENA TOR

The Suncoast Epilepsy Foundation recently honored State Sen. Mike Fasano for his work to help people with epilepsy in the counties that Fasano represents.

The association serves approximately 28,000 residents in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. It provides counseling, education, advocacy and pre-vocational services to medically and financially needy individuals with epilepsy.

RYLAND HOMES UNVEILS NEW ENERGY ST ANDARDS

Ryland Homes has unveiled new energy standards that will save homebuyers hundreds of dollars each month in their energy bills.

Ryland's Houseworks standards include Tech-shield Radiant Barrier Roofing, low-E windows, and other high energy-efficient standards.

PASCO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Florida Gov. Rick Scott has appointed four new members to the Pasco County Housing Authority. The new members are Edward C. Blommel, John J. Finnerty, David B. Lambert, and Emile A. Laurino.

Blommel, 62, of Dade City, is the director of community relations for Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco. Blommel, whose term ends in September 2015, succeeds Leonard M. Trubia.

Finnerty, 64, also of Dade City, is the chief executive officer for Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco. His term ends in August 2014. He succeeds Regina M. Mirabella.

Lambert, 39, of Spring Hill, is the manager of member relations at the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative. His term ends August 2013. He succeeds Wilton E. Simpson.

Laurino, 69, New Port Richey, is the chief executive officer for the Center for Independence. His term expires in September 2013. He succeeds Joan M. Spitrey.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S GOLF TOURNAMENT A BIG HIT

Normally, golfers like to score low – but these golfers came up big in a golf tournament to benefit Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco. The golf tournament raised just under $3,000 for the charity which works to provide decent and affordable housing to those in need.

HOLLAND EXCHANGE STUDENT

Jessica Kamsteeg, a Rotary Youth Exchange student, recently gave a talk to the Dade City Sunrise Rotary group, telling them about her home country of Holland and her experiences with the exchange program.

Kamsteeg is one of 8,000 students worldwide participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange, a program that has been around for more than 75 years and draws participants from 80 countries.

The program is administered at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary clubs.

Kamsteeg is being hosted by a family in Inverness and is being sponsored by the Rotary Club of Inverness.

Sunrise Rotary is a Breakfast Club and meets every Thursday at 7 a.m. except for the first Thursday of the month when they meet at 4:45 p.m. at the Kokopelli Restaurant, Dade City. Visitors are always welcome.

RASMUSSEN COLLEGE

The New Port Richey campus of Rasmussen College has received the Service/Distribution Industry of the Year award from the Pasco Economic Development Council for its service to the community in helping area students gain access to higher education to achieve their career and personal goals.

HYPERBARIC CENTERS OF FLORIDA CELEBRA TES OPENING

The Hyperbaric Centers of Florida held a grand opening on Sept. 30 at the company's location at 5610 Sixth St. in Zephyrhills.

For more information about its services, visit www.hyperbariccentersofflorida.com

LET'S PLAN A P ARTY P ARTY

Let's Plan a Party, LLC is having its ribbon cutting on Oct. 19 at 26314 Wesley Chapel Blvd. There will be music, food, balloons and face painting and maybe some chair massage. The Cub Scouts will be doing a flag ceremony.

SAN ANTONIO CREDIT UNION HOSTS SHRED-IT DAY

San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union is hosting a community Shred-It Day to mark International Credit Union Day.

Anyone who wants to shred unwanted personal documents should bring them to the credit union's San Antonio office, 12542 Curley Road.

Please bring no more than two boxes of materials, no larger than 18 x 12 x 9 inches.

You must remain with your documents until they are shredded. The credit union is providing the shredding service for free. The event is from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Oct. 22.

For more information call (352) 588-2732 or visit our website sacfcu.org

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Tracking contaminated food poses serious challenge

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Listeria-infected cantaloupe has been linked to 17 deaths across the country during the last two weeks. (Photo by Kyle LoJacono)

A recent outbreak of listeria-infected cantaloupe and spinach has raised the question about food safety.

Adam Putnam, commissioner of Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, said the food itself is much safer than any other nation in the world.

"The real problem is with how far the food travels and how many stops it has along the way," Putnam said.

Putnam said the problem is less severe in Florida, as the Sunshine State can grow most of the agriculture its citizens need throughout the year, but in many other areas it is harder to contain such outbreaks.

"The cantaloupe grown in Colorado can stop in half a dozen places before it gets to the supermarket," Putnam said. "As soon as a food-borne illness is spotted, all the local and federal groups do whatever they can to stop it, but when you have to track it back to four and five places it makes it difficult."

Putnam said once harvested, food generally goes to a packinghouse where it is cleaned and packed.Then a processor usually cuts and repackages it before a distributor takes over to sell large amounts to the food to grocery chains, which houses the food for some time before it goes to the local level. Only then does it go on store shelves for the consumer.

Food grown internationally, which Putnam said accounts for about two-thirds of the produce eaten in the United States, has additional steps before it gets into the food supply.

"The good thing is all those levels have safeguards to test the food for problems, so if anything is detected along the way it can be removed from the food supply," Putnam said."When it gets through, that's when you have the issue of tracking the food."

The cantaloupe that caused the recent outbreaks sickened 84 people and accounted for 17 deaths nationally, according to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) records. Sherri McGarry, an adviser in the FDA's Office of Food, said it has been difficult to track down the infected fruit because the producer, Jensen Farms, cannot say exactly where it was sold.

"The food chain is very complex," McGarry wrote in an email."There are many steps, and the more steps there are the harder it can be to link up each step to identify what the common (outbreak) source is."

None of those reported ill from the cantaloupe were within Florida, but the infected spinach did make it to the Sunshine State inside dip sold at Publix stores.

Publix spokesperson Shannon Patten said the supermarket chain recalled 16-ounce containers of prepackaged spinach dip sold in its delis with a UPC 41415-00062 and use-by date of Oct. 10. Patten said the company only knows the dip was not sold at locations in southern Florida near Miami or out of the state, making it very likely it was sold in Pasco and Hillsborough counties.

The recent recalls are just a couple in a long line of such issues. In 2006, spinach infected with E. coli killed at least five people and hospitalized 205 across 26 states, according to the FDA. Peanuts were the source of a salmonella outbreak in 2009, while eggs transmitted the same disease a year later.

Putnam said new legislation recently passed by Congress is giving the FDA more power to track food wherever it goes.

"That will allow the outbreaks to stop much faster because all they have to do is call up where the food is from and track it to market in a matter of seconds," Putnam said."We already had the safest food in the world, and this new law is just another way to make the food supply even safer."

The new legislation goes into effect later this year.

The LAKER / Lutz NEWS

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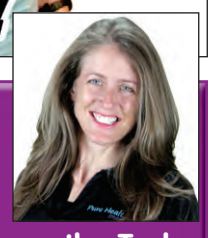

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Two festivals highlight east Pasco weekend calendar

By Eugenio Torrens
etorrens@cnewspubs.com

Madison Santo with her dad Jack Santo, owner of Santo's Pizza and Pasta and Skinny's Bar, as he accepts the People's Choice Award for best wings at the 2010 Wesley Chapel fall festival. (File photo)

Amberlee Moore, then 18 months, lends a hand at her dad's booth at the 2010 Rattlesnake Festival. Amberlee is the daughter of Michael and Lauren Moore. (File photo)

These two weeks are some of the most hectic for Cindy Fleming.

The chairwoman of the Wesley Chapel Fall Festival said it takes about six months of planning to get the festival ready, but she said the two weeks prior to the actual event are the most stressful just making sure everything comes together.

Finally, Fleming can relax with the start of the Wesley Chapel Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 15 and Sunday, Oct. 16. The festival will take place at the Grove mall at Interstate 75 and SR 54. It will go from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days.

Fleming said she expects about 10,000-15,000 people to show up each day, weather permitting.

"It's been growing every year," Fleming said. "Every year we've added something new, and we've expanded the area, and there's more for people to do every year."

It's a setting primed for kids and adults, families and friends.

"Families really like it because we have this huge kid's area — kids can come and basically stay for hours. It gives parents a chance to relax while kids are playing."

There will be live bands, arts and crafts, an obstacle course, Ronnie Setser's car show, a Battle of the Wings contest, a pumpkin patch and — for the first time — a beer garden sponsored by Miller Lite.

"Last year with the heat and the wings, people asked why we didn't have beer," Fleming said. "So we talked to the leasing people, security and got permission to do that."

Money raised from the festival is divvied among the Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce and select charities or nonprofit causes, such as high school scholarships. Fleming cited the bands as the biggest draw of the event, with the car show also attracting a heavy number of visitors.

"Other than Wiregrass, we don't have much out here for people to just go sit and listen to music free," Fleming said.

The other highlighted festival of the weekend is the Rattlesnake Festival in San Antonio. The rattlesnake event, entering its 45th year, has grown from a local happening to a nationally renowned festival. It takes place at the San Antonio City Park, 32810 Pennsylvania Ave. On Saturday, the festival goes from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday.

As with the Wesley Chapel Fall Festival, this event caters to both children and adults. Some of the most notable spectacles are the races involving wooden tortoises.

And then of course, there are the rattlesnakes.

A professional snake handler offers educational tips and information about snakes, including snakes native to the area as well as those from abroad.

