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Great pumpkin, Lucas

Lucas Evans of Land O' Lakes picks out his pumpkin of choice with his father on Saturday at the Harvester United Methodist Church festival. (Photo by Glenn Gefers of www .photosby3g.com).

Shuttered school leaves parents empty-handed

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Hand in Hand Academy opened seven years ago, and the private school promised parents a compassionate atmosphere for children to learn.

The Lutz school closed on Sept. 16 just four weeks after opening for the new school year, leaving parents with a big bill for a year of education their children will never receive.

Michael Hanke is one of several parents who already paid portions of the $8,200 for a year of education at Hand in Hand, 207 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road in Lutz. He said he and many families were pressured by the school's former principal Wendy Alexander to pay without being told she had lost her bid for bankruptcy protection.

"She was telling us one thing and turning around and it was something totally different," Hanke said. "She made you want to trust her."

See SCHOOL, page 19

PREP FOOTBALL

Gaither going back to playoffs

— P AGE 16

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Look for your paper on Wednesday

We received many calls from readers last week saying that their copy of The Laker or Lutz News was not delivered on Tuesday as it had been for the past few years.

Both papers are now being delivered to homes and newsstands on Wednesday because we changed the day we go to press from Monday to Tuesday. Printing a day later lets us include more news and photos from weekend events. It also allows us to print color on every page to make our papers more vibrant than ever.

From the number of calls we received, we realized belatedly that many of you liked getting your Wednesday paper delivered on Tuesday. Please accept our apologies for not sharing with you last week that our delivery date was changing, and why.

Associations grapple with foreclosure mess

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@cnewspubs.com

Banks aren't the only ones left holding the bag when homeowners foreclose on their houses. Homeowners associations feel the brunt, too.

When homeowners foreclose on their properties and stop paying their homeowner association fees, everyone living in that community pays the price, said Jim Flateau, president of the Pasco Alliance of Community Associations.

"When somebody doesn't pay, that puts more heat on the others," he said.

Abandoned properties also drive down values in neighborhoods.

When a prospective buyer drives into a neighborhood to look at home, and the house next door has three-foot weeds, the potential sale is lost, Flateau said.

The general quality of the neighborhood is affected, too, when homeowner associations are unable to collect fees that are typically used for the upkeep of common areas, he added.

Issues such as those prompted the biggest turnout in recent months at the Pasco Alliance of Community Association's meeting this month at the Land O' Lakes Community Center.

More than 50 people representing homeowner associations, condominium associations and neighborhoods showed up to listen to a presentation by Steve Mezer, an attorney with Bush/Ross, who specializes in legal issues pertaining to homeowner and condominium associations.

Mezer is well aware of the problems the associations are facing.

"Some of you have foreclosures with weeds up to there. The houses, with squatters in them. The houses where people who are living in them are not paying you, and they're not paying them. You've got all of these combinations.

"I'm not sure which is worse – you've got the squatter, the person living there for free, or the totally abandoned homes, with the weeds up to there. Which would you prefer to have? None of those are good scenarios for you," Mezer said.

He alerted those at the meeting: "You may get marketed by all kinds of people. Attorneys. People who want to buy your liens, attorneys who want to buy your liens. Companies that want to buy your liens and buy your bad debt.

"The arrangements that these people want to make, first of all, I'm not sure that they're legal, but secondly, anything that they can do with that bad debt claim, you can do, too.

If there's a property that is delinquent in homeowner association fees, a lien can be attached to the property and the association can foreclose on the property, Mezer said.

Attorney Steve Mezer of Bush/Ross in Tampa offered his expertise on legal issues involving issues facing homeowner and condominium associations at the Pasco Alliance of Community Associations' meeting last week. (Photo by B.C. Manion)

One popular strategy is for the homeowners' association to place a lien on the property, foreclose on it and rent it until it loses the title when the mortgage foreclosure case is completed, Mezer said.

Typically, if a mortgage foreclosure case has been dismissed, it will take at least a year before a new case would be heard – making it safe for the homeowners association to rent out the home for a year.

On average, foreclosure cases are taking two years or more, he said.

See FORECLOSURE, page 19

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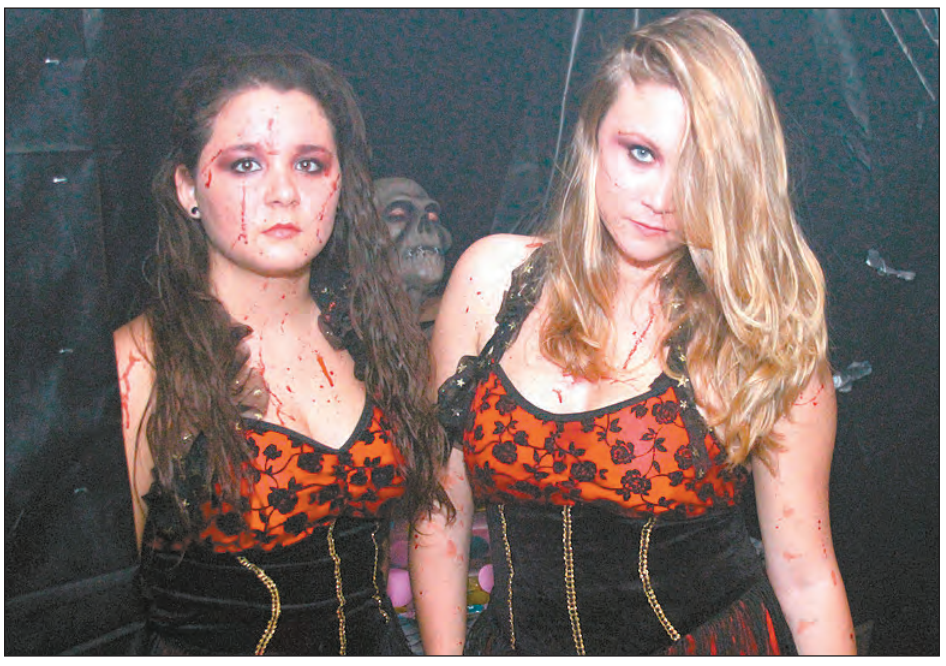
The Haunted House on 41

The Land O' Lakes Community Center was transformed into The Haunted House on 41 last weekend, Oct. 21-23. Volunteers from the center and the Pasco County Parks and Recreation Department created plenty of "scare-acters" and attendees paid $1.

At left, while this character warned attendees to turn back, few, if any, took her advice.



Characters included this pair of "twins" with designs on turning people into their own dolls. (Photos by Glenn Gefers of www.photosby3g.com)

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Rolling out new roads in Pasco

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is spending $68.1 million in Pasco this year, but the state agency is far from done spending money to improve roadways within the county.

FDOT plans to pump another $212 million into Pasco projects during the next two years. Department spokeswoman Kris Carson said there are two main objectives in managing state roadways in the near future.

"The overall goal for road construction in Pasco County within the next few years is to maintain the program we have and also continue with capacity improvements to keep up with growth," Carson said.

Much of the money for next fiscal year, which runs from next July through June 2013, will improve existing roadways while laying the groundwork for future widening projects.

The most expensive job east of the Suncoast Parkway detailed in the budget during the next two years is $36 million to purchase right-of-way land along SR 54 between Curley and Morris Bridge roads, a section that includes Wesley Chapel and Zephyrhills.

Pasco is already widening SR 54 to six lanes between I-75 and Curley at a total cost of $105.2 million, making it the most expensive road project in county history. The job is on pace for completion this December, according to Pasco Chief Project Manager Robert Shepherd.

Pasco Commissioner Pat Mulieri, whose District 2 includes the current SR 54 widening, said the combined goal of FDOT and the county is to widen the state road to six lanes east to US 301 in Zephyrhills.

"It's important to the connections of Pasco," Mulieri said. "Making sure people and goods can get from one side of the county to the other."

FDOT completed the $15 million project to widen US 41 in Land O' Lakes this year. The department is continuing to improve several major roadways within Pasco during the coming years. (File photos)

Also on the horizon is $16.3 million to resurface US 301 in both Zephyrhills and Dade City. The job will be completed in 2015.

FDOT also has plans to widen US 301 through Zephyrhills, where the roadway is also called Gall Boulevard. The department will spend $18.5 million to buy right-of-way land, but there are no set plans one how many additional lanes would be built.

The department will also use $38 million to widen Ridge Road from Little Road to Moon Lake Road in New Port Richey, the single most expensive job in the FDOT 2012-13 budget. Pasco Program Administrator Deborah Bolduc said the county has also funded a future job to extend Ridge past the Suncoast to connect to US 41 in Land O' Lakes.

"We've got sidewalk projects and transit and right-of-way funding," Bolduc said.

The problem is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has still not approved the extension of Ridge because of environmental effects to local wetlands.

The FDOT budget for the next year ratchets down spending on I-75 through Pasco. The current fiscal year includes $40.5 million for various work on the interstate, including widening, resurfacing and work on the exit ramps to SR 56 in Wesley Chapel.

In total, the four-stage widening is set for completion in the spring of 2016 with an overall price tag of $181.9 million, including I-75 from Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to SR 56.

One of two rest stops FDOT is rebuilding on I-75 in Pasco County between SR 56 and SR 54 at a cost of $25.1 million.

"To be sure, these are large construction jobs that will help improve I-75 in Pasco County," said John McShaffrey, FDOT public information officer for the interstate system in the region. "In short, these are large projects, but smaller than, say, the reconstruction of Interstate 4 in the mid-to-late 1990s or the I-4/Selmon Expressway Connector project."

FDOT is also finishing the $25.1 million project to rebuild two rest stops on the I-75 between the SR 56 and SR 54 exit ramps.

"While this $25.1 million project does not add highway capacity, it benefits drivers and also should help reduce or eliminate ramp traffic backing up onto the travel lanes, which does negatively impact traffic, due to reconfigured circulation and parking lots," McShaffrey said.

While the spending on I-75 is winding down, construction crews still are working in high gear to make the interstate six lanes through Pasco from the Hillsborough county line in the south to the border with Hernando County in the north.

"It's been in the works for years and once finished, it will be a big improvement for traffic flow through Pasco County," McShaffrey continued. Current FDOT statistics show that 75,500 vehicles travel on I-75 between SR 54 and SR 56 each day.

For more information on FDOT projects, visit www.dot.state.fl.us.

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Walking for a Cure

The Shops at Wiregrass went pink on Saturday in support of a cure for breast cancer. Participants in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer filled the streets of the Wesley Chapel shopping mecca on Oct. 22. (Photos by Faith Jordan)

Clerks for a Cure, representing Paula O' Neil, Clerk of Courts, was one of the top moneymaking teams.

New Tampa residents who participated in the Making Strides Cancer Walk included, from left, Mansa Bosso, Caci Andreychuk, Brook Andreychuk (holding Bella), Roger McQueen-Mascot, Mary Ann Bosso, Survivor Lynda Ahrens and Sue Andreychuk.

The team for Withlacoochee River Electric Co-Op-called the WRECing Crew, was impressive at the Making Strides Cancer Walk. Team Captain is Norma Hayden, third from right. Missing from photo is co-leader Doti Holmes.

Mary Kowalewski of Maryland, from left and Janelle Vivirito and Vera Harris, both of Wesley Chapel, walked on behalf of Thurow Financial Services.

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Flash mob shows off its 'Stronger' side

Girls affected by cancer organize flash mob at The Shops at Wiregrass

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@cnewspubs.com

A flash mob broke out at The Shops at Wiregrass last weekend, as a group of 1 1- to 14-year-olds, accompanied by a 48-year-old woman performed in a symbolic dance against breast cancer. (Photos by Glenn Gefers of photosby3g.com)

The dance moves made during a flash mob at The Shops at Wiregrass were choreographed by 14-year-old Vicky Baraldi and her friend, Sydney Bounnell.

Shortly before noon Saturday, a troupe of 20 began making moves to Kanye West's "Stronger."

The group, including kids from 11-14 and one 48-year-old woman, came walking out of the crowd at The Shops at Wiregrass, in a flash mob aimed at supporting breast cancer research.

