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Warriors top Freedom for three-peat

The Steinbrenner volleyball team claimed its third straight district championship by defeating Freedom in three sets on Oct. 27. Both squads play this week in the regional tournament. **For complete volleyball district tournament coverage, see page 17.**



A school bus drops off donations from the Primrose School at Collier Parkway. Workers Doris Cook, wearing a white hat, and Jim Best, in a white T-shirt, help unload the donated food. (Photo courtesy of Keystone Community Church)

Helping others in need for the holidays

By B.C. Manion

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As the holiday season approaches, Keystone Community Church in Lutz and Heritage Ford in Wesley Chapel are stepping forward to help others in need.

Keystone Community Church will hold its third annual Metropolitan Ministries Holiday Collection Tent and Heritage Ford is having its first Boxes of Hope campaign.

Both efforts will benefit Metropolitan Ministries of Pasco County, which in turn will help families in need at the holidays.

Heritage Ford, at 28739 SR 54 W., has already begun accepting food donations in its Boxes of Hope campaign.

The goal is to collect enough food to provide Thanksgiving meals for 50 local families, said Jennifer Cofini, community relations manager for the car dealership.

"If we get more, that's great," Cofini said. "I figured 50 (food boxes) was a good place to start," she said.

Holiday Collection Tent

Hosted by Keystone Community Church, 21010 SR 54 in Lutz (near the intersection of US 41 and SR 54).

Tent schedule:

Saturday, Nov. 12 through
Tuesday, Nov. 22
Saturday, Dec. 10 through
Wednesday, Dec. 21

Tent hours:

Monday through Wednesday:
7 a.m.-2 p.m.
Thursday and Friday:
7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday: Noon to 3 p.m.

For more information, visit keystonecommunity.org or call Debbie Gehlen at (813) 918-7849.

County considers revamped board

By Kyle LoJacono

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The newly approved district lines for the Hillsborough commission have not even taken effect yet, but the county is discussing an overhaul of how the board is structured.

Currently, the seven-member commission includes four people elected to represent specific geographic areas, and only residents within a district are eligible to vote for that representative. The final three seats are filled by at-large selections picked by the entire county.

Commissioner Les Miller, whose District 3 includes most of central Tampa, proposed having five people represent specific areas and two at-large members.

"I think this county has grown to a point where we need to make some changes," said Miller, one of two Democrats on the commission.

Miller said there have been two major changes in the county during the last 30 years, when the current structure was established, that make a different setup needed.

The first is the explosive population growth in Hillsborough during the last decade. U.S. Census data shows Hillsborough gained 230,278 residents since 2000, up to 1.2 million. Each commissioner that represents a geographic district now speaks for about 307,000 people.

"It makes sense to split that up a little bit," Miller said. "It's getting to the point where it's impossible to fairly represent each district."

The other change is an increasing number of Hispanics living within Hillsborough. In 2000, 18 percent of county residents were Hispanic versus 24.9 percent now.

Miller said having a fifth zoned district would allow it to be drawn in such a way to make its residents primarily Hispanic,