Amy Greif, chairwoman of the souvenir committee, said San Antonio and the Rattlesnake Festival are synonymous.

"You can mention one and people will say the other," said Greif, who was raised in San Antonio. "We offer much more than we did in the past. It takes up the entire main part of town up north."

She was quick to point out one possible misconception.

"No, we don't have rattlesnakes crawling all over the place," she said. "It just happens to be that we had found something that was unique."

Money raised from the rattlesnake festival goes to nonprofit groups, including local baseball teams, churches and Boy and Girl Scouts.

For more information about the Wesley Chapel Fall Festival, including sponsorships and vendor opportunities, visit www.WesleyChapelChamber.com or call Christine Hope at (813) 994-8534.

For more information about the Rattlesnake Festival, visit rattlesnakefestival.com or call Rattlesnake and Gopher Enthusiasts Inc. at (352) 588-4444.

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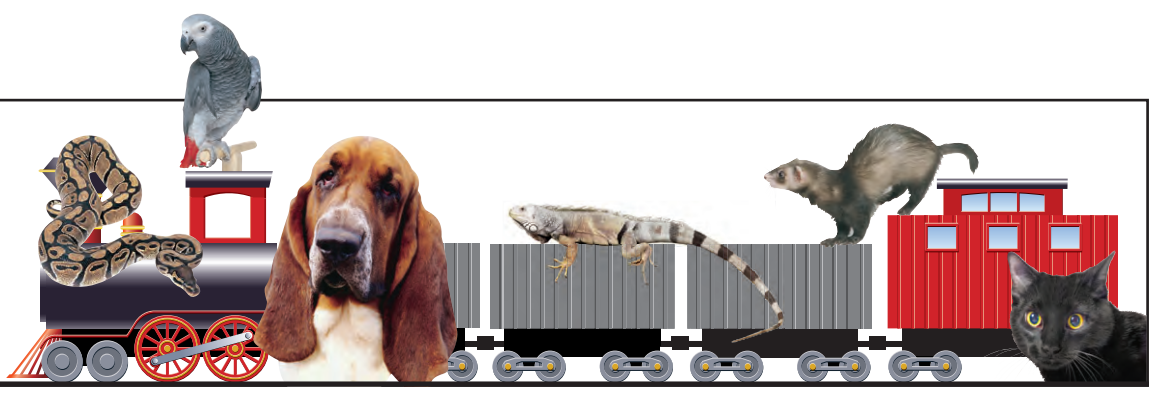

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader blasts union labor

(Re: Public parks endanger ed)

Sir, your comments truly express "union" membership qualities. Had you not insisted on sick days, vacation days, holidays, school days, pregnant days, NFL days off and went to work 50 weeks a year, you would still have a job. So don't blame the "taxpayer" for your problems. Although now that you have all these "paid" days off, go on over and cut some grass. Better still, take your "union rep" with you, he'd love to do a day's work for a change.

Ronald Jolly
Land O' Lakes

Pasco County does not need mor e nursing students

Pasco County has several schools with nursing programs. These nursing programs all compete for hospital clinical placement sites. There are only a few hospitals within the county to accommodate the student placement needs. Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel was thought to ease nursing student placement. However, now USF will be bringing out-of-county nursing students to Pasco, while Pasco residents will be denied access to student placement in the new facility. How fair is this to Pasco residents? USF nursing students should remain in Hillsborough County, where clinical placement sites are plentiful.

Carol Shimer
Lutz

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EVENTS

HONORARY MAYOR CAMP AIGN

Rene Van Hout's "Wanna Be Mayor" campaign is sponsoring events for her Honorary Mayor of Land O' Lakes bid on Sunday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is $20 and events will take place in the upper room at Wesley Chapel Toyota at 5300 Eagleston Blvd. On Tuesday, Oct. 18, her campaign presents "Fun at the Coffeehouse," at the Organic Life Coffeehouse and Bakery, 1900 Oak Grove Blvd. in Lutz. It will include a meet-and-greet session from 5-7 p.m. and "Open Mic Night" from 7-9 p.m. For more information, visit www.renetherealtor.com.

CALLING ALL GA TORS

The Land O' Lakes High class of 2001 will kick off its 10-year reunion by attending the football game at Land O' Lakes High on Friday, Oct. 14. Members of the reuniting class can meet at a tent set up for them at the game and then sit together to cheer for the Gators. Immediately following the game, at approximately 9:30 p.m., the class will meet at the Beef 'O'Brady's, 7040 Land O' Lakes Blvd. No reservations needed.

YARD SALE

Grand Oaks Community in Land O' Lakes is having a yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 15. The sale will go from 8 a.m.-noon. The yard sale will happen on the driveways and yards of those homeowners that choose to participate. For more information, call Judy Potts at (813) 973-7862.

PASCO HIGH HOMECOMING BBQ

Pasco High Pirates are having a homecoming barbecue on Friday, Oct. 21. Admission is $6 and all proceeds benefit student recognition and the Pirate Angel program. The barbecue will take place from 4-6:30 p.m. in the Pasco High lunchroom. Drive-thru and take-out are available. Pasco High is located at 36850 SR 52 in Dade City.

ENTER TAINMENT

HOWL O' WEEN P ARTY

Woof Gang Bakery in Lutz is having a costume party on Friday, Oct. 14 from 5-8 p.m. or later. There will be games, raffles, food and a pet photographer doing free pet portraits. The bakery is located at 18875 SR 54 in Lutz. For more information, call Mark McEachern at (813) 949-3644.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

HALLOWEEN P ARTY

The fifth annual Spooky Tails Halloween Party and Any Pet Costume Contest will take place on Saturday, Oct. 15. Gates open at noon. The event benefits the Pasco Sheriff's Office K-9 unit. The event is free and open to the public, though animal registration fee for the contest is $25. First place will be awarded $200. For information, call (813) 949-1687 or visit www.pasco-k9-fundrasier.com. The event will take place at 22129 Carson Drive in Land O' Lakes.

SINGLES DINNER

Single Naturists of Tampa will have a singles dinner on Thursday, Oct. 20 at Caliente, 21240 Gran Via Blvd. in Land O' Lakes. Grounds fees are complimentary after 5 p.m. with purchase of a buffet dinner for $14. Social hour is from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP, call Luna Adams at (813) 235-9547.

MONSTER MASH

Families can celebrate Halloween at a party on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Sesame Street Safari of Fun at Busch Gardens. Children can do the Monster Mash, meet the Count, parade in costume and enjoy lunch. Lunch is from 12:30-1:30 p.m. and includes buffet-style. This event is $22 for adults and $15 for children and includes a 6-by-8 inch photo with the Count per family. Pass members receive a 10 percent discount. Admission to the park is required but not included. For reservations, visit SesameStreetSafariOfFun.com and click on "Dine with Elmo" link, or call (1-888) 800-5447.

MOVIE WITH A MESSAGE

Willow Bend Community Church, 2541 Henley Road in Lutz, will play its "Movie with a Message" on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m. The month's movie is "Letters to God." Admission is free. For more information, visit www.willowbendcc.org.

BREAK AWAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Rotary Club of Zephyrhills Daybreak will have its 19th Annual Breakaway Businessman's Break Away Golf Tournament at Scotland Yard in Dade City on Friday, Oct. 14. Registration for the scramble format tournament begins at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Proceeds benefit the projects of Rotary International, the Women's Care Center of Zephyrhills, local college scholarships, the Zephyrhills City Water Park and others. Golf entry fees are $80 per person and include green fees, cart, award dinner and prizes. For information, contact Chris Robin at (813) 783-7017 or Theresa Sommers at (813) 788-3369.

SKIRMISH AT CHIPCO CROSSING

Witness a re-enactment of the war skirmish at Chipco Crossing at the Pioneer Florida Museum, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to the closing of campus. Pioneer Florida Museum is located off US 301 at 15602 Pioneer Museum Road in Dade City. Tickets are $6 for adults, $5 for seniors and free for ages 5 and younger. It is recommended to bring your own seating. For more information, call (352) 567-0262 or visit www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

LifeChoices Women's Care will have its inaugural "Golf for Life" charity golf tournament on Saturday, Oct. 22. The tournament will take place at the Lexington Oaks Golf Club in Wesley Chapel. Fees are $75 per golfer and covers greens fees, range balls, door prizes, contests, goodie bags, dinner and awards. All levels of golfers are welcome to participate and handicaps are not necessary. For more information about participating as a golfer or sponsor, visit GolfEvent.LifeChoicesWomensCare.org, call (813) 948-7734 or contact Tom Beach directly at (813) 333-3543.

MEETINGS

EAST P ASCO DEMOCRA TIC CLUB MEETING

The East Pasco Democratic Club will have its October meeting at Bentley Commons on Monday, Oct. 17 from 7-8:30 p.m. Bentley Commons is located at 38130 Pretty Pond Road in Zephyrhills. Parking is available on the side of the building. Elena McCullough, representing Organizing for America, is the guest speaker. Call club president Diane Parker at (813) 778-6743 with any questions.

WESLEY CHAPEL REPUBLICAN CLUB MEETING

The Wesley Chapel Republican Club meets on Thursday, Oct. 13. The club is open to Republican men and women, and the club welcomes new members and guests. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Hyundai dealership on 27000 Wesley Chapel Blvd.