It wasn't as dramatic as some of the flash mobs posted on YouTube, such as those performed in large train stations, but this one originated with two girls who wanted to do something tangible to support the battle against a disease that has afflicted their mothers.

Fourteen-year-old Diana Bryson organized the event, with the help of her 14-year-old friend, Jennifer Roberts.

Diana's mother, Lisa, who was one of the dancers, is in the midst of cancer treatments. Jennifer's mom, Jan Roberts, who was in the crowd, is a breast cancer survivor.

Diana, a freshman at Wiregrass High, came up with the idea.

"It was just one of those things that I've always wanted to do. We were at school and it was like, 'Hey Jennifer, we should have a breast cancer flash mob.' "

That was in September.

Since then, the group has practiced twice a week for five weeks at John Long Middle.

At the mall, a stream of dancers clad in pink T-shirts made its way from out of the crowd into an area in front of a fountain near Macy's and then sprang into a dance they based on the theme of fighting cancer.

Performers threw mock punches. They did muscle poses. They concluded the dance by creating the form of a pink ribbon.

And, when the music ended, they filtered back into the crowd.

The kids choreographed the dance themselves, Lisa said. Fourteen-year-old Vicky Baraldi and her friend, Sydney Bounnell, came up with the dance moves.

The dancers included Lisa, Diana and her 11-year-old sister, Sarah, the kids' friends and some of Lisa's former students from John Long Middle.

"Diana and I picked out the song," Lisa said. They wanted the song to reflect the need to fight cancer stronger, better, faster and harder – and to acknowledge that children with family members who have cancer must be strong.

Lisa, who has Stage 4 cancer, said, "I'm a cancer warrior. I am in the fight for my life right now.

"I have had it since 1997. I had an 11-year reprieve, and then it metastasized to my lung in the middle of my vacation. In 2009, it metastasized to my lung and I had a thoracotomy. That's when they go between your ribs and take out your cancer and suture it up."

"I had to resign from John Long Middle … in order to fight," she said.

Lisa had been a teacher for 20 years when she stepped away from her post. Before teaching at John Long Middle, she was a teacher at Gaither High for 10 years.

The flash mob's organizers — Diana and Jennifer — are both active in Relay for Life at Wiregrass Ranch High and they're raising money by selling T-shirts that were created for the flash mob by We Love Logos.

The company provided the T-shirts at below cost and the group has been selling them for $10 each, Lisa said. Some shirts are still available and more can be ordered, if there's a demand, she said.

Lisa said she is tremendously gratified by the support of her daughters, her daughters' friends and her former students.

"It's a chain of support. It's like a spider web. You can't fight something like this by yourself," Lisa said.

The dancers put a lot of time and effort into learning the 4-minute routine.

They had their final practice on Friday, before doing a few warm-up routines on a deck of a parking garage on Saturday morning.

"We practiced at my house yesterday for two hours in the cul-de-sac in front of my house," Lisa said.

That's where Jennifer Roberts broke her toe.

She was a trooper, though, and danced in the flash mob despite the pain.

Lisa, who has estrogen receptive breast cancer, said recently she received the best news she has received since 2009.

"The chemotherapy that I'm taking has started working. It (the cancer) is disappearing from my bones.

"It's in my skull, right collar bone, my sternum, right rib and pelvis, femur and I have three tumors in my liver," Lisa said, noting that doctors believe the cause of her cancer is genetic. Her sister, mother and aunt all have been afflicted by the disease and her aunt died from it.

Lisa said the prognosis from her oncologist had been that she had three to five years, but she added: "This good news from my oncologist just bought me an extra year."

Lisa said she is especially proud of her daughters.

"They keep me alive. My daughters make my cancer worth fighting."

Lisa also wanted to remind people that buying something pink to support cancer research is far more than a fashion statement.

"One thing I want people to know, when they buy all of that pink stuff and that money goes to research, that research has personally helped me.

"I have been in a clinical trial at Moffitt. It has helped save my life."

The proceeds from the T-shirt sales benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, which benefits all types of cancer research, Lisa said.

Anyone who would like to buy a T-shirt or help the Wiregrass Ranch High Relay for Life efforts in other ways may contact Lisa at (813) 907-8918 or email tanar45@gmail.com.

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Florida launches prescription drug database

System designed to reduce pain pill abuse

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

The state Legislature took a step toward fixing the prescription drug abuse problem in Florida with a new database to identify problem users and doctors.

"The prescription database is perhaps the single most important patient safety program to launch in recent memory," said state Sen. Fasano Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey. "On average, the scourge of prescription drug abuse claims the lives of seven people per day. This long-awaited tool is intended to cut that number significantly."

Fasano sponsored the state Senate bill that eventually led to the creation of the database while also making regulations stricter for those who can own and operate a pain management clinic.

The database, which went online on Oct. 17, is called Electronic Florida Online Reporting of Controlled Substances Evaluation (E-FORCSE). Now, whenever a narcotic-grade prescription, such as Oxycodone, is written for someone in Florida, the doctor must enter it into the system within seven days. The database records the dosage and when a prescription has been filled.

Chris Nocco

Physicians can search the database for a patient's drug history to see if they have been doctor shopping, a practice where an abuser visits different clinics to get several prescriptions at the same time, according to Fasano.

The database will help law enforcement officers find potential drug dealers by identifying who is getting large amounts of the pills. They can also see which doctors are prescribing the medications to people who do not need the amount given.

"It's really a great thing to have on our end," said Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco. "We can find the people who are creating this problem and put a stop to it."

The Pasco Sheriff's Office received an additional $1.6 million from the county for the new fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, to hire 23 new employees. Nocco said much of the new force is going to fight prescription drug abuse.

Florida has become one of the epicenters of the prescription drug distribution in the country. About 80 percent of the Oxycodone — the most commonly prescripted pain pill — distributed in the United States comes from pharmacies in the state, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

Deaths attributed to such prescriptions in Florida reached an all-time high in 2010, with 2,710 fatalities reported, according to the FDLE. Oxycodone was the No. 1 killer, accounting for 1,516 deaths.

The Florida Medical Examiners Commission's statistics show that of the state deaths attributed to prescription drug abuse last year, 42 percent were from people in Pasco, Hillsborough or Pinellas counties.

Pasco sweep nets 244 criminals

By Kyle LoJacono
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The Pasco Sheriff's Office conducted the largest roundup of criminals in the county history, putting 244 people wanted on 302 warrants behind bars.

Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco said he and his department wanted to send a clear message to anyone who breaks the law.

"We want criminals to know we are going to go out there and hunt them down," Nocco said.

The crackdown happened Oct. 11-13. It included more than 100 law enforcement officers from the county office, the city police forces across Pasco as well as state and federal staffers in a unified effort called Operation Law and Order.

"I promise you there were no egos here," Nocco said. "It didn't matter what badge you wore."

The operation searched out those wanted for crimes committed within Pasco to those wanted on warrants from elsewhere in the state dating back as far as 1988.

The arrests ranged from people wanted for dealing drugs, which also turned up a pound of marijuana and various pills, to those accused of aggravated assault and battery. No one was injured during the roundup. Some even turned themselves in after learning about the county-wide sweep.

The sheriff's office still has 22,000 outstanding warrants. Nocco said they get about 1,000 new ones each month, but can only serve around 800, creating the backlog.

Nocco said he predicts his increased budget for the new fiscal year, which allowed him to hire 23 new staffers, will help reduce the stacks of unserved warrants. He also promised more crackdowns in the future.

"This is not a one-time thing," Nocco said. "This is a continuing process."

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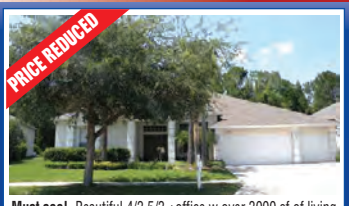
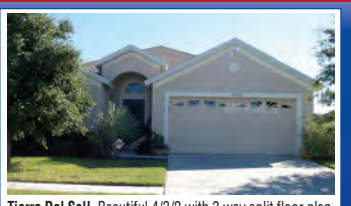


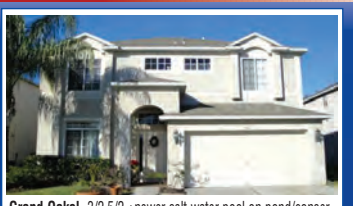
Must see! Beautiful 4/3.5/3 +office w over 3000 sf of living space on one level. Spacious screened lanai w peaceful wooded view. Room for a pool. Kitchen features abundant 42" cabinets, food prep island, butler's pantry off formal dining area & mostly 10' ceilings. **$249.9k** (swo)

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! **$279.9k.** (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)



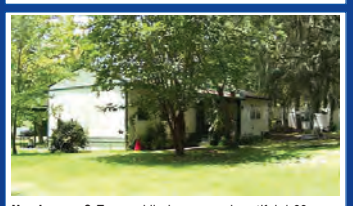
Tierra Del Sol! Beautiful 4/3/2 with 3 way split floor plan. Huge gourmet kitchen w 42" wood cabinets, Corian counters & stainless appliances. XL master suite. Screened lanai w conservation views! One year home warranty included. Low HOA & no CDD. **$155k.** (see)



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)

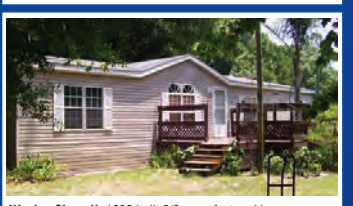
Willow Bend! Move in ready 3/2/2 on conservation lot. Laminate wood & tile floors. You'll love the XL screened patio, sunroom w tile flooring, inside laundry, sitting room off master & more. Open kitchen/family combo and formal living/dining combo. No CDD & low HOA. **$175k.** (ste)

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)



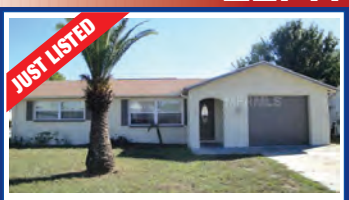
Need space? Two mobile homes on beautiful 1.83 acre tree shaded lot. Double wide mobile in front is perfect for rental or in laws. Back mobile is spacious 1512 sq ft. Room for RV and boat. Large detached workshop/garage in back. This is a must see property. Price reduced to **$85k.**

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! **$184,990.** (bar)

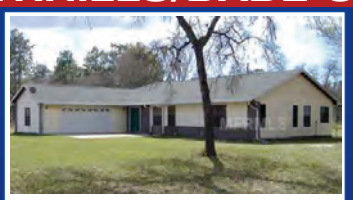


Wesley Chapel! 1998 built 3/2 manufactured home on over 3 acres. Huge open kitchen, spacious family room w fireplace & master suite w garden tub. Large open deck in front, private driveway with gate, dog house, room for pool & horses, RV or boats ok! **$135k.** (pea)

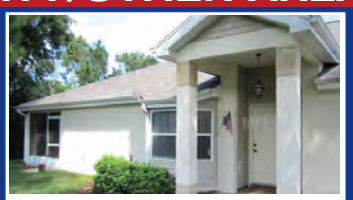
ZEPHYRHILLS/DADE CITY/OTHER AREAS • CALL 949-7444 x100



New Port Richey! Adorable 3/2/1 home on corner lot w recent updates including NEW: carpet & ceiling fans in all bedrooms, interior paint, stove & hood as well as updated bathrooms. Great open floor plan with a large living room, family room & kitchen. Move in ready. **$69.9k.** (lan)



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! **$320k.** (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! **$38.9k.** (riv)

TAMPA • CALL 949-7444 x100

Grant Park! Cute 2/1 Block home w in walking distance to neighborhood park. Garage has been converted for extra storage space. Fully fenced yard. Easy access to downtown Tampa, shopping and restaurants. Priced to sell. Move in ready condition. **$35K.** (54th)

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. **$44,990** (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)

Champagne Taste? Exquisite 4 bedroom/3.5 bath/4 car garage home w study, pool/spa and beautiful pond/conservation view. Breathtaking custom kitchen w aquarium glass window overlooking pool. Huge master suite. Extremely well appointed. **$799k.** (mad)