EAST P ASCO RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIA TION

The East Pasco Retired Educators Association will meet at the IHOP at 13100 US 301 in Dade City at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20. Retired school personnel and friends are welcome. For information, contact Joyce Snow in Dade City at (352) 567-5050 or Joan Knowles in Zephyrhills at (813) 788-4980.

MEDICARE 101

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) will present a "Medicare 101" workshop on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 10:30 a.m. The workshop is at Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church at 19911 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. in Tampa. Free and open to the community, the workshop will focus on what you need to know about enrollment and the recent changes to Medicare benefits. To attend, RSVP with the church office at (813) 973-2484. For more information or to become a SHINE volunteer, call Robin Watt at (813) 740-3888 or the Elder Helpline at (1-800) 963-5337.

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Pasco fights tooth decay

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Cavities are the most common chronic disease for children ages 6-19, and 90 percent of all adults will have some form of tooth decay during their lifetime.

The Pasco County Health Department wants to bring down those numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is partnering with the American Dental Association to promote National Dental Hygiene Month in October.

"Tooth decay in children and the health problems that come with it deserves our attention," said Pasco Health Officer Dr. David Johnson. "Prevention works, and it simply involves developing the right habits."

Dental cavities are caused by a deterioration of the tooth enamel, according to the CDC. Bacteria on teeth break down leftover food particles and produce acid that results in the decay.

Johnson said the most frustrating thing about cavities and tooth decay is that most forms are largely preventable with simple hygiene steps. For that reason the campaign in Pasco this year has the theme "It's simple. Healthy habits for a healthy smile."

Johnson said the best ways to prevent the problems are:

–Brush teeth at least twice a day to remove plaque

–Floss daily, preferably before going to sleep

–Eat healthy and nutritious foods and limit sugary carbonated drinks

–Visit a dentist for checkups and cleanings twice a year

–Wear a mouth guard while playing sports

Johnson also advocates for children younger than age 18 to receive a fluoride treatment twice per year to build up their teeth enamel. He said some people are weary about the chemical's effect but stressed it helps strengthen teeth to reduce the risk of cavities later in life.

Johnson said the treatments are even more important in Pasco, as the county does not put fluoride in its drinking water as a cost saving measure.

Johnson said new sealant treatments also help prevent cavities in a similar way as fluoride.

The department recently received federal grant money to provide sealant treatments to Pasco's Title I schools, those with the largest number of students receiving free or reduced priced lunches. Second graders at such schools can receive the treatments for free.

"With the support of the district school board and health services staff we have already visited six of the 22 schools that will be part of the program and have sealed over 1,000 teeth," said Dr. Beth Genho. She added the program will return to the schools later in the year to treat more children.

The department is also working with Drs. Michael Valancius, Leslie Hernandez and Genho to educate children about caring for their teeth. The pediatric dental team's outreach program is stationed at Rodney Cox Elementary in Dade City and the Pasco Health Department office in New Port Richey. For more information about the program, call (727) 861-5250.

The health department also offers dental services by appointment to those ages 1-20 who have Florida Medicaid at 10841 Little Road in New Port Richey. Services include exams, X-rays, cleanings, fillings, sealants and more. To schedule a dental appointment or speak to a representative, call (727) 861-5260 ext. 284.

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LifeChoices' open house Oct. 14

LifeChoices Women's Care, formerly Lutz-Land O' Lakes Pregnancy Center, will have an open house on Friday, Oct. 14. The facility, 1527 Dale Mabry Highway Suite 101 in Lutz, was established in 2009 and has since helped more than 500 women with free pregnancy care. The group offers ultrasounds, pregnancy testing, nursing assessment, prenatal vitamins, emotional support, adoption help and additional information and care. Call (813) 948-7734 for more information.

Curves clubs waive joining fee

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Curves gym will waive the joining fee during the month for any women who show proof of having a mammogram during the past year, or those who make a $25 donation toward breast cancer research.

Nearly 230,480 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in 2011, according to statistics from the American Cancer Society (ACS). Breast cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths among women, behind only lung cancer. More than 39,500 women die from the disease each year.

Prevention can play a key role in a woman's risk management strategy because only 5-10 percent of breast cancers are hereditary. The ACS recommends making lifestyle choices such as eating right, getting regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight to help reduce her risk of developing breast cancer.

"Curves mission has always been to strengthen women," said Curves founder Diane Heavin in a release. "Typically, women are caregivers, but when it comes to breast cancer, women need to understand how important it is to take care of themselves. Scheduling an annual doctor visit, performing a monthly breast self exam, eating a nutritious diet and making time for regular exercise are all things that a woman can do to stay strong and help reduce her chances of developing this devastating disease."

Early detection is another line of defense, as about 93 percent of women whose breast cancer is caught in its earliest stages will be disease-free five years after their diagnosis and treatment, according to the ACS.

Guidelines from the ACS encourage women age 40 and older to have a clinical breast exam performed by a health professional once a year, along with a mammogram. Women in their 20s and 30s should have an exam at least every three years.

"The good news is that the ACS says that death rates from breast cancer have been declining since about 1990, with larger decreases in women younger than 50," Heavin continued.

Curves is a woman's only gym. Area locations include:

–3016 US 41 in Land O' Lakes, (813) 909-7366

–5010 Mission Square Circle in Zephyrhills, (813) 779-9492

For more information about Curves, visit www.curves.com.

Help needed for Alzheimer's gr oup

The Alzheimer's Family Organization is expanding its volunteer program and needs new help from people in Pasco and Hillsborough counties. The group provides respite care assistance, the Wanderer's I.D. Program, support groups and educational events throughout the Tampa Bay area. For more information, call (727) 848-8888 or (888) 496-8004.

Volunteer for Gulfside Regional

Gulfside Regional Hospice needs volunteers to help care for patients, with phone calls and to do office work. For more information, call (727) 845-5707.

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Gaither takes pivotal district contest against Steinbrenner

Cowboys Pastrana's five interceptions matches state record

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

The Gaither football team forced nine turnovers in a 37-7 home victory against Class 7A-District 7 rival Gaither on Oct. 6.

The Cowboys (3-2) defense got constant penetration into the Warriors (3-2) backfield, forcing Steinbrenner out of its run-heavy wing-T offense. The move to a passing attack gave Gaither safety Eddie Pastrana the opportunity to write his name in the school's record books.

Pastrana had five interceptions, setting a program record and matching a state single-game record.

"I don't think it's hit me yet," Pastrana said. "Everyone's telling me I broke a record, but I'm just thinking about the W."

Pastrana is new to football, picking up the game during the spring. He played centerfield on the Cowboys baseball team, and used many of the skills he developed tracking down fly balls to his advantage against Steinbrenner.

The majority of the interceptions came on overthrows, where Pastrana had time to locate the pass and make a play on the ball without worrying about the receiver coming up with the catch.

"They started throwing deep more, and when I got the first two I thought they might stop," Pastrana said. "Then they threw another and another and I was thinking why are they still doing that? When I went to the sidelines coach said that's what happens when we shut down the run and take someone out of their game."

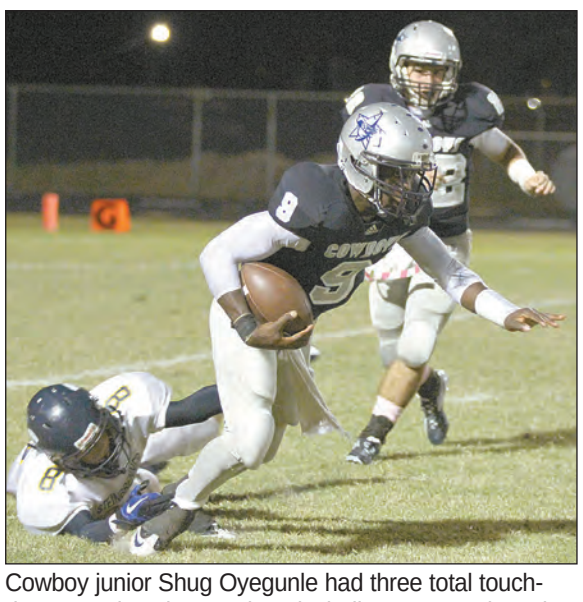
Gaither coach Jason Stokes said the goal was to make the Warriors abandon the wing-T.

"We said we had to shut down that run, and we did a good job of that," Stokes said. "We really were blessed with a lot of turnovers, which I think forced them to get out of what they wanted to do."

Cowboy defenders Josh Scarberry and Jelani Ottley each recovered a fumble, and Nick Sampson retrieved a pair. Ottley returned his 61 yards to the Steinbrenner 4-yard line, while Scarberry took his into the end zone on a 12-yard return to score the game's final points in the fourth quarter.

"I'm not surprised because our defense practices like that every day," Stokes said. "Just intense, loud, out of their mind and it shows on the field. You play how you practice."

Gaither senior safety Eddie Pastrana returns one of his five interceptions against Steinbrenner on Oct. 6. (Photos by Glenn Gefers of www.photosby3g.com)



Cowboy junior Shug Oyegunle had three total touchdowns against the Warriors, including a 92-yard scoring run in the first quarter.

Gaither's Shug Oyegunle lined up at almost every offensive position except on the line. He scored the game's first touchdown while playing quarterback deep in Cowboys territory when he broke off a 92-yard run.

"They almost had me, but I saw a hole that opened up," Oyegunle said. "When I got through that I saw a lot of space and just kept running."

Oyegunle added a 7-yard rushing score and a 4-yard touchdown catch from quarterback Alex McGough. Oyegunle finished with 143 total yards.

"Shug is a versatile player, and we're going to use that versatility to cause problems for other teams any way we can," Stokes said. "It can be at quarterback, running back, receiver and he could even play cornerback or punt returner/kick returner if we needed."

Oyegunle said he likes moving all over the field and in combination with McGough at quarterback.

"We call it a duo," Oyegunle said. "We both do things that make it hard for the defense to know what we're going to do. We're just coming together to do whatever it takes to help the team win."

McGough went 7-for-12 passing for 45 yards and a pair of touchdowns. His score was a 21-yard connection with Demarcus Sexil.

Steinbrenner's lone touchdown came on a 2-yard run by Zack Jones, who finished with 88 total yards. Sophomore quarterback Curtis Fitch went 8-for-14 passing for 103 yards, but he was sacked four times and threw four interceptions.

Warrior defensive back Andrew Feldhaus intercepted McGough in the third quarter. Linebacker A.J. Brown recorded two sacks and recovered a fumble, while Daniel Villar blocked a punt on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The win keeps Gaither tied at the top of the district with Tampa Bay Tech, which the Cowboys play on the road on Friday, Nov. 4. It will be the final 7A-7 contest of the season for both squads.

"I'm not going to overlook Chamberlain or Freedom in the district," Stokes said.

Gaither travels to East Bay on Friday, Oct. 14, while Steinbrenner visits Riverview. Both games are at 7:30 p.m.

Cowboys offensive rebirth

The Gaither football team's offense has not been its strength the last few seasons, but the Cowboy attack appears on the right path in 2011.

The squad has scored 145 points through its first five games, more than the 121 Gaither put up all of last year.

The Cowboys have posted 39 and 37 points in their last two games, respectively. The last time Gaither had scored at least 35 points in a contest was in a 42-35 loss to Wharton in 2008.

Junior Shug Oyegunle said there is a level of confidence on the team not present in past years.

"I think we can go anywhere we want to go this year as long as we put our minds to it," Oyegunle said. "We just need to think about that every single play. Right now we're really feeling comfortable with what we're doing."

Gaither first-year coach Jason Stokes said his offensive philosophy is to use his players' strengths instead of making them fit into a predetermined system. That point is illustrated by his use of Oyegunle and Alex McGough at quarterback.

"We have Shug, who is a great athlete, and we have Alex, who has a lot of other great abilities, so we do whatever we can to use them both," Stokes said. "It gives our offense something else for defenses to think about, and it makes us more flexible."

The improving offense has translated into wins. The Cowboys' 3-2 record is the best through five games for the program since going 4-1 in 2007, the last time the squad won a district championship.

2011 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Class 7A-District 7
Gaither 3-2 (2-0)
Tampa Bay Tech 3-3 (2-0)
Steinbrenner 3-2 (1-1)
Freedom 1-4 (1-1)
Chamberlain 0-5 (0-2)
Wiregrass Ranch 0-5 (0-2)

Class 6A-District 6
Sunlake 5-0 (3-0)
Hernando 4-2 (3-0)
Land O' Lakes 3-2 (2-1)
Nature Coast 3-3 (2-1)
River Ridge 3-2 (1-2)
Springstead 2-3 (1-2)
Mitchell 3-3 (0-3)
Central 0-6 (0-3)

Class 5A-District 6
Pasco 6-0 (3-0)
Fivay 4-1 (3-0)
Zephyrhills 3-2 (3-0)
Anclote 1-4 (1-2)
Gulf 1-4 (1-2)
Ridgewood 1-5 (1-2)
Wesley Chapel 2-3 (0-3)
Hudson 0-5 (0-3)

CHECK THIS OUT

PHCC seventh annual 5K Oct. 23

Pasco-Hernando Community College will host its seventh annual 5K on Sunday, Oct. 23 beginning at 8 a.m. at the New Port Richey campus, 10230 Ridge Road. All proceeds will benefit the Conquistadors women's cross country team.

The registration fee is $15 for those who sign up before Saturday, Oct. 15 and $20 afterward and includes a race T-shirt. There will also be a free family fun run for all children ages 12 and younger. All fun run participants receive a goodie bag and an award.

Race day registration begins at 6:30 a.m. and preregistered participants are encouraged to arrive at 7 a.m. Awards will be given by age group and to the top male and female finishers. The event will also feature free post-race refreshments, games, goodie bags, photos and opportunity drawings. For more information or to register online, visit http://www.active.com/running/new-port-richey-fl/phcc-quista-5k-2011.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, and those interested should email PHCC women's cross country coach Jacki Wachtel at wachtej@phcc.edu for more information. The proceeds from last year's race allowed the squad to travel to the national meet.

Lutz Rangers take fall title

The FC Tampa Lutz Rangers Newcastle U13-14 boys soccer team won the Everton Fall Challenge tournament in St. Petersburg the weekend of Sept. 17 and 18. The squad, based out of the Oscar Cooler Sports Complex in Lutz, went 4-0 in the event.

Players include Payton Wilson, Lucas McGill, Anthony Bianchi, Nolan Colledge, Chase Smith-Cronin, Royce Pope, Logan Boudreau, Mark Pedroso, Bailey Draper, Alex Hernandez, Steven Soronells, Camden Bauman, Justin Raab, Charlie Marshall, Colton Heath, Royce Luedde, Cesar Sotomayor, Peyton Little and Elijah Pratt. Coaches are Bob Bauman and Mahmoud Odeh.

New Tampa Flight tryouts Oct. 29

The New Tampa Flight, an AAU competitive basketball team for girls ages 17 and younger, will have tryouts on Saturday, Oct. 29 at the New Tampa YMCA, 16221 Compton Drive. For more information, call coach James Mason at (813) 428-1772.

Renovated golf course opens

Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club on Old Pasco Road in Wesley Chapel reopened to the public at the end of last month after a year of renovations. Director of golf operations Keith Kulzer said the golf shop is open from 6:30a.m.-6:30 p.m. seven days a week. He added the course will have a grand opening celebration after the new year. For more information, call (813) 333-0033.

—Sports Editor Kyle LoJacono can be reached at (813) 909-2800 or klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Land O' Lakes coasts to win against Mitchell

By Eugenio Torrens
etorrens@cnewspubs.com

Land O' Lakes football coach Brian Wachtel watched as the seconds ticked off the clock.

Suddenly, he was overcome with an ice-cold chill.

"It felt great," Wachtel said.

The Gators coach was doused with a Gatorade bath in the closing moments of his team's 48-28 win at District 6A-6 rival Mitchell on Oct. 6. Wachtel was the Mustangs leader the previous two years before joining Land O' Lakes for the same position.

"It was definitely a big one for him, he was tight all week," said Land O' Lakes senior tight end Kent Taylor.

Brian Wachtel

The Gators (3-2) needed the district win to keep pace with Sunlake, Hernando and Nature Coast, and they slammed their foot on the pedal from the opening whistle.

Harrison Wood scored on the Gators second play of the game, a screen pass to the left that the junior took 75 yards.

Mitchell (3-3) was held to a quick three-and-out and the Mustangs' punt was blocked by Darin Patmon. Jackson Cannon recovered and set up Land O' Lakes at the Mitchell 12-yard line.

Senior quarterback Ryan Bird scored on a 10-yard scamper to put his team up 14-0.

Mitchell answered with a 61-yard scoring drive capped by Dan Barber's 15-yard run up the middle to bring the Mustangs within a touchdown.

Another Mitchell special teams miscue resulted in another score for the Gators. Patmon blocked the punt and recovered the ball in the end zone to make it 21-7.

Gators tight end Kent Taylor scores on a 54-yard catch against the Mustangs. (Photo by Thomas Matzke of Sunlakesports .com)

"We haven't had a blocked punt all year — to have two of them, we gotta see where the breakdown happened," said Mitchell coach Scott Schmitz.

The Mustangs stalled on their next offensive drive, and Land O' Lakes answered with a 27-yard field goal by Andrew Garcia.

The next time the Gators had the ball, Garcia only had to kick an extra point after Bird found the 6-foot-5 Taylor streaking down the left sideline for a 54-yard catch and score.

Mitchell continued to struggle. Two sacks pushed the Mustangs from their own 20 to their 10-yard line, and Land O' Lakes' Wesley Moore returned the ensuing punt to Mitchell's 4-yard line. Wood scored on the next play to give his team a 38-7 lead.

Another field goal from Garcia before the half made it 41-7.

"Our kicking game today was so important for us," Wachtel said. "We got to kick some field goals, we got to work on some things that we haven't been able to work on in the last couple of games."

Just to erase any doubt of a comeback, Bird found Moore for a 99-yard touchdown pass for the Gators' last score.

Land O' Lakes played its backups the majority of the second half, and Mitchell took advantage by closing the scoring gap.