RENTALS

$695/ mo. 1/1.5 Villa in Active Adult community w lots of amenities. Michelle Humphrey 842-3955
$1550/mo. 4/2.5 Carrollwood Townhouse in gated community w pool. Carmen Velez 417-3529
$1495/mo. 3/2.5/2 in Oakstead. Great floorplan w upstairs loft. Pet ok. Laura Bloomer 541-9234
$1425/mo. 3/2/1 w fireplace in Tampa. Fenced backyard. Pet ok. Pam Leece 949-7444
$1450/mo. 3/2.5/2 two story house in great, recreational community. Christy Laramay 451-6727
$695/mo. 1/1 condo in NPR. Incl. water, sewer, trash & basic cable. Bernadette 949-7444
$950/mo. 3/2/1 house in LOL. Screened patio, fenced backyard, pet ok. Amy Manion 454-7139
$1650/mo. Beautiful 3/2/2+ office w pool in Country Way area. Rebecca Vazquez 810-0807
$925/mo. 2/2.5 Carrollwood townhouse. Comm. pool. W/D Rebecca Vazquez 810-0807
$1295/mo. 2/2 townhouse w 1 car garage & pond view in Temple Terrace. 949-7444 x123

LAND & COMMERCIAL

Waterfront! 2.23 acre lot on Lake Thonotosassa, near custom homes. **$450k.** Rob Rochlin 948-0999

.47 acre! Land O Lakes off Hwy 41. Zoned for MH. Utilities in place **$25k.** Patti Webster 310-0215

WC area! Almost 1 ac. near 54 w/school zoning. Reduced to **$139k** Owner/agent Amy Manion 454-7139

Professional/Medical Bldg. Hwy 54 in Lutz. 2982 sf. **$328k**. Call Mark Willett 731-1516

Warehouse/Office Hwy 54 in Lutz. 7500 sf. on 1.25 acre. Zoned C-2. **$695k**. Mark Willett 731-1516.

Professional/Medical Bldg. Hwy 54 in Wesley Chapel. 1980 sf. **$249k**. Mark Willett 731-1516

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Giraffes might be the main draw at Lex Salisbury' s 47-acre ranch, but they aren't the only sights to see. (Photos by Eugenio Torrens)

Giraffe Ranch offers authentic experience

By Eugenio Torrens
etorrens@cnewspubs.com

It may not have the name recognition of Busch Gardens or the authenticity of a Serengeti tour in the heart of Africa, but Giraffe Ranch in Dade City offers a hybrid of the two.

Run by Lex Salisbury and his wife Elena Sheppa, Giraffe Ranch is situated on a 47-acre ranch that offers a glimpse of quite a few animals in a more natural setting than what a zoo can offer.

"My wife and I used to do all this ourselves until we started doing tours, and then we needed some help," Salisbury said. "I've been working with animals for a long time, so it's sort of been my vocation and avocation for a long time."

Salisbury was the president at Lowry Park Zoo before he resigned in December 2008 because of a city audit that suggested he had used the zoo for personal gain.

"I was completely exonerated," Salisbury said. "They didn't want me there any longer, so I resigned. That was all resolved, and that's in the past."

Salisbury and Sheppa live on the property and used to offer friends and colleagues a peek at how they lived with a menagerie.

"It's like a little piece of Africa, when I wake up in the morning and look out and I see animals in the vista," Salisbury said.

Visitors take about a 90-minute to two-hour tour inside sawed off, revamped trucks with canopy roofing designed to replicate the vehicles used in safaris. It's all open air, which means more direct access to the animals. Usually, tours are limited to 20 people with one vehicle.

On this particular tour, there were three vehicles, one driven by Salisbury, one by Sheppa and the third by Jack West, a freshman at USF who logged more than 1,000 hours during the summer as an intern.

Throughout the tour, the vehicles canvass the area with each driver doubling as a guide and stopping to explain and interact with the animals, as well as giving guests a chance to feed animals.

"I thought it was marvelous," said Michele Starcher, who was with the Sensational Seniors tour group. "They're very educated. They know what they're talking about. I like little animals. If I get an opportunity to come to something like this, I will."

Starcher said she saw the tours as an educational opportunity for kids as a school outing.

The positive reaction seems to be echoed by the majority of visitors. Salisbury said there was a 94 percent intent-to-return rate.

"(Visitors) don't want what man has done to nature, they want to see what nature has to offer man," Sheppa said. She remarked how a woman in the tour wanted to go to Morocco but knew she was never going there and she just really wanted to ride a camel.

A herd of zebras can be seen close-up at Giraffe Ranch.

"People want to touch stuff." Sheppa said. "When you connect with another animal, there's something special about that, especially if it feels like it's special to you."

Some animals come on loan from partnerships Giraffe Ranch has with other zoos, such as the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Other animals are bred and raised on the ranch from birth, such as the baby giraffe visitors got to see.

The baby was a bit timid unlike the adult giraffes that sought food from eager-to-feed guests.

"We want to give people as non an artificial experience with these animals in as intimate a way as we possibly can offer, but ultimately in a safe way," Sheppa said. "We don't want it to be scripted. We want a little bit of the unexpected. We want people to be a little anxious, because that keeps them attentive."

The zebras on Giraffe Ranch were particularly attention grabbing. Salisbury spread feed around the vehicle to offer guests a close-up look at the striped creatures.

"The irony is my dogs probably take up more of my time, or are more labor-intensive than this herd of zebra are," Sheppa said.

Animals for Giraffe Ranch have to meet certain criteria, including how well they deal with the Florida heat and environment; animals have to meet nutritional standards; and many of the animals chosen also are herd animals in order to provide as natural an environment as possible.

One exception to these rules was the scimitar oryx, which is extinct in the wild but is bred and kept in captivity as a means of preserving the species.

After guests have seen the vast array of animals including but not limited to zebras, fainting goats, ostriches, warthogs and a pair of pygmy hippos, they come back to the starting spot to visit the tiny gift shop.

Visitors at Giraffe Ranch can experience what it's like to ride camels.

A fainting goat faints as part of a natural muscle reaction.

A pygmy hippo, isn't nearly the same size as larger hippos, but its wide-open jaw is just as intimidating.

Camel rides are available at the end of the tour for an additional cost. Guests may also tour the property on camelback. Salisbury even offers newly hatched ostrich eggs for a fee.

"I've been to a lot of places that I never knew existed, and this is one of those," said Bill Voliva, a tour bus driver who drove the Sensational Seniors to Giraffe Ranch and went along on the tour. "It's a little hidden gem. The word needs to get out more for folks to come see this, because it was really nice."

Tours are $59.99 for adults, while children ages 2-11 get in for $49.99. Children 2 and under get in for free. Giraffe Ranch is located at 38650 Mickler Road in Dade City.

For more ticket prices or further information, call Giraffe Ranch at (813) 482-3400 or visit www.girafferanch.com.

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Name That Fall Sport!

Each of the following is often listed as a fall sport. Fill in the blanks to name the sport.

1) S O __ __ E R
2) __ O O __ __ A __ L
3) V O __ __ E Y __ A L __
4) __ I E __ D H __ C __ E Y
5) C __ O S __
   C O __ N __ __ Y
6) W __ T E __ P __ __ O
7) __ O __ F

Answers: 1) Soccer, 2) Football, 3) Volleyball, 4) Field Hockey, 5) Cross Country, 6) Water Polo, 7) Golf

Monster Born

There are many images associated with Halloween. One that often comes to mind is Frankenstein. Strangely enough, the idea of Frankenstein came from a dare to write a good ghost story.

In 1816, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley and her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley were visiting Lord Byron and friends at Lake Geneva in Switzerland. The weather was terrible and the friends had to spend much of their time indoors. While reading a collection of German ghost stories, Lord Byron dared his friends to come up with their own ghost stories.

While thinking about what she would write, Mary Shelley dreamed of a hideous man that had been brought to life. She turned the dream into a story and soon set about writing the book that would become *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus*. The book was published on January 1, 1818, and although the critics did not like it, the public did. Mary Shelley revised the book and the popular edition was published on October 31, 1831.

What Rhymes with Rake?

List 10 words that rhyme with "rake."

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Some answers: ache, bake, break, cake, fake, flake, lake, make, quake, sake, shake, snake, stake, take, wake

COLORING PICTURE

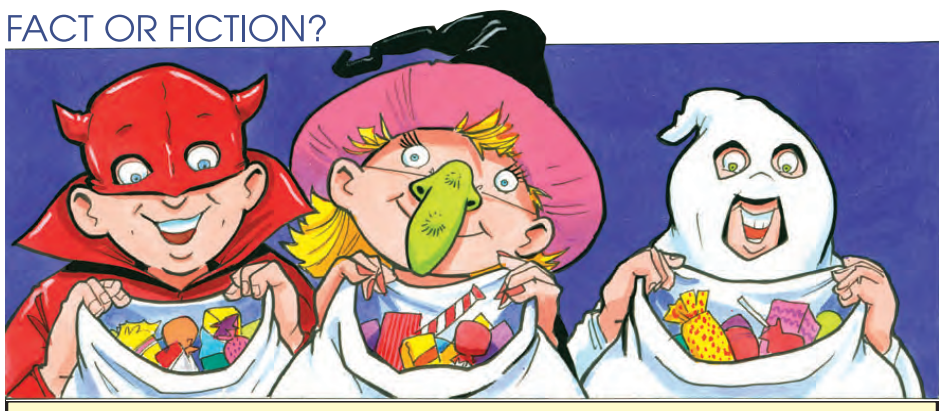
Jokes & Riddles

Q: Why do witches avoid riding on their brooms when they're angry?

A: Because they re afraid they ll fly off the handles.

Knock knock.
Who's there?
Fangs.
Fangs who?
Fangs for letting me in!

FACT OR FICTION?



Trick-or-Treating Safety Challenge

Did you know that 90% of kids in the United States go trick-or-treating every year? There is nothing kids like better than to fill their bags with candy as they go from door to door trick-or-treating. Of course, trick-or-treating is not without risk. Here are some questions about trick-or-treating safety. How many can you answer correctly?

1) You should choose a costume with a mask to keep warm. Fact or Fiction?
2) You should go trick-or-treating in groups. Fact or Fiction?
3) You should ask an adult to go with you if you are under age 10. Fact or Fiction?
4) You should carry a light with you. Fact or Fiction?
5) You should stay in neighborhoods that you know. Fact or Fiction?
6) You should visit every house on the block. Fact or Fiction?
7) You should be kind to any stray animals that follow you. Fact or Fiction?
8) You should be polite and enter homes whenever asked. Fact or Fiction?
9) You should be polite and eat all homemade treats offered to you. Fact or Fiction?
10) You should wait to eat the candy you receive until an adult has inspected it. Fact or Fiction?

Answers:
1) Fiction. While a mask may help you stay warm, it may also make it hard for you to see where you are going. If you plan to wear a costume with a mask, make sure the mask fits your face well and does not affect your vision.
2) Fact. You will be safer going trick-or-treating with others.
3) Fiction. No matter how old you are, you should ask an adult to go with you. They can keep track of everyone and help keep everyone safe.
4) Fact. Carrying a light will make you more visible to others, especially drivers.
5) Fact. You will be safer in neighborhoods you know.
6) Fiction. You should only go to houses that have the porch lights on.
7) Fiction. You should avoid all stray animals that come into your path. They may not be friendly and could attack you.
8) Fiction. You should politely refuse all requests to come inside a home, especially from people you do not know.
9) Fiction. You should politely refuse all homemade treats, especially from people you do not know.
10) Fact. An adult should inspect all candy before it is eaten and throw away any that is unwrapped or appears to have been tampered with.