The Gators next travel to Nature Coast on Friday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

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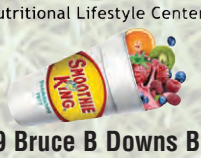

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22 WINS 15 LOSSES

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28 WINS 9 LOSSES

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- Pasco
- Sunlake
- Wesley Chapel
- Countryside
- Zephyrhills
- Wharton
- Gaither
- Steinbrenner

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Florida House of Representatives
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Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
(813) 558-5115
will.weatherford@myfloridahouse.gov

23 WINS 14 LOSSES

Will's Picks:
- Land O' Lakes
- Pasco
- Sunlake
- Wesley Chapel
- Countryside
- Anclote
- Wharton
- Gaither
- Riverview

WILL

Bulls lead the way at Gator Invitational

The Wiregrass Ranch boys and girls cross country teams continued their appearances on meet leader boards at the Gator Invitational at Crews Lake Park on Oct. 1.

The boys took first at the meet with 69 points, besting second place Nature Coast's 92. Land O' Lakes took sixth, Sunlake came in 12th and Wesley Chapel posted an 18th-place performance.

The Bulls girls' 81 points made them runner-up to Riverview's 63. Steinbrenner finished in sixth, Land O' Lakes took 17th and Sunlake and Wesley Chapel claimed 18th and 20th, respectively.

Land O' Lakes' Travis Nichols led the way individually for local boys, coming in third in 16:21. The sophomore finished just 5 seconds behind winner Argishti Gazari, from Anclote. Fellow Gator Tyler Stahl's 16:52 put him in ninth place. Sunlake's Kenneth Fessel posted a 17:09 to claim 16th.

Bulls runners Ermias Bireda and Sam Hippely finished right behind Nichols, posting 16:31 and 16:34, respectively. Wiregrass Ranch's Tyler Mattera, David Hill and Ben Hall crossed the finish line 19th through 21st, respectively.

Land O' Lakes sophomore Travis Nichols' time of 16:21 put him in third place at the Gator Invitational, better than any other area boy runner.

For the girls, the Bulls' Nikita Shah finished in 18:59 to take third place behind Gulf's Kari Grippo's winning performance of 18:09. Also in the top 20 for Wiregrass Ranch was 14th-place Chelsea Davis' 20:48, 15th-place Elise Cedre's 20:59 and 20th-place Berlin Waters' 21:18.

Steinbrenner's Lauren Garris finished in fifth in 19:52.

—Kyle LoJacono

Members of the Wiregrass Ranch boys and girls cross country teams after the Gator Invitational. The boys took the team title, while the girls were the runner-up. (Photos by Glenn Gefers of www.photosby3g.com)

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www.LOLswampfest.com

PINK, from page 1

too."

Meghan said the awareness is what the event is truly about.

"Sometimes high school kids and people in general are kind of oblivious to what's going on in the world outside of them and in their own little box," Meghan said. "They don't think of people fighting through cancer treatment, so if you can get them to think about it just for a day it's helping."

The Durbins want to raise awareness of all forms of cancer, but their interest in fighting the disease started with a personal connection. Their mother, Kay, was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2008 when the girls were in eighth grade.

Kay also had a bout with uterine cancer associated with one of the medications she took to combat her breast cancer, but early surgery removed the tumor before it could spread. She has been in remission since June 2009 and said she is in good health.

"It makes me very proud to see that they've grown into such young ladies given the trials they had to go through at such a young age," Kay said. "When most people are just coming into themselves in their tweens, they had to deal with a mature situation. They had to be mature young adults to help caregivers.

"It's a hard thing to deal with just going through your teens in high school," Kay continued. "For them to handle that and maintain their grades and being involved in clubs and sports, it's just been a joy to sit back and watch your daughters overcome such a challenge and take it to the next level."

Steve, Kay's husband and the twins' father, echoed his wife's sentiments.

"It's just been spectacular on their part after being through a lot," Steve said.

Steve is having a Pink Out Day of his own where he works at USAA Insurance.

The Durbins' link with the disease goes beyond their immediate family.

"Several of my friends have had connections to it too, so we wanted to make it about more than just breast cancer," Courtney said. "That's why we're giving the money to the ACS so it goes to fight all cancers."

Courtney and Meghan will be selling pink T-shirts at the game with Maura Craig, an English teacher at Sunlake, before joining in with the sea of pink. Craig, who is also the sponsor for the Key, Legacy and Class of 2014 clubs, said she has learned a lot from the twins.

The Durbin family wearing pink to show support in the fight against all forms of cancer. Steve and Kay are in the back, while Courtney, left, and Meghan are in the front. (Photo courtesy of Courtney)

"Courtney and Meghan inspire me to want to make a difference in our community and in the world," said Craig. "They are selfless individuals who dedicate their free time to helping others. The two sisters organize all of our club's events and volunteer opportunities, so the Pink Out movement is not out of the norm for them. These young ladies demonstrate the power of possibility."

The Durbins have also volunteered at the Relay For Life at Sunlake and the Miles for Moffitt Race while maintaining identical 4.138 grade point averages.

"I am amazed at how much they accomplish and organize with our club while maintaining superb grades, juggling sports schedules and dealing with high school in general," Craig said.

The Durbins have already sold 248 pink T-shirts as of Oct. 5. The shirts are $10 at Sunlake's game.

"Everyone has made me speechless with all their support and how much they truly care about supporting the cause," Courtney said.

Treasure hunters look through tables full of anything and everything at the Patriot Flea Market last year. The Zephyrhills City Council has agreed to keep the market open at its location on Chancey Road through March. (File photo)

Patriot Flea Market remains on Chancey Road

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Patriot Flea Market
Location: Park Place on Chancey Road
Days: Tuesdays and Thursday
Hours: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Phone: (813) 715-4836

The Zephyrhills City County unanimously voted to keep the Patriot Flea Market open for business at Park Place along Chancey Road.

The council was concerned about people parking along Chancey to the point it was taking away spots from Sam Pasco Park while also disrupting traffic flow. Zephyrhills development director Todd Vande Berg assured the members there had been no complaints filed.

"There had been concerns in the past that people were parking on Chancey, but staff had heard nothing about that," Vande Berg said. "It can be policed if that becomes a problem."

Paul Correia, managing partner for the company that owns Park Place, said the developer has limited access to the flea market from the northern entrance off SR 54. The developer also has added turn lanes and speed control measures to the southern entrance to help with any congestion issues.

In addition, the three lots the flea market uses have been moved deeper inside the property, giving people more places to park their vehicles, according to Correia.

The agreement allows the flea market to stay in place, but Correia said it is far from permanent.

"The rent from that market doesn't cover costs," Correia said. He then added, "We can't rely on it to keep us going. It barely covers the cost of property taxes for a year. In a perfect world, I'd love to have a market like that somewhere."

The property has major infrastructure like sewer, water and electrical service. Correia said other groups have looked into using the property, but the down economy turns many away.

"We'll probably have to find an end user, someone with a specific building they have to build and can't (do) it anywhere else," Correia said. "We may be a couple of years ahead of getting things done when and if this economy returns."

The market has been operating at the industrial park near US 98 since 2009 from October through March when the seasonal residents are in east Pasco County. Vendor records from last year show people from Zephyrhills, Dade City, Lacoochee, Wesley Chapel, Land O' Lakes, Lutz and New Tampa set up booths at the park last year.

Along with arts and crafts, the flea market has carnival-style food and live entertainment. For more information, visit www.patriotfleamarket.com.

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RattlesnakeRun.com

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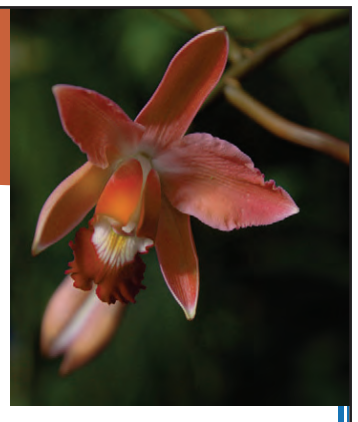

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Thank you for being so active in our community!

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Raheem Taylor-Parkes makes U.S. team

Academy at the Lakes soccer talent represents the nation

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Academy at the Lakes eighth-grader Raheem Taylor-Parkes was picked as one of 12 soccer players nationally for the U.S. U14 men's national team. (Photo by Kyle LoJacono)

Academy at the Lakes eighth grader and Wesley Chapel resident Raheem Taylor-Parkes isn't like most 13 year olds.

His idea of a great day doesn't include video games, computers or lying around. Taylor-Parkes prefers hot, summer days on the soccer field, pushing his body to its limits to fulfill his dream of becoming a professional player.

The 5-foot-4 forward took a step toward achieving that goal this summer when he was selected as one of 12 players for the U.S. U14 national soccer team.The program is the direct feeder system for the men's squad that represents the United States in the Olympics and World Cup.

"It was amazing to be picked," Taylor-Parkes said. "It was very difficult because there were a lot of good players there. I knew I had to play my best to be able to compete."

Academy athletic director Tom Haslam said Taylor-Parkes is the first Wildcat to be picked for an Olympic development program (OPD).

"This puts him as one of the top players in the nation in his age group," Haslam said. "It's really a big thing. … He's exactly the kind of kid we love having here at the academy. He is a great kid, and it's really nice to see something like this happen to him."

Taylor-Parkes tried out for a local ODP team earlier this year and made the final cut. From there he was selected for the state and regional teams before learning in July he was picked for the national squad.

Taylor-Parkes was born near Toronto, Canada, where he first developed a passion for soccer around age 8.

"One day I was just kicking around a soccer ball with one of my friends, and I wanted to sign up after that,"Taylor-Parkes said."From that day I've wanted to play soccer. I want to be a professional. I'm not going to let a little hard work stand in the way."

Academy boys soccer coach Roland Moldovan said Taylor-Parkes has a focus and desire to get better that he hasn't seen in his seven years teaching the game.

"He talks like an adult," Moldovan said. "That's one of the first things I noticed about him is I could talk to him like an adult and he would understand the concepts. And from there he has always talked about being a professional.That's his goal and that maturity he has is clear. He wants it, he acts like it, he practices like it and he really behaves like that.

"Of course he's a natural talent," Moldovan continued."He's so natural that even when he is working hard it looks effortless."

Moldovan became the Wildcats coach early this year, but he has known Taylor-Parkes for about three years. He has given Taylor-Parkes private training sessions, but has coached against the budding talent in club soccer.

Taylor-Parkes plays with the Brandon Flames, a competitive travel soccer club, while Moldovan was a coach in the Fusion Futbol Club of Tampa Bay in New Tampa and Forest Hills.

Taylor-Parkes is the second player Moldovan has coached that has made an ODP team, following Atsou Ayah who made the U15 squad in 2009.

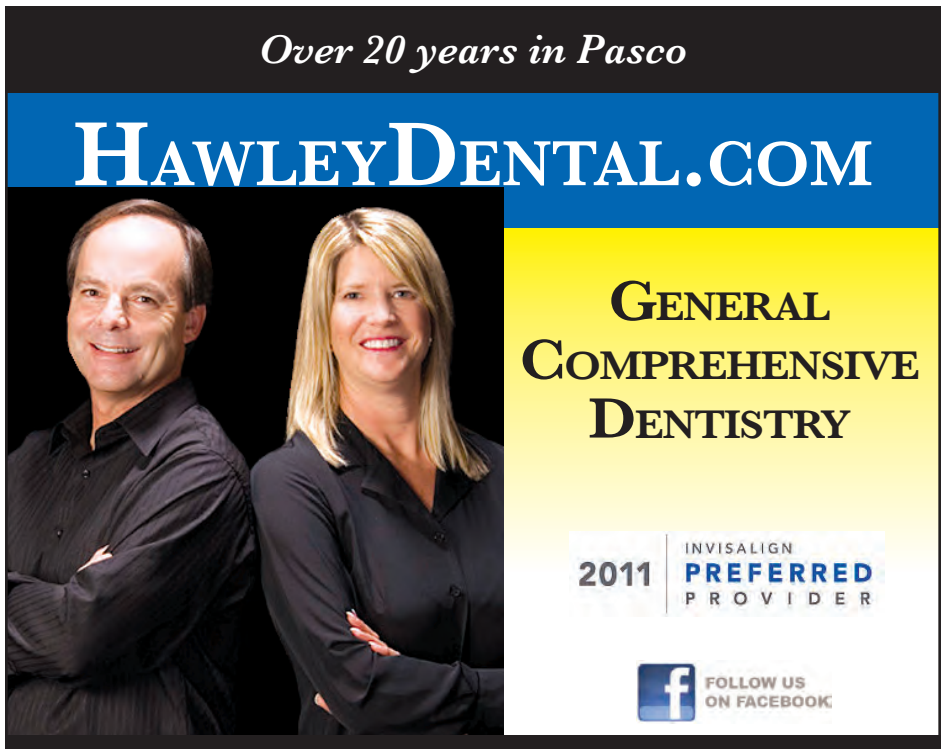
"When Atsou was picked for the national team I got him and Raheem to train together," Moldovan said. "I remember one time they were practicing in December and it was raining really hard and it was really cold. I told them let's go home, and both said 'no no no coach we'll be fine.' They stayed and played for another hour, so Raheem puts in the hard work. "

Taylor-Parkes came to the academy as a seventh grader after attending John Long Middle the year before.

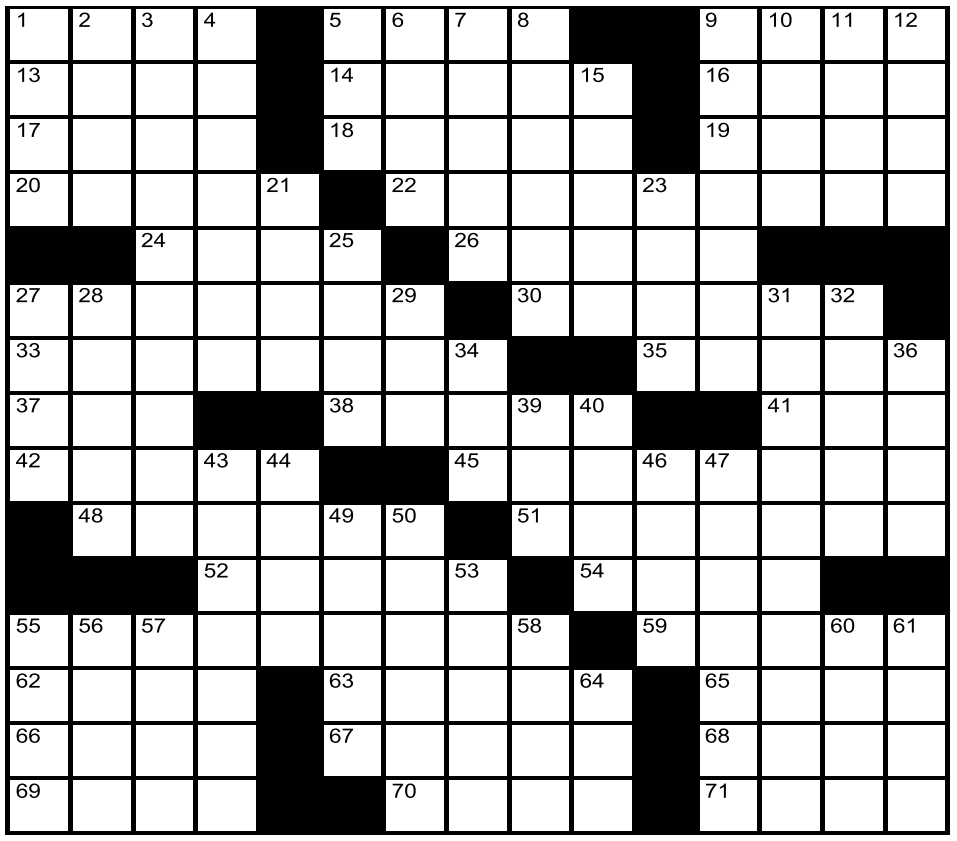
While he was not born in the United States,Taylor-Parkes can't stop smiling when talking about the chance to play for a U.S. national team.

"It's fantastic to be able to represent my country,"Taylor-Parkes said.

Next up for the U14 team is a tournament in San Diego Nov. 23-28, where the national team will play the regional teams from around the country.



GAMES AND PUZZLES



ACROSS
1. Absorbed
5. Pool exercise
9. Stirs up sediment
13. ___-friendly
14. Acquiesce
16. Above
17. South American monkey
18. All alternative
19. Doctor Who villainess, with "the"
20. Heavenly strings
22. Fur of certain lambs
24. "My bad!"
26. Stun
27. "The sky is ___!"
30. Slips
33. Expecting
35. Noblemen
37. Felix the ___
38. Trainee
41. "Act your ___!"
42. Blow
45. Summer Games athlete
48. Arise
51. Picked up
52. Anklebone
54. Hasenpfeffer, e.g.
55. Taking possession
59. Biblical king
62. Bookbinding leather
63. More likely
65. Prefix with phone
66. Silk garment
67. Brouhaha
68. Decorated, as a cake
69. ___ podrida
70. Amerada ___ (Fortune 500 company)
71. Barely gets, with "out"

DOWN
1. Buzzi of "Laugh-In"
2. ___ Minor
3. Rust preventive
4. Capital of Libya
5. Anita Brookner's "Hotel du ___"
6. Eastern pooh-bah
7. Iron
8. Boil
9. Finnish currency
10. Its motto is "Industry"
11. Lady of Lisbon
12. "Wheel of Fortune" choice
15. Overthrow, e.g.
21. Fast-moving card game
23. "God's Little ___"
25. Barber's motion
27. Confront
28. Cognizant
29. African antelope
31. Disaster
32. Pond buildup
34. Mail place: Abbr.
36. E-mail, e.g.
39. "___ say!"
40. Cleaning cabinet supplies
43. Porky's love
44. Mouth, in slang
46. Algebra or trig
47. Preterm infant
49. Lens
50. Former Oriental haram guard
53. Steep mountainside mass
55. About
56. Black shade
57. Sagan of "Cosmos"
58. Cravings
60. Arch type
61. Hires competition
64. ___ gestae

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in each word to spell something pertaining to car care.

PUTENU

ANSWER: Tuneup

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OCTOBER 9-15

I was born on October 10, 1969, in Gulfport, MS. I was the starting quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings in 2009. Who am I?