What's Happening

Your Community Calendar • Submit 2 weeks in advance to: whatshappening@cnewspubs.com • All listings free of charge

EVENTS

HORSE RESCUE F ALL FESTIVAL

West Coast Morgans is hosting the second annual fall festival benefitting the Lora Dunlap Morgan Horse Rescue and Scholarship Foundation on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.There will be games, a barbecue, pony rides, hayrides, horse painting, vendors and exhibitions.The cost is $20 per carload.West Coast Morgans is located at 17216 Boy Scout Road in Odessa. For more information, visit www.LDMorganHouse.org.

HALLELUJAH HARVEST FESTIV AL

First United Methodist Church of Lutz is hosting a community-wide harvest festival from 5-8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31. First United Methodist Church of Lutz is at 960 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road. Admission is free.There will be candy, hot dogs, chips, games, ice cream, popcorn and bounce houses. For more information, call (813) 949-1751.

REPUBLICAN CLUB MEETING

The Republican Club of Central Pasco will feature Rep. John Legg and Trilby businessman Wilton Simpson on Wednesday, Oct. 26. Both men are candidates for the District 11 Senate seat held by Sen. Mike Fasano.The meeting will take place at the Groves Golf and Country Club, 7924 Melogold Circle in Land O' Lakes.There will be a social hour and dinner at 6 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (813) 326-8802.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

HALLOWEEN CELEBRA TION

Rasmussen College Halloween Celebration

Join Rasmussen College and the Shoppes at Sunlake Centre for a Halloween festival on Monday, Oct. 31 from 4-7 p.m.There will be trick or treating, games, prizes, a bounce house, a costume contest, a Tampa Bay Lightning ticket giveaway and gift card giveaways.The festival starts at the Publix at the Shoppes at Sunlake Centre at 18901 SR 54 in Lutz and ends at Rasmussen College, 18600 Fernview St. in Land O' Lakes. For more information, call (813) 435-3601.

EMPLOYED WORKER MEETING

There will be an informative meeting to discuss training grants that are available to Pasco companies on Friday, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m.-noon at Rasmussen College, 18600 Fernview St. in Land O' Lakes. RSVP by Wednesday, Oct. 26 to Helen Rodriguez at (727) 484-3464, (813) 377-1300 ext. 3464, or (352) 200-3020 ext. 3464. For more information, call (813) 926-0827 ext. 227.

GRAND OPENING

On Saturday, Oct. 29 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. there will be a grand opening celebration at 6745 Land O' Lakes Blvd. in Land O' Lakes. Admission is free.There will be a barbecue, Italian ice, haunted house, a costume contest for the kids 12 and younger, a bouncy house, health care screening, raffles and more. Come and meet new local businesses.The event supports the American Cancer Society. For more information, call (813) 996-6660.

KICK OFF PARTY

Relay for Life is having a kick-off party on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Relay for Life strives to find a cure for cancer.The party will take place at Wilderness Lake Preserves Lodge, 21320 Wilderness Lake Blvd. in Land O' Lakes. For more information, call Lilly at (813) 746-9329.

CHAMBER MEETING

The Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce is hosting an economic development and government affairs meeting at American Consulting Engineers, 2818 Cypress Ridge Blvd. in Wesley Chapel, on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 11:30 a.m. Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco will be the speaker. For more information, email Jeff Miller at jeff@smartmovetampabay.com.

HALLOWEEN

TRUNK AND TREA T

CrossPointe Church of the Nazarene, 919 Debuel Road in Lutz, will be having its annual Trunk and Treat and community carnival on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 4-6 p.m.There will be a bounce house, horse rides, face painting, crafts, games, a dunk tank, snow cones and candy. Everything is free with the exception of pizza and soda. For more information, contact the church at (813) 949-7727 or email churchoffice@crosspointetampa.com.

GREEN AFTER DARK

Green After Dark, "Where Tampa Goes to Go Green," is having a green Halloween.The event, on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 5-9 p.m., will include a pet costume contest sponsored by Whatever Pops. Dress pets in costumes and trot them around the Odessa Organic Market; the winner will be announced at 7:45 p.m. There will be live entertainment as well. Kids are encouraged to wear eco-friendly or up-cycled costumes and trick or treat at the available vendor booths. Parking is located in the shopping plazas on either side of the market at 8701 Gunn Highway in Odessa.

BOO BASH

Heritage Church, 1854 Oak Grove Blvd. in Lutz, is hosting a Halloween alternative on Monday, Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m.The event is free and there will be candy, trinkets, a slide, face painting, free drawings and concessions. For more information, call (813) 909-4080 or visit www.boobash.info.

PUMPKIN P ALOOZA

Gathering Pointe Church, 17743 Hunting Bow Circle in Lutz, is hosting its third annual Pumpkin Palooza on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 4-6 p.m. Families are invited to come out for free kids' games, free bounce houses, free candy, free food, a chili cook off and dessert bake off. For more information, you can visit www.gatheringpointe.com or email info@gatheringpointe.com.

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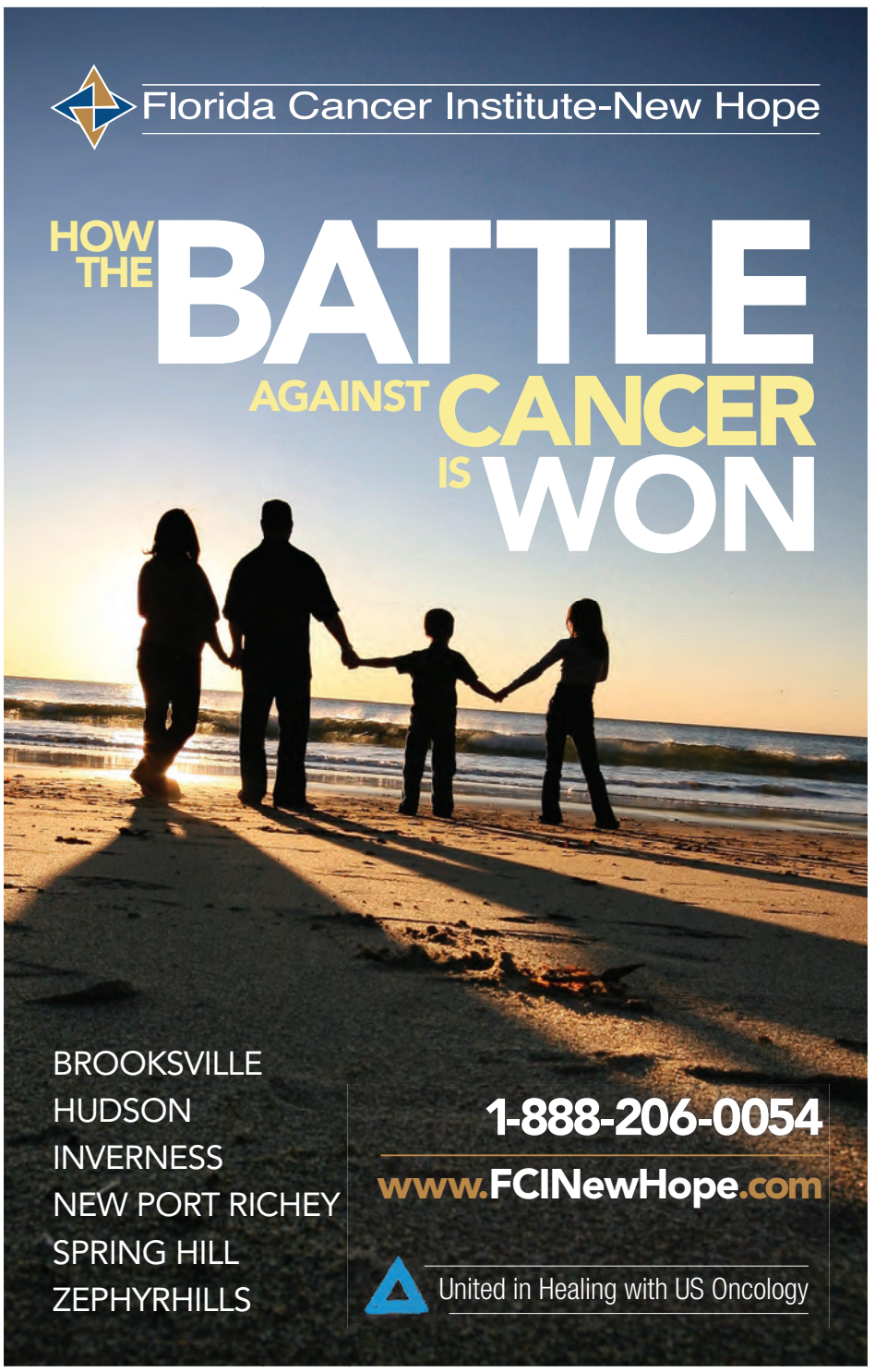

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Family fun at United Methodist's Harvest Festival

Kristen Burdette of Land O' Lakes along with her daughter Arery and friend Parker Lyle take a ride down the slide, one of the many rides located at the Harvest Festival. (Photos by Glenn Gefers of www.photosby3g.com)

Young rider Riley Sherburne of Land O' Lakes mounts his pony of choice for a ride at the Harvest Festival on Saturday at Harvester United Methodist Church, 2432 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

Michelle Alberson of Lutz from Clowning Around paints the face of Land O' Lakes resident Kailani Maeda.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Gulfside Regional to help with veterans pr ogram

Gulfside Regional Hospice has joined the We Honor Veterans program, a campaign developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The goal is to help veterans with end-of-life care.

In order to be accepted into the program, Gulfside had to meet stringent requirements to improve treatment for veterans. The campaign provides tiered recognition to organizations that demonstrate a systematic commitment to improving care for those who have served.

For more information about the We Honor Veterans program or to schedule a speaker on the topic, call Tracey Doyle at (727) 845-5707. For more information on Gulfside, visit www.GRHospice.org.

Holiday hearing aid contest

Drs. Brett Scotch and Paul DiPasquale are sponsoring an essay contest to help someone who has a hearing impairment.

The winner of the contest will win a binaural pair of top-of-the-line, behind-the-ear hearing aids and all testing and services necessary to ensure a proper fit. The contest ends on Friday, Dec. 2 and is open to anyone who is suffering from a hearing impairment or knows someone who needs new hearing aids.

Winners will be selected not just on hearing and financial need but also on the opportunity to impact the recipient's life and lives of others. The winner will be announced on Thursday, Dec. 15.

Contest rules are:

–A 400-word essay must be written by the person suffering the hearing loss or a friend or family member with his or her consent.

–The topic should be about how hearing aids will improve the potential recipient's life or how it may impact the people in his or her life.

–Entries must include the full name, address, phone number and email of both the potential recipient and the essay writer.

–The essay must be received by Friday, Dec. 2 via mail or email.

–The winner must agree to have his or her name, photo and story announced by local media outlets.

–All submissions become the property of ENT & Facial Plastic Surgery Specialists and will not be returned.

–The winning recipient must be older than 18 years and have a hearing loss necessitating hearing aids.

Contest entries can be emailed to Hearing@WesleyChapelENT.com or mailed to ENT & Facial Plastic Surgery Specialists Attn: Melissa 2311 Cypress Cove, Suite 101, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544.

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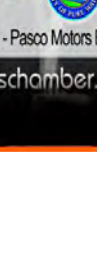

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		89 - 132 lbs	$105

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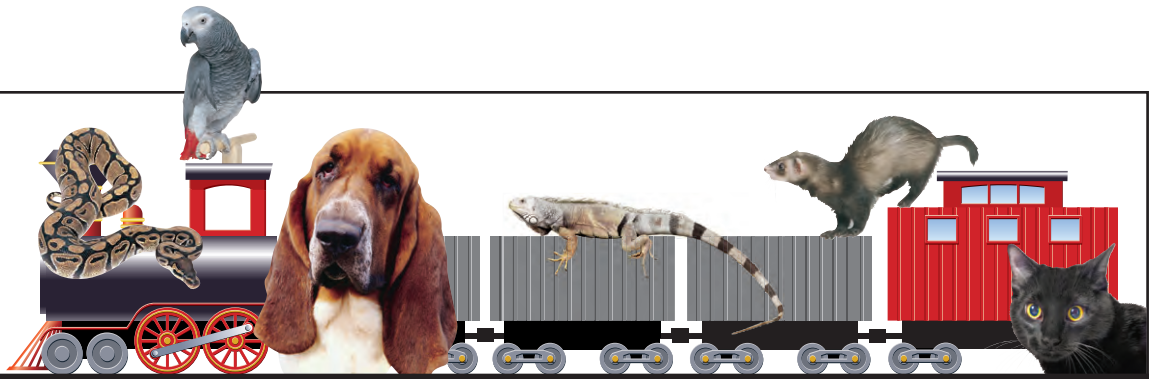

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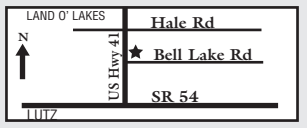

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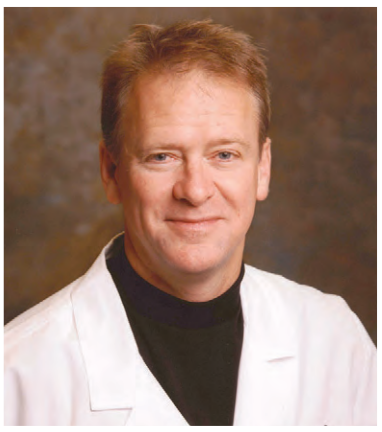
Difficult Menstrual Cycles?

Thursday, October 27, 6:30pm

Approximately one in five women suffer from regular but excessive menstrual flow. Difficult menstrual cycles can be treated in a number of ways. Join OB/GYN physician **Pamela Twitty, MD**, as she discusses dysfunctional uterine bleeding, uterine fibroids and treatment options available.



Hip Pain? Trouble Walking?

Thursday, November 3, 6:30pm

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- Hip pain: When is it your joint and not something else?
- How hip joint issues are diagnosed
- Treatment guidelines
- Total hip replacement surgery

Are You Ready for Holiday Cooking?

Tuesday, November 15, 6:30pm

Cooking a great, healthy feast to share with family and friends is one of the many joys of the holidays and one of the many stresses. Planning ahead is one of the keys to making holiday cooking stress-free. Knowing how to prepare healthy food and having all the right ingredients on hand is critical as well. Join Twigs Café's **Chef Paul** and our dietitian for a cooking demonstration and a seminar on menu planning, time and equipment management, healthy menu options and dealing with traditions. Learn how you can keep traditions and also add your own touch.

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Steinbrenner's playoff push ends

By Jeff Odom
Lutz News correspondent

Fighting for their postseason lives, Steinbrenner faced off against Class 7A-District 7 rival Tampa Bay Tech but fell short 35-25 at home on Oct. 20.

The Warriors (4-3) couldn't bounce back from two early fumbles, and the running game stalled in the second half giving the Titans (4-3) the district win.

Steinbrenner halfback Kendall Pearcey, who finished with 127 rushing yards and three touchdowns, led the way with an early 30-yard dash setting up the Warriors in scoring position. But Brian Gainer fumbled and Tampa Bay Tech defensive lineman Clifton Dilworth scooped it up and took it back for an 85-yard touchdown that gave the Titans the early lead.

After another fumble on Steinbrenner's second drive, the Tech offense would sputter against a hungry Warrior defense. The Titans fumbled the ball away on their opening drive when Deon Thompson coughed up the rock and Steinbrenner's A.J. Brown recovered.

The Warriors answered midway through the first quarter after halfback Shaheem Barthel and Pearcey took turns driving the offense downfield. Pearcey capped off the drive with a touchdown, tying up the score 7-7.

The Warriors took the lead on the first play of their next possession. Barthel took the handoff outside and it was off to the races as he went untouched for a 58-yard touchdown.

On the Titans' ensuing possession, halfback Cludner Lacount paced the offense and drove the ball quickly downfield. Quarterback Aaron Midthus used his 6-foot-1, 190-pound frame to his advantage, calling his own number to reach the end zone on a quarterback sneak up the middle.

Steinbrenner junior halfback Kendall Pearcey breaks away for an 85-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter against Tampa Bay Tech. (Photos courtesy of SteinbrennerFootball.com)

The Warriors wouldn't be deterred. Starting on their own 30-yard line, Pearcey put the team on his back with a 69-yard rush coming just one yard short of the pylon. After a penalty and loss of yards, the Warriors elected to go for it on fourth and goal.

The gamble worked as Brown found a gap and stuffed it in for his first touchdown of the night giving Steinbrenner a 19-14 halftime lead after the 2-point conversion failed.

The Titans made key adjustments on defense in the second half that stalled the Steinbrenner offense for the remainder of the game. After trading a pair of three and outs, Tech found the offensive life it lacked in the first half. Midthus found Lacount deep for a 37-yard touchdown strike and a 21-19 lead that would not be surrendered.

After a stifled drive by the Warriors, the Titans capitalized on a Steinbrenner mistake. Lamarq Caldwell found a seam in the tiring defense and set up Midthus' second rushing touchdown of the night extending the lead to 28-19.

The lone bright spot for the Warriors in the second half was on the next kickoff. Pearcey received the kick at his own 15-yard line, but thanks to a couple of big blocks and a wide open lane, he turned on the jets and brought the Warriors back to within three points on an 85-yard return score late in the fourth quarter.

The comeback attempt was short lived, as Tech ate up the clock with a constant dose of rushing. Caldwell drove the Titans 52 yards and set up his outside rush to the end zone giving the Titans the 35-25 win.

The loss ends Steinbrenner's chance of making the playoffs for the first time in the program's second full varsity season. The Warriors played a split junior varsity/varsity schedule in 2009.

"We tried our best to do what we could," said Barthel. "As you can see, we came up a little bit short."

Steinbrenner travels to Wiregrass Ranch (0-7) on Friday, Oct. 28. Barthel says the team will play the final three games as hard as ever.

"We're going to play every game like it's our last, so we'll see what happens."

2011 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Class 7A-District 7
Gaither 5-2 (3-0)
Tampa Bay Tech 4-3 (3-0)
Steinbrenner 4-3 (1-2)
Chamberlain 1-6 (1-2)
Freedom 1-7 (1-2)
Wiregrass Ranch 0-7 (0-3)

Class 6A-District 6
Hernando 6-2 (5-0)
Sunlake 6-1 (4-1)
River Ridge 5-2 (3-2)
Land O' Lakes 4-3 (3-2)
Nature Coast 4-4 (3-2)
Mitchell 4-4 (1-4)
Springstead 2-5 (1-4)
Central 0-8 (0-5)

Class 5A-District 6
Pasco 8-0 (5-0)
Zephyrhills 5-2 (5-0)
Fivay 5-2 (4-1)
Wesley Chapel 4-3 (2-3)
Anclote 2-5 (2-3)
Gulf 1-6 (1-4)
Ridgewood 1-7 (1-4)
Hudson 0-7 (0-5)

Gaither clinches playoff berth against Freedom

By Eugenio Torrens
etorrens@cnewspubs.com

It's been a while since Gaither football fans had much to smile about. The 2007 season marked the last time the Cowboys had a winning season.

But with first-year coach Jason Stokes, Gaither (5-2) is reverting back to its winning ways.

The Cowboys shut out Freedom 37-0 on Oct. 20 to nab their third Class 7A-District 7 win and remain unbeaten in district play. It's also the squad's fourth straight victory and first playoff-clinching win since 2008.

"I am happy," Stokes said. "I know I'm gonna get the film and we're going to see a lot of mistakes, but I tell them all the time if you're going to make a mistake, do it 150 miles an hour."

Even the Gaither coaches might have some trouble nitpicking after this win. Quarterback Alex McGough, a Wesley Chapel High transfer, was 13-of-18 passing, throwing three touchdowns and running for another — though he was picked off once. The team also had six rushers combine for 131 yards, including junior Vu Le's eight carries for 82.

The Gaither defense harassed Patriot quarterback Taylor King, who was held to 45 yards passing and was intercepted once and sacked nine times. Cowboy linebacker Josh Scarberry had four of those sacks and recovered a blocked punt to set up a touchdown.

"I love our defense," Scarberry said. "To get a win like this is awesome. To come out and play Freedom for our third district game and just 37-0, I couldn't have asked for anything better than that."

The Patriots ran into trouble early. On Freedom's second play, Gaither's Nick Sampson got to King and forced a fumble, which was recovered by defensive end Mikhail Reece. Although the Cowboys were held to a field goal, the pressure on King was a preview of things to come.

After a Freedom three and out, Gaither marched 69 yards and scored on a 20-yard run by Le.

The Patriots struggled to find any offensive rhythm, while the Cowboys ran like a finely tuned machine. Gaither scored 23 points before McGough was intercepted.

Freedom took over on its own 34-yard line and sputtered. A roughing-the-kicker penalty moved the Patriots to their 41, but they moved backward to the 32 thanks to Scarberry's third sack of the night.

Gaither opened the second half with its first punt of the game. As if to prevent any sort of letdown, the Cowboys blocked Freedom's ensuing punt and Scarberry recovered seven yards from the end zone.

McGough found Demarcus Sexil for a 7-yard strike to make it 30-0. McGough added a rushing score for the game's final points.

For Gaither, the comfortable margin of victory was a relief after a 17-16 come-from-behind win at East Bay the week before.

"After getting that close victory, to win by that much is always good," McGough said. "Just to connect with your players, it boosts confidence."

But the Cowboys are feeling good because they have proven they can win close or big.

"We're not used to winning here," Scarberry said. "The past couple of years it's been rough, but to come out 5-2 it's totally different. All the boys are hyped, ready to take the district."

Gaither plays at Chamberlain on Friday, Oct. 28, while Freedom hosts Tampa Bay Tech. Both games are at 7:30 p.m.

Gaither sophomore quarterback Alex McGough threw three touchdowns and ran for another score against Freedom. (File photo)

CHECK THIS OUT

Lutz Lightning softball tryouts

The Lutz Lightning 2000 U12 fast pitch softball team is having tryouts for its 2012 squad each Sunday from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. until Nov. 20 at the Oscar Cooler Sports Complex on W. Lutz Lake Fern Road in Lutz. For more information, call coach Russ Perciavalle at (813) 546-5474 or Jennifer Hudson at (813) 546-9579.

'I Lacrosse My Heart' event

The Tampa Tribe competitive girls lacrosse program, part of the Wesley Chapel Athletic Association (WCAA), will host its first "I Lacrosse My Heart" event at the Wesley Chapel District Park on Boyette Road to educate people about the game.

The event is on the weekend of Oct. 29-30 and includes a scrimmage between the women's lacrosse teams from Saint Leo University and Florida Southern College. Activities also include demonstrations, informational booths, lacrosse vendors and lots of lacrosse.

For more information, call (813) 994-6633, email lacrosse@wcaafla.org or visit www.ILacrosseMyHeart.com.

Correction

Wharton senior Darius Page had 148 yards and one touchdown against Freedom on Oct. 14. His name was misspelled in a headline in a story last week.

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

A.J. Blount fighting back from torn ACL

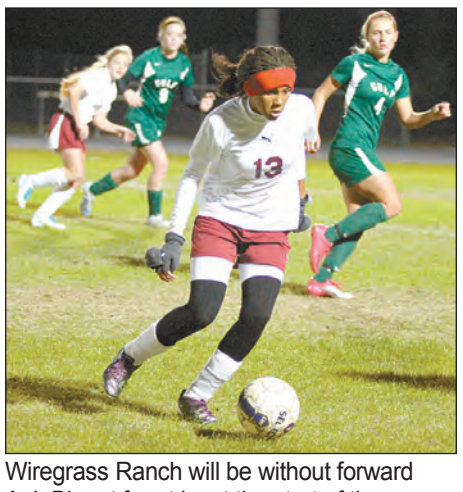
By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Wiregrass Ranch girl soccer player A.J. Blount set a program record by scoring 40 goals last season, but it seems unlikely she will be able to match that mark this year.

The junior forward, who is the reigning Sunshine Athletic Conference East Player of the Year, tore the ACL and meniscus in her right knee in early September during a club soccer game.