Answer: Brett Favre

I was born on October 11, 1989, in Honolulu, HI. I am the youngest to qualify for an LPGA event. Who am I?

Answer: Michelle Wie

I was born on October 12, 1977, in Easton, NH. I am considered one of the greatest Alpine skiers of all time. Who am I?

Answer: Bode Miller

I was born on October 13, 1969, in Woburn, MA. I followed my bronze in ladies' figure skating at the 1992 Winter Games with a silver at the 1994 Winter Games. Who am I?

Answer: Nancy Kerrigan

I was born on October 14, 1953, in New York, NY. I am an astrologer known for obtaining the birth time of Bill Clinton from his mother in 1992. Who am I?

Answer: Shelley Ackerman

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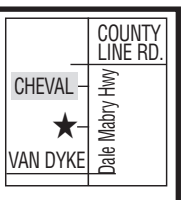

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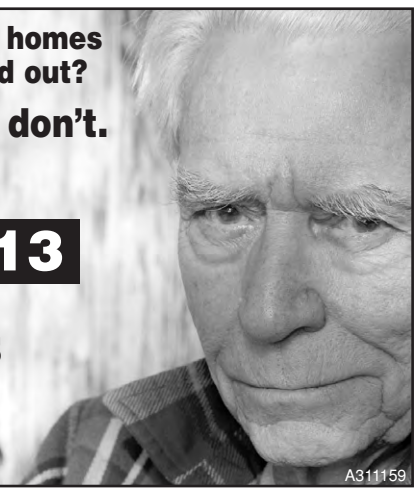

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Like the wind

Tereza Novotna's fast start to college cross country

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Tereza Novotna stepped onto the campus of Saint Leo University (SLU) for the first time as a student in early August and has already left her mark on the school's record book.

The freshman on the Lions women's cross country team has the two fastest times in a 5-kilometer race in program history. She ran an 18:39 in her collegiate debut at the Early Bird Invitational at the University of Tampa on Sept. 2, besting the previous record of 19:11 set last year by teammate Andrea Maxwell.

"I was happy, but I didn't perform anything special," Novotna said. "I didn't take it like it was something special. Hopefully next race I can do better."

After her first race, Novotna, a native of Opocno, Czech Republic, was selected as the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Runner of the Week, the first SLU woman to earn the honor. The Early Bird was just a preview of what was to come.

Novotna broke her own record in the second race of the season at the University of South Florida Invitational on Sept. 9, posting an 18:06.83 and earning runner of the week honors again.

"She has more potential than she knows," said SLU coach Melissa Miller. "She has a lot of good opportunities that will open up for her if she keeps doing the best she can. What's going to take her further than her talent is her attitude. That's the key, and she has it. She has a passion for the sport."

Miller said she is very impressed with how easily Novotna has been able to adjust to moving to a new country.

"In the back of my mind I thought she was going to have to adapt to the culture for a year, but she hasn't had that transition," Miller said. "She's already adapted."

Novotna didn't have a lot of negative culture shock coming to Florida, but she did say there are a lot of differences from her homeland.

"Here everyone is more friendly and they want to get to know you," Novotna said. "The other thing is the heat is much more here, but in a good way. I like the weather. In the Czech Republic right now you can't run in shorts because it's too cold."

Novotna started running around age 6 in a sport called orienteering, which involves going through forested areas with a compass and map. Participants have to find checkpoints that are not in a straight line. Courses can range from 3-9 kilometers and the fastest participant wins.

Saint Leo freshman cross country runner Tereza Novotna has been honored as conference runner of the week twice and set the program record in a 5K two times in her first few weeks of colligate running. (Photo by Mike Carlson)

"It's a completely different sport," Novotna said. "You start and finish alone. Plus you have to focus on the course and follow the compass, so you have to be prepared physically and mentally and have good map technique."

Novotna said running cross country is much easier for her because she can "just run." While the mental burden associated with orienteering is absent at SLU, she still had to learn how to pace herself on a 5K course.

In fact, the distance was completely foreign to Novotna as she approached the starting line at her first collegiate race.

"I wanted to perform well and stay with the leading group," Novotna said. "I just ran, and that was the first time I've run a 5K ever. We did different distances in training.

"During the run I was hurting because I'd never run that exact distance before. I was wondering what distance I chose," Novotna said with a laugh.

Miller said Novotna has also shown leadership as well as low times.

"I've noticed she encourages everyone," Miller said. "She asks how you're doing and are you OK today. It's a good chemistry on the team, and Tereza contributes to that. She's a very special person."

Novotna is currently the No. 1 individual runner in the South Region and fifth nationally in Division II. SLU is also rising up the rankings, coming in at No. 9 in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association South Region, the highest rating in program history.

The next challenge for Novotna and the Lions is the SSC meet in Fort Lauderdale on Oct. 22, followed by the South Region in Tampa on Nov. 5.

To qualify for nationals, which is in Spokane, Wash. on Nov. 19, Novotna will need to finish in the top two in regionals.

"I'd love to go to nationals," Novotna said. "That's the main goal, and I think it is possible because of my coach. She's the reason I chose this school."

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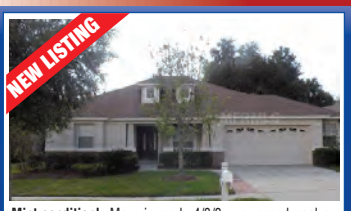
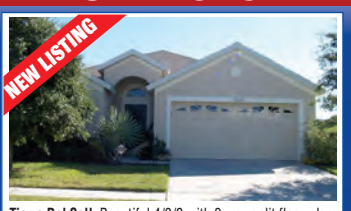


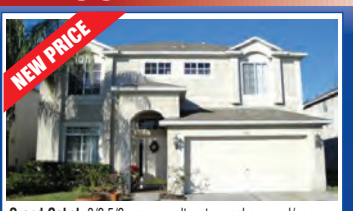
Mint condition! Move in ready 4/3/2 w screened pool on conservation lot in a gated community. Formal living/dining, large kitchen w custom 42" cabinets & Corian counters and new stainless steel appliances. Large family room overlooking pool. Extended garage. **Only $215k.** (hel)

Great Lutz Location! Custom built 3/2/2 +pool in small, gated community. Low HOA & no CDD. Outdoor kitchen w Jenn Air grill and 1/2 acre lot w fenced backyard. Gas fireplace in family room, Intercom system, Plantation shutters, pool bath, trey ceilings & more! **$299.9k.** (row)

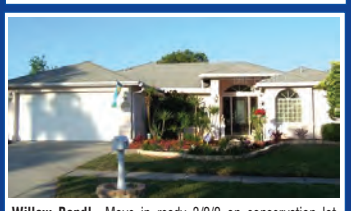
Indian Lakes! Impressive 3/3/2 on XL corner lot in gated community. Large formal living room w 10ft tray ceiling & adjoining formal dining room. Roomy master suite w walk in closet. Spacious kitchen w all appliances & breakfast nook. W/D incl. Screened lanai. No CDD. **$149k.** (can)



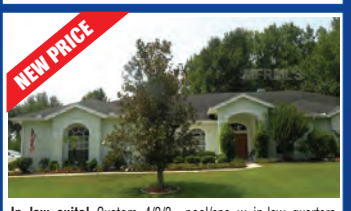
Tierra Del Sol! Beautiful 4/3/2 with 3 way split floor plan. Huge gourmet kitchen w 42" wood cabinets, Corian counters & stainless appliances. XL master suite. Screened lanai w conservation views! One year home warranty included. Low HOA & no CDD. **$155k.** (see)



Grand Oaks! 3/2.5/2 +newer salt water pool on pond/conservation lot. Formal living/dining room, family room & large upstairs bonus room. Kitchen has oak cabinets w upgraded appliances. Tile floors downstairs. Cost saving natural gas & reclaimed water for irrigation. **$214k.** (ged)



Willow Bend! Move in ready 3/2/2 on conservation lot. Laminate wood & tile floors. You'll love the XL screened patio, sunroom w tile flooring, inside laundry, sitting room off master & more. Open kitchen/family combo and formal living/dining combo. No CDD & low HOA. **$175k.** (ste)



In law suite! Custom 4/3/3 +pool/spa w in-law quarters which are incorporated into main house & include a bedroom, glamour bath & 12x17 sitting room w sliders to pool & patio. Great room w corner fireplace & vaulted ceiling. Conservation lot. No CDD or HOA. **$275k.** (red)

Need space? Two mobile homes on beautiful 1.83 acre tree shaded lot. Double wide mobile in front is perfect for rental or in laws. Back mobile is spacious 1512 sq ft. Room for RV and boat. Large detached workshop/garage in back. This is a must see property. Price reduced to **$85k.**

Two for One! Upgraded 3/2 main house w attached, fully equipped guest cottage! EZ care wood laminate flooring, crown molding & bead board trim. Many NEW items such as toilets, septic drain field, fresh paint inside & out, water filtration system, well pump & more. Must see! **$215k.** (bar)

Wesley Chapel! 1998 built 3/2 manufactured home on over 3 acres. Huge open kitchen, spacious family room w fireplace & master suite w garden tub. Large open deck in front, private driveway with gate, dog house, room for pool & horses, RV or boats ok! **$135k.** (pea)