Despite the severity of the injury, Blount is determined to contribute with the Bulls this season as they work to outdo their 23-3-2 record and regional finals appearance from last season.

The Laker and the Lutz News recently talked with Blount about her knee, the Wiregrass Ranch team and her plans for the year.



Wiregrass Ranch will be without forward A.J. Blount for at least the start of the season as she recovers from a torn ACL and meniscus. (File photo)

Q: When did the injury happen and how?

A: It was Sept. 2 in a tournament. A girl came from behind me and my knee bent wrong. I'm out for a good couple of months, but I plan to come back stronger and better than I was before.

Q: Have you ever had an injury like that befor e, and did you know it was something that bad when it happened?

A: Never, and hopefully this is the last time something like this will happen because it really hurt. The minute it happened I knew it was bad. I was on the field and couldn't get up. I just shook my head and was screaming.

Q: How dif ficult is dealing with the mental side of an injury like this?

A: I just try and stay positive and not let it control me. From the progress I've seen myself in rehab; I know I can get back. It's just all mental. I kind of think of it more as a blessing now because I can watch a little soccer and take in what I see from the sidelines.

Q: Do you have a gr eater appr eciation for soccer now that you have this kind of injury?

A: Definitely. I would work hard every day to get better, and now that I can't do that I love it even more.

Q: Your team made r egionals for the first time ever last year and was one win away fr om the state final four . What did that year mean to you?

A: It was awesome. To know that we did it all together as a team and to come so far from a team that had never even won a district tournament game.

Q: What ar e your expectations for this season?

A: My expectations are to not only get back into the game but get better, stronger and faster.

—All stats as recorded to Maxpreps.com by coaches.

Father-son land the big bass

Matt Drew and his father Roy teamed up to catch an 8.9-pound bass while fishing in a tournament on John's Lake with South Pasco Bassmasters on Oct. 15. The duo used a Senko worm to hook the big bass of the event. The Drews finished in first place with a total weight of 14 pounds. (Photo by John Medvid)

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The dates to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan for 2012 have changed.
The new dates are October 15th - December 7th.* So, don't forget! Enrollment ends December 7th.

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Steinbrenner AT Wiregrass Ranch
Zephyrhills AT Fivay
Tampa Bay Tech AT Freedom
Gaither AT Chamberlain

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- SUNLAKE
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34 WINS 19 LOSSES

Ben's Picks:

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34 WINS 19 LOSSES

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27 WINS 26 LOSSES

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32 WINS 21 LOSSES

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36 WINS 17 LOSSES

Kevin's Picks:

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KEVIN

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41 WINS 12 LOSSES

Harry's Picks:

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45 WINS 8 LOSSES

Ryan's Picks:

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- Pasco
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- Zephyrhills
- Tampa Bay Tech
- Gaither

RYAN

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33 WINS 20 LOSSES

DJ's Picks:

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38 WINS 15 LOSSES

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31 WINS 22 LOSSES

Terry's Picks:

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- Wiregrass Ranch
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- Gaither

TERRY

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42 WINS 11 LOSSES

Patrick's Picks:

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- Pasco
- Sunlake
- Wesley Chapel
- Steinbrenner
- Fivay
- Tampa Bay Tech
- Gaither

PATRICK

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Representative, 61st District
Florida House of Representatives
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Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
(813) 558-5115
will.weatherford@myfloridahouse.gov

35 WINS 18 LOSSES

Will's Picks:

- Land O' Lakes
- Pasco
- Sunlake
- Wesley Chapel
- Steinbrenner
- Zephyrhills
- Tampa Bay Tech
- Gaither

WILL

Land O' Lakes veterans' home wins national acclaim

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@cnewspubs.com

Take a walk around the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes and you'll see a place that defies the stereotypical look and feel of a nursing home.

This is a place with large common areas, where residents can gather to watch big screen TVs. There's a soothing aquarium in one spot and a resident cat that roams the place, at will, before lazily settling in to a nice, comfy chair.

There's a patio, where people can rest to look at pretty trees or enjoy the beauty of a hibiscus with its giant, orange blooms.

On one wall, near the entrance, there's a tribute to the veteran for whom the place is named.

On walls throughout the 120-bed facility there are displays of military uniforms, a framed flag, models of military airplanes and other mementos that pay homage to the men and women who live here and who have devoted a portion of their lives to serving their country.

On one prominent wall there's a collection of some of the accolades the facility has garnered since opening its doors in 1999.

Recently, the nursing home added to its list of distinctions.

Mike Prendergast, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, dropped by the facility on Oct. 13 to present the 2011-2012 Excellence in Action Award to the center's administrator and staff.

The award goes to nursing homes throughout the country that achieve the highest levels of customer satisfaction through surveys administered by My InnerView, an independent research firm. Award recipients score in the top 10 percent of My InnerView's database, the largest of its kind.

The veterans' home, which dedicates nearly half of its beds to residents with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, is a three-time recipient of the honor. It won previously in 2008 and 2009.

In essence, the survey is a measure of how well the facilities perform, based on whether survey respondents would recommend the facility to family or friends, said Rebecca Yackel, administrator for the Baldermo Lopez center.

Rebecca Yackel receives an honor from Mike Prendergast, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. (Photo courtesy of Rebecca Yackel)

The Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home, an award-winning facility in Land O' Lakes. (Photos by B.C. Manion)

This wall presents a tribute to Baldomero Lopez, the veteran for whom the facility is named.

A look out onto the courtyard where people can relax and drink in a bit of beauty.

The flag and some military uniform jackets are among the items paying homage to the men and women who live at the facility, who dedicated a portion of their lives in the service of their country.

Staff members are trained to respond to individual residents – whether or not they are assigned to work with that particular person, Yackel said.

"We're here to help them," she said. She said when someone approaches a staff member, the response is: "Let's see what you need."

If that staff member can't help, his or her job is to find someone else who can address the situation.

"If you take care of their needs and their issues early on, it's rare that they become a major grievance," said Yackel, who was the center's director of nursing when it opened its doors and was promoted to become its leader in 2003.

The center serves veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It doesn't have any veterans who served in Afghanistan or Iraq.

"Our average age is 83," Yackel said. "Our average stay is 3 1/2 to 4 years. This is truly an old soldiers' home. They come here and live to the end of their lives."

Yackel said the center has the good fortune of having a large number of staff members who have been there since Day 1.

As a result, there's a high level of shared commitment and teamwork, she said.

The nursing home's calendar is chock full of events. There are special music programs, parties, bingo games, trivia contests, arts and crafts and other kinds of activities.

There's a well-stocked library and a devotional room. Yackel said there are barbecues twice a month where people bring in all of the food.

The center also enjoys a great relationship with many area organizations, she added.

"We have wonderful community support from the veterans groups and from other types of groups, like the Elks – you name it," she said.

"We really wouldn't have such a wonderful variety of things going on without the community involvement," she said. "It's just marvelous."

SCHOOL, from page 1

Parents received an email from Hand in Hand that reads, "It is not by choice, but due to threats against our program, our last day of service will be tomorrow (Sept. 16). Please accept our deepest apology and best wishes."

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office also had a lawsuit filed against Hand in Hand from Lutz resident Mary Masher. The suit claims Masher gave the school $1,986 to pay for half of the tuition for the current fall semester for her son.

Phone calls and emails to Hand in Hand were not returned and the school's website has been taken down. Its logo and all other references to the school have been removed from its old building.

Pilot Bank filed a foreclosure action against Hand In Hand in May for falling behind on a debt of $2.23 million. The property will go up for sale starting Nov. 22.

Sherman Brod, Alexander's foreclosure lawyer, said the school was unable to compete for students with a number of other private and charter schools in the area.

"If they hadn't left for whatever reason they left, the school would still be operating," Brod said.

Brod said the main problem was Alexander had a deal to lease some property from Lutz Preparatory, which took over the building that formally housed Berean Academy at 17951 US 41 in Lutz. The new school also became the main competition for Hand in Hand.

Hand in Hand had about 100 students enrolled last year, but that number dropped to 24 for the current year, Brod said. Its leaders had applied to Hillsborough County Public Schools to become a charter school for the current school year, according to district spokeswoman Linda Cobbe).

Hand in Hand Academy in Lutz closed in September. (Photo by Kyle LoJacono)

As for the tuition money, Brod said Alexander spent it on school expenses and not on herself.

"Basically, the money is gone," Brod said. He added Alexander did not foresee Hand in Hand's downfall until "the bitter end."

However, Alexander took another job with a charter school in Wisconsin on July 8, more than a month before Hand in Hand closed.

Alexander moved to Wisconsin soon after Hand in Hand closed to become the principal of Fairview School, a charter school within the Milwaukee School District. She was suspended with pay from the position on Oct. 14 after the district learned of the finical problems with the Lutz school.

Milwaukee School District spokeswoman Roseann St. Aubin said they learned of Alexander's "personal business issues in Florida" in late September and have "been engaged in an ongoing review of the matter.

"Superintendent Gregory Thornton has assured Fairview families that their children's academic progress is of critical importance," St. Aubin continued. "The district took steps today to assure that teaching and learning will continue with no distraction."

FORECLOSURE, from page 1

The up side is that the homeowners association can make sure its fees are paid out of the rental income and can make sure the property meets its deed restrictions, he said.

On the down side, many homes that are in foreclosure have been stripped – making it a costly proposition to get them ready to rent.

"Candidly, most of my boards don't want to get into the rental business. If the market were better, we would have been talking about sales. But that's really not a reality for most of you," Mezer said

When a house has been abandoned, it is not a good idea for a member of a homeowner association to go in to inspect its general condition, Mezer said.

"I would probably not go in, if I could avoid going in there because the claims they're going to make against you for not securing the property. Something is missing or damaged. When the copper turns up missing, 'I saw the guy out there. He was in there the other day with his truck and the copper ends up missing,'" Mezer added.

In some cases, it may be best to approach the homeowner who is in foreclosure but has not moved out to see if they want to stay in the house and rent it.

"I prefer you talk over the phone and don't go knocking on the door, if somebody owes you money. You never know what's on the other side of that door," Mezer said.

A representative of the homeowners' association can tell the owner: "We're going to go ahead and take title of your home. If you want to stay there and rent it back from us, you can do that. You can stay there, but you have to pay us. If you don't pay us, we will evict you," Mezer said.

Warriors, Patriots advance to regionals

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

The Steinbrenner girls golf team did not have the lowest round on Oct. 17 for the first time this year but still left the Class 2A-District 10 tournament as runner-up to extend its year.

The Warriors, who completed a 10-0 regular season the week before, shot a 328 at the event, five strokes off Plant City's pace.

"I was very proud of them," said Steinbrenner coach Mark Mann. "A few of the girls were a little bit upset with their scores, but overall with the windy conditions it was a good day."

The Warriors were led by senior Sara Bair's 76, which tied her for the third lowest round at the event.

"Sara was focused yesterday. Whenever I spoke with her about how she was doing she'd say 'Oh, I'm not sure.' Usually when she says that, she's shooting well, but she's superstitious and doesn't want to talk about it until the end. I got the feeling she was doing well."

Bair said she never adds up her score before finishing a round.

"I thought I was doing well, but I'm never sure until I get to the end and add it up," Bair said. "It was nice to not have to count for too long because I knew it meant we had a good chance of advancing with a low score."

Fellow Steinbrenner senior Michelle Stein carded an 82, while Claire Becker, a freshman, shot an 81.

"Claire is a tremendous player," Mann said. "At the beginning of the year she might have been a little nervous just being new to high school golf. She's played in other tournaments, but in high school you're part of a team. She's proved all year that she is talented, as have all of these kids."

Steinbrenner senior Sara Bair carded a 76 at districts to help the Warriors advance to regionals. (File photos)

Steinbrenner won a district title last season, but lost its No. 1 golfer Alex Milan to graduation. Milan, who was named the All-Laker/All-Lutz News Girls Golfer of the Year in 2010, is now playing at Florida State University on a scholarship.

Freedom also advanced by finishing in third with a 355. Wharton shot a 359 at the event to finish sixth, but only the top-three teams in each district advance to regionals.

Steinbrenner and Freedom both played in regionals at Walden Lake Golf and Country Club in Plant City on Oct. 25, but results were not available by press time.

Gaither's Jimmy Stanger won the Class 2A-District 9 individual championship on Oct. 17.

Stanger takes district title

Gaither's Jimmy Stanger shot a 3-under 69 on Oct. 17 to finish as the boys golf Class 2A-District 9 individual champion.

Stanger said he felt very poorly about the way he was hitting the ball on the range before the event. The junior turned his game around early to win the tournament by five strokes.

"Really I was hitting the ball about as badly as I have all year in warm-ups," Stanger said. "That doesn't always mean I'm going to have a bad round, so I just wanted to get on the course as fast as I could. Sometimes that works, and it did this time."

Stanger said he has been working on his accuracy all season, and it showed at districts. He hit 14-of-18 greens in regulation and posted five birdies.

The district crown is Stanger's first. The victory also purged some bad memories from the event last year when he finished in a three-way tie for the lead after regulation but was eliminated after the first playoff hole.

Cowboy junior Clyde Meadows recorded an 81 to finish tied for 10th.

Gaither's 331 gave it the runner-up spot behind King's 329, the second year the two squads have finished Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, in the event. The top-three teams from each district tournament advance to regionals.

The Cowboys played in regionals at Stoneybrook West Golf Club in Winter Garden on Oct. 24, but results were not available by press time.

Jones claims district cr own

Freedom sophomore Jimmy Jones won the individual district championship by three strokes at the boys golf Class 2A-District 10 tournament on Oct. 17.

Jones carded an even-par 71 in the event, helping the Patriots finish as the district runner-up eight strokes off Newsome's championship pace.

Both teams, along with Steinbrenner, advance to regionals by finishing in the top three at the event. The Warriors recorded a 319 thanks to Nik Kalolo's 77 and Trevor Joseph's 80.

Wharton, which won a district title last year, finished in fifth place, but Wildcats' No. 1 golfer Jorge Junquera shot a 76 to qualify individually for regionals.

Junquera and the Freedom and Steinbrenner teams played in regionals at Wentworth Golf Club in Tarpon Springs on Oct. 24, but results were not available by press time.

Two Cowboys make r egionals

Gaither girls golfers Morgan Litchfield and Caitlin Milne qualified individually for regionals with their performances at the Class 2A-District 9 tournament on Oct. 17. Litchfield carded a 91 to finish in sixth place, while Milne recorded a 112 to take 10th. Both played in regionals at Windermere Country Club in Orlando on Oct. 24, but results were not available by press time.

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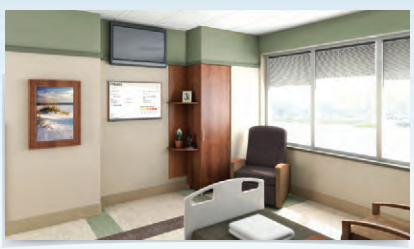

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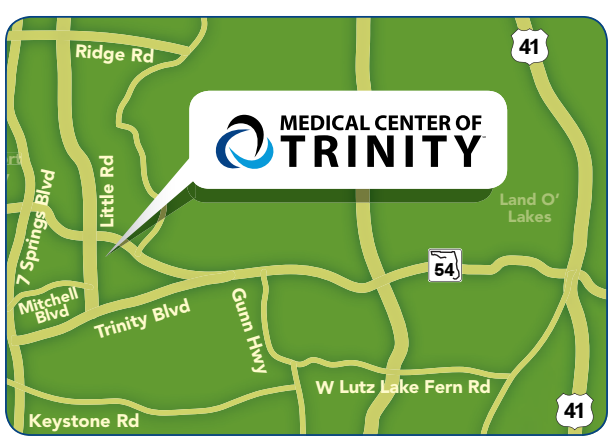

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Saddlebrook Preparatory senior Lauren Riehle watches a chip shot from the bunker sail toward the hole. She shot an even-par 72 to claim her third straight individual district championship. (Photo by Eugenio Torrens)

Lauren Riehle wins third district title

Wesley Chapel girls also advance to regionals

By Eugenio Torrens
etorrens@cnewspubs.com

It wasn't the grueling conditions of the British Open, but it was a chilly, blustery day at the Plantation Palms Golf Club for the girls Class 1A-District 9 tournament on Oct. 20.

The event was pushed back two days because of anticipated inclement weather on Oct. 18, but golfers ran into a colder-than-normal Florida morning and wind gusts of 15-20 mph.

The high winds couldn't blow Saddlebrook Preparatory senior Lauren Riehle off course. The Wesley Chapel resident, who has committed to play at the University of Miami, navigated the course to an even-par 72 to win her third straight individual district championship.

"It's a very respectable score," Riehle said. "I did have the ability to go really low today, but I guess it really wasn't the right day for that."

Riehel's classmate, Nina Hwang, finished second with an 8-over 80. Academy at the Lakes' Ellen Crowley carded a 101 to also advance to regionals.

"(Riehel) played really good today, but that's to be expected," said Saddlebrook golf coach Mike Tali. "When I started working with Lauren three years ago she was a mid-80-to-90 shooter, and so in two and a half years she has developed into a top-level junior (golfer). I'm tickled pink. I'm very proud of her."

Fivay finished first with a team score of 466, and Wesley Chapel shot a 595. The top-three teams from each district tournament advance, but only the Falcons and Wildcats fielded a full four-girl team to qualify. Saddlebrook had three golfers, Crowley was the sole representative of Academy at the Lakes — which won the team district championship last year — and Gulf had two.

The Falcons and Wildcats, as well as the three advancing individuals, played in regionals at Golden Hills Golf & Turf Club in Ocala on Oct. 24, but results were not available by press time.

Spartans take district title

Saddlebrook Preparatory rode a blistering team effort to win the boys Class 1A-District 9 golf tournament by shooting a 327 on Oct. 20.

Tom Ng's 80 earned him the individual district title. Four golfers were hot on his heels with 81s, including teammates Ryoto Furuya and Michael Richards.

Academy at the Lakes and Wesley Chapel finished fourth and fifth, respectively. Only the top-three teams advance to regionals.

Wesley Chapel did have two individual qualifiers in John Nickisher and Corey Mumaw, who shot a 94 and 97, respectively.

Regionals were at Golden Hills Golf & Turf Club in Ocala on Oct. 24, but results were not available by press time.

Advanced to regionals

Girls teams: Freedom, Steinbrenner, Wesley Chapel

Boys teams: Freedom, Gaither, Steinbrenner, Saddlebrook Preparatory

Lone Gator makes r egionals

Land O' Lakes sophomore Eden Shirmohammad finished in third place with her performance at the Class 2A-District 11 girls golf tournament on Oct. 20. She carded a 101 to advance regionals.

As for team scores, Wiregrass Ranch finished in fifth, Sunlake took sixth and Land O' Lakes claimed seventh. Only the top three teams advance.

Regionals took place at the Walden Lake Golf and Country Club in Plant City on Oct. 25, but results were not available by press time.

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*The*Laker / *Lutz*News

The Shops AT WIREGRASS

November Happenings

1st **YouNite**
Nov 1 • 6-8:30pm
Christian music series

2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th **Wiregrass Wednesdays**
Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 • 10-11am
Free for kids 0 - 12 yrs. old

5th **Fresh Market**
Nov 5 • 10am-3pm
Local food, crafts & live music

19th **Symphony in Lights Tree Lighting**
Nov 19 • 5-9pm
Live music, face painting, bounce house and more!

19th **Santa's Arrival**
Nov 19 • 6pm

NOV 19th to DEC 31st **Symphony in Lights**
Nov 19 - Dec 31 • 6pm, 7pm, 8pm & 9pm
Light shows nightly on the hour and snow, too!

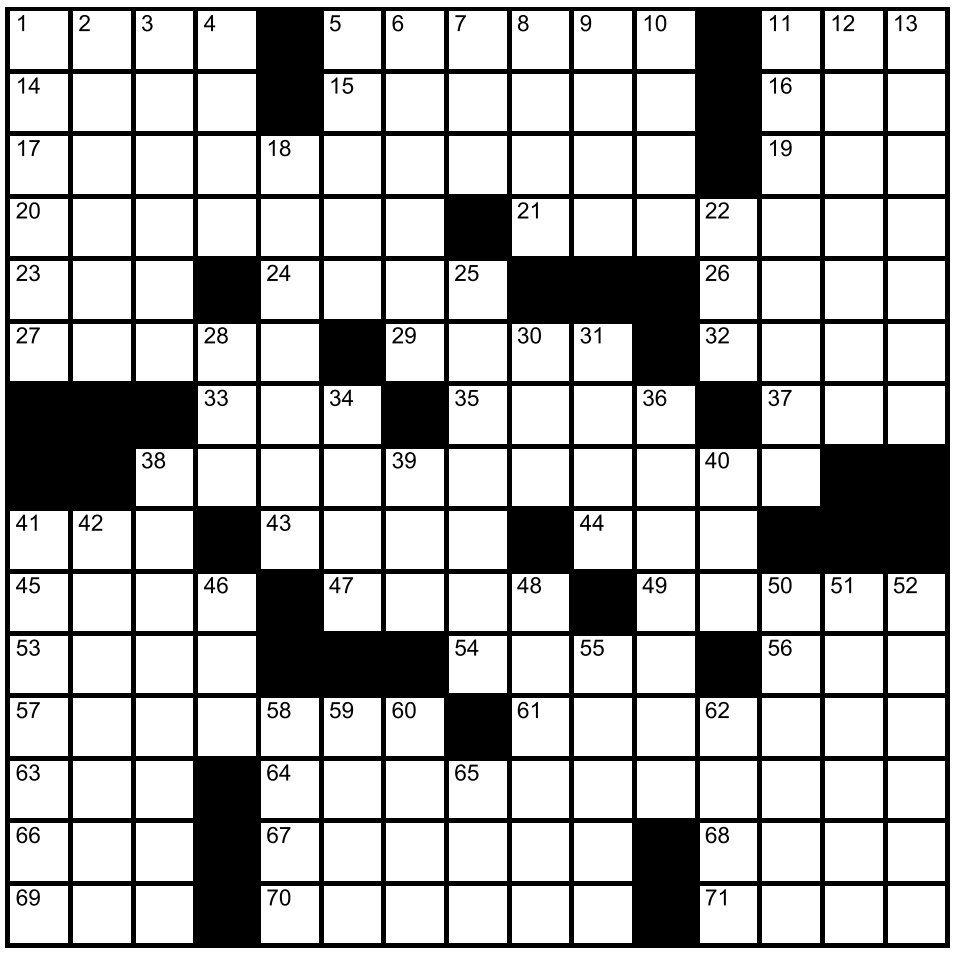
NOV 20st to DEC 24th **Visit with Santa**
Nov 20 - Dec 24 • Hours vary
Visit theshopsatwiregrass.com for schedule

21st 28th **Santa Paws Pet Photos**
Nov 21 & 28 • 4-8pm

24th **Thanksgiving Day**
Nov 24 • Center Closed
(Department store & restaurant hours may vary)

The Shops at Wiregrass
Macy's, Dillard's, JCPenney and over 100 stores and restaurants
Bruce B. Downs and SR. 56
Wesley Chapel . (813) 994-2242
theshopsatwiregrass.com
/shopwiregrass /shopsatwiregrass

GAMES AND PUZZLES



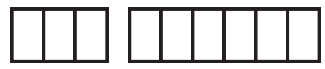
ACROSS
1. Cuts (down)
5. Undissolved matter in blood
11. ___ roll
14. Site
15. Brain cell
16. Fold, spindle or mutilate
17. Kind of rattlesnake
19. ___ Today
20. Partially open rose
21. Faithfulness
23. A pint, maybe
24. Knight fight
26. Bell the cat
27. 1965 King arrest site
29. A long, long time
32. "Miss ___ Regrets"
33. Black gold
35. Blockhead
37. Columbus Day mo.
38. Tony Stewart, e.g.
41. "This means ___!"
43. Essence
44. "What's ___?"
45. Cornstarch brand
47. Call for
49. ___ post
53. Acquire
54. Doctor Who villainess, with "the"
56. "___ fallen ..."
57. Dwarfed container trees
61. Periods of legal minority
63. "Aladdin" prince
64. Wealth seekers
66. ___-relief
67. Musical compositions
68. Gift on "The Bachelor"
69. "Are we there ___?"
70. French philosopher Jean-Paul ___
71. Soon, to a bard

DOWN
1. Brightly colored kerchiefs
2. Brooks Robinson, e.g.
3. Cunning person
4. "___ here"
5. Boredom
6. Be a busybody
7. Mac
8. Face-to-face exam
9. Bananas
10. Black
11. Copier
12. ___ bypass surgery
13. Most undefined
18. Gets
22. "Much ___ About Nothing"
25. Young child
28. Shorten, in a way
30. "___ any drop to drink": Coleridge
31. "Wheel of Fortune" choice
34. Boxer Spinks
36. Quip, part 4
38. Organ player
39. Morgue, for one
40. "Concentration" pronoun
41. Born in wartime
42. Rings of color
46. Harvest goddess
48. Pet ___
50. Freshwater ducks
51. Exceedingly
52. Ease
55. Bing, bang or boom
58. Long, long time
59. Bit
60. Aspersion
62. City on the Yamuna River
65. "Silent Spring" subject

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

LOI GCEHAN



ANSWER: Oil change

Guess who's turning another year older this week!