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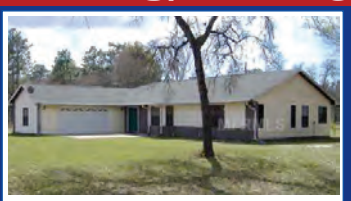
Gulf Location! 2 bedroom, 3 bath, 1 car garage house on deep water canal w sheltered dock & boat lift. Large screened lanai, spacious deck w hot tub & two Tiki Huts. Hurricane fabric shutters, new A/C, new windows, new kitchen tile & painted in 2009. Must see! **Only $275k.** (lon)



Got horses? This 5 acre fully fenced Spring Hill property offers a spacious 3/2/2 home along w the quiet sounds of nature & total privacy. Open floor plan w laminate wood floors throughout living areas & impressive wood burning fireplace, updated kitchen & more. **$295k.** (mcm)

Sun City Center! Maintenance Free 2/2/1 w screened lanai & nature views. Popular split bedroom floor plan includes large, open kitchen w breakfast bar. Oversized master suite. Active Adult community features Golf Course, Tennis Courts, Pools, Recreation & more. **$80k.** (nan)

Exceptional! Custom built 4/2.5/2 home on over 1 acre just 10 minutes from I-75! Beautiful home offers private office & features galore...central vac, crown molding, 600' wrap-around covered porch, wood burning fireplace & so much more. Ask about more land too! **$340k.** (dar)

Dade City! Spacious 2/2 mobile home w 2 car carport on half acre. Beautiful countryside views. Open floor plan w kitchen overlooking dining room. Large utility workshop, two screened patios, new carpeting, NEW 13sr 2.5 ton Trane AC & newer hot water heater!! Horses ok! **$42.5k.** (riv)

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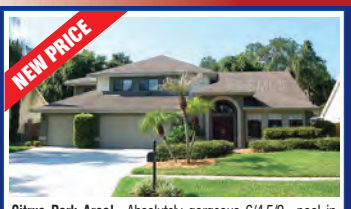
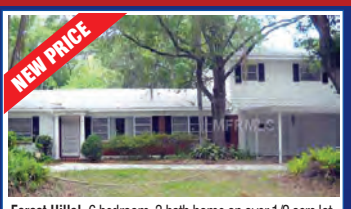
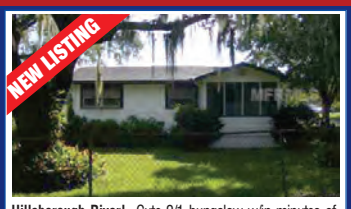


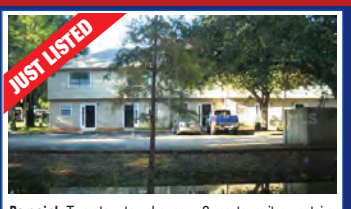
Citrus Park Area! Absolutely gorgeous 6/4.5/2 +pool in mint condition w everything for the extended family including a comfortable mother-in-law apartment w its own private entrance, fireplace, kitchen & handicapped-equipped bathroom. Master suite on first floor. **$379.9k.** (pin)



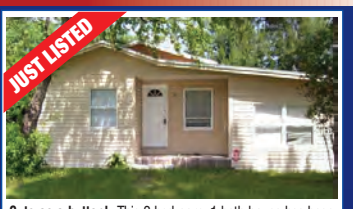
Forest Hills! 6 bedroom, 3 bath home on over 1/2 acre lot. Large circular driveway. Master Suite is downstairs. Has safe room/bomb shelter beneath master bedroom. Golf course within 1/2 mile. Addition above garage. No HOA or CDD. Call for showing. **$189k.** (n ro)



Hillsborough River! Cute 2/1 bungalow w/in minutes of Busch Gardens & Community park. Fenced yard is ideal for pets. Nestled under towering oaks, this home is situated directly on the river. With a little TLC, this can be a great investment or rental property. No HOA. **$54.9k.** (ren)



Bargain! Two story townhouse w 2 master suites upstairs, each has its own bath. One bedroom has a balcony. Downstairs has a large living room/dining room combination & half bath. Fenced courtyard/Patio Area. Good condition. Property has tenant until 5/2012. Cash only. **$44.9k.** (sli)



Cute as a button! This 3 bedroom, 1 bath house has been remodeled w NEW: vinyl siding, carpet, cabinets, electrical wiring & windows. Tiled front porch. Inside utility. Mature, shade trees in front. Convenient location, close to bus stops, schools & shopping. **$54k.** (nav)

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Fall insect attacks garden

By B.J. Jarvis
Pasco Cooperative Extension Director and Horticulturist

Florida's vegetable gardening season is upon us. As tomato, peppers, melons and squash are planted, gardeners will need to watch out for damaging insects.

Insect populations peak in the fall. One relative newcomer to Florida gardens loves to attack the same vegetables we like to grow this time of year. The leaf-footed bug was first found in Florida in 2005 and identified in east Pasco County in 2006.

This now-common insect can cause significant damage to homegrown fruits and vegetables. Harm can be done to a wide variety of produce including all types of beans, bell peppers, blueberries, blackberries, citrus, eggplant, okra, tomato, peaches and many ornamental plants.

Adult leaf-footed bugs can be identified relatively easily. It got its name for the flattened flare or leaf-like protrusion on the lower leg. It is a relatively large insect, growing about 1-inch long. The business end of this insect is the hypodermic needle-like mouthpart it uses to puncture fruit and vegetables. The injury causes distortion and allows organisms that can cause decay to enter the fruit. Other symptoms may include early fruit drop, leaf yellowing and misshapen fruits.

Gardeners commonly find leaf-footed bugs hiding under leaves and on fruit.

What can be done when they are found lurking in the veggie garden? Scout regularly for all types of insects. Some are even "good bugs" helping to naturally suppress damaging insect populations. When found, one or two leaf-footed bugs are generally no big problem, but larger populations of these insects are bound to cause enough damage to warrant some action.

Handpicking into a container of soapy water may help control them. Neem oil or insecticidal soap only works well on juveniles found earlier in the year. Consider a somewhat stronger insecticide containing pyrethins, which is labeled for use on most vegetables and can be used up to the day of harvest. As with all garden chemicals, read and follow label directions.

A leaf-footed bug attacks a tomato. (Photo courtesy of the Pasco Extension)

For more information about insects that attack vegetables, check the University of Florida, Cooperative Extension's website at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_garden_pests.

BJ Jarvis is the Horticulture Agent and Director of Pasco Cooperative Extension. She can be reached at bjjarvis@ufl.edu or on the web at pasco.ifas.ufl.edu/gardening.

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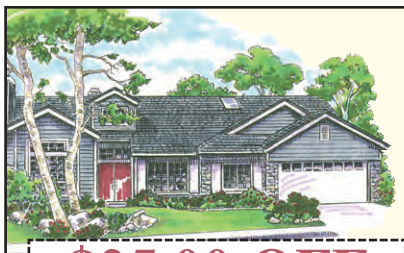

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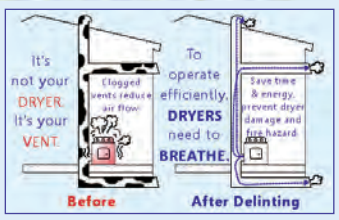

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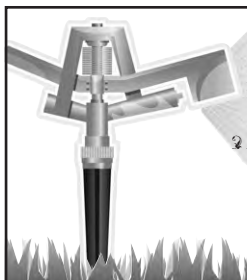

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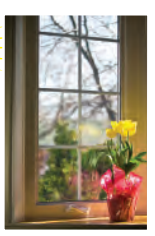

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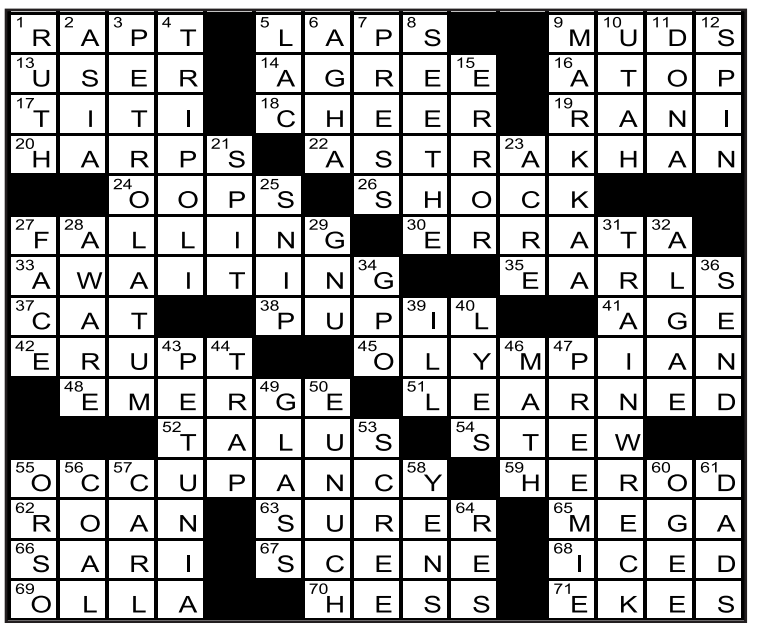

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