OCTOBER 23-29

I was born on October 24, 1939, in Pittsburgh, PA. I played Antonio Salieri in *Amadeus*. Who am I?

Answer: F. Murray Abraham

I was born on October 25, 1984, in Santa Barbara, CA. I recorded the hit single "I Kissed a Girl." Who am I?

Answer: Katy Perry

I was born on October 26, 1967, in Whangarei. New Zealand. I recorded the album *Golden Road*. Who am I?

Answer: Keith Urban

I was born on October 27, 1924, in Cleveland, OH. I played Mama Lucas in *American Gangster*. Who am I?

Answer: Ruby Dee

I was born on October 28, 1974, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I played Johnny Cash in *Walk the Line*. Who am I?

Answer: Joaquin Phoenix

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Entries must be received by the Monday following publication date

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- Award presentations at 4:30
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- 50/50 with proceeds to benefit Flood Gates Community Church
- Hosted by Paul Figoni of "Lets Roll" promotions

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ROTARY SEND-OFF P ARTY

The Dade City Sunrise Rotary club recently hosted a send-off party for the five-member Cultural Exchange Team representing Rotary District 6950, which is made up of 48 Rotary clubs with more than 2,000 members in Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus counties.

The team of young professionals has spent months preparing for the month-long exchange program.

The group has been studying the Korean culture and language. It will travel to South Korea to presenting information about Florida and the Suncoast counties to their Korean hosts.

Sukhwa Young, a Korean-American, is a Realtor from Wesley Chapel and is the exchange team's leader.

Other team members are Erin Ellis, an architect in Palm Harbor; John van Daalen, a chef in Dunedin; Cheryl Cleveland, a martial arts instructor in Odessa; and Dee Zajac, a nurse in Palm Harbor.

Dade City Sunrise Rotary President Camille Hernandez was the team leader last year for the exchange team, which traveled to Australia. She played an active role in preparing the 2011 team for its trip to Korea.

ACE HARDW ARE COMING TO LUTZ

Ace Hardware has begun renovation on the space vacated by Walgreens in Sunset Plaza, at the corner of US Highway 41 and Sunset Lane in Lutz.

The store is slated to open in December. This is the first Ace store opened by owners Scott and Todd Andrews, who currently operate Sunshine Pool & Supply.

The 11,000 hardware store will incorporate the pool and supply store, with roughly 2,000 square feet of the space devoted to swimming pool supplies and water testing.

TAX SPECIALIST CELEBRA TES 20 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Anne Marie Brown, who specializes in accounting and Internal Revenue Service representation for her clients, is celebrating 20 years in the business, as of this month.

The Lutz professional supports many local and charitable organizations and plans to continue to serve clients in the Tampa Bay area for many years to come.

INTERNATIONAL HAIR CO. RIBBON-CUTTING

International Hair Co. in Wesley Chapel had its grand opening on Oct. 8. The event included a car show, entertainment, prize giveaways, pink hair extensions to support breast cancer awareness and discounts on REDKEN products.

Refreshments and chances were sold to raise money to benefit the homeless in Wesley Chapel, with $400 raised for the cause.

The business is located at 5329 Village Market in Wesley Chapel. For more information about its services or to set an appointment, call (813) 991-9697.

INSURANCE COMP ANY ADDS ST AFF

Great Florida Insurance-Land O' Lakes is growing and has hired Eileen Kociela as a new customer service associate. She comes to the company with more than 10 years in the insurance company, with most of that experience coming in Pasco County.

SCARE UP SAVINGS AT GOODWILL'S PLANET HALLOWEEN

Goodwill is making shopping for Halloween easy. There's a 25 percent discount on its website, www.goodwill-suncoast.org, and there's an online costume idea book, too. In addition, each of its 15 stores has a "Planet Halloween," which is a store within a store, dedicated entirely to Halloween merchandise. The store also has staff members it calls its "Boo Crew" to help shoppers find what they need to create cool costumes.

The stores also offer a wide selection of Halloween home décor and fall decorations.

LAND O' LAKES
SWAMP FEST
At Land O' Lakes Community Center | 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. (US41), Land O' Lakes
Friday 4pm - 11pm | Saturday 10am - 11pm | Sunday 12 noon - 6pm

The **Land O' Lakes Swamp Fest** is returning in 2011 for its fourth season. So be sure to mark your calendars for this great community event. You can expect all of the same fun and excitement you have come to know, as well as more entertainment, food, unique vendors and more... To see our full schedule of events, locations of ticket sales, list of our sponsors, booth information, directions and/or information on donating to this great event, please visit our website.

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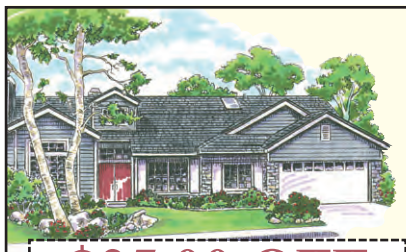

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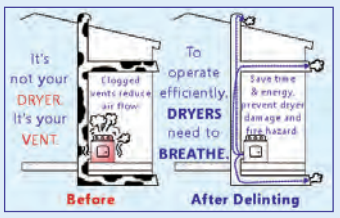

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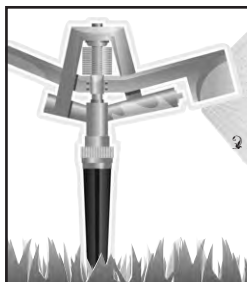

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DUPREE LAKES COMMUNITY Sale SAT 10/29/11 8am-? misc items… items for all households & people !

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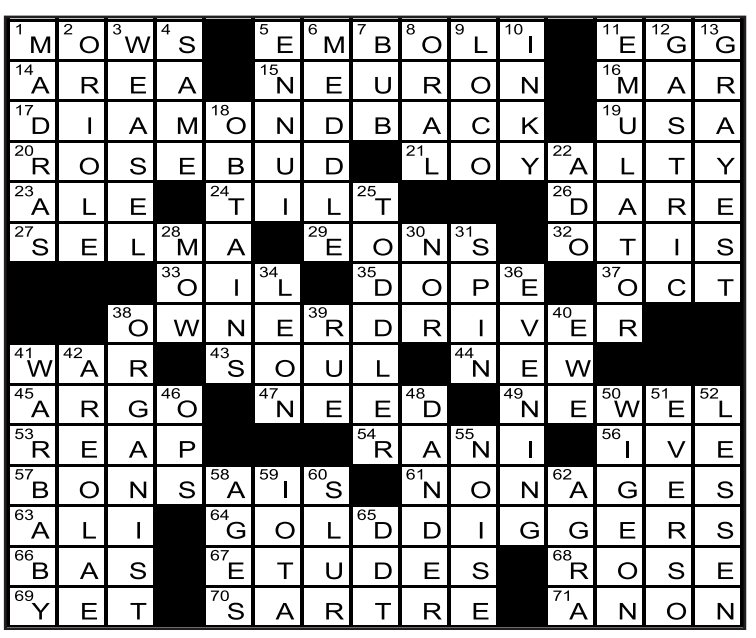

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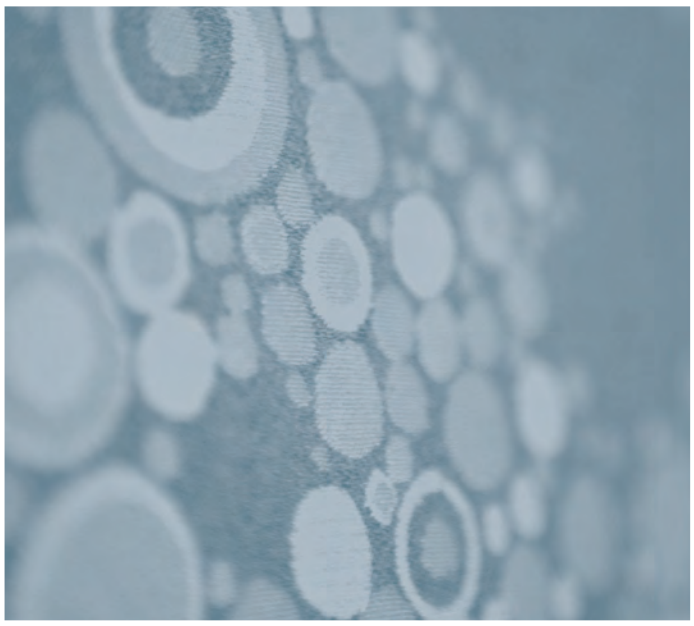
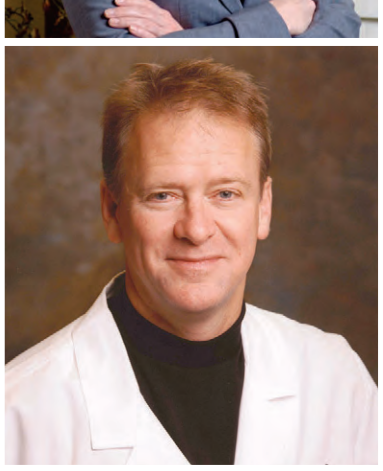


Difficult Menstrual Cycles?

Thursday, October 27, 6:30pm

Approximately one in five women suffer from regular but excessive menstrual flow. Difficult menstrual cycles can be treated in a number of ways. Join OB/GYN physician **Pamela Twitty, MD**, as she discusses dysfunctional uterine bleeding, uterine fibroids and treatment options available.



Hip Pain? Trouble Walking?

Thursday, November 3, 6:30pm

Learn about advances in hip pain treatment and surgery for the active patient. Join orthopedic surgeon **Stephen Raterman, MD**, at an informative seminar to find out about advances in treatment for hip pain and new techniques for hip replacement surgery. Dr. Raterman will provide valuable information about these subjects including:

- Hip pain: When is it your joint and not something else?
- How hip joint issues are diagnosed
- Treatment guidelines
- Total hip replacement surgery

Are You Ready for Holiday Cooking?

Tuesday, November 15, 6:30pm

Cooking a great, healthy feast to share with family and friends is one of the many joys of the holidays and one of the many stresses. Planning ahead is one of the keys to making holiday cooking stress-free. Knowing how to prepare healthy food and having all the right ingredients on hand is critical as well. Join Twigs Café's **Chef Paul** and our dietitian for a cooking demonstration and a seminar on menu planning, time and equipment management, healthy menu options and dealing with traditions. Learn how you can keep traditions and also add your own touch.

All seminars are located in the Garden Lobby Classroom.

Reserve your space: (813) 644-6685